
by Adam Fielding and Mary Kenney

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2014 September

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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information ............................................................................................. 1
Biographical Note .......................................................................................................... 2
Scope and Content Note ............................................................................................... 2
Arrangement ................................................................................................................... 2
Names and Subject Terms ......................................................................................... 2
Selected Bibliography ................................................................................................. 3
Container Listing .......................................................................................................... 4
Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Creator: Rountree, Helen C., 1944-
Title: Helen C. Rountree papers
Dates: 1969-1990
Quantity: 27 sound recordings, 1/4” reels and cassettes
          2.4 linear feet, 4 boxes
Abstract: Helen C. Rountree was emeritus professor of anthropology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She studied the history of the Virginia Tribes from the 17th century to the 21st century and was considered a leading expert on Pocahontas. The Helen C. Rountree papers include field notes, correspondence, and sound recordings relating to her field work among the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Nansemond, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Monacan, as well as the area around Nottoway Reservation and Gingaskin Reservation.
Language: Collection is in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Helen C. Rountree in 2005.

Processing Information

The sound recordings were described by Mary Kenney in 2008.
Processed and encoded by Adam Fielding, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Helen C. Rountree Papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions on Access

Materials related to interview notes are restricted until June 2025.
Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate access copy requires advance notice.

Ownership & Literary Rights

Contact the repository for terms of use.
Biographical Note

Helen C. Rountree was emeritus professor of anthropology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She worked initially with the Shoshone in Nevada, then began research on the Algonquian-speaking Native Americans of eastern Virginia, becoming an honorary member of the Nansemond and Upper Mattaponi tribes in Virginia. She studied the history of the Virginia Tribes from the 17th century to the 21st century and was considered a leading expert on Pocahontas.

Scope and Content Note

The Helen C Rountree papers contain correspondence, field notes, and sound recordings relating to her field work primarily among Virginian tribes including the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Nansemond, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, Monacan, as well as the area around Nottoway Reservation and Gingaskin Reservation. Correspondents include Robert Y. Barham, Christian F. Feest, Samuel Proctor, C.G. Holland, Frank Porter, Marshall Becker, and Nancy Oestreich Lurie.

The sound recordings are related to Rountree’s fieldwork and contain recordings of the Chickahominy Fall Festivals, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1978, 1981-1986 and a Chickahominy tribal meeting 1987; Nansemond Tribe Spring Festival, 1984, and Homecoming, 1988. Also included are recordings among the Pamumkey; Mattaponi; Shoshoni; Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada; meetings; public events, and some lectures by Helen Rountree and others. There is one unidentified sound cassette.

Arrangement


Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Folk songs, Shoshoni
- Indians of North America--Rites and ceremonies
- Indians of North America--Virginia

Cultures:
- Algonquian--Virginia
- Chickahominy
- Indians of North America--Great Basin
- Indians of North America--Northeast
- Mattaponi
- Nansemond
- Pamunkey Indians
Rappahannock Indians
Shoshoni Indians
Upper Mattaponi

Types of Materials:
- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Interviews
- Sound recordings

Geographic Names:
- Virginia

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Selected Bibliography


Container Listing

Box 1  Correspondence index
Box 1  Correspondence, 1969-1974
Box 1  Correspondence, 1975-1981
Box 1  Correspondence, 1982-1984
Box 2  Correspondence, 1985
Box 2  Field Notes, 1969-1973
Box 2  Field Notes, 1973-1982
Box 2  Field Notes, 1983-1985
Box 3  Field Notes, 1985 July-1986 March
Box 3  Field Notes, 1986 April-December
Box 3  Field Notes, 1987 January-1988 December
Box 4  Restricted Field Notes
      Restricted until 2025 June.
Box 3  Cook Books: A Book of Favorite Recipes: Compiled by Chickahominy Indian Tribe Community, 1981, 1983
Box 3  Sound Recordings Ephemera, undated
item 1  Sound Recordings: Shoshone Songs and Stories, Nevada, Summer, 1967
        1 sound tape reel, Some language transcription enclosed in tape box; 5 inch
item 2  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1970
        1 reel; 3 1/4 inch
item 3  Sound Recordings: Shoshone Songs and Stories, 1967 June
        1 sound tape reel; 3 1/4 inch
item 4  Sound Recordings: Field Notes, 1974
        1 reel; 3 1/4 inch
item 5  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1974
        1 reel; 3 1/4 inch
item 6  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1972 September 23
        1 reel; 3 1/4 inch
item 7  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1978 September 23
        1 sound cassette, Duration: 45 minutes
item 8  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Meeting, Archaeological Society of Virginia, 1978 October 14
           2 sound cassettes, Duration: 90 minutes

date 9  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1981
           2 sound cassettes, Duration: 90 minutes; 60 minutes

date 10  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1982
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes

date 11  Sound Recordings: David Smith Colloquium on Plecker, 1990 January 30
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 120 minutes

date 12  Sound Recordings: Helen C. Rountree Lecture to Anthropological Society of Washington, 1988 October 18-19
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 120 minutes

date 13  Sound Recordings: Indian Week Kick-off Ceremony, State Capital, 1988 September 19
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 35 minutes

date 14  Sound Recordings: Nansemond Homecoming, 1988 September 11
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 120 minutes

date 15  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Tribal Order Ad Hoc Committee on Indian History, 1987 October 31
           2 sound cassettes, Duration: 120 minutes

date 16  Sound Recordings: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, 1987 April 11, 1987 April 4
           4 sound cassettes, Duration: 120 minutes

date 17  Sound Recordings: Interview with Pamunkey Chief William Miles, 1986 November 8
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes

date 18  Sound Recordings: Curtis Custalow Interview, 1986 November 18
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 120 minutes

date 19  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1986 October 4
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes

date 20  Sound Recordings: Nansemond Spring Festival, 1986 May 24
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 120 minutes

date 21  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1985 October 5
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes

date 22  Sound Recordings: Upper Mattaponi Tribe at King William Board of Supervisors, 1986 December 17
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes

date 23  Sound Recordings: Upper Mattaponi Officer Installation, 1983 December 17
           1 sound cassette

date 24  Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1984 October 6
           1 sound cassette, Duration: 60 minutes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 25   | Sound Recordings: Chickahominy Fall Festival, 1983  
1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 Minutes |
| 26   | Sound Recordings: Mattaponi Reservation Speech and Interview with Curtis Custalow, 1983 April 16  
1 sound cassette, Duration: 90 minutes |
| 27   | Sound Recordings: Unidentified, undated |