

# Gift to the library

## THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

The Huntsville Public Library and the Walker County Genealogical Society have received a large donation of books from the estate of Mary Virginia Atkinson Smither. This collection includes many books on Texas, Texas Heroes and Texas Counties as well as many books about Sam Houston.

Smither was an avid reader of Texas History and had an extensive Texana Collection. A longtime resident of Huntsville,



**SMITHER**

former teacher and the widow of John Thomas Smither, she died in October 2003.

Mary Virginia was born to Hubert Leland Atkinson and Harriett Emily Williams in Milam County. She received her early education from Cameron Public Schools and was a graduate of the University of Texas and Sam Houston State Teachers College. She taught English in Jefferson and at Huntsville High School several years, before her marriage to Smither in 1948.

Mrs. Smither was a member of many patriotic and lineage societies, including Colonial Dames of America, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Huguenot Society and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was a charter member of the Walker County Genealogical Society and was also a member of the Outlook Book Club and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. She was raised a Presbyterian and was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

The Mary Virginia Atkinson Smither collection will be housed in the Genealogy/Local History/Texana Room at the Huntsville Public Library.

