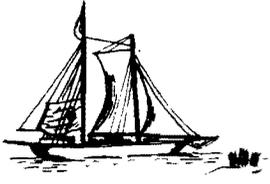


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MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY - CALIFORNIA - 1850-52

Annotations by Robert Bonta

(Continued from October-December 1979 Issue)

Court of Sessions - Civil Matters

Thursday July 24th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge

O. C. Emory, Associate
Justice

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

260 It is ordered that A. C. Bradford, County Clerk, be allowed the sum of two hundred and three dollars for services in Courts and filing papers as per bill filed, payable out of the revenue of the present year.

261 It is ordered that John S. Robb, Editor of the *Stockton Journal*, be allowed the sum of sixteen dollars for advertising the term of the District Court as per bill, payable out of the revenue of the present year.

Court of Sessions - Civil Matters

Friday July 25th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge

Benj. G. Weir [&] Associate

O. C. Emory, Justices

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

262 It is ordered that Daniel S. Clark, City Marshall [sic] of Stockton, be allowed the sum of Seventy-Five (\$75) dollars for arrests in criminal cases as per bill filed, and payable out of the revenue for the present year.

Court of Sessions - Civil Matters

Saturday, July 26th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge

Benj. G. Weir [&] Associate

O. C. Emory, Justices

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

263 It is ordered that De Forest Field be allowed the sum of ninety dollars for services as interpreter to the Court during this term of Court, payable out of the revenue of the present year as per bill filed.



Captain Charles David Maria Weber, owner of El Rancho del Campo de los Franceses and founder of Stockton. This was one of several photographs of the German-born California pioneer taken by J. Pitcher Spooner in Stockton on July 4, 1880.

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

- 264 It is ordered that E. L. B. Brooks, County Attorney, be allowed the sum of sixty dollars for convictions during this term of Court as per bill filed, payable out of revenue for the present year.
- 265 It is ordered that A. C. Bradford, County Clerk, be allowed the sum of forty dollars for attendance upon the Court of Sessions ['] present term as per bill filed, payable out of revenue for the past year.
- 266 It is ordered that the following be and hereby are established Election Precincts in and for the County of San Joaquin:

Hunter's Ferry in	Township No. 2
Clark and Sirey's Ferry	" " 6
French Camp	" " 1
Stockton	" " 1
Oregon Tent	" " 3
David O'Neil's Ranch	" " 4
Benedict's Ranch	" " 5
Staples' Ranch	" " 5
Cotton's Ferry (Ranch)	" " 3
Dent and Vantine's Ferry	" " 3
Chalmer's Ranch	" " 3

C. D. Gibbe's 1852 map of the Southern Mines locates Hunter's Ferry approximately half-way between Titus and Manly's Ferry (just north of San Joaquin City) and Bonsell and Doak's Ferry (Mossdale Y).

The Oregon Tent was located on the old Sonora Road (Farmington Road, Highway 4 today) where Farmington stands today, some seventeen miles from "downtown" Stockton. Two gentlemen by the name of Theyer and Wells opened the Oregon Tent as a way-station. The land around the station made up what was called the Oregon Ranch.

Chalmer's Ranch belonged to a Dr. L. R. Chalmers and was located southeast of Stockton. The government supply wagons for the soldiers stationed at Fort Miller in the southern San Joaquin Valley passed through his property, and in time the route became known as the Mariposa Road. The intersection of this road with the Jack Tone Road marks the approximate site of Chalmer's way-station. The immediate area is known today as Collegeville - a reflection of the time when it was the location of a private "college" in the early 1870's.

Benedict's Ranch was located on the Mokelumne River in the vicinity of Lodi. Benedict's Ferry lay just to the east of the present Highway 99 crossing over the river. Staples' Ranch was along the Mokelumne also, where Lockeford is located today.

All orders previously made creating Election Precincts are hereby annulled.

It is ordered that Court be adjourned to Court in course.

Benj. Williams
Judge, C.S.

San Joaquin County, California
Court of Sessions in Vacation.

