

No. 12578

Supreme Court of Illinois

Heinake

vs.

Wedig, Admr.

71641  7

~~1836~~

Henry Heimake

John Wedig

66.

12d 78-

1858

Wedig adms
Wolpert's Proceedings in a certain cause lately
vs defending in the county court within and
Heimake for the county of Peoria in the state of
Illinois, wherein John Wedig, administrator
of the estate of Conrad Wolpert, deceased
was plaintiff, and Henry Heimake was
defendant, to wit;

On the Eighteenth day of Septem-
ber A.D. 1856, the said plaintiff filed
in the office of the Clerk of said Court,
a declaration in the words and figures
following, to wit:

State of Illinois
County of Peoria

In the County
John Wedig administrator of Conrad Wolpers deceased vs Henry Hinaker
In the County of Peoria, To the October term 1856
as. 1856
In assumpsit

Damages \$8800.00

John Wedig plaintiff in this suit administrator of all and singular the goods, chattels & credits which were of one Conrad Wolpers deceased at the time of his death who died intestate, by Davidson & Hinuse his attorneys complains of Henry Hinaker defendant in this suit in a plea of assumpsit, for that whereas the defendant on the third day of March A.D. 1853 at the city of St Louis in the state of Missouri to wit at the County of Peoria and State of Illinois aforesaid made his ^{certain} promissory note in writing bearing date March 3rd 1853 and then and there delivered the same to the said Conrad

— Wolpers in his life time, and thereby then & there promised to pay to the said Conrad Wolpers five hundred dollars with six per centum interest thereon until paid in twelve months from the date thereof, without defalcation or discount which period has now elapsed and the said Henry Hinaka then & there in consideration of the premises promised to pay the amount of the said note to the said Conrad Wolpers according to the tenor & effect whereof: Yet the said defendant hath disregarded his promises and hath not paid any of the said monies or any part thereof, either to the said Conrad Wolpers in his lifetime or to the plaintiff as administrator aforesaid since the death of the said Conrad Wolpers to the damage of the plaintiff as administrator aforesaid in the sum of Eight Hundred dollars, and thereupon he brings suit and the plaintiff brings into Court here his letters of administration which give sufficient evidence to the Court that he is administrator of the said Conrad Wolpers deceased.

(Signed)

Davidson & Franks
Atty's

State of Illinois
County of Peoria }
Under County Court

and on the same day the said Plaintiff
filed in said office, a certain bond
for costs in the words and figures fol-
lowing, to wit;

John Wedij, administrator of Conrad Walpers deceased	Before Thomas Bryant Judge of the County Court Henry Heinrich
	of Peoria County Illinois

We do hereby enter ourselves
security for costs in this cause, and
acknowledge ourselves bound to pay
or cause to be paid all costs which
may accrue in this action, either
to the opposite party or to any of the
officers of this court in pursuance
of the laws of this state - Dated
this 18th day of September A.D.
1856 - Henry Larmers
 (signed) John Wicknau

and on the same day the said plaintiff filed in said office a copy of a certain promissory note in the words and figures following, to wit;

\$500 & / 100 Copy of note sued on

Twelve months after date I promise to pay to the order of Conrad Holgers five hundred dollars, payable and negotiable without defalcation or discount and for value received, bearing six per cent interest from date until paid

St. Louis March 3. 1853.

(Signed)

Henry Bernauer

and afterwards, to wit, on the 19th day of September A.D. 1856, the said plaintiff sued out of the office of the Clerk aforesaid, a certain writ of summons in the words and figures following to wit;

6th

The People of the State of Illinois
To the Sheriff or any constable of Peoria-
County, — Greeting -

We command you
to summon Henry Heinake — If he
may be found in your County, to appear
before our County Court for Peoria County
on the 1st Monday of October at the hour of
10 o'clock A.M. to be held at Peoria within
and for the said County of Peoria then and
there to answer unto John Kettell adm'r
Est Conrad Wopfers Acct in a plea of trespass
— in the case on promises - damages
\$ 8 00. — as he says. — And make return of this
writ with an endorsement of the time and
manner of serving the same on or before
the 1st Monday of September next. Witness
Charles Kettell Clerk of our said County-
Court, and the seal thereof, at Peoria this 19th
day of September in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and fifty six
(signed) Chas Kettell
for Geo W Kettell Jtly Clerk

and afterwards to wit, on the day and
year last above mentioned, the Sheriff
of the county of Peoria aforesaid, returned
the said writ of summons, into the office
of the clerk aforesaid, with his endorse-
ment thereon in the words and figures
following to wit:

