

Skinner Museum Collection
Finding Aid
Kate Plass
4/30/2008

Collection Overview

- Creator:** Joseph Allen Skinner, (1862-1946)
- Title:** Skinner Museum Collection
- Quantity:** 8 boxes (3.2 linear feet)
- Location:** Skinner Museum, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum,
South Hadley, MA
- Abstract:** Manuscripts and printed documents collected by Joseph Allen Skinner, former trustee of Mount Holyoke College and local philanthropist, and housed at his museum. Papers contain sermons, letters, newspapers, land and business records, published tracts, and many other forms. Focus is primarily on local history and religious documents. Date range of the collection is c. 1764 – 1940.

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Biographical Note

Joseph Allen Skinner was born on May 16, 1862, in Williamsburg, MA, one of several small towns along the Mill River north and west of Northampton. He was the second son of five children of William Skinner and his second wife, Sarah Elizabeth Allen Skinner. William Skinner emigrated from England, and by 1848 owned and operated his own mill in Williamsburg. The Mill River flood of May 18, 1874, destroyed his factory and the factory town known as Skinnerville. As a result, the Skinner business and family moved to Holyoke, MA to rebuild. The family home, known as Wistariahurst, was rebuilt in Holyoke; today Wistariahurst is preserved as a house museum.

Joseph Allen Skinner earned a Bachelors of Philosophy of Science from Yale Scientific School in 1883. Returning to Holyoke, he joined his brother William C. Skinner in the factory, now known as William Skinner & Sons or the Skinner Manufacturing Co. He eventually served as vice president and treasurer of William Skinner & Sons, as well as service on the boards of the Hadley Falls Trust Company of Holyoke, and the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.¹ He married Martha E. Hubbard of Danbury, CT in 1887, and between 1889 and 1904 the couple had four children: Ruth Isabelle, Elisabeth, William II, and Martha. The family lived in a mansion on Elm Street in Holyoke, with a summer home on Woodbridge Street in South Hadley, known as The Orchards. In 1918, the family moved to South Hadley permanently.

Joseph Skinner followed a strong family tradition of philanthropy. He generously supported the Holyoke Hospital, the Holyoke Museum of Natural Science and Art, Holyoke City Library, and the Second Congregational Church of Holyoke. He acquired the resort on Mount Holyoke in 1916, and in 1940 donated this and surrounding land to make a state park. Skinner had an extensive relationship with Mount Holyoke College, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1905 to 1931.² He and his brother William donated the funds for Skinner Hall at Mount Holyoke, constructed in 1915. At his death in 1946, Skinner left The Orchards golf course, the Skinner Museum, and a life insurance policy of \$50,000 to the college.

Historical Note

The Skinner Museum began as the personal collection of Joseph Allen Skinner. The roots of the collection are usually attributed to Skinner's boyhood collection of rocks and arrowheads. The range of the collection fits the era in which he lived; curio cabinets or etageres full of china, natural objects, and other curiosities were staples of Victorian parlors.

The collection was housed in the ell of 40 Woodbridge Street in South Hadley until Skinner acquired the building of the First Congregational Church of

¹ Kate Navarra Thibodeau, *Holyoke: The Skinner Family and Wistariahurst* (Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 17.

² Board of Trustees Biographical Files, Archives and Special Collections, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA.

Prescott.³ Skinner moved this building across the street from his summer home, along with the Paige house from Prescott, reconstructed to resemble an early schoolhouse, the building at 35 Woodbridge Street, and two carriage sheds. This complex of buildings was arranged to suit Skinner's idea of a colonial New England town green, creating his own Colonial Revival village. The church building houses the main collection; the schoolhouse housed a collection of the birds of Massachusetts (transferred to the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in 2008) and is not open to the public.

When Skinner moved his collections into the Prescott church, most of the almost five thousand objects were not labeled or arranged in any particular fashion. In October 1933, Howard G. Hubbard was hired as curator, and he began to catalog, label, and arrange the objects in groups. Hubbard's system of numbering involved a complicated hierarchical scheme of letters and numbers based on nested categories. This numbering scheme gives the only clear indication of original order, and it does not cover the entire collection. The relevant portion of the numbering system is given below.

