

Collection #
SC 2306

**FRANCIS ELIAS SPINNER
PAPERS, 1890**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 items

COLLECTION DATES: 1890

PROVENANCE: Children's Museum, 3000 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46205, ca. 1986

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0185x

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Francis Elias Spinner (1802-1890), U. S. Representative, Treasurer of the United States, was born in German Flats, New York, and attended schools in Mohawk Valley, N. Y. About 1820 he married Caroline Caswell, and they had five children. Spinner was cashier, then president, of a bank in Mohawk Valley. He entered politics as a deputy sheriff. In 1834 he became a major general in the New York state militia. From 1845 to 1849 he was auditor of the port of New York.

From 1855 to 1861 Spinner served three terms in the U. S. House of Representatives, the first term as an anti-slavery Democrat, the others as a Republican.

In 1861 Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase appointed Spinner Treasurer of the United States. In this office, he made his mark by his elaborate signature and by being responsible for employing women in the civil service, to replace young men who had gone into uniform. He resigned from this post in 1875 after a personal dispute with the Treasury Department.

He retired to Pablo Beach, Florida, where he died of nose cancer.

Sources: Materials in collection

Who Was Who in America, Historical volume

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one clipping, with Spinner's obituary, and one letter. The letter, written in the last year of Spinner's life, describes the progress of his illness, and ends with his famous, but now rather shaky, signature.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2306).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.