Served on Henry Heinake by reading to him
this writ, September 19th 1856
(signed) D. D. Gross — Sheriff
6 By A. R. Kidwell — Deputy

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and afterwards to wit; on
the 7th day of October A.D.
1856, the said defendant filed
in the office of the clerk of the
court aforesaid, a demurrer to
the said declaration, in the words
and syries following, to wit;

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State of Illinois }
County of Peoria } & In the County Court
October Term A.D. 1856

John Wedig admr &c of
Conrad Wolpers deceased
vs. Assumpsit
Henry Hinckay

And the said defendant
by Charles C. Bonney his attorney comes
and demurs to the declaration of the
said plaintiff herein, for that the said
plaintiff hath not brought the said
supposed letters of administration into
Court here nor made any proof in
fact thereof, also for that the said dec-
laration is otherwise informal and
insufficient; and this he the said def-
endant is ready to verify, wherefore
he prays judgment re-

(signed) Charles C. Bonney
attorney for Plaintiff

and afterwards, to wit, on the 11th day
of October A.D. 1856, being the ~~sixth~~ day
of the October Term A.D. 1856 of the
court aforesaid, - present the Hon.
Thomas Bryant presiding judge,
Charles Rettello clerk, and David
D. Irons sheriff, the following proceed-
ings were had in the cause aforesaid,
to wit;

John Wedg. Aam^t. Est
Conrad Wepers

OS

Assumed.

Henry Kenmare

This day came the Plaintiff by Peter Davidson Esq; his attorney and the Defendant by Charles C. Bonney Esq; his attorney and this cause came on to be heard on the Demurrer of the Defendant to the Declaration filed in this cause and the Court being fully advised in the premises is of opinion that said Declaration is sufficient in law for the Plaintiff to have and maintain his action herein. Thereupon the Defendant asked leave to withdraw the said Demurrer which was granted and leave given to plead which was done. Whereupon both parties waived a trial by jury and agreed that all matters both of law and fact arising in this case should be tried by the Court. The Court having heard the Evidence and the arguments of counsel doth consider that the Plaintiff ought to recover of the Defendant his damages by reason of the Promises, but because the Court knows not what damages the Plaintiff has sustained and this action is brought upon an instrument in writing for money only. The Clerk is directed to make an assessment thereof and report the same to the Court. Thereupon came the Defendant by his attorney and entered his motion for a new trial of the

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said cause, Whereupon the Court after due con-
sideration overruled the said motion, to which re-
spondent then ^{then} ~~then~~ excepted. Thereupon came the
Plaintiff ^{and} reported to the Court to the Court the
sum of Five Hundred ^{and} ~~and~~ ⁵⁸/₁₀₀ Dollars as due
from Henry Koenake to John Wedig as Adm.
Est Conrad Woepers. Therefore it is considered
by the Court that the said John Wedig Ad-
ministrator Estate Conrad Woepers have ^{and} re-
cover of the said Henry Koenake the sum of
Five Hundred Dollars ^{and} fifty Eight cents
his damages in form aforesaid assessed ^{and} also his
costs ^{and} charges by him about his Suit on this be-
half Expended.

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which said pleas of the said defendant, whereof mention is made in the record of the proceedings aforesaid, and which were filed in the office of the clerk aforesaid, on the said 11th day of October A.D. 1856, are in the words and syries following to wit;

State of Illinois 13
County of Peoria ss In the County Court
October Term A.D. 1856

John Wedig, administrator of
Conrad Wolpers deceased ^{vs} Assumpit
Henry Hinrichs

And the said defendant by Charles C. Bonney his attorney comes and defends the wrong and injury wherein he and says that he did not undertake or promise and form as the said plaintiff hath in his said declaration alleged against him the said defendant, and of this he puts himself upon the Country &c,

(signed) Charles C. Bonney
attorney for defendant

Plaintiff doth the like

(signed) P. Davidson atty for Ifdt

And the said defendant by his said attorney, crave eyes of the said supposed Letters of administration and they are read to him in these words, to wit,

County of St Louis ss.

The State of Missouri.