At Skinner's death in 1946, he willed the museum to Mount Holyoke College along with other property along Woodbridge Street. The museum is now administered by the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.

In 2007, Meghan Gelardi and Kate Plass (MHC 2008) completed an inventory of the collection, including ~2,490 previously un-cataloged objects and documents. The manuscript collection was organized in 2008, pulling together documents from around the museum in order to provide better storage and an accessible system for research. The documents in frames were not removed; most of these are on exhibit in the main church building.

Skinner's original numbering system:

C = Pictures & Papers

- D – Publications
- E – Prints and Photographs
- F – Documents
- G – Maps
- H – Broad sides
- J – Invoices
- K – Silhouettes
- L – Rewards of Merit

D = Books & Pamphlets

- A – Almanacs
- B – Accounts and Records
- C – Reports
- E – Sermons
- F – Manuscripts
- G – Letters
- H – Diaries
- K – Programs
- L – Scrap Books

³ Know Your Town Group, *A History of South Hadley's Old Homes Built Before 1850*. (South Hadley: Hadley Printing Company, 1976), 10.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Like the cabinet of curiosities, the archival collection of Skinner Museum is expansive rather than deep. Its contents range from pamphlets printed in foreign languages to scraps of handwritten receipts. The collection is organized into nine (9) series, with several sub-series, as outlined below.

Geographically, the collection concentrates on New England and particularly Western Massachusetts. This includes the local history series, with documents from Prescott, South Hadley, Northampton, Springfield, Holyoke, and other Western Massachusetts towns, as well as the personal papers of three local ministers and a prominent local family from Prescott and South Hadley. The almanac, photograph, and newspaper series are also heavily based on local publications and buildings. Two events stand out as significant in the local history collection. The Mill River Flood of May 1874 was not only an important local event, it was personally significant to Mr. Skinner. The flooding in Williamsburg, MA caused extensive damage to his father's mill and precipitated the family's move to Holyoke. The Connecticut River flood of 1927 in Holyoke apparently also had an impact on Mr. Skinner, although its affects were less disastrous.

Thematically, items of religious history, particularly sermons, dominate the collection. Two sub-series of the local history series consist of papers from Prescott and South Hadley churches. Three of the sub-series within personal papers contain sermons and notes by ministers: Rev. Justus Forward, Rev. Thomas Rand, and Rev. Joseph Condit of South Hadley. One series consists of manuscripts of sermons dating as early as 1764. A second series is devoted to printed religious material, made up of published sermons, the bulk by Henry Ward Beecher, and pamphlets by the American Tract Society.

Organization of the Collection

- Personal Papers (4 sub-series)
 - Eastman Family
 - Rev. Justus Forward
 - Rev. Thomas Rand
 - Rev. Joseph Condit
- Local History (8 sub-series)
 - Prescott
 - Prescott, First Congregational Church
 - South Hadley
 - South Hadley, First Congregational Church
 - Northampton
 - Springfield
 - Holyoke
 - Other
- Sermons
- Manuscripts
- Religious printed material
- Other printed material
- Almanacs
- Hawaii
- Foreign language

Series Descriptions

Personal Papers

This series contains four sub-series of correspondence, writing, and other documents from prominent local individuals and families. Personal papers from the Skinner family are located in the museum's institutional archives.

Justus Forward (born c. 1774) served as a Justice of the Peace and a minister in Hampshire County. His papers include official documents with his signature as witness, letters, and handwritten sermons. His writing is dense, and he left no margin on his writing. Forward's examination book from Yale in 1753 is also part of this sub-series.

The collection of Reverend Thomas Rand's papers contains handwritten sermons, letters, diaries, and notes. Among these is a record of baptisms performed by T. Rand. The sermons are fair copies bound with string into small pamphlets.

Reverend Joseph Condit (d. 1847) came to South Hadley in 1835 to serve as the town's Congregational minister, living in South Hadley until his death in 1847.⁴ When Mary Lyon came to South Hadley to establish Mount Holyoke Seminary, she boarded with the Condit's, and Joseph Condit became the Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the Seminary.⁵ This sub-series consists of sermons delivered by Condit at the First Congregational Church in South Hadley. An unidentified set of sermons located in the South Hadley Church sub-series of the Local History series may also be related to Condit.

