

11903

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Supreme Court of Illinois

County of LaSalle

vs.

Simmons

71641  7

No 14  
County of La Salle  
vs  
William Simmons

1849

11903

The County of La Salle

vs  
Ever to La Salle

William Simmons

This was an action of debt brought by William Simmons against the county of La Salle. The declaration was for money had and received; the plea nil debet. The cause was heard by the court. It was proved by the plaintiff that, in the year 1837, the County Commissioners of La Salle County gave notice that they would grant a license for a ferry across the Illinois river, at the town of Ottawa, to the person that would donate the largest sum of money to the county; that up to that time, the plaintiff had kept the ferry, and was an applicant for a license to continue the same; that on the day the license was granted, several offers were made for the franchise, when the plaintiff finally bid the sum of five hundred dollars. Several witnesses testified that they had heard the receiver in office of the Commissioners, who granted the license, declare that the plaintiff had paid the \$500 to the county; and another witness testified that he had heard one or more of the Commissioners, who granted the license, make a similar declaration. The plaintiff then produced in evidence a book, which the county clerk swore was a book belonging to his office, in which the accounts of the treasures were kept; and in which book the treasurer was charged, under date of July 1837, with the receipt of \$500 from William Simmons as a donation to the county.

The defendant objected to the introduction of all of the evidence, and excepted to the decision of the court admitting it. On this state of case, the court rendered a judgment for the plaintiff for \$500 debt, and \$292.50 damages, the amount of interest. The court issued a writ of error.

The declarations of the Commissioners, respecting the payment of the money, were not competent evidence against the county. They were not made by them while officially representing the county in this transaction. The declarations of an agent, while engaged in the business of his principal respecting a particular matter then depending, are a part of the res gestae of the transaction, and binding on the principal; but those made out of the course of the agency when the agent is not acting for the principal in the particular transaction, concerning which they are made, are mere hearsay, and not admissible in evidence against the principal. 1 Queen's Bench's Ev. S. 113 & 114; Story on Agency S. 134 & 135.

But the reception of this evidence did not prejudice the defendant, for the payment of the money was proved by other evidence to which there was no just objection. The book belonging to the clerk's office was not strictly admissible as a public record, because there was no law requiring <sup>such a book</sup> to be kept. It was no doubt kept by the direction of the Commissioners for the double <sup>purpose</sup> of exhibiting the true state of

the fiscal concerns of the county, and operating as a check on the treasury. It was admissible because it contained memoranda made under the view and direction of the Commissioners respecting the affairs of the county, and of this particular transaction; and the entry in question furnished prima facie evidence of the receipt of the money, subject, of course, to explanation on the part of the county.

The principal question in the case is whether the money thus obtained by the county can be recovered back by the plaintiff. If the payment is to be considered as voluntarily made, it is very clear that he cannot recover back the money; but if it is to be regarded in the light of a compulsory payment, it is equally clear that he is entitled to recover. The laws in force when this transaction took place authorized the County Commissioners to grant licenses for ferries, whenever considered necessary by them, and to impose an annual tax on each ferry not exceeding one hundred dollars. Rev. Stat., 1833, page 302. The law vested them with a sound discretion as to whether a ferry should be established; and as to whom the license should be granted, unless the owner of the shores of the stream claimed the license; but it gave them no discretion as to the sum to be paid for the franchise further than to fix the amount of the annual assessment. It was their duty, however, to establish a ferry whenever the convenience of the public

demanding it, for the law gave to the owners of ferries the exclusive privilege of ferriage for hire. If they decided that the public interest would be promoted by establishing a ferry, they had then only to determine to whom the license should be issued, and what assessment should annually be made on the ferry. They had no right to annex conditions or impose restrictions not prescribed by the statute. In this case, they decided to establish the ferry, but chose only to grant the license to the person that would pay the largest amount of money for the franchise in addition to the tax which they might legally impose. In other words, the privilege of ferriage was put up at public auction to the highest bidder. The law conferred no such power on the commissioners. In the granting of licenses, they were bound to keep within the provisions of the statute conferring the power, and regulating its exercise. What was the condition of the plaintiff, and what effect did this unauthorized arrangement of the commissioners have upon him? He had been keeping the ferry, and was anxious to secure a continuance of the privilege; but instead of being permitted to have it by complying with the requisitions of the statute, and submitting to pay the highest tax which could be assessed on the franchise, he was compelled by the force of circumstances, over which he had no control, to advance a large sum of money in order to obtain the license.