To all Persons to whom these present shall come - Greeting.
Know Ye, That whereas Conrad Wolpers -

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— late of the County of St Louis died
intestate as it is said having at the
time of his death property in this
State which may be lost destroyed or
diminished in value if speedy care
be not taken of the same, To the end
therefore that the said property may
be collected, preserved and disposed of
according to law, we do hereby appoint
John Weding administrator of all and
singular the goods and chattels rights
and credits which were of the said
Conrad Wolpers, at the time of his death
with full power and authority to
secure and dispose of said property
according to law, and collect all moneys
due said deceased and in general to
do and perform all other acts and
things which are or hereafter may
be required of him by law

In Testimony

whereof I Peter Ferguson judge of the Probate
Court in and for the County of St Louis
hereby sign my name and affix the seal
of said Court at office this seventh day
of November

A.D. 1853 (signed) Peter Ferguson

Judge of Probate

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12578-12

State of Missouri }
County of St Louis }
55

J. William P. Ferguson
Clerk of the Probate Court of the County of
St Louis, certify that the foregoing is a true
copy of the letters of administration granted
to John Wedig on the estate of Conrad Walpers
deceased as the same now remains of
Record in my office

In testimony whereof I hereto
set my hand and affix the seal of the
Probate Court for the County aforesaid at
office in said County this seventh day
of November in the year of our Lord 1853
(signed) William P. Ferguson
Clerk

State of Missouri }
County of St Louis }
55

J. Peter Ferguson Judge of
the Probate Court of said County of St Louis
do hereby certify that the foregoing, except
the certificate and attestation of the Clerk
of the said Probate Court for St Louis County
is a true copy of the letters of administrat-
ion granted to John Wedig on the estate
of Conrad Walpers deceased, as the same
now remains of Record in the office of
the Judge of the said Probate Court, and
that the foregoing certificate and —————

— attestation of the said clerk of the said Court of Probate is in due form of law and that the said letters of administration were granted to said John Wedig in pursuance of and agreeably to the laws of the state of Missouri In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name at office this Fourth day of September A.D. 1856

(signed) Peter Ferguson

Judge of St Louis Probate Court
State of Missouri }
County of St Louis } ss

I William F Ferguson,
Clerk of the Probate Court of St Louis do
hereby certify that Peter Ferguson, whose
genuine signature is affixed to the
above certificate is the acting Judge
of the Probate Court of said St Louis County
and is duly qualified commissioned
and sworn according to Law

In Testimony

whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix
the seal of the Probate Court for the
County of St Louis at office in said
County this fourth day of September in
the year of our Lord 1856

(signed) William F Ferguson
Clerk



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Which being read and heard the said defendant for further plea in this behalf says actio' non because he says that the said plaintiff is not nor ever hath been administrator of the goods or chattels, rights or credits which were of the said Conrad Wolpers deceased, in manner and form as the said plaintiff hath in his said declaration in that behalf alleged; and this he is ready to verify, wherefor he prays judgment &

Signed by Charles S. Bonney
attorney for defendant

And which said instrument in writing for money, whereof mention is made in the record aforesaid, and which was filed by the said plaintiff in the office of the Clerk aforesaid, on the said 11th day of October A.D. 1856, is in the words and figures following, to wit;

\$500.00 Two months after date, I promise to pay to the order of Conrad Wolpers five hundred dollars, payable and negotiable without defalcation or discount, and for value received, bearing six percent interest from date until paid - Saint Louis March 3^d 1853

(Signed)

Henry Heineke

L1257B-16

and is indorsed on the back thereof as follows, to wit:

\$30.00 interest paid April 20, 1854

(signed) Charles Knobbs

and which said Motion for a new trial, whereof mention is made in the record aforesaid, and which was filed in the office of the Clerk of said court on the said 11th day of October A.D. 1856, is in the words and figures following to wit;

Wedij adnu P.C.

as the Peoria County Court
Hinckes } Oct. Term 1856
Defendant enters motion
for new trial of this cause, for the
following reasons, to wit;

1st The verdict of the court is contrary to law.

2nd The verdict of the court is unsupported by evidence.

