



Guide to the Ezekiel Skinner papers, 1834-1836

This collection guide was produced in **2012**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Original Papers, 1834-1836	6
Transcripts, 1834-1836	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Ezekiel Skinner papers, 1834-1836

Source:

John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture

Creator:

Skinner, Ezekiel, 1777-1855

Abstract:

Ezekiel Skinner (1777-1855) was a missionary and physician who worked in Monrovia, Liberia for the American Colonization Society during the 1830s. Although almost 60 years old, Skinner believed it was his duty to continue the work of his son, Benjamin Rush Skinner, who had died in Liberia a few years before. He returned to the United States in 1837. This collection consists of 15 letters and other related documents (with typed transcripts) written by Dr. Ezekiel Skinner during his time working for the American Colonization Society in Liberia. Skinner travelled to Africa twice beginning in 1834 and finally returning to the United States in 1837. These letters cover both trips and provide information about the day-to-day challenges faced by the emigrants from the United States. The majority of the letters are addressed to his family and written in the style of a journal, but there are also retained copies of Skinner's official correspondence as an officer of the Society. The contents of the letters touch upon various topics such as living conditions, missionary work, interaction with native Africans, and medical care of the emigrants.

Extent:

1 Linear Feet
40 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01200

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m13q0f>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ezekiel Skinner Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

This collection consists of 15 letters and other related documents (with typed transcripts) written by Dr. Ezekiel Skinner during his time working for the American Colonization Society in Liberia. Skinner travelled to Africa twice beginning in 1834 and finally returning to the United States in 1837. These letters cover both trips and provide information about the day-to-day challenges faced by the emigrants from the United States. The majority of the letters are addressed to his family and written in the style of a journal, but there are also retained copies of Skinner's official correspondence as an officer of the Society. The contents of the letters touch upon various topics such as living conditions, missionary work, interaction with native Africans, and medical care of the emigrants.

Biographical/Historical

Ezekiel Skinner (1777-1855) was a missionary and physician who studied medicine under Benjamin Rush in Philadelphia. During the time period covered by this collection, Skinner was in Monrovia, Liberia working for the American Colonization Society. His first trip to Africa in 1834 was inspired by the death of his son Benjamin Rush Skinner, who was serving as a minister in Monrovia when he succumbed to illness in 1831. Although almost 60 years old, Skinner believed it was his duty to continue the work of his son. During his second trip he was appointed as an agent of the United States government to oversee settlement of new Liberian citizens arriving from the United States. He returned to the United States in 1837.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Ezekiel Skinner papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in April 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Bob Malme, July 2012

Encoded by Bob Malme, July 2012

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2012-0073

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Monrovia (Liberia) -- History
- Liberia -- Colonization -- American influences
- Liberia -- Emigration and immigration -- History -- 19th century
- Liberia -- History -- To 1847
- Missionaries, Medical -- Liberia -- History -- 19th century
- Missionaries -- Africa -- History -- 19th century
- African Americans -- History -- 19th century
- Temperance and religion -- United States -- History -- 19th century
- Slave trade -- Liberia
- Medical care -- History -- 19th century
- Slave traders -- Africa -- History -- 19th century
- American Colonization Society -- History

- John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture
- Skinner, Ezekiel, 1777-1855

Collection Inventory

Original Papers, 1834-1836

Scope and Contents note

Series contains original letters from Skinner to his family and his correspondence on behalf of American Colonization Society.

Personal letters, 1834-1836 Box 1 > Folder 1

American Colonization Society correspondence, 1834-1836 Box 1 > Folder 2

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Transcripts, 1834-1836

Scope and Contents note

Series includes typed transcripts of each family letter and of the American Colonization Society correspondence in the collection.

Typed transcripts: Personal letters, 1834-1836 Box 1 > Folder 3

Typed transcripts: American Colonization Society correspondence, 1834-1836 Box 1 > Folder 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)