The illegal conduct of the commissioners put the plaintiff in their power; and taking advantage of his peculiar situation, they obtained money from him to which the county had not the shadow of right. The money was unlawfully and wrongfully obtained, and cannot in equity and good conscience be retained by the county. The fact that the commissioners chose to call it a donation does not change the real character of the transaction. It was merely a device to obtain money which the county had not the slightest right to demand. The money was exacted from the plaintiff under circumstances that strip the transaction of all the features of a voluntary payment. It was in law and fact a compulsory payment, as much as the payment of usurious interest, which the lender exacts from the borrower; or the payment of illegal charges, which an officer demands as the condition of the performance of official services. A reference to a few authorities will show clearly that the decision of the circuit court was correct. In *Tring v. Wilson*, 4 H. & East 485, where a revenue officer seized goods as forfeited, which were not liable to seizure, and took money of the owner to release them, the owner was allowed to recover it back on the ground that the payment was compulsory, the owner being in the power of the officer. In *Ripley v. Gylston*, 9 Johnson 201, where the collector refused to give a receipt a

charance unless the owner would pay tonnage duty, which was not properly chargeable, and the owner paid the money, the court sustained an action to recover it back.

In *Capnove v Luther*, 4 Metcalfe 246, where the mortgagee of land, who was in possession for condition broken, required the mortgagor to pay more than was legally due in order to redeem, and it was paid to prevent a foreclosure, the court held that the payment was compulsory, and might be recovered back. In *Mirgan v Palmer*, 2 Barnwell & Cresswell, 729, where the mayor demanded fees for renewing a license, to which he was not entitled, the court held that the payment was not voluntary, and that the money could be reclaimed. Payment of taxes to a collector, who has a warrant for their collection, is to be regarded as a compulsory payment; and if the taxes were assessed without authority, they may be recovered back in an action for money had and received. *Glaspey v Boston*, 4 Metcalfe 181. Money paid to obtain the possession of property illegally withheld from the owner, may be recovered back on the ground that the payment was compulsory. *Shaw v Woodcock*, 7 Barnwell & Cresswell 73. And money paid to liberate a raft of lumber detained in order to exact illegal tolls, was held to be a compulsory payment. *Chase v Swinall*, 7 Greenleaf 134. See also the cases of *Astley v Reynolds*, 2 Strange 915, and

Clinton v Strong, 9 Johnson 370.

It cannot with any degree of propriety be said that the parties were in pari delicto, and therefore that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover. There was a great inequality of condition between the parties. The plaintiff was in the power of the commissionaries, and compelled from the necessity of the case to advance the money in order to obtain the license. He was not perhaps criminosus because acting under constraint, and not from choice. Jacques v Nithey, 1 H. Blackstone 65; Browning v Morris, 2 Cowper 790; Williams v Ridley, 8 East 378; Jacques v Golyghtly, 2 W. Blackstone 1073; Mount v Waite, 7 Johnson 434; 1 Story's Eq. S. 300 et seq.; Ferguson v Hutcheon, 3 Gilman 547.

The question is made whether interest is recoverable. The money was wrongfully obtained from the plaintiff in the first instance, and as a matter of course afterwards illegally withheld from him. In such case, the law is well settled in this country, however it may be in Great Britain, that interest may be recovered. The plaintiff was deprived of the use of his money without his fault, and he ought to receive compensation by the allowance of interest in the way of damages. Where a defendant has fraudulently obtained or wrongfully detained the money of the plaintiff, he is chargeable with interest from the time of his so obtaining



or detaining the same. Wood v Robbins,  
11 Mass, 554. Interest is recoverable against  
a man, who receives the property of another,  
and holds it against his consent. Common  
=wealth v Crewor, 3 Binney 121. Also on money  
received for property wrongfully converted, 1  
New Hampshire 151, Chauncy v Yeates. And  
against a person intrusted with the collection  
of money, who converts it to his own use, from  
the time it ought to have been paid over.  
People v Gaskerie, 9 Wharton 71. Where money  
is obtained by fraud or deceit, and the  
party injured waives the tort and brings  
his action on the implied promise to restore  
it, interest may be allowed on damages.