The Eastman Papers sub-series consists of material produced by Charles Eastman (c. 1804 – 1884) and his daughters, Julia (c. 1837 – 1913), and Sophia (born c. 1839). Charles Eastman was a Granby merchant who bought a house in South Hadley in 1829. He had three children: George, Julia, and Sophia Ellen; his two daughters inherited the house at his death in 1884.⁶ Julia graduated from Mount Holyoke Seminary in 1859 and taught in local schools for three years.⁷ Sophia, also called Sophie or Ellen, graduated from Wheaton Seminary and, like her sister, taught locally.⁸ Sophia also studied local history and wrote a book on the history of South Hadley, published in 1912.⁹ The sisters sold their house, 40 Woodbridge St., to Mr. Skinner; Skinner apparently used the ell of this house to house his collections before moving them to the Prescott church building.¹⁰

⁴ Jytte Muus, *A Corner of South Hadley: 25 Woodbrige Street and the People who Lived there*. (South Hadley: The South Hadley Historical Society, 1985), 11-13, 35. Sophie E. Eastman, *In Old South Hadley*. (Chicago: The Blakely Printing Company, 1912), 119, 170.

⁵ Muus, 11.

⁶ *A History of South Hadley's Old Homes Built Before 1850*, p. 10. Cronin. *Images of America South Hadley*, 60.

⁷ Mount Holyoke College Alumnae Association. *Ohe Hundred Year Biographical Directory of Mount Holyoke College, 1837-1937*. (South Hadley: The Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College, 1937).

⁸ Cronin, 60.

⁹ Sophie E. Eastman, *In Old South Hadley*. (Chicago: The Blakely Printing Company, 1912).

¹⁰ *A History of South Hadley's Old Homes Built Before 1850*, 10.

The material from Charles Eastman is business-related, consisting of invoices and business correspondence. A scrap of a record lists Joseph and William Eastman as debtors in 1740-1 along with several others, and an 1806 receipt records a sale by William and Tryphina Cune to William Eastman. A letter from Julia Eastman to Joseph Skinner contains extensive information on the history of land apparently purchased by Skinner in 1907, possibly their house at 40 Woodbridge. Sophia Eastman, the author of *In Old South Hadley*, also wrote a 17-page manuscript on "The Early Days of Mount Holyoke College," which is included in the collection, along with two of her music books. Two copies of a poem Sophia Eastman wrote for the South Hadley Sesqui-Centennial are located in the South Hadley sub-series. The Eastman sub-series also contains 29 pages of letters and schoolwork from students in Hilo, Hawaii; nine of these letters are addressed to Miss E. S. Eastman in South Hadley and are annotated with the ethnicity of the students. An incomplete manuscript by Julia Eastman tells the story of an orphan boy. In addition to this collection of the family's papers, many objects in the collection have links to the Eastmans, and Samuel Eastman's name appears on a petition for published sermons by Forward (in Forward Folio).

Local History

The local history material consists of assorted manuscripts associated with Western Massachusetts. The documents include receipts, programs, letters, and notices.

One of the "lost towns" of the Quabbin Reservoir, Prescott was inundated in 1926 to 1940.¹¹ Two of the buildings in the Skinner Museum complex were moved from the town in 1931 before it was flooded. The town of Prescott is represented by one handwritten manuscript of the town's history.

Perhaps the most relevant set of documents come from the First Congregational Church of Prescott, the building in which the museum is now located. The first meeting house was built in about 1768, and the existing church was built in 1856¹² and was active until 1928, when the building was moved as part of the preparation for the flooding of the Quabbin Reservoir. This sub-series contains a deed, letters, and a hand-drawn plan of pews in the church. The record and minute books from the church are also in the museum's collection.¹³

The bulk of the local history collection is related to South Hadley history and the South Hadley First Congregational Church. Significant documents include deeds and share certificates for the South Hadley Canal and notices regarding Mount Holyoke and Mount Tom; the sub-series also includes receipts, newspaper clippings, and family records from the town.

¹¹ Feature Detail Report ID 617516. Geographic Names Information System. USGS. <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/f?p=gnispq:3::NO::P3_FID:617516>

¹² A history by Rev. Caleb Smith, the last minister of the church, states that the new meeting house was probably completed in 1848. This was apparently the third or fourth meeting house built. Institutional Archive, Hubbard Correspondence File.

