

# Trinity University Special Collections and Archives

## Finding Aid - John W. Sansom Manuscript (SC.012)

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Language of description: English

DACS

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# John W. Sansom Manuscript

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Trinity University Special Collections and Archives
<b>Title:</b>	John W. Sansom Manuscript
<b>ID:</b>	SC.012
<b>Date:</b>	1916 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1 volume, 120 pages; 1 folder of loose leaves.
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

John William Sansom was born in Dallas County, Alabama, on February 5, 1834. His family moved to the Republic of Texas in the winter of 1838-1839. Sansom joined the Texas Rangers in 1855, and rose to the rank of captain in 1856. During the Civil War Sansom was a staunch Union supporter, and joined the Union Loyal League, an underground militia. After the Battle of Nueces River, where the Unionist militia was attacked by Confederate soldiers, Sansom escaped and joined the First Texas Cavalry, a Union regiment made up of Texan soldiers. In 1905, Sansom authored "Battle of Nueces River in Kinney County, Tex., Aug. 10, 1862," considered the authoritative account of the battle. After the Civil War, Sansom continued military service in the Texas Rangers until 1883. He spent the remainder of his career ranching, before retiring in 1904.

Sansom married Helen Victoria Patton in 1860. They had one daughter, Elizabeth. Sansom died on June 19, 1920 in San Antonio.

### Custodial history

Believed to have been purchased by Coates Library as part of the Beretta Texana collection in the 1980s.

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## Scope and content

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Typewritten manuscript of the "Memoirs of John W. Sansom, 1834-1916." Written several years before Sansom's death, this volume includes his first person accounts of his childhood, Union support during the Civil War, involvement in the Battle of Nueces River, and career in the Texas Rangers.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Restrictions on access

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### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

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## Access points

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- Sansom, John William, 1834-1920 (subject)
- Manuscripts (documentary form)
- Texas Rangers (subject)
- Texas -- History (subject)
- United States -- History -- Civil War (subject)
- Military history (subject)
- San Antonio (Tex.) (place)