

# Waters Davis Dies After Long Illness

Organized Country Club  
Was Oldest Member Of  
Bar Association

## Fought Gambling

Lawyer Had Made Home  
In El Paso Nearly  
Half A Century.

Waters Davis, 73, pioneer attorney and resident of El Paso for nearly 50 years, died at his home, 1280 East San Antonio Street, yesterday after more than a year's illness.

Although active in civic affairs in El Paso for many years, he never sought or held public office. He was known to friends as "Judge Davis" through the practice of law, representing many El Paso corporations.

He was appointed counsel for the American Smelting and Refining Company shortly after he came to El Paso in 1885, serving as attorney for the company until his death. He was legal representative of the old El Paso Herald for many years and legal advisor for numerous other concerns in El Paso, friends said.

### Organized Country Club.

Despite ailing health, which kept him from strenuous practice for the last few years, Judge Davis maintained his office in the First National Bank Building until his death.

He was the organizer of El Paso's first Country Club more than 40 years ago and worked for development of that organization. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living member of the El Paso Bar Association, dating his membership back 50 years.

Judge Davis descended from a family noted in Texas development. His father, E. J. Davis, was the governor of the state during Reconstruction days, serving four years in that capacity.

### Raised in Texas.

Judge Davis was born at Corpus Christi, Texas, March 15, 1862, and spent his boyhood in that town. He was educated in Texas schools and was graduated from the law school of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Judge Davis married Mary Agnes Howard at San Antonio in 1885 and brought his bride to El Paso after a honeymoon spent at Corpus Christi. Mrs. Davis died in 1923. The family has occupied the home at 1280 East San Antonio Street for more than 40 years, friends said yesterday.

Judge Davis was a brother of Lt. Britton Davis, U. S. Army, who took part in the campaign that led to the capture of Geronimo, noted Apache chief, and end of the great Indian uprisings in the Southwest. Lt. Davis, who died in San Diego a few years ago, was author of a

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# Death Claims Waters Davis

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book dealing with the capture of Geronimo.

### Was For To Gambling.

Judge Davis was a member of the Republican Party throughout his life, friends said. While he did not take part in local political campaigns, he was vitally interested in improvement of civic conditions. Public gambling drew the fire of civic-minded citizens in El Paso in 1904, culminating in the formation of the Citizens' League, which carried out a successful fight against open gambling. Judge Davis was president of the organization.

He formerly was associated in legal practice with Attorneys W. H. Fryer and Dan Jackson, former judge of the 34th District Court. The partnership was established in 1922 and lasted several years.

Tall and powerful in his younger days, Judge Davis kept up his love for athletics until a few years ago. Until five or six years ago, Judge Davis was an inveterate golfer, able to play 72 holes of golf regularly, according to his son, Britton Davis. In his younger days, his father was an amateur baseball player and ranked high in college boxing circles.

### Funeral Rites Arranged.

Judge Davis is survived by a daughter, Mrs. C. W. Kellogg, New York, and two sons, E. J. Davis and Britton Davis, both of El Paso.

Funeral services will be held at the family home at 4 p. m. today, with the Very Reverend F. V. Corcoran, president of De Paul University, Chicago, in charge. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, where Mrs. Davis is buried.

Active pallbearers will be Charles Eckford, Judge Ballard Coldwell, Lee Frazer, Arthur Rule, Pahe Kemp and Ferd Searle. Honorary pallbearers will be: E. E. Neff, Dr. Hugh White, C. N. Bassett, Maury Edwards, Harry Lawton, W. H. Burges, Dr. James Vance and Charles Kokahr. Peak-Hagedorn is in charge of arrangements.