## Holyoke: The Skinner Family and Wistariahurst



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4 of 4 review helpful An interesting look into a part of Western Mass history By J Skinner Those who know something about the histories of Hampden and Hampshire Counties in Massachusetts are sure to be familiar with the Mill River disaster of 1874 and how it shaped the destinies of the towns it affected and those it didn t as well as the people and families who survived that preventable tragedy This book offers a quick b Born in England in 1824

William Skinner was a tradesman who at 19 immigrated to the United States Skinner turned his skill and resourcefulness into a tremendous success He first went to work in Northampton and eventually opened the Unquomonk Silk Mills in nearby Haydenville Skinner would have remained there had a flood not destroyed his business He built a new mill along the canals in Holyoke one of America s first planned industrial cities and moved his family About the Author Kate Navarra Thibodeau holds a master rsquo s degree in American history from the University of Massachusetts Amherst She is a public historian and curator of Wistariahurst

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