Friday morning 15th August 1851
Present: Hon. Benjamin Williams, Judge
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

- 267 It is ordered that the Elk Horn Ranche be and the same is hereby established an election precinct in and for township No. Five of this county.
- 268 It is ordered that Oak Ranche be and the same is hereby established an election precinct in and for township No. Four of this county.
Benj. Williams
County Judge.

San Joaquin County
Court of Sessions in Vacation

Tuesday Morning 24th August 1851
Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

- 269 It is ordered that the order creating the Precinct known as Oak Ranch in township No. Four and established on the 15th day of August, 1851, be and the same is hereby cancelled.
- 270 It is ordered that Guard's Ranch be and the same is hereby established as an Election precinct in and for township No. Four in place of Oak Ranch.

Court of Sessions

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit, on Monday the Sixth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and fifty-one, a Convention for the purpose of electing Associate Justices of the Court of Sessions of San Joaquin County was held pursuant to law and notice legally given.

Present: Hon. Benjamin Williams
B. G. Weir [&]
J. K. Shafer, Justices
S. Dean
(R. P. Ashe, Sheriff)
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

The Convention proceeded to ballot for Associate Justices and the ballots having been counted by the Clerk,

Benj. G. Weir received one vote
J. K. Shafer received one vote

Seneca Dean received one vote. There being no choice, the Convention proceeded to a second ballot, and the ballots being counted by the Clerk,

J. K. Shafer received two votes, and
Seneca Dean received one vote.

Another ballot having been held and the ballots counted as before, Benj. G. Weir received two votes and
Seneca Dean received one vote

Whereupon J. K. Shafer and Benj. G. Weir were declared duly elected Associate Justices of the Court of Sessions in and for the County of San Joaquin, for the term prescribed by law, and received their certificates from the Judge and Clerk.

It is ordered that the Convention be adjourned.

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

Benjamin Weir was reelected to the Court of Sessions at the October 6 (1851) "convention," while O. C. Emory was replaced by a new justice of the peace, J. K. Shafer, who served on the Court until replaced on December 6, 1852. Prior to election to the Court Shafer had served for a brief time as the county's District Attorney for the Fifth Judicial District. He was elected mayor of Stockton in a special election held on January 23, 1853, but was replaced by M. B. Kenney following the city's regular election held in May. Weir was elected county judge the same year, and served well in that capacity from 1854 to 1862. Tinkham described him as a "man of fine personal appearance, and one of the brightest minds on the bench," but he added that "the pleasures of nature [whatever they were!] took full possession of [his] intellect and character at the age of 40" and he no longer commanded the respect he had previously enjoyed.

Upon leaving county service in 1862 Weir moved to Idaho, then still a territory, and was elected a Territorial Delegate to the U.S. Congress. He died several years later.

Court of Sessions
San Joaquin County

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit, on Monday the Sixth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and fifty-one, it being the first Monday of said month; a regular term of the Court of Sessions of San Joaquin County was held pursuant to law for the transaction of County business.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge
J. K. Shafer [&] Associate
Benj. G. Weir, Justices
R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

271 It is ordered that R. P. Ashe, Sheriff, be allowed the sum of fourteen hundred and eighteen dollars for board of prisoners, and service of self and assistant as jailors, as per bill filed, payable out of license fund.

272 On motion of Justice Weir--

It is ordered that the sum of five hundred dollars be allowed to A. A. Mix for his services as County Recorder for the fiscal year ending 1st April, 1852, and that said sum be payable quarterly and the Recorder is authorized to draw for the same.

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning at eight o'clock.