Sellick v French, 1 Connecticut 32; Savage  
L. J. in Reid v Kempelae, 3 Cowen 393.

The judgment of the Circuit Court is affirmed.

County of La Salle

vs

William Simmons

Opinion of the  
Court.  
Heat.

Filed July 21<sup>st</sup> 1849.  
Edw. C. C.

47	
141	
21	
162	
46	
472	
66	
72   2592   36	
216	
432	36
432	18
	288
	36
	648

Know all men by these presents, That we, The County of LaSalle

and C. C. Elliott

, are held and firmly bound unto William Simmons

in the penal sum of sixteen hundred

dollars, lawful money of the United States, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, heirs and administrators, jointly, severally and firmly, by these presents. Witness, our hands and seals, this fifth

day of April 1849. The condition of the above obligation is

such, That whereas, the said William Simmons

did, ~~on~~ <sup>at</sup> the March Term day of the LaSalle Circuit Court

A. D. 1847, before the Circuit Court of a justice of the peace for the county of LaSalle, recover a judgment against the above bounden


County of LaSalle for the sum of


five hundred dollars debt, & two hundred ninety two <sup>50/100</sup> damages dollars; from which judgment

the said County of LaSalle has taken an appeal <sup>west</sup> ~~of error to the Supreme Court, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Division of Illinois which has been made a Subpoena to the circuit court of the county of~~ ~~Illinois~~ ~~and State of~~

~~Illinois~~ Now if the said County of LaSalle shall prosecute <sup>their writ of error</sup> ~~an~~ appeal with effect, and shall pay whatever judgment may be rendered by the court upon dismissal or trial of said appeal, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect. <sup>Supreme</sup>

*In witness whereof the County of LaSalle have Subscribed this Bond & affixed their seal of the County & our private Court of said County, by the Clerk of said Court.*

*The County of LaSalle Seal* 

*C. C. Elliott* 

APPROVED by me at my office, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

[10903-6]

The County of Laballe

vs  
William Simmons

J. M. Erwin

Att. Bond.

Wm. J. Erwin

Filed April 6. 1849  
Leland Elk.

APPROVED by me the Clerk of the Court

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

State of Illinois, }  
 Supreme Court, } SS.

The People of the State of Illinois

TO THE SHERIFF OF

*La Salle* County.

*Quitting:*

Because in the record and proceedings, and also in the rendition of the judgment, of a plea which was in the circuit court of *La Salle* county, before the Judge thereof, between *William Simmons* plaintiff & *The County of La Salle* defendant,

it is said that manifest error hath intervened to the injury of the said *County*

as we are informed by *her* complaint, the record and proceedings of which said judgment, we have caused to be brought into our Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, at Ottawa, before the justices thereof, to correct the errors in the same, in due form and manner, according to law; therefore we command you, that by good and lawful men of your county, you give notice to the said *William Simmons*

that *he* be and appear before the Justices of our said Supreme Court, at the next term of said Court, to be holden at Ottawa, in said State, on the *second* Monday in *June* next, to hear the records and proceedings aforesaid, and the errors assigned, if *he* shall think fit; and further to do and receive what the said Court shall order in this behalf; and have you then there the names of those by whom you shall give the said *William Simmons* notice, together with this writ.

WITNESS, the Hon. *Samuel H. Treat*  
 Chief Justice of our said Court, and the seal thereof,  
 at Ottawa, this *sixth* day of *June*  
 in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred  
 and forty-*nine*.

*S. Leland*

Clerk of the Supreme Court.

14  
Supreme Court  
The County of LaSalle  
William Simmons

Sci. Fa.

To June Term 1849.

Filed May 23<sup>d</sup> - 1849.  
Beland Clark

Service of this writ & of the  
Supeditions allowed in the  
on doct Simmons  
Cause admitted, April 6, 1849.