¹³ These items have remained in the main museum building. Other original church records are deposited with the Quabbin Towns records at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

The South Hadley church documents contain handwritten sermons with notations of the date they were given in South Hadley; many of these sermons were repeated in South Hadley or Granby. The bulk of the sermons date 1838-1847. A set of sermons by Reverend Joseph Condit is in the Condit sub-series of the Personal Papers series; it is possible that more of the sermons remaining in the Church's sub-series should be attributed to Condit.

The Northampton sub-series consists of two documents associated with President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), who practiced law in the city. Also included is a poster titled "Offset to Mr. Adams's Letter," dealing with state politics and written in Northampton.

The Springfield sub-series consists of clippings of articles from the *Springfield Republican* and a 1792 copy of the *Hampshire and Berkshire Chronicle*, printed in Springfield. Also included is an advertisement for a steamboat based in Springfield and Hartford, as well as an envelope addressed to Thomas Dwight of Springfield.

The Holyoke sub-series contains a substantial collection of annual reports dating 1853-1873, as well as town by-laws and reports of the school committee. Other documents include a letter to a Holyoke resident and a program for the Holyoke funeral service for Lincoln.

Other towns represented by only a few documents include Granby, Chicopee, Amherst, Worcester, Bellingham, Willimansett, and Cabotville. Some documents in this sub-series reference several towns in the area and therefore cannot be classified with a single one.

Sermons

This series contains handwritten sermons collected by Joseph Skinner that are not easily associated with an individual or local congregation. The sermons date 1764 to 1893, with the bulk c. 1788 – 1823. Most of the sermons are bound with string into small pamphlets. They are usually identified by Bible verse; several sermons have multiple dates, usually several years apart. The handwriting varies, and it is unclear how many original authors are represented in the sermons. Fewer than half of these sermons were originally given catalog numbers by Skinner.

Manuscripts

The manuscript series contains assorted items with little in common. Included are notebooks, a diary, a Civil War souvenir envelope, a scrapbook of China and the Boxer Rebellion, handwritten lottery tickets, bills, and artifacts from World War II. Several of the manuscripts are scraps of handwritten documents.

Religious Printed Materials

This series consists of printed sermons and other religious material. Some sermons are related to local history, preached in Springfield, Westhampton, and Belchertown. Most of the non-sermon pamphlets are published by the American Tract Society. The bulk of this series is made up of

38 pamphlets of printed sermons by Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) preached in New York and published weekly in 1874-1875.

Other Printed Materials

This series corresponds to the manuscript series in gathering fairly unrelated printed documents. The document types are primarily magazine pamphlets and newspaper clippings, although the series also contains tobacco tax stamps, certificates, and a carte-de-visite photograph associated with a poster. A State Department passport to Arthur Payson bears the signature of President Buchanan. Also included is a catalog reproduction of the House of Pansa at Pompeii.

Almanacs

Milton Drake defines three common traits of early almanacs: an ecclesiastical calendar, an astronomical calendar predicting weather and astronomical events such as moon phases and eclipses, and the "Prognostication" on politics.¹⁴ The year's almanac was second only to the Bible in early American homes; it is probably in this context of Americana and Colonial Revivalism that Skinner collected almanacs. The set of almanacs dates from 1767 to 1868, with the bulk c. 1822-1855. Several different publishers are represented; most are fitted for Boston or Northampton, MA.

Hawaii

This series contains three travel books, one dated 1892, with information on and illustrations of Hawaii, published by the Oceanic Steamship Co. of San Francisco. The series also contains letters and notes, primarily from Hilo, HI, as well as Hawaiian-language documents. The Eastman sub-series also contains 29 pages of letters and schoolwork from students in Hilo, Hawaii. Nine of these letters addressed to Miss E. S. Eastman in South Hadley and are annotated with the ethnicity of the students.

Foreign Language

This series consists of material printed in languages other than English. Two envelopes are written in Chinese, and a printed book is also tentatively identified as Chinese. Two printed pamphlets share a character set, tentatively identified as Burmese; one is identified as Dr. Jayne's Medicines, published in Rangoon by the American Mission Press, 1864.