Court of Sessions San Joaquin Co.
Civil Matters

Tuesday 7th October 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge
J. K. Shafer [&] Associate
Benj. G. Weir, Justices
R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

273 Charles M. Weber and Thomas Baker, who were appointed at the Special June term of the

Court to view out a nearer road between the City of Stockton and Sacramento according to petition presented at said Term of Court, this day reported as follows:

The undersigned appointed by the Court of sessions under Section 5 of "An Act concerning Roads and Highways" passed April 11th, 1850, to view out the road leading from the town of Stockton to Sacramento, so far as such road is within the boundaries of San Joaquin Co., respectfully report

That they have viewed the different lines along which the road might pass as far north as Dry Creek, the County boundary, and would recommend as the best, the most available, and the most economical, the following:

Leaving the town of Stockton in a northerly direction, passing through the lands of Charles M. Weber and Nelson Taylor and striking the Calaveras River at a point known as "Sly's," thence northerly to the timber of the Slough beyond the Calaveras river, and thence varying slightly to the East and passing near the farm of Thomas Baker to the Mokelumne River, striking that river at a point known as "Benedict's" and running thence west of north to the crossing of Dry Creek known as "Davis."

This route in the opinion of the undersigned combines more effectually the economy of distance and of means to make a road, than any other line of travel.

A route further west than the one recommended, though nearer, would be passable only in extreme dry seasons; in all wet weather it would be liable to insuperable objection of traversing mainly lowlands subject to overflow, whilst within the County boundary and when beyond our own boundary it would approach the Cosumnes River at a point not available for the crossing of a road.

It is necessary to strike the Cosumnes at a point known formerly as "Shaddon's," now called "Martin's," and the undersigned, after careful investigation, are satisfied that such point is more directly approached by the best and shortest route, by adopting the road above recommended.

All of which is respectfully submitted
To the Honorable (signed) Charles M. Weber
Court of Sessions Thomas Baker
Stockton Oct. 6th 1851

Whereupon it is ordered that the foregoing report be accepted and the route therein indicated be declared a public highway.

This "nearer road between the City of Stockton and Sacramento" as recommended to the Court lay to the west of the original San Jose-Sacramento Trail; it rather closely paralleled the present Highway 99 route from Stockton to Dry Creek. "Sly's" was in the vicinity of the present bridge over the Calaveras; Benedict's lay just a short distance to the east of the present bridge over the Mokelumne on the north edge of Lodi; the Davis

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

crossing on Dry Creek lay between the present highway bridge and the railroad crossing.

- 274 It is ordered that R. P. Ashe, Sheriff, be allowed the sum of seven hundred and seventy-three dollars for fees and attendance upon the Courts. Payable out of the license fund.
- 275 It is ordered that O. B. Taylor, County Assessor, be allowed the sum of eleven hundred and four dollars for assessment of the County.
- 276 It is ordered that Geo. W. Nichols be licensed to carry on the business of Auctioneer in and for the County of San Joaquin.
- 277 It is ordered that Thomas J. Keyes be licensed to carry on the business of Auctioneer in and for the County of San Joaquin.
- 278 It is ordered that Charles J. Buffum be allowed the sum of eighty-six dollars for services as clerk of the General Election held September 3rd, 1851.
- 279 It is ordered that Henry M. F. Powell be allowed the sum of eighty-six dollars for services as Clerk of the General Election held September 3d, 1851.
- 280 It is ordered that Henry M. F. Powell be allowed the sum of fifty dollars for making a copy of the assessment list for the Sheriff.
- 281 It is ordered that A. Klemm & Co. be allowed the sum of three dollars and fifty cents for pitcher and pail furnished the Court.
- 282 It is ordered that there be assessed for County expenditures the following amounts upon ferries in this County:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| Upon Knight's Ferry the proprietors of which are Dent, Vantine & Co. on the Stanislaus River | \$400 |
| Upon Slocum's Ferry on the San Joaquin River | 250 |
| Upon Bonsell's Ferry on the San Joaquin river | 200 |
| Upon Clark and Sirey's Ferry on the Stanislaus River | 100 |
| Upon Islip's Ferry on the Stanislaus River | 100 |
| Upon Cotton's Ferry on the Stanislaus River | 150 |
| Upon Benedict's Ferry on the Moquelumne River | 75 |
| Upon Elliott's Ferry on the Moquelumne River | 50 |
| Upon San Joaquin City Ferry on the San Joaquin River | 25 |