J. V. A. Morelly  
Judge

TO THE SHERIFF OF  
The People of the State of Illinois,  
County of LaSalle

Because in the record and proceedings and also in the rendition of

County.

Beland Clark

RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF LASALLE

this writ  
the said  
order in this behalf; and have you then there the names of those by whom you shall give  
signed, if  
shall think fit; and further to do and receive what the said Court shall  
and Court, to be holden at Ottawa, in said State, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Monday in  
next, to hear the records and proceedings aforesaid, and the errors as  
notice, together with

WITNESS the Hon. Robert McLean  
Chief Justice of our said Court, and the seal thereof,  
at Ottawa, this 23<sup>d</sup> day of May -  
and forty - one thousand eight hundred

Clerk of the Supreme Court

State of Illinois, Sec.

The people of the State of Illinois,

To the Clerk of the circuit court for the county of *La Salle* = Greeting :

BECAUSE in the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of the judgment of a plea which was in the Circuit Court of *La Salle* — county, before the Judge thereof, between *William Simmons* \_\_\_\_\_

plaintiff and *The County of La Salle*

defendant, it is said manifest error hath intervened to the injury of the aforesaid *County of La Salle* as we are informed by *her* complaint, and we being willing that error, if any there be, should be corrected in due form and manner, and that justice be done to the parties aforesaid, command you that if judgment thereof be given, you distinctly and openly without delay, send to our Justices of the Supreme Court the record and proceedings of the plaint aforesaid, with all things touching the same, under your seal, so that we may have the same before our Justices aforesaid at Ottawa, in the county of La Salle, on the *second Monday of June* — next, that the record and proceedings, being inspected, we may cause to be done therein, to correct the error, what of right ought to be done according to law.

WITNESS, the Hon. *Samuel A. Treat*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Justice of our said Court, and the seal thereof at Ottawa, this *sixth* — day of *April* \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-*nine*.

*S. Keland*

Clerk of the Supreme Court.

14

Supreme Court  
The County of La Salle

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William Winans

Writ of Error  
June Term 1849.

Filed April 6, 1849.  
Leland Clk.

This writ of error is made  
a supersedeas, & is to be obeyed  
accordingly. L. Leland Clk.



WITNESSE, the Hon. Justices of our said Court, and the  
one thousand eight hundred and forty nine  
in the year of our Lord  
Chief Justice of our said Court, and the  
WITNESSE, the Hon. Justices of our said Court, and the

Leland  
Clerk of the Supreme Court

The Judge thereof, between  
Judgment of a plea which was in the Circuit Court of the County of La Salle, before  
BECAUSE in the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of the  
of the Chief of the circuit court for the county of La Salle - Illinois:  
The Judges of the State of Illinois, etc.



William Simmons of March Term In  
vs  
The County of Lucas 3 A.D. 1847 Deft  
vs  
Same Circuit Court

By it is remembered that at the term aforesaid  
this cause was submitted to trial upon the  
above issues by the Court, without the  
intervention of a Jury & the plaintiff to  
maintain the issue on his part proved  
that in the Year 1837 the then County  
Commissioners of said County of Lucas gave  
Notice that they would grant a License for  
a Ferry at Ottawa in said County across  
the Illinois river and provided by law  
that the said plaintiff up to that time  
had kept the said Ferry & was an Applicant  
for the License to continue the same  
and that said Commissioners about the  
time the License was granted gave  
out an intimation that they would  
grant said License to such person  
as would donate the largest amount  
of money to the said County, that on  
the day when the said License was  
granted some bid or offer was  
made by the plaintiff for the same  
up to \$500. Some witnesses testified that  
they had known the County Commissioners  
in office since the Term of those in  
office when the License was granted  
declare that Simmons had paid the  
above sum of dollars to the County &  
one witness testified that he had

