

Death of W. S. Hills.

The sad news reached the city this forenoon that W. S. Hills passed away at 3:30 this morning at Charleston, S. C.

Mr. Hills came to El Paso and assumed charge of the business of the Campbell heirs' interests in the city in 1881. His wife and son Le, both of whom survive him, came in January in 1882 and although an invalid for many years which caused him to be absent from El Paso he claimed this city as his home. He has large real estate interests here and is the main stockholder of the El Paso Saddlery company.

Mr. Hills in addition to the wife and son spoken of leaves a daughter at Grand Rapids, Michigan, whose husband is a banker.

A more extended notice of the life of Mr. Hills will appear in the HERALD some day next week.

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BIO ON NEXT PAGE

THE LATE W. S. HILLS.

A Sketch of the Life of One of El Paso's Most Honored Citizens.

W. S. Hills was born about fifty-four years ago in North Georgia, and was for some time a resident of Floyd county, Ga., of which the city of Rome is the county seat. Mr. Hills after receiving a literary education attended the law university of Virginia and graduated from that institution with honor. Immediately after completing his education and a few years prior to the civil war, Mr. Hills went to Europe to further pursue the study of law and there continued the prosecution of his studies in one of the universities of England, until the beginning of the civil war, when he started to return to his native state of Georgia with the avowed purpose of tendering his services to his country. On account of difficulty in securing passage, however, he was long delayed and only reached Georgia a short time before the close of the war. After the war he began the practice of law in the city of Rome, Georgia, and while there made the acquaintance of Miss Mary Cleghorn, a daughter of one of the prominent citizens of that section of the country, and to whom he was married about the year 1867. About the year 1875 Mr. Hills and his family moved to St. Louis, Mo., where he continued to practice law successfully until the latter part of 1880, or the beginning of 1881, when he came to El Paso, Texas, to look after the interests of the Campbell heirs who were clients of his in St. Louis. The career of Mr. Hills after moving to El Paso is well known to most of our old citizens. He found the properties of the Campbell heirs, and which is now known as the Campbell addition, to be of considerable value, but the titles thereto were greatly involved and the boundaries were uncertain. Mr. Hills at once began the work of straightening out the titles of the Campbell addition and otherwise representing the interests of his clients. By securing numerous compromises, partitions, e. c., he finally evolved the splendid property known as the Campbell addition and which was conveyed to the Campbell Real Estate Co. His connection with the Campbell Real Estate company and knowledge of real estate titles in the city of El Paso gave him an excellent opportunity to speculate in real estate which he did with great profit, and soon secured a rent roll which brought himself and family a handsome support up to the time of his death.

Mr. Hills, during the years that he lived in El Paso, was a very active, enterprising and progressive citizen and contributed largely to almost every enterprise which tended to build up El Paso. He was in 1883 and 1884 a member of the city council. About ten years before his death, he bought out Mr. Newton of the firm of Newton & Andrews, who were engaged in the harness and saddle business, and the business was continued for some time under the name of Andrews & Hills, but he afterwards, about five years ago, bought the interest of Mr. Andrews and has since conducted the business through his agents under the name of the El Paso Saddlery Co.

Mr. Hills was a man of benevolent disposition, kind and genial, a warm friend, but at the same time had great tenacity with reference to his opinions and rights regardless of who might be involved. The health of Mr. Hills for the past seven or eight years has prevented his living in El Paso, though he has always claimed residence here, and during his numerous visits of he expressed his desire to continue to live in El Paso, but for the fact that he could not enjoy health here, and was advised by his physicians that his continued residence in El Paso would greatly shorten his life. On the occasion of the last visit of Mr. Hills, about three and a half years ago, he was suffering from a slight paralysis which to some extent affected his speech, and it was the belief of his friends that his life would not be long prolonged, and when the news of his death reached his friends in El Paso, it was not altogether unexpected.

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