

William Henry Sims, Colonel, 44 MS Infantry, CS

- 1837 July 31: Born in Lexington, GA to Dr. James and Mrs. Amanda Sims.
- 1840 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Oglethorpe County, GA showed James S. Sims as the head of house. The Sims family owned fourteen slaves.
- 1850 September 3: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Oglethorpe County, GA showed thirteen-year-old William living with his parents. His father was a physician. The Sims family owned forty-two slaves.
- 1858 Attended Harvard Law, where in the school directory he was listed as a graduate of University of Georgia.
- 1861 February 28: Enlisted in a unit of Mississippi Volunteers in Columbus, MS.

May 28: His state unit became the 44 MS Volunteers, Sims was mustered into Co. A, as a sergeant.

*"...when the War of Secession broke out. He enlisted in the C.S. Army in the Tombigbee Rangers, with the rank of the first orderly sergeant, and soon became second lieutenant of his company, which became a part of an infantry brigade under Gen. Frank Cheatham at Union City, Tenn., and began service as Co. A Blythe's battalion. It was afterwards Co. A, Forty Fourth Mississippi regiment. He participated in the battle of Belmont, Mo, and was promoted to the rank of captain after the battle of Shiloh. His regiment fell back with Bragg's army to Saltillo, Miss., and was transferred to Tennessee, and engaged in three days fight against Rosecrans at Stone River. He was wounded at Chickamauga, but remained in active service during the four months fighting between Dalton and Atlanta. At the beginning of that campaign, he was detached from regimental duty, and was occupied as inspector-general of Tucker's brigade, until Hood's flank movement into Tennessee. After the fall of Atlanta, he was put in command of his regiment as lieutenant colonel."*¹

- 1864 November 30: Wounded leading his men at the Battle of Franklin.
"...at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., while leading his regiment in a night fight, he

¹ Owen, Thomas McAdory and Marie Bankhead Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, v. IV, Chicago, 1921 (accessed on googlebooks.com)

*received a severe wound through the knee joint, was taken to Columbia, Tenn., to the hospital, and as a result of this wound, the lower part of his left leg was amputated. He was captured by the U.S. army, on the fall of Columbia, and after remaining in the hospital for three months, was imprisoned at Louisville.”*²

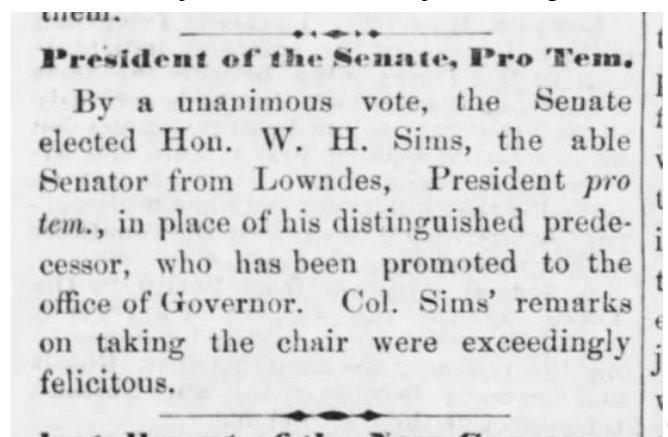
1865 “*After the war Col. Sims returned to Mississippi and practiced law until after the reconstruction period, when he was in the forefront of the movement to reclaim the white predominance.*”³

1870 July 4: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Columbus, Lowndes County, MS showed W.H. living and working as a lawyer.

August 11: Married Elizabeth Louise Upson in Oglethrope, GA.

1875 “*Col. Sims was nominated and elected State senator, from the eighteenth district of Mississippi, composed of Lowndes, Oktibbeha, and Clay Counties, and when John M. Stone, president pro tempore of the senate, succeeded to the governorship, he was made president of the senate, and became as such, acting lieutenant-governor.*”⁴

1876 Sims was “*...drafted for the first Democratic Senate by the new Democratic party in 1876, was proclaimed president of the Senate, after Davis, the negro Republicans’ lieutenant, was forced out, and after being*”⁵



² Owen, Thomas McAdory and Marie Bankhead Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, v. IV, Chicago, 1921 (accessed on googlebooks.com)

³ The Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL, Saturday 28 Feb 1920, pg. 1

⁴ Owen, Thomas McAdory and Marie Bankhead Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, v. IV, Chicago, 1921 (accessed on googlebooks.com)

⁵ The Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL, Saturday 28 Feb 1920, pg. 1

⁶ Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, MS, Thursday, 30 Mar 1876, pg. 2

Hon. W. H. Sims.

Hon. W. H. Sims publishes a card in the Starkville News, declining to run for Congress.—Ex.

The First Congressional District could not have furnished a more worthy and accomplished gentleman, nor one who would have reflected more honor upon Mississippi as her representative in the National Legislature, than the gentleman whose name heads this article.