bring one or more of the County  
commissioners in office when the same  
was granted, admit that the five hundred  
dollars had been paid to them by the  
Def. a Book was also offered in evidence  
which the county commissioners  
clerk of said County Snow was a  
book belonging to his office in which  
the Treasurer's accounts were kept &  
in which the then Treasurer of said  
County was charged on the 1st of  
July 1837 with five hundred dollars  
The record of Simmons as a donation  
The character of the Book was not in  
any other or further manner  
proved to the introduction of all which  
proof the defendant on the trial objected  
but the evidence was admitted by the  
court & the court thereupon on the  
above evidence, which was all the  
evidence offered forming the basis for the  
Plaintiff's award of his damages at \$  
The defendant thereupon moved the  
court for a new trial which was  
granted by the court to which the  
defendant excepted & prays that the court  
will do as this his bill of exceptions  
which is done the day of the Court  
State of Illinois } J. S. Catron  
Judson County } Clerk of the Circuit  
Court in & for said do hereby certify the foregoing to  
be a true full & complete copy of the bill of

Excerptum in the above cause of  
William Simmons vs the County of  
Casaw at the same appears on file  
in my office

Witness Thos. Lindley Clerk of the  
Circuit Court in Ford and County  
Under the Seal of said Court at  
Ottawa this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June  
A. D. 1849  
J. Lindley Clerk

County of La Salle

vs  
Wm. Simmons

Plf of Bill of exceptions

Filed June 15. 1849.  
L. L. and C. C.

The true bill of  
exceptions

State of Illinois, s.s. 3  
Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court 3<sup>d</sup> Grand Division.

I hereby certify, that a writ of error has issued from this Office, for the reversal of a judgment obtained by William Simmons against The County of La Salle in the Circuit Court of La Salle County, at the March Term, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & forty nine, in a certain action of Debt; which writ of error is to operate as a supersedeas, & as such is to be obeyed by all concerned.

Given under my hand, & the seal of said Supreme Court, at Ottawa this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1849.

W. Ireland Clerk of the S. Court.

14.  
Supreme Court

The County of LaSalle

vs  
William Simmons

Supplicat.

To June Term 1849.

Filed May 23-1849.

McLain Clerk.

Service of this writ on said  
William Simmons admitted  
April 5, 1849.

J. A. Ross  
— i Atty for  
Deft

L. Seland Esq.

Sir, enclosed are the papers &  
the opinion of the Court in the  
case of the County of San Diego  
vs Simmons. I have retained  
a copy of the opinion for the  
Reporter.

Yours truly

A. H. Hunt,

July 28<sup>th</sup> 1849-

L. Deland Esq.



Please before the Circuit Court of La Salle county, Illinois at  
the March term of said court A. D. 1847  
at the court house in Ottawa in said county before the Honorable  
John Dean Catron Judge of said court.

William Simmons

vs

Debt

County of La Salle  
Be it remembered that  
heretofore to wit on the 16th day of October A. D. 1846. William  
Simmons sued out of the office of the Clerk of our said court  
the Process writ of Simmons against La Salle County  
in the words and figures following to wit:

State of Illinois  
La Salle county

vs

The People of the State of Illinois to the Sheriff of said Co. Greeting  
We command you to summon the County of La Salle if to be found  
in your County, personally to be and appear before the Circuit  
court of our said County, on the first day of the next term thereof  
to be holden at the Court house in Ottawa, on Friday the 6th day of  
November next, to answer William Simmons of a plea of debt  
that said County renders unto him five hundred dollars debt  
which she owes to and unjustly detains from him to his damage  
one thousand dollars, as he says and have you then and there this  
writ, and make return thereon in what manner you execute  
the same.

Witness Lorenzo Seland, Clerk of said court, and  
the seal of said court, at Ottawa this 16th. day of  
October A. D. 1846. L. Seland Clerk.

The above summons ~~not having been found in time~~ was  
endorsed "not found in time. H. H. Hubert, Clk." and  
returned, whereupon an Alias summons was issued on the  
6th day of February A. D. 1847 in <sup>the</sup> words and figures following  
to wit:

State of Illinois  
La Salle county

The People of the State of Illinois to the Sheriff of said County - Granting  
We command you as we have heretofore commanded you, to summon  
the County of La Salle if to be found in your County, personally  
to be and appear before the Circuit Court of said County, on  
the first day of the next term thereof, to be holden at the Court  
house in Ottawa, on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March next, to answer  
William Simmons of a plea of debt - That said County, renders  
unto him five hundred dollars debt which she owes to and  
unjustly detains from him to his damage one thousand  
dollars as he says and have you then and there this writ,  
and make return thereon in what manner you execute  
the same.