(signed) Charles B. Rooney

attorney for Plaintiff

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and which said assessment of
damages, whereof mention is made
in the record aforesaid, is in the words
and figures following to wit;

State of Illinois In the Circuit Court,
Peoria County v. October Term A.D. 1856

John Wedig admr plaintiff
Est. Conrad Wolpers judgment by default
vs in assumption.
Henry Henrake
defendant

Having assessed the
damages against the defendant in default,
by computing the interest on the Note
in the declaration mentioned in this
cause, according to law and the order
of the court, I do hereby report the same
as follows:

Principal	\$500.00
Int 3% Jan. 8 day	58.16
	<hr/>
	558.16

(Signed)

Oct 11th/56

Chas. Kettell clk
Pr Geo. H. Kettell spty

And afterwards to wit, on the said
11th day of October A.D. 1856, the
said defendant made, and caused
to be signed and filed in the office
of the clerk aforesaid, his bill of
exceptions in this cause, in the words
and figures following, to wit:

State of Illinois }
 County of Peoria } In the County Court

John Weig administrator of
 Conrad Wolpers deceased }
 As Assumpson

Henry Hinckley

Be it remembered that
 upon the trial of this cause the plain-
 tiff to maintain the issue on his part
 offered in evidence a certain prom-
 issory note as follows to wit,

\$500.00 Noe months after date
 I promise pay to the order of Conrad
 Wolpers five hundred dollars payable
 negotiable without defalcation or discount
 and for value received bearing six per
 cent interest from date notice paid.

Saint Louis March 3rd 1853

(signed) Henry Hinckley

Which said note is endorsed on the back
 thereof as follows to wit,

\$30.00 interest paid

April 20, 1854 (signed) Wm. K. Brown

Also a certain certified copy of certain
 letters of administration which said copy
 is as follows to wit,

County of St Louis }
 The State of Missouri }

To all Persons to whom these
 presents shall come Greeting:

Honor Be that

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— Whereas Conrad Wolpers late of the County of Saint Louis died intestate, as it is said having at the time of his death property in this State which may be lost destroyed or diminished in value if speedy care be not taken of the same. To the end therefore that the said property may be collected preserved and disposed of according to law: We do hereby appoint John Wedig administrator of all and singular the goods and chattels rights and credits which were of the said Conrad Wolpers at the time of his death with full power and authority to secure and dispose of said property according to law and collect all moneys due said deceased. and in general to do and perform all other acts and things which are or hereafter may be required of him by law:

In Testimony where

— of I Peter Ferguson Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of St Louis hereunto sign my name and affix the seal of said Court at Office this seventh day of November A.D 1853 —

Peter Ferguson

State of Missouri 2nd
County of St Louis 3rd

Judge Probate

I William Ferguson Clerk
of the Probate Court of the County of
St Louis certify that the foregoing is
a true copy of the letters of administrat-

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ion granted to John Wedig on the
estate of Conrad Wolpers deceased as
the same now remains of Record in
my office.

In Testimony Whereof I have
set my hand and affix the seal of
the Probate Court for the County afo-
resaid at Office in said County this
seventh day of November in the
Year of our Lord 1853.

William F. Ferguson

State of Missouri 3 Clerk
County of St Louis 15

I Peter Ferguson Judge
of the Probate Court of the said County
of St Louis do hereby certify that the
foregoing except the certificate and
attestation of the Clerk of the said
Probate Court for St Louis County is a
true copy of the letters of administra-
tion granted to John Wedig on the
estate of Conrad Wolpers deceased as
the same now remains of Record
in the Office of the Judge of the said
Probate Court, and that the foregoing
certificate and attestation of the said
Clerk of the said Court of Probate, is in
due form of law, and that the said
letters of administration were granted
to said John Wedig in pursuance of and
agreeable to the Laws of the State of
Missouri:

In Testimony Whereof I have
hereunto subscribed my name ^{and} Office this
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Fourth day of September A.D. 1856.
Peter Ferguson, Judge of
St Louis Probate Court

State of Missouri }
County of St Louis }

I William ^{of w} Ferguson
Clerk of the Probate Court of ~~the County~~
~~of~~ St Louis, do hereby certify that Peter
Ferguson, whose genuine signature
is affixed to the above certificate
is the acting Judge of the Probate
Court of said St Louis County and is
duly qualified commissioned and
sworn according to law.