In every vocation of life, to which he has been called, he has proven himself equal to its duties, faithful to its trusts and the pride of his friends. As a lawyer, he stands among the first of his profession, and is an ornament to the bar. As a soldier, rising through all the grades from Lieutenant to Colonel, he shared the fortunes of the army of Tennessee, almost to the end, and attested his devotion to the cause in which he was enlisted by the sacrifice of a limb and a libation of his blood upon the fields of Franklin. In the last canvass he was chosen with Hon. Fred. Barry to carry the standard of reform in the— Senatorial District, and they were planted in the halls of the State capitol. As a legislator, he was always at his post, and actively participated in the enactment of the reform measures which will cause the Legislature of 1876 to be ever spoken of with pleasure by the Democratic-Conservatives and tax payers of the State. As President *pro tem.* of the Senate, (acting Lieutenant-Governor) called unexpectedly as he was to this exalted position, the dignity and the impartiality with which he presided, and his thorough knowledge of parliamentary law, added additional laurels to those already won. With manly courage and fortitude, and womanly modesty and gentleness, W. H. Sims will grace any position to which he may be assigned by his fellow-citizens.

⁷ The Clarion Ledger, Jackson, MS, Wednesday, 24 May 1876, pg. 2

- 1880 June 2: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Columbus, Lowndes County, MS showed W.H., a lawyer, and Louie living with their young son Harry. Also living with the family were three African American servants: Lewis, Fanny and Betty.
- 1885 “...served as both temporary and permanent president of the State Democratic convention; was a delegate from the state at large to the national Democratic convention at St. Louis, Mo., 1888, and to the convention at Chicago, in 1892, when he acted as chairman of his delegation.”⁸
- 1890 Served as Lt. Commander of the Columbus, MS camp of Confederate Veterans.⁹
- 1898 “Colonel Sims after he had resigned his position as first assistant secretary of the interior in 1898, after holding it since his appointment by President Cleveland in 1893, came to Birmingham and with his son opened up law offices Here.”¹⁰ [here being Birmingham, AL]
- 1900 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL showed William H., a lawyer, and Louie living with their son Henry and two African American servants: James and Pat.
- 1913 July 21: Wife, Louie, died at their home. She was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.
- 1920 February 28: Sims died at his home in Birmingham, AL. He was buried near Louie in Elmwood Cemetery.
“In commenting upon his death, the Birmingham Ledger, on Feb 28, 1920, said “Col. Sims was a fine type of the real southern gentleman. He was courteous and kindly. He was one of the best-read men and most cultivated. He had no use for the little and mean things and was open in expression of disapproval of anything which deflected from the high standard of southern manhood which he set for himself. Largely owing to the loss of his foot and the inconvenience of an artificial limb, becoming more cumbersome as he grew older, Col. Sims’ life during the past few years had been largely that of a recluse in his handsome home on South Twelfth avenue, but

⁸ Owen, Thomas McAdory and Marie Bankhead Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, v. IV, Chicago, 1921 (accessed on googlebooks.com)

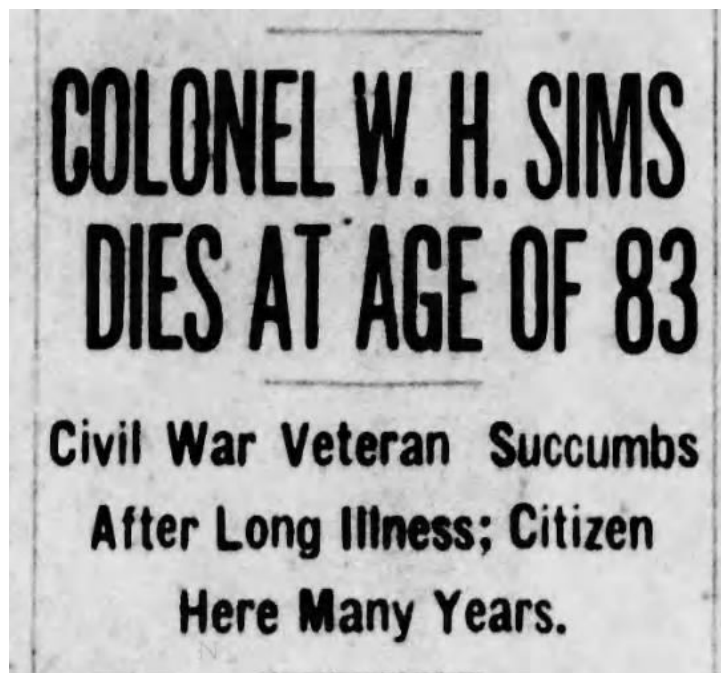
⁹ Owen, Thomas McAdory, A Bibliography of Alabama, 1898 (accessed googlebooks.com)

¹⁰ The Birmingham News, Birmingham, AL, Saturday 28 Feb 1920, pg. 1

even there he kept in close touch with the outside world and his opinion of big men and events was eagerly sought by the scholarly and cultured. Governor Sims was a man of scrupulous integrity, whose word was literally as good as his bond. He held honor highest of manly traits and in that respect was unyielding to compromise.”¹¹



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¹¹ Owen, Thomas McAdory and Marie Bankhead Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*, v. IV, Chicago, 1921 (accessed on googlebooks.com)

¹² Photo from findagrave.com/user/PeteMohney

¹³ *The Birmingham News*, Birmingham, AL, Saturday 28 Feb 1920, pg. 1