Witness Lorenzo Leland, Clerk of said Court, and the  
seal of said Court at Ottawa this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February

A. D. 1847 executed March 1, 1847 by reading to the County  
Clerk Leland, Clerk  
Counsellors & leaving a copy with the C. C. Clerk H. A. Dubout Sheriff

And thereupon the Plaintiff by W. S. Lavinia his Atty filed  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March A. D. 1847 <sup>his</sup> declaration in <sup>the</sup> words &  
figures following to wit:

State of Illinois  
La Salle county

La Salle circuit court  
of March term one thousand eight hundred and forty seven

The County of La Salle defendant in this suit was summoned  
to answer William Simmons plaintiff in this suit of a plea that  
the said defendant renders unto him the said William Simmons  
the sum of five hundred dollars which the said County of  
La Salle owes to and unjustly detains from him and thereupon  
the said William Simmons by W. S. Lavinia his Attorney  
complains for that whereas the said defendant after was  
to wit on the twenty fourth day of July one thousand eight  
hundred and thirty seven at Ottawa in the County of

La Salle aforesaid had and received a certain sum of money to wit the sum of five hundred dollars to and for the use of the said plaintiff and to be paid by the said defendant to the said plaintiff when the said defendant should be therein afterwards requested.

Whereby and by reason of the last mentioned sum of money being and remaining wholly unpaid an action hath accrued to the said plaintiff to demand and have of and from the said defendant the sum of five hundred dollars above demanded.

Wherefore the said plaintiff says that he is injured and hath sustained damages to the amount of one thousand dollars and thereupon he brings suit &c.

W. J. L. Currier  
Plffs Attorney.

La Salle Circuit Court

William Simmons

vs

The County of La Salle

Bill of particulars of the plff. demand on which this suit is brought.

A. D. 1837 June 27. To money received for plffs use \$500.  
To amount of interest from June 27 A. D. 1837 \$1,000. damage.

Thereupon the Def. by J. C. Champlain their atty filed on the 30th day of March 1847. the following pleas in words and figures to wit.

The County of La Salle vs March term La Salle Cir. Court  
at A. D. 1847  
William Simmons Def.

And now comes the said defendant by J. C. Champlain their Attorney and defend the wrong and injury when &c and say they do not owe the said defendant the said sum of five hundred dollars above demanded or any

part thereof in manner and form as the said plaintiff  
hath above thereof complained against them, and of this  
they put themselves upon the country.

J. C. Champlain  
Atty for Deft.

County of La Salle } March term La Salle circuit court, A.D. 1847  
Plaintiff } Debts.

William Simmons } And now comes the said defendant  
by J. C. Champlain their Attorney and defend the wrong and  
injury when &c and say that the said supposed debt by the  
Plaintiff in his declaration above mentioned, did not, nor  
did any part thereof accrue to the said Plaintiff at any time  
within five years next before the commencement of this  
suit, and that the said Defendant is ready to verify  
whereupon ~~La Salle~~ County prays judgment &c

J. C. Champlain  
Atty for Plaintiff.

Afterwards to wit on the 9th day of April A.D. 1847 the following  
judgment was rendered in words and figures as follows to wit:

William Simmons

vs

Debt.

County of La Salle

This day again came the parties hereto by  
their said Attorneys and the motion herein pending is  
overruled and thereupon judgment is entered against the Defendant  
for five hundred dollars debt, and two hundred and ninety two  
dollars and fifty cents <sup>for</sup> his damages as aforesaid. It is therefore  
considered that the plaintiff recover from the said defendant, the  
said sum of seven hundred and ninety two dollars and fifty

cents his debt and damages aforesaid and also his costs and charges by him therein expended.

And thereupon the Deft. by J. C. Champlain his Atty on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1847. filed the bill of exceptions in words & figures following to wit:

William Simmons vs March term LaSalle circuit court  
A. D. 1847.

The County of LaSalle vs Deft.