¹⁴ Drake, Milton. *Almanacs of the United States*. 2 Volumes. New York: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1962.

Contents List

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Personal Papers, Forward, <i>Letters, 1790-1883, nd.</i>
	2	Personal Papers, Forward, <i>Diaries, 1758-1799</i>
	3	Personal Papers, Forward, <i>Account Book, 1777-1786</i>
	4	Personal Papers, Forward, <i>Other</i>
	5	Personal Papers, Rand, <i>Sermons, 1803, nd.</i>
	6	Personal Papers, Rand, <i>Church Records</i>
	7	Personal Papers, Rand, <i>Letters, 1800-1826, nd.</i>
	8	Personal Papers, Rand, <i>Diaries, 1792-1828</i>
	9	Personal Papers, Condit, <i>Sermons, 1830-1838</i>
	10	Personal Papers, Condit, <i>Sermons, 1844-1889</i>
	11	Personal Papers, Eastman, <i>Eastman Family, 1740-1829</i>
	12	Personal Papers, Eastman, <i>Charles Eastman, 1828-1822</i>
	13	Personal Papers, Eastman, <i>Julia Eastman</i>
	14	Personal Papers, Eastman, <i>Sophia Eastman, Mt. Holyoke Manuscript</i>
	15	Personal Papers, Eastman, <i>Sophia Eastman, Hawaii Letters, 1892</i>
	2	16
1		Local History, Prescott
2		Local History, Prescott Church
3		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Taxes, Bills, Letters, 1832-1911</i>
4		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Family Record, 1813</i>
5		Local History, South Hadley, <i>South Hadley Canal, c. 1808</i>
6		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Mount Holyoke & Mount Tom, 1851-1912</i>
7		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Mount Holyoke Seminary</i>
8		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Printed Material, 1844-1903</i>
9		Local History, South Hadley, <i>Typed Manuscript</i>
10		Local History, South Hadley Church, <i>Manual & Member Catalog, 1861</i>
11		Local History, South Hadley Church, <i>Printed Sermons, 1845-1894</i>
12		Local History, South Hadley Church, <i>Sermons, nd, 1825-1838</i>
13		Local History, South Hadley Church, <i>Sermons, 1841-1847</i>
14		Local History, South Hadley Church, <i>Manuscript on Sunday School</i>
15		Local History, Northampton
16		Local History, Springfield
17		Local History, Holyoke, <i>Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1853-1859</i>
18	Local History, Holyoke, <i>Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1862-1868</i>	

- 19 Local History, Holyoke, *Annual Reports of the Town Officers, 1869-1873*
- 3 1 Local History, Holyoke, *By-Laws, 1857-1868*
 2 Local History, Holyoke, *Annual Reports of the School Committee, 1874-1876*
 3 Local History, Holyoke, *Holyoke Churches, nd, 1856-1908*
 4 Local History, Holyoke, *Letters and Programs, 1841-1927*
 5 Local History, Other, *Massachusetts History, 1853*
 6 Local History, Other, *Western Massachusetts History, nd, 1889*
 7 Local History, Other, *Mill River Flood, 1874*
 8 Local History, Other, *Letters, 1824-1938*
 9 Local History, Other, *Legal Documents, 1740-1816*
 10 Local History, Other, *Miscellaneous*
 11 Sermons, *1766-1789*
 12 Sermons, *1790-1798*
 13 Sermons, *1799-1805*
 14 Sermons, *1806-1809*
 15 Sermons, *1810-1815*
 16 Sermons, *1815-1828*
 17 Sermons, *1893*
- 4 1 Sermons, *Undated*
 2 Sermons, *Fragments, 1758-1796*
 3 Manuscripts, *Diaries, Letters, and Manuscript Fragments*
 4 Manuscripts, *Notebooks and Account-books*
 5 Manuscripts, *Souvenirs and Scrapbook*
 6 Manuscripts, *Miscellaneous*
 7 Religious Printed, *Sermons, Lathrop (c. 1797)*
 8 Religious Printed, *Sermons, 1804-1831*
 9 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 1:25 – 2:4*
 10 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 2:8 – 2:16*
 11 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 2:18 – 2:25*
 12 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 3:1 – 3:8*
- 5 1 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 3:9 – 3:18*
 2 Religious Printed, *Beecher Sermons, 3:19 – 3:24*
 3 Religious Printed, *Religious Tracts, 1820-1825*
 4 Religious Printed, *Program and Periodical, 1938-1940*
 5 Other Printed, *Periodicals and Publications, 1788-1823*
 6 Other Printed, *Periodicals and Publications, 1832-1875, nd.*
 7 Other Printed, *Civil War*
 8 Other Printed, *Esther Dickinson Biography and CDV*
 9 Other Printed, *News Clippings and Advertisements*
 10 Other Printed, *Paper Money*
 11 Other Printed, *Tax Stamps*
 12 Other Printed, *The Pompeia, 1890*
- 6 1 Almanacs, *The Farmer's Almanac, 1808-1817*

