

A Map of Time and Blood: An Introduction to the Skinner Family Papers 1826-1850

Mary Maillard

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Mary Maillard's extensively researched monograph is an essential guide for readers of the coming-of-age letters of Penelope, Tristrim, and Eliza Harwood Skinner, as well as a general introduction to antebellum southern culture in North Carolina and Virginia. Like other planter correspondence, almost nothing is mentioned in the Skinner Family Papers about the institution of slavery – although several slave lists survive. As Maillard explains, the Skinners' attitudes towards slavery were complex, contradictory, and conflicted, particularly in that the family had evolved in three generations from antislavery Quakers to slaveholding planter elites. Connecting 18th century documents in the Skinner papers with those in Swem Library at the College of William and Mary, Maillard also reconstructs longstanding kinship links between Edenton, North Carolina, and Williamsburg, spanning nearly a hundred years.



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