The only new ferry appearing on this assessment roll is Elliott's Ferry on the Mokelumne River. Pinpointing the locations of most of these pioneer crossings is difficult today--the exception being those few which became the nucleus of a permanent settlement (such as Dent and Vantine's which became Knight's Ferry and gave its name to the present community on the north bank of the Stanislaus River, or the well-known Bonsell and Doak Ferry whose site became better known as the "Mosssdale Y" at the intersection of Highway 120 and Interstate 5). One major problem in establishing

their geographical identity is that the few sources available for the researcher--mostly the county histories and early maps--are not always factually reliable. They must be used with great care.

Secondly, most often these histories--all of which borrowed very heavily from the earliest to be published, Thompson and West's 1879 HISTORY OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY--described ferry locations in relation to buildings or ranches then existing, or roadways then in use. Due to the very fluid state of the population, ownership of buildings and even the location of roadways between and through land parcels changed constantly. And the ferry operators themselves were naturally as likely to come and go as quickly as their neighbors; opportunity seemed to be everywhere, and ferries changed hands rather frequently along with all other kinds of property.

In Dr. Elliott's case some confusion seems to have resulted from several unusual circumstances. For one thing, he had previously operated a ferry on Dry Creek (later known as Scott's Ferry) for a relatively short time, selling it and then moving south to the Mokelumne River where he established this ferry. Further confusion arises when one checks later county maps and discovers the "town" of Elliott (named for him) below Dry Creek some two miles southeast of his original settlement at the ferry site (Elliott was located on Liberty Road, between the modern Elliott and Sowles roads) and then discovers an Elliott Road crosses the Mokelumne a mile north of Lockeford but approximately six miles below (west of) the point where he had established his second ferry!

Dr. George Elliott, according to Thompson and West's 1880 HISTORY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY, first settled on the north side of Dry Creek in 1851 where he operated a stage station, hotel, and presumably the ferry. One curious aspect arises at this point--probably due to an oversight, or oversimplification, on the part of Thompson and West--and that is that while he arrived in 1851 (assuming the date is correct), a ferry must have been in operation at least a year before that as it was on the route of the original Stockton-Sacramento (or "Upper Sacramento") Road. The same history does err later in referring to his sale of the buildings to a Martin Scott in 1858 as much earlier accounts refer to "Scott's Ferry" on Dry Creek. Also, we know from an entry in the Court of Sessions records, dated April 24, 1852, that by that date Elliott already had a ranch on the Mokelumne River and that a road to it (and from that point on to Jackson in the Mother Lode) was already in use.

Scott moved the buildings to the San Joaquin County side of the stream and in 1852 the settlement was granted a post office. According to early maps the ferry was located at the point where the dividing line between sections 33 and 34 (T5N, R7E) meets Dry Creek, the early "Upper Sacramento Road" coming from Staples' Ferry on the Mokelumne (west of Lockeford) and crossing the creek into Sacramento County at this point.

When Elliott sold to Scott he purchased acreage

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

along the Mokelumne River above the present community of Clements and it was here that he established his second, or later, ferry, the one listed in the entry above. This was on the route of the road from Stockton to Jackson in the Mother Lode, and today's modern Highway 88 passes only about a quarter of a mile to the east of Elliott's ferry crossing. Elliott Township in San Joaquin County was named for this pioneer settler.

283 It is ordered that the revenue arising from the license taxes on Merchants, Retailers and Ferrymen be appropriated to the payment of the rents of Court House and gaol due, or becoming due, to Mr. Dickenson and to the payment of the gaol expenses due or becoming due to Dr. Ashe in such proportions as the total amounts of their claims entered on the books of the County Treasurer respectively bear to each other. All orders previously made by this Court, touching said License Fund, are hereby rescinded. Any surplus that may remain on hand after paying said warrants shall be paid into the general fund.