Be it remembered that at the term aforesaid this cause was submitted to trial upon the above issues by the court without the intervention of a jury - And the Plaintiff to maintain the issue on his part proved that in the year 1837 the then County Commissioners of said County of LaSalle gave notice that they would grant a licence for a ferry at Ottawa in LaSalle <sup>Says</sup> County across the Illinois river and proved by parol that said Commissioners about the time the licence was granted gave out an intimation that they would grant said licence to such persons would donate the largest amount of money to the County. That on the day when the licence was granted several bids or offers were made and the defendants finally bid up to \$500, - Several witnesses testified that they had heard the County Commissioners in office since the term of those in office when the licence was granted declare that Simmons had paid the \$500. to the County and one witness testified that he had heard one or more of the County Commissioners in office when the licence was granted admit that the five hundred dollars had been paid to them. - A book was also offered in evidence which the County Commissioners Clerk of LaSalle County saw was a book belonging to his office in which the

Treasurers account was kept in which the then Treasurer of La Salle County was charged under the date of July 1837, with \$500 received of Simmons as a donation. The Characters of the Book was not in any other or further manner proved by the introduction of all which proof the defendants on the trial objected but the evidence was admitted by the court. And the court thereupon on the above evidence which was all the evidence offered found the issue for the Plaintiff and assessed his damages at \$100 which finding the defendants then and there excepted and prayed the court here to seal this his bill of exceptions which is done in open court this day and year aforesaid.

J. S. Caton,

State of Illinois  
La Salle County

I certify that the above is a <sup>full &</sup> true copy of the proceedings <sup>& judgment</sup> in the above entitled cause as appears of record <sup>in file</sup> in my office.

Witness Lorenzo Deland, Clerk of our said Circuit Court, and the seal of said court at Ottawa this 20th day of August A. D. 1847

Leland Clerk.

By J. G. Nash Deft.

Simmons

C. G. Laddell

Dr. Error.

Record

Clerks fees \$2.50

Afterwards to wit on the 30th day of March A. D. 1847  
the proceedings <sup>said cause</sup> in words & figures were had as follows  
to wit:

William Simmons  
vs  
County of La Salle  
Debt.

This day came the Plaintiff by Lammie &  
Cotton his Atty. and the defendant by Latham plain her attorney  
and by argument of parties this cause is submitted to the court for  
trial & after hearing the evidence & arguments of counsel it is taken  
under advisement.

Again April 5th. 1847

William Simmons  
vs  
County of La Salle  
Debt.

This day again came the parties  
hereto by their said Attorneys & thereupon the court found  
the issue for the plaintiff & found his debt to be five  
hundred dollars & assessed his damages at two hundred  
and ninety two dollars and fifty cents making together  
seven hundred and ninety two dollars and fifty cents &  
thereupon the defendant by her said Attorney entered a  
motion for a new trial of this cause.

County of Adams, In Error Tohaballe,  
William S. Simmons

And now comes the said County of Adams by J. C. Champlin  
their Attorney and say that in the record and proceedings  
aforesaid there is manifest Error in this to wit:

That all of the evidence adduced, as shown by said record  
ought to have been excluded:

That it appears by said Record that hearsay evidence was  
improperly admitted by the Court below:

That a book was admitted in evidence, which the said Record  
shows ought not to have been admitted:

That the finding of the Court, & the Judgment of the Court  
ought to have been for the County of Adams, and not for  
said William Simmons - :

And for other Errors, manifest upon the face of said  
Record.

J. C. Champlin,

And now come the said William Simmons <sup>Att'y for the County of Adams</sup>  
his Attorneys & says there are no such errors as above alleged  
State of Illinois

James Combs. Let the writ of Error in the above entitled  
Cause be made a Supersedeas upon the filing of the foregoing  
record together with a bond with S. S. Elliott  
as security in the penal sum of ~~one~~ <sup>forty</sup> hundred dollars con-  
ditioned as the law directs.

J. S. Coatsworth  
Just Sup Court



In Sup. Court.

The County of Schenck

vs.

William Simmons

In Error.

Record.

Filed April 6, 1849.  
Scland Clk.

J. C. Champlin,  
Atty. for Off. in Error.