In Testimony
Whereof I hereunto set my hand and
affix the seal of the Probate Court for the
County of St Louis at Office in said
County this fourth - day of September
in the year of our Lord 1856

^{of w}
William ^{of w} Ferguson
Clerk

Also the testimony of Peter Davidson Esq.
that the said plaintiff was a non-resident
of and absent from this State residing
in the State of Missouri, and had
informed him said Davidson that
the said plaintiff had lost the original
letters whereof a copy was offered,
and that he said Davidson believed
such information to be true, which
said note, copy, and testimony were
all the evidence offered upon such

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- trial. Also that the said Defendant by his counsel, ~~then~~ and there objected that the Court had ~~then~~ and there no lawful authority to receive any evidence to support the case of said Plaintiff herein, and further objected that even if the Court had ~~then~~ and there ~~had~~ such lawful authority the evidence aforesaid was wholly insufficient, and therefore moved the Court to exclude the same, which said objections and motion were overruled and denied by the Court, wherefore the said defendant by his counsel then and there excepted to the opinions and decision of the Court in overruling said objections and in denying said motion. — Nevertheless the Court received such evidence and found a verdict thereon for the plaintiff and ordered the Clerk of said court to assess the damages of the said plaintiff in this behalf — And thereupon the said Defendant entered his motion for a new trial of this cause to, wit,

Defendant enters motion for new trial of this cause for the following reasons to, wit,

1st The verdict of the Court is contrary to law

2nd The verdict of the Court is unsupported by evidence —

- And whereupon on consideration thereof the Court overruled and denied the motion last aforesaid and rendered judgment for said Plaintiff whereupon the said Defendant by his counsel then and there excepted to the opinion and decision of the Court in overruling and denying the said last mentioned motion, and prayed the Court to sign and seal this bill of exceptions which is accordingly done -

Thomas Bryant
C. Judge

State of Illinois ¹⁸⁵⁹
County of Peoria, I, Charles Riddle, clerk
of the county court within and for the
county of Peoria in the State of Illinois,
do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full com-
plete and true transcript of all and singular the Record
and proceedings in a certain cause lately depending in
the County Court of Peoria County State of Illinois
together wherein John Wedig administrator, Estate con-
tra Welpers deceased is Plaintiff and Henry Heim-
ake is Defendant together with all things concerning
the same without any addition, alteration or omission
whatsoever as the same appear of Record and on file
in my Office.

Witness my hand and Official Seal
at Peoria this 3^d day of April A.
D. 1859.

Charles Riddle Clerk
per Geo. K. Riddle Asst. Clerk

212578-26

State of Illinois set.

In the Supreme Court
at Ottawa. Of the
April Term A.D. 1857.

Henry Heinrich plaintiff in Error

vs

John Wedig administrator of Conrad Wolpers deceased
defendant in error -

Error to Peoria
County Court

and hereupon comes the said Henry Heinrich by Charles G. Bowmer his attorney, and says that in the record and proceedings aforesaid, and also in the rendition of the judgment aforesaid, there is manifest error in this point; that the said county court neither had nor could have jurisdiction of the sum for which the judgment aforesaid was given: there is also error in this, point, that the said John Wedig hath not in anywise answered, replied to, denied or noticed the said plea of the said Henry Heinrich by him secondly above pleaded to the said declaration of the said John Wedig; there is also error in this point,

that the evidence received by the said
county court is wholly insufficient
to warrant or support a verdict in favor
of the said John Wedig; there is also
error in this, to wit, that there is no
such assessment of damages in
the record and proceedings aforesaid,
as doth or can warrant or support
the judgment aforesaid; there is also
error in this to wit, that the said motion
for a new trial of the action afore-
said, was overruled and denied
by the said county court; there is
also error in this to wit, that by the
record aforesaid it appears that the
judgment aforesaid, in form aforesaid
given, was given for the said John
Wedig, against the said Henry Henrake
whereas by the laws of the land the
said judgment ought to have been
given for the said Henry Henrake against
the said John Wedig. And the said
Henry Henrake prays that the judgment
aforesaid, for the errors aforesaid,
and for other errors apparent in the
record and proceedings aforesaid, may
be reversed, annulled and altogether
held for nothing. and that he may

be restored to all things which he hath
lost by occasion of the said judg-
= ment &c.

Charles C. Bonney
attorney for
Plaintiff in Error

And the said John Wedge, by
his attorney, cometh
into court here, and saith that
there is no error either in the record
and proceedings aforesaid, or in the
rendition of the judgment aforesaid,
and prays that the justices of the
said Supreme Court now here may
proceed to examine as well the record
and proceedings aforesaid, as the
matters aforesaid above assigned
for error, and that the judgment
aforesaid in form aforesaid given,
may be in all things affirmed,
&c.

