INTRODUCTION

The S. Fred Prince Papers document the work of a naturalist and illustrator who spent many years studying the geology and ecology of the Southwest Missouri Ozarks. They also include the research conducted by Suzanne Wilson (SP0004), a freelance writer who published an article in the Missouri Conservationist magazine about Prince’s life and work. The collection consists of copies of Prince’s unpublished original manuscripts along with interviews and correspondence that Wilson conducted with those who knew Prince or had possession of his work.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Suzanne Wilson on 20 May 2015 (Accession No. 004).

RESTRICTIONS

The copyrights to The Ozarkian Uplift and the Marvel Caverns and The Marvel Caverns are owned by Jameila Prince Al-hujazi. Permission is required to publish excerpts from these materials.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

S. Fred Prince, born Samuel Webb Prince, was born May 26, 1857, in Philadelphia. He grew up in Chicago and Wisconsin before moving to the Ozarks as a homesteader in the early 1880s. He quickly discovered and extensively explored Marvel Cave. During this time, he also studied the flora and fauna of the region, creating watercolors of many species of wildflowers. Later in his life, Prince spent time working as an instructor of scientific drawing at various colleges in the Midwest, including the University of Illinois Urbana and the Springfield Normal School. He married one of his students, Maude Higgenbotham, and they had two children. Around 1929, Prince moved back to Stone County where he finished his wildflower index and cave books. Prince died in 1949 at the age of 92.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The S. Fred Prince papers consist of copies of his wildflower index, articles he wrote, and his cave books. It also includes personal correspondence with his wife and a financial document pertaining to Marvel Cave. The remainder of the collection consists of the research of Suzanne Wilson. Wilson gathered this research for an article about Prince’s life and work. It includes correspondence and interviews with those who knew Prince or possessed his work. Drafts of her article are also included. The materials have been arranged chronologically.
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