

which motion the Court denied. They then moved for continuance on affidavits showing the absence of important and material witnesses who could not be had on a summary trial; but the Court refused to grant the continuance, and a jury of twelve good and lawful men was impannelled to hear and determine the case. Counsel then raised the question, "What law is in existence and should prevail in this case?" After hearing argument on both sides, the Court decided that the Mexican laws were in force except such as were in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States; and then the latter must prevail. The jury, after hearing the evidence speedily acquitted the defendant.

Hon. Geo. G. Bell, remained Judge of the Court of First Instance until December, 1849, when he was succeeded by James R. Reynolds, with L. T. Crane for clerk, and E. B. Bateman for sheriff. At this time Hon. G. D. Dickinson was Prefect of the District of San Joaquin, and he seems to have closed the business of this court in a very abrupt manner during February, 1850, but as the clerk failed to enter his usual "nunk pro tunk order," we are left to hearsay and matters of opinion as to the reason why we are cut off so peremptorily in our perusal of the instructive proceedings of this court.

THE COURTS OF THIS COUNTY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION—EARLIEST CASES—  
PIONEER MEMBERS OF STOCKTON BAR—JUDICIAL OFFICERS—DISTRICT COURT  
—ROLL OF ATTORNEYS—PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.

The District Court, of which Hon. C. M. Creanor was the first Judge, and the County and Probate Courts—Hon. Benjamin Williams, Judge—held in and for the County of San Joaquin, were opened for business in the month of May, 1850; and the Court of Sessions was organized early in June of the same year, with H. Amyx and O. C. Emery, Esqs., Associate Justices. R. P. Ashe was Sheriff; A. C. Bradford, Clerk; S. A. Booker, District Attorney; and E. L. B. Booker, County Attorney. The calendars of the District and County Courts at their first terms contained about fifteen civil cases, nearly all of them on appeal from the lower courts. The District Court and Court of Sessions each had at their first terms about twelve criminal cases; those in the District Court being upon indictments for various felonies and misdemeanors, and those in the Court of Sessions being upon appeal from judgments rendered in the Justices' Courts. The following is a list of attorneys appearing at the first terms of these courts: D. S. Terry, (afterwards Chief Justice of the Supreme Court), S. A.