To the Clerk of the said Supreme Court;
You will please issue notice to
the said defendants in error,
according to the affidavit herewith
filed, and the rule of said Court
in such case made and provided,
and send the same to the undersigned
for publication &c.

Charles C. Bonney
attorney for
Plaintiff in Error

Henry Heinrich
plaintiff in error
- vs -
John Heding admin
vs. defendant in error

Record and
transcript of Error

Filed April 29, 1851
S. Leland
Clerk

State of Illinois ; scd; In the Supreme Court,
at Ottawa.

Henry Heinrich
plaintiff in error
versus
John Wedig, administrator
of Conrad Wolpers deceased
defendant in error.

Error to Peoria
County Court.

State of Illinois } Error
County of Peoria }

Charles C. Bonney
of the county and State aforesaid, being
first duly sworn upon his oath says,
that he is of counsel for the plain-
tiff in error in the above-entitled
cause, and that the above-named
defendant in error is absent from,
and a non-resident of this State
of Illinois, and resides at Saint
Louis in the state of Missouri as
this affiant verily believes, and further
saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to before { Charles C. Bonney
me this 25th day of April }
A.D. 1857 - Enock Sloan, Clerk Peoria County Circuit Court

Herrick
vs.
Holpers { For the supreme Court of
Holpers, Adm^r. of the State of Illinois.

The following is submitted by the defendant in error upon a single point. All other points in the case being submitted without argument.

To the declaration, the defendant below filed two pleas - Gen. issue & a special plea denying the right of Heding to sue as administrator of Conrad Holpers deceased. Upon the second plea there was no issue - no notice having been taken of the plea whatever. The question now arises - is this error?

In the part of the deft. in error, it is contended that it is not, ^(the following reasons given)

1st The plea denying the right to sue as administrator, is a plea in abatement, & should be sworn to, & pleaded first of all. It was not sworn to, nor was it pleaded until after demurrer was overruled & after the plea of the gen. issue filed. It was hence out of time & place & might have been stricken from the files on motion.

2nd Under our statute (see Appendix to Rev. Stat. p. 596) an administrator from a neighboring state must on trial, exhibit his letters of administration duly certified. Since the very matter raised by this neglected plea, must necessarily have been

proven under the general issue. It has been decided by the Supreme court (See Ross vs Reddick 1 Scam. 73.) that where a neglected plea raises matter that may be proven under the general issue, and proceeds to trial without objection (there being no good issue) the irregularity is waived. The record in this case shows that both parties declared they were ready for trial. The bill of exceptions also shows that no objections were made to receiving evidence, the plaintiff below had given in his entire testimony. It is now too late for the plaintiff in error to take advantage.

P. Davidson
for deft. in error.

1836
Heinrich
v.
Wedding and
Henneke

Def's argument

With Mr. Adm'r of

Assignment

to
def't. in error.

Filed May 14, 1837
L. Leland
Clerk

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Keniak v. Wedge & c.

affidavit of
non-residence

Filed April 22, 1859
L. Leland
Bkfst

State of Illinois Supreme Court of Illinois
3 April Term AD 1857

Benjamin W. Babcock

"
Fancy H. Price

George F. Harding being duly sworn
say that the record in this case is
diminished in this -

1. The declaration and
pleas and replications which were
filed and of record in the
Warren Circuit Court from which
by appeal this case comes are
omitted in this record.

2. A ~~the~~ material in =
struction for the giving of which
error is alleged is not in this
record. Your affiant states that he
was attorney for the said defendant
below and represented him in this court
he prays that a writ of certiorari
may issue commanding ~~her~~ the Clerk
of said circuit to send up said ad-
ditional record.