	2	Almanacs, <i>The Farmer's Almanac & Old Farmer's Almanac, 1835-1846</i>
	3	Almanacs, <i>The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1848-1854</i>
	4	Almanacs, <i>The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1868-1878</i>
	5	Almanacs, <i>American Tract Society & Family Christian Almanacs, 1862-1868</i>
	6	Almanacs, <i>Farmer's, Mechanic's, and Gentleman's Almanac, 1827-1829</i>
	7	Almanacs, <i>Other, 1767-1807</i>
7	1	Almanacs, <i>Other, 1823-1911</i>
	2	Almanacs, <i>Fragments, 1824-1826</i>
	3	Hawaii
	4	Hawaii, <i>Hawaiian Language</i>
	5	Foreign Language
Folio	1	Personal Papers, Forward
	2	Personal Papers, Rand, <i>Letters, 1803-1835</i>
	3	Personal Papers, Eastman
	4	Local History, Prescott Church
	5	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Deeds and Wills</i>
	6	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Other</i>
	7	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Locks & Canals Share Certificates</i>
	8	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Locks & Canals Share Certificates</i>
	9	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Locks & Canals Share Certificates</i>
	10	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Locks & Canals Share Certificates</i>
	11	Local History, South Hadley, <i>Locks & Canals Share Certificates</i>
	12	Local History, Northampton
	13	Local History, Springfield
	14	Local History, Other
	15	Manuscripts
	16	Other Printed
Map	Dr 1	Local History, Prescott Church
	Dr 1	Other Printed

Additional Information & Related Collections

Related Artifacts in the Skinner Museum

Books: The printed books of Skinner Museum are in several locations at the museum. They cover a wide variety of topics, from local and college history to natural history and travel books.

Bound Manuscripts: These items are currently located at the museum. They consist of ledgers from local businesses and individuals as well as record books from the Prescott Congregational Church.

Newspapers: Large newspapers are stored flat in map drawers as a separate group. Many of the newspapers are local and relate to local history.

Framed documents: Many manuscripts and paper documents were framed by Mr. Skinner for display. No effort has been made to unframe and rehouse these items, but they may be related to documents in the manuscript collection. Should these documents be unframed, they will be incorporated into these files.

Photographs & Prints: The collection of photographs and prints stored in flat map drawers, folio boxes, and at the main museum. Many of the items relate to the contents of this archive.

Records of the Skinner Museum

Institutional Archives: These are the older records of the museum, as well as papers relating to Joseph Skinner and the Skinner family. Papers with no value except as supporting documents for objects, such as associated envelopes, are located in these files as well.

Working Museum Files: The working files contain background information on the Skinner business, the inventories and cataloging of the museum collection, and exhibit and education planning.

Records in Mount Holyoke College Archives

Skinner Museum Records, 1952-1992 (RG 9.17), Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections, South Hadley, MA

Ad Hoc Committee on the Skinner Museum Records (RG 16.3.009), Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections, South Hadley, MA

Historical Societies

Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, MA. The museum interprets the Skinner family home in Holyoke. <<http://www.wistariahurst.org/>>

South Hadley Historical Society, South Hadley, MA. The historical society operates the Old Firehouse Museum and is restoring the Sycamores, one of the properties that Skinner owned along Woodbridge Street.

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA. The Quabbin Towns records contain information on Prescott, MA and some of the records from the Prescott Congregational Church.