284 It is ordered that the County Auditor be directed to issue to R. P. Ashe, Sheriff, his two warrants, one for the sum of five hundred dollars, upon the License Fund, and one for the sum of eight hundred and sixteen dollars upon the poll tax for the present year and to take up warrant No. one (1) drawn by him upon said poll tax for the sum of \$1316--said warrant bearing date of June 16th, 1851, said warrants to be dated back to the date of the first warrant.

It is ordered that Court adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Court of Sessions--San Joaquin Co.
Civil Matters

Wednesday 8th October 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge

J. K. Shafer Asso. Justices

[&]

B. G. Weir

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

285 It is ordered that all warrants not allowed out of specified funds be made payable out of the general revenue accruing for the present year.

286 It is ordered that the Sheriff of the County be authorized to rent from G. D. Dickenson for an office and for gaol purposes the lower story of the building now occupied as a gaol at a rent not to exceed thirty dollars per month.

287 It is ordered that D. J. Staples of Township No. Five, G. A. Thayer of Township No. Three, R. W. Noble of Township No. one, and Dr. C[hristopher] Grattan of the City of Stockton, be and they are hereby appointed Judges of the Plain in accordance with an act passed by the

last Legislature entitled "An act concerning Judges of the Plain (Juezes del Campo) and defining their duties."

Probably nothing points up so dramatically California's Spanish/Mexican heritage as the appointment, by the Court of Sessions in each county, of its Jueces del Campo, or Judges of the Plain. It is also a reminder to those of us in the twentieth century, with its high degree of technology, of the "good old days" when ownership of cattle and horses was so common and so important to one's livelihood that "government" regulation was a necessity. Vestiges of this mentality still exist in all the western states today. Here is the complete text of the April 25, 1851, California law in which the duties and responsibilities of the Judges, and of the owners of stock and horses, are spelled out:

AN ACT concerning Judges of the Plains (Jueces del Campo), and defining their Duties.

Section 1. The court of sessions of each county throughout this state shall, at its regular term for county business, appoint such a number of judges of the plains, for their respective counties, as said court may deem necessary.

Sec. 2. That the term of office shall be for one year, and said judges of the plains shall attend all rodeos or gathering of cattle, whether for the purpose of marking and branding, or for the purpose of separating cattle, when called upon by any rancho, farmer, or owner of stock, that may be made in their respective counties.

Sec. 3. Whenever any dispute arises respecting the ownership, mark, or brand of any horse, mule, jack, jenny, or horned cattle, it shall be the duty of the judges of the plains to decide on such dispute.

Sec. 4. Any party interested in the dispute of the ownership, mark, or brand of any animals as enumerated above, may appeal from the decision of the judges of the plains to a justice of the peace of the township where such dispute may arise: Provided, such appeal be made within twenty-four hours after the judgment has been notified to him.

Sec. 5. All persons travelling with cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, or mules, shall, in case said animals be not of their own mark and brand, be obliged to procure from the person or persons from whom they obtained such cattle, or from the justice of the peace residing nearest to the farm or place where they may obtain the same, a certificate of the number and kind of such cattle, and the mark and brand which distinguished the same; and they shall allow such animals to be subject to the inspection of owners of lands through which they may pass, and upon arriving at any city, town, or village, shall present themselves to a judge of the plains, and state the number and kind of such animals; and it shall be the duty of the judge of the plains to examine the band or drove, and accompany them out of the precinct of such city, town or village.

Sec. 6. That if the number and kind of animals

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

do not agree with the report of the owner or person in charge, and with the certificates in his possession, the judge of the plains shall detain the band or drove, and take the owner or person in charge before the nearest magistrate for examination.

Sec. 7. That the judge of the plains shall arrest and take before any magistrate any person who may be accused of killing, hiding, or otherwise taking away animals belonging to others.

Sec. 8. That should complaint be brought against any judge of the plains for dereliction of duty, the same being sustained, shall be considered as guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to prosecution for the same.

Sec. 9. The judge of the plains shall receive such compensation for his services as may be determined by the court of sessions in their respective counties, not exceeding the sum of five dollars per day while actually employed, and which shall be paid by the party in default, or the party requiring his services.

