



## **Guide to the William Sims papers, 1770-1860**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

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

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

William Sims papers, 1770-1860

**Creator:**

Sims, William

**Extent:**

3.6 Linear Feet

385 Items

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.01197

**Permalink:**

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/simswilliam/>

**Preferred Citation**

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

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

Correspondence, financial papers, and legal documents, concerning William Sims' extensive plantation holdings in South Carolina. Includes two account books. Correspondence is primarily related to business matters, including cotton trade and prices; the price and availability of slaves; and the beginnings of a textile industry on the plantation. Local and state politicians in South Carolina are often mentioned, as is the general economic plight of the Southern planter in the period (ca. 1819-1830), and currency problems in the state (ca.

1826-1830). One personal letter effusively describes newly settled land in Mississippi and the quality of the cotton grown there.

Detailed financial papers form the bulk of the collection, and concern the cotton trade (including weights, bale numbers, shipping, prices, and sales), and household and plantation expenses. Legal papers are confined to deeds, documents of land litigation, military commissions, and documents relating to slaves, such as indentures and lists of slaves on the plantation. Also includes genealogical information on the Sims family.

### **Biographical/Historical**

William Sims was a cotton grower in Union County, South Carolina.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **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 William Sims papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchased between 1978-1990. This collection forms part of the Harry L. and Mary K. Dalton Collection, 1695-1955, undated.

## Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Kimberly Sims, March 2011

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## Names and Subjects

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- Mississippi -- Description and travel
- Deeds
- Plantation owners -- Correspondence
- Cotton growing -- Mississippi
- South Carolina -- Economic conditions
- Southern States -- Economic conditions
- Indentures
- Account books
- Money -- South Carolina
- Slavery -- South Carolina
- South Carolina -- Politics and government
- South Carolina -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Cotton trade -- South Carolina
- Plantations -- Records -- South Carolina
- Plantations -- Economic aspects
- Business records -- South Carolina

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## Collection Inventory

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|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Legal Papers, 1770-1848     | Box 1 |
| Financial Papers, 1785-1850 | Box 1 |
| Volumes (2), 1807-1860      | Box 1 |

Correspondence, 1799-1837

Box 2

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Correspondence and Financial Papers,  
1801-1861

Box 2