

RICHARD GREEN SKINNER and ANNIE ELIZA SKINNER
A legacy of Jacksonville's early history

In 1899, Richard Green Skinner, his wife Annie Eliza Skinner and their seven sons moved to Jacksonville when their oldest boy was just 18 to start a new life and business. They settled within a mile of this historic marker at a place they named "The Old Still". Their families originated in Georgetown, South Carolina where they managed land-related businesses such as timber, rice production, and naval stores (production of rosin, pine tar, pitch and turpentine from pine sap). They initially acquired 16,000 acres of land on the Southside of Jacksonville to start a naval stores business. Over time, they acquired as much as 50,000 acres. Their operation required large quantities of pine sap from the plentiful pine trees in the area, the raw material for the turpentine business.

Richard Green got the operation going but in 1905, on a trip back to South Carolina, he and Annie Eliza caught pneumonia and died within a week of each other. They left behind seven sons ages ranging from 7 to 24 years old. Miraculously, the young sons operated the business successfully for nine years and then diversified into cattle ranching, dairy farming, and real estate. The land and associated businesses were reincorporated in 1927 and run by the remaining brothers Brightman James Skinner (1881-1975), Samuel Benjamin Skinner (1884-1957), Richard Green Skinner (1887-1960), and Arthur Chester Skinner (1891-1958). The Skinner men were known to be honest, fair and ethical, holding a high value for working together as a family, while enjoying each other's company playing pranks and telling stories.

This marker rests on the intersection of R G Skinner Parkway and Annie Eliza Drive, named in recognition of these two great individuals whose legacy is part of South Jacksonville's early history.

Location of Historic Marker for Richard Green and Annie Eliza Skinner