Sec. 10. The court of sessions may make such other local regulations with respect to the duties of the judges of the plains, that they may deem necessary.

Sec. 11. This act shall take effect from and after the first day of July; and all laws now in force in this state, having relation to judges of the plains, are hereby repealed.

- 288 It is ordered that Seitch & Co. be allowed the sum of one hundred and twenty-six dollars for shackling prisoners as per bill filed.
- 289 It is ordered that Phelps & Co. be allowed the sum of six dollars for ironing prisoners as per bill rendered and filed.
- 290 It is ordered that Thomas H. More be allowed the sum of (\$50) Fifty dollars for services as Special Deputy Sheriff in the case of the People vs Baker as per bill filed.
- 291 It is ordered that W. Lee be allowed the sum of fifty dollars for services as Special Deputy Sheriff in the case of the People vs Baker as per bill filed.
- 292 It is ordered that C. H. Worden be allowed the sum of fifty dollars for services in burying five Mexicans by order of the Coroner as per bill rendered and filed.

The five Mexicans buried by Worden, one of the partners of Slocum's Ferry two miles north of the Mossdale Y on the San Joaquin River, had been hanged on April 28, 1851, somewhere near where the community of Banta is located today. Thompson and West (1879) list the location simply as being "18 miles below Stockton." The hanging of these four men and a boy resulted from an accusation of horse stealing made against them by a number of American ranchers in the county. They were found guilty without the benefit of a trial, their twelve accusers immediately hanging them all despite their protestations of innocence. Jacob Bonsell (then a partner in the ferry at the Mossdale Y) led the

vigilante group; two others whose identities were recorded were Robert Livermore (founder of the city of the same name) and a certain man nicknamed "Red." He had settled in the Linden area, on what was then known as the Patterson Ranch.

An inquest was held two days later before Justice of the Peace Benjamin Weir, and the Americans were absolved of any legal wrongdoing.

- 293 It is ordered that A. F. Ruddler, Deputy City Marshal of Stockton, be allowed the sum of eighty dollars for fees in criminal cases as per bill filed.
- 294 It is ordered that G. W. Wood, late Justice of the Peace, be allowed the sum of fifty-nine dollars and fifty cents for commitments in criminal cases as per bill filed.
- 295 It is ordered that the sum of \$100 per month be allowed to H. T. Booraem, County Treasurer, for extra compensation for collecting licenses and \$300 extra compensation for travelling expenses in the County.
- 296 It is ordered that three per cent on licenses collected by the County Treasurer be allowed as a compensation for collecting the same.
- It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions San Joaquin Co.
Civil Matters

Thursday October 9th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Benj. Williams, Judge
Benj. G. Weir, Asso. Jus.
R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

This marks Williams' last meeting with the Court of Sessions (October 9, 1851). On the following day he was brought to trial in the Fifth Judicial District Court on charges of bribery and corruption, these charges evidently having previously been made public by the law firm of Terry and Perley. Thanks to a friendly District Attorney, Mr. C. C. Gough, Williams was acquitted of the charges so escaped any possible criminal punishment for his alleged crimes. He quietly resigned his position as county judge following the trial, thereby avoiding possible impeachment and removal from office. O. C. Emory, formerly an Associate Justice on the Court of Sessions, was appointed to fill Williams' unexpired term, and sat as the County Judge for the first time on October 15.

The previous July unhappiness with his behavior as a public official had surfaced when the editor of the STOCKTON JOURNAL had charged Williams with malfeasance in office and fiscal irresponsibility. As a consequence, in two lengthy letters sent to the SAN JOAQUIN REPUBLICAN the judge sought to discredit the numerous charges

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

made against him, point by point. Obviously, these accusations covered only the tip of the iceberg in his case, but they served to focus serious attention upon his judicial behavior, culminating in the filing of legal charges against him as noted in the previous paragraph.

