

## Huntsville Attorney Dies

by Weldon Patton

### McIntyre (Mack) Eugene Gates

Funeral services for McIntyre (Mack) Eugene Gates, 86, well known Huntsville attorney, were held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Huntsville Funeral Home. Burial was in the Martha's Chapel Cemetery near Huntsville.

Gates died Monday night in the Huntsville Memorial Hospital after 38 months as a patient of the convalescent ward.

Gates was born in the Graball community of Washington County. He had lived in and near Huntsville for 52 years.

Although Gates never held a judgeship, custom and tradition, especially by his fellow lawyers, bestowed upon him the title of Judge. Gates held the writer hereof that he never enrolled in my law school anywhere--not even for one day -- yet he was admitted to the bar in Texas. He explained that back when he got his license to practice, all that was necessary to get admitted to the bar was for an attorney to certify to the district court that he had studied so many hours and what subjects and generally the new member was admitted.

During the colorful legal career of Gates, he defended and helped to defend many people charged with capital offenses throughout the state. Not one of his clients received the death sentence. Gates was not only a defender but he was a prosecutor as well. During the 1930's, he was retained by the state of Texas as special prosecution in criminal cases against Joe Palmer and Baymond Hamilton, Texas bad boys at that time.

Gates served as county attorney for Walker County for six years. In 1926, he came close to being elected county judge, and lost by only seven votes.

This writer served eight years as judge of the county court at Huntsville, four of which were at the same time Judge Gates served as county attorney.

He was a legend in his own lifetime.

From the collection donated to the Houston County Historical Commission. This collection was part of the papers that Mrs. Nannie English had. The original is preserved to protect it from further damage.