

# Mrs. Mary H. Mills Dies In Austin; Was Founder Of El Paso Woman's Club

Mrs. Mary Hamilton Mills, one of the first women in El Paso to have a wood floor in her home, died at the family residence in Austin at noon yesterday. Mrs. Mills was more than 80 years of age.

Mrs. Mills returned to Austin to live when her husband, W. W. Mills, brother of Anson Mills, resigned his commission as U. C. consul at Chihuahua City and came back to the United States to make his home.

She came to El Paso after her marriage to Mills while he was serving in the Texas legislature from El Paso in 1868 and 1869. They made the perilous trip across the country in a buckboard.

### Lived In San Antonio.

The first El Paso home of the pioneers was on San Antonio street where the Given Brothers shoe store is now located. The house had a wood floor, one of the few in El Paso, Judge Ballard Coldwell, close

friend of the Mills family, who yesterday received word of Mrs. Mills' death, said.

Later Mills, who established himself as a general merchant in an adobe building on the Hilton hotel site, built a home for his wife where the Chamber of Commerce building now is and also a summer cottage on the outskirts of Juarez.

### Governor's Daughter.

Mrs. Mills was born and reared at Austin. She was the daughter of J. A. Hamilton, governor of Texas during the reconstruction period following the Civil war.

During the Civil war, Mrs. Mills, a girl of 12, was held a prisoner by the Confederate soldiers with her mother, brothers and sisters, in their home on the outskirts of Austin. Mrs. Hamilton wished to send a message to her husband, who was in hiding from the soldiers of the South.

Running from the house the girl leaped on her horse and rode madly

through the lines of the Confederate soldiers, made good her escape and met her father in his hiding place.

During the early days of El Paso, Mrs. Mills took an active part in literary and political affairs of the community. She was a staunch Republican and was a woman of fixed opinion in public matters. Often she joined the few other American women here in the arrangement and presentation of shows.

### Founded Club.

She was one of the founders of St. Clement's Episcopal church, and was the founder of the Women's club. The club was founded at the Mills residence on San Francisco street 38 years ago.

During the World war Mrs. Mills was in charge of the knitting of socks at Austin for soldiers.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Lilly H. Maloney, Austin, and a niece, Mrs. John Childs, also of Austin.