Tinkham was very critical of Williams, describing him as "bright, crafty and unscrupulous," and the "most corrupt official who ever sat upon the bench of San Joaquin County." As an example of his method of meting out justice Tinkham wrote that when an officer would bring a prisoner before the judge, Williams would invariably handle the case by asking the officer, "Has the prisoner any money?" If the answer were affirmative Williams would take the money and dismiss the case; if not, then punishment was swift and severe.

Despite the charges brought against him, and his resignation as county judge, Williams served on the Grand Jury which tendered its report in February of 1852. What part he may have played in the deliberations of this select group is not clear, but his name appears among the 16 signatories to the document. (The complete text of the Grand Jury report will appear in a future issue of the HISTORIAN.) Williams' activities beyond this point are obscure, although the lack of any information bears credence to a newspaper account some 40 years later which noted that the ex-judge had been shot in Mexico as a member of an unsuccessful American filibustering expedition to that country. Although there had been a number of these expeditions into Baja California and Sonora province during the 1850's, if the newspaper account is accurate it is most likely that Williams would have joined the 1857 expedition led by Stockton attorney Henry A. Crabb. The men, about 100 in number, were forced to surrender at Cavorca (Mexico), and all were shot.

Friday October 10th 1851

The Sheriff and the Clerk met pursuant to adjournment but neither the Judge nor Associate Justices being present the Sheriff adjourned the Court until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions

Civil Matters

Saturday October 11th 1851

The Clerk met pursuant to adjournment, but neither the Sheriff, Judge nor Associate Justices being present, he adjourned the Court until Monday Morning ten o'clock by this entry on the minutes.

Monday October 13th 1851

The Sheriff and the Clerk met pursuant to adjournment but neither the Judge nor Associate Justices being present the Sheriff adjourned the Court until tomorrow morning nine o'clock.

Court of Sessions--Civil Matters

Tuesday October 14th 1851

The Sheriff and the Clerk met pursuant to adjournment but neither the Judge nor Associate Justices being present the Sheriff adjourned the Court until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Wednesday October 15th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory Judge

J. K. Shafer Asso. Justices

[&]

B. G. Weir

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

297 It is ordered that Wm. F. Nye, City Recorder of Stockton, be allowed the sum of two hundred and thirty dollars for fees in criminal cases as per bill filed, payable out of the general revenue accruing for the present year.

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Thursday October 16, 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge

J. K. Shafer Asso. Justices

[&]

B. G. Weir

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

298 It is ordered that Samuel Langdon be allowed the sum of sixty dollars for arrests in criminal cases as per bill filed, payable out of the general revenue accruing for the present year.

Ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions

Civil Matters

Friday October 17th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge

J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.

[&]

B. G. Weir

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning nine o'clock.

Saturday October 18th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory Judge

J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.

[&]

B. G. Weir

R. P. Ashe, Sheriff

A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions

Civil Matters

Monday October 20th 1851

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

MINUTE BOOK A - COURT OF SESSIONS (Civil) (con't)

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

299 It is ordered that Reynolds, Todd & Co. be allowed the sum of forty dollars for a Judgment Docket for the District Court, payable out of the general revenue accruing for the present year.

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Tuesday October 21st 1851

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

There being no business before the Court
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Thursday October 23d 1851

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

There being no business before the Court
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Friday October 24th 1851

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

There being no business before the Court
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions Civil Matters
 Saturday October 25th 1851

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

There being no business before the Court
 It is ordered that Court be adjourned until Monday morning ten o'clock.

Court of Sessions
 Monday October 27th 1851

Present: Hon. O. C. Emory, Judge
 J. K. Shafer Asso. Jus.
 [&]
 B. G. Weir
 R. P. Ashe, Sheriff
 A. C. Bradford, Clerk

It is ordered that Court be adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock.

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)

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Persons interested in doing research on local history, whether members of the Society or not, are invited to submit their manuscripts for publication in the **Historian**. The editor must, however, reserve the right to accept or reject and/or edit all material and photographs submitted.

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