

**Harris County Archives
Houston, Texas**

Finding Aid

**ROY F. CAMPBELL SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION
1890 - 1957**

Manuscript Collection: MC032

Size: 50 items

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Acquisition: Mary Gose O'Donnell,
2009

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Creator Sketch:

Born on March 14, 1885 to Sophia Elizabeth Bohn and Eli Forsythe Campbell, Roy Forsythe Campbell grew up in the sixth ward and later the Heights in Houston, Texas. His father was foreman of the H. & T. C. Railroad blacksmith shop. Campbell graduated from Houston High School in 1903. Due to a lack of funds for college, Campbell alternated working for the Southern Pacific Railroad and attending the University of Texas at Austin during which time he studied law and passed the bar exam in 1912. He was admitted to the Bar on December 20, 1912, and began the practice of law on December 26, 1912.

The Harris County Bar elected Campbell a special judge to the County Courts at Law where he served intermittently for six months until December 1917 when he was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of County Court at Law No. 2 Judge Murray B. Jones. Campbell was elected to the bench in 1918 where he remained until he was elected to the 80th District Court in 1924. Campbell considered himself to be an advocate for children and women. His public fight with the Houston Housing Authority concerning the San Felipe Courts exposed what he considered to be the appalling conditions for families living in public housing after World War II. He served for 32 years until 1956 when he was defeated for re-election. He died June 15, 1957.

Campbell married Nancy Nellie Meyer on June 10, 1916, and had one daughter, Helen Elizabeth.

Scope and Contents Note:

Correspondence, election materials, photographs and newspaper clippings document the life and career of Roy Forsythe Campbell from 1890 – 1957. Of particular interest are letters announcing his admission to the bar including his exam results, the oath of office taken in 1925 as judge of the 80th District Court, a 1925 election poster, a push card from 1918, and photographs of Campbell and his family. A photograph taken in January 1940 of the 80th District Court shows the interior of a courtroom in the Harris County Courthouse prior to renovation in 1952.

Archivists Note:

Records in this collection were selected and digitized from a scrapbook created by Helen Elizabeth Campbell Gose, Roy F. Campbell's daughter, and in the possession of Mary Gose O'Donnell.

For an inventory and to access to the records, please contact the archivist – archives@hctx.net .