

Augusta County Historical Society

Acc #: 354

James H. Skinner Collection

1861-1984 (1861-65, 1877-1914)

Size: 1 folder (16 documents, 2 photographs)

Associated Material: Katharine Bushman Papers, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

Historical/Biographical Note: Historical/Biographical Note: James H. Skinner was born in 1826 in Norfolk, Va., the son of Commodore Charles W. Skinner, U. S. Navy. He moved to Staunton in 1844, where he studied law under Lucas P. Thompson and was admitted to the bar in 1849. He practiced law with Thomas J. Michie until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Skinner became captain of Co. A, 52nd Virginia Infantry Regiment, a unit composed largely of Augusta County and Staunton residents. He was promoted to major in 1862. He was wounded at the Second Battle of Manassas, Gettysburg, and Spotsylvania Courthouse.

He returned to Staunton after the war, but due to his wounds was unable to practice law fulltime. He was actively involved in civic affairs, including service as president of both the Staunton Musical Association and the Augusta Cemetery Association. He died at his home in Staunton, 19 May 1898, but was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, in Norfolk.

Scope & Content:

Collection mainly consists of photocopied documents relating to the life and death of James H. Skinner, and the settlement of his estate, including an obituary, will and codicils for both he and his sister Fanny, an estate inventory, and suit papers. Also included are: a color photograph of his house at Prospect and Points Streets, in Staunton; a color photograph of the sword and scabbard he carried during the Civil War; two pieces of original correspondence between Mrs. William (Katharine) Bushman, a professional genealogist in Staunton, and Carl C. Rosen, a researcher in Westminster, Md.; and one of Rosen's business cards. All of the documents appear to have been collected by Bushman and Rosen in response to a genealogical inquiry by the latter.

Organization/Arrangement:

Chronological in one folder