George F. Harding

Swn to & Subscribed
before me this 28th
April 1857

L. Leland Clerk of Sup. Court
by J. R. Rice Deputy

66 188

Babcock

Price

affidavit

Filed Apr 28. 1851

L. L. Cleveland

Clerk

State of Illinois Sct
In the Supreme Court
at Ottawa —

Heinake
v.
Wedig &c

Error to Peoria County
Court —

Plaintiffs Brief -

If there be any intention of the framers of the constitution, manifest upon its face, it is that all Courts of each particular Kind provided for in the constitution, should have a uniform organization and jurisdiction. — Art. V. Constitution —

If this be so, whenever the legislature attempts to confer upon any particular court of any class of courts established by the constitution, any peculiar exclusive organization or jurisdiction not extended to all courts of that class, they act against the plain manifest meaning of the constitution, in this, that in so far as they attempt to confer such organization or jurisdiction, so far, they are in fact not creating an organization for, or conferring jurisdiction upon any constitutional tribunal, but on the contrary are creating a new court of a new class, and merely attaching it to, and declaring that its terms shall be helden by the judge of some constitutional court. Thus when the legislature extended the jurisdiction of the ~~Peoria~~ County Court

of Peoria County, it ceased to belong to the class of Courts known to the Constitution as "County Courts"; and if on the other hand it is contended that this is such a court as the legislature had a right to create, to wit, a court of inferior civil and criminal jurisdiction in a city, then it is clearly an unconstitutional Court, as it has no uniformity of organization and jurisdiction with other Courts of that class created prior to this.

There is no law giving said County Court jurisdiction of the amount claimed and recovered, unless it be the act of February 9th 1835, entitled "an act to extend the jurisdiction of the County Court of Peoria County." In this case the Legislature have simply attempted to authorize the County Court of Peoria County to usurp and exercise a portion, and a large portion of the powers of the Circuit Court of the 16th Judicial Circuit within that County. This attempt is as null and void as would be an act declaring that a Justice of the Peace for Peoria County, might and should, in addition to his other powers and duties, hold a monthly term of the Circuit Court for the trial of civil causes -

If such acts as these are to be tolerated, we have no longer any judicial System - there is no longer any citizenship of the State: on the contrary, the State is divided into petty local communities, governed,

not by well-known general laws, but by
petty local rules; the citizen of one county
fears to be found in another, lest he or
his estate be summarily subjected to the
operation of laws, and the determination
of Courts, which have no existence in his
own; the process, judgment, order or de-
cree of the County Court may be of a force
and effect in one county, so different
from that which they severally have in
~~another~~ as to circumscribe the rights
and remedies of the citizen by County
lines, instead of leaving them to be settled
by the law, and in the tribunals which
are common to the whole state.

And there is another aspect of this mat-
ter worthy of consideration. It was the
intention of the framers of the constitu-
tion, not that any one man should
control, and in his own sole personal
discretion exercise the law-making power,
under any pretences in any form, but
that the interests and the wisdom of
the State at large, represented in the
General Assembly, should give their
sanction before any statute whatsoever
should be enacted,- Yet if such special
laws as that here questioned are to be
upheld, citizens of the several districts
can rely no more upon the interests ~~of~~
and the wisdom of the whole General
Assembly for the protection of their rights.
When the representative of any district

is disposed to experiment in legislation touching the judiciary, he has but to introduce his bill, confining ~~to~~ its operation to his own district or to one or more of the counties in it, and straightway, it is said by other members, "this is no concern of ours, however inexpedient or unconstitutional the proposed innovation may be, if they (the people of such district or county) want it let them have it." - Thus hasty and unwise legislation, promotive of nothing but private purposes, legal uncertainties, vexatious litigation and judicial perplexities, covers the land. It will not do to answer that this would be an appropriate argument to a legislative body. The only hope and safety of the people from that insidious despotism which steals and wears the ~~sacred~~ robe of Statutory law, is in the fidelity of the Court of last resort. Well may the fears of the people rise, when this tribunal pauses in the discharge of its official duty to listen to reasons of mere local expediency, rather than to arguments based upon the general consequences which must flow from a Statute whose constitutionality is questioned. The latter are a proper guide to a true interpretation, - the former ought never even to be heard by the judges of a court from whose judgment there is no appeal.

"The fact that the parties appeared before the county
Court and contested the merits of the case, can
have no bearing on the proper decision of this question".
XII Illinois 122 Williams et al. &c. v. Blaken-
ship et al. &c.

The Plaintiff in error confidently
submits without argument the other matters by
him assigned for error &c.

Charles C. Bonney
attorney for
Plaintiff in error.

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Henriette v. Wedige,

In Error.

Plaintiff's Brief -

Filed April 29, 1857  
S. Leland  
Clerk

Charles B. Bonney for Plff