

be given against the defendant, or respondent, if it shall appear to the court, before which such suit or prosecution shall be tried, that there was probable cause for doing such act or thing, such court shall order a proper certificate or entry to be made thereof, and in such case the defendant or respondent shall not be liable for costs, nor shall he be liable to execution, or to any action for damages, or to any other mode of prosecution, for the act done by him as aforesaid: *Provided*, That such property or articles as may be held in custody by the defendant, if any, be, after judgment, forthwith returned to the claimant or claimants, his, her, or their agent or agents.

Officers not to be liable to costs, upon judgments against them, in certain cases.

Proviso.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue in force for one year, and no longer: *Provided*, That all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, which shall have been incurred before the expiration of the act, shall be recovered and distributed, and may be mitigated or remitted, in the same manner as if it had not expired.

Duration of this act.  
Proviso.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCV.—*An Act supplementary to an act, entitled "An act for the better organization of the courts of the United States, within the state of New York."*

March 3, 1815.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, be, and hereby is authorized to appoint one person as marshal, and one as district attorney for the northern judicial district of the United States within the state of New York, created by the act to which this act is a supplement, bearing date the ninth day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen; and that the terms of appointment and service, together with the duties, responsibilities and emoluments of the said marshal and district attorney, respectively, for the district aforesaid, be in all respects the same within their said district, as the terms of appointment and service, the duties, responsibilities and emoluments of all other marshals and district attorneys, respectively, within their respective districts, in the United States of America.

Act of April 9, 1814, ch. 49.  
The President to appoint a marshal and district attorney.

Compensation.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCVI.—*An Act making an additional appropriation for the service of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.*

March 3, 1815.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That, for defraying the expense of preparing certificates of registry for ships and vessels, and for furnishing lists of crews, the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Appropriation for certificates of registry of ships.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCVII.—*An Act further supplementary to an act, entitled "An act providing for the indemnification of certain claimants of public lands in the Mississippi territory."*

March 3, 1815.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That the commissioners appointed by virtue of the act entitled "An act supplementary to an act entitled 'An act providing for the indemnification of certain claimants of public lands in the Mississippi territory,'" shall be, and they are hereby

Act of March 31, 1814, ch. 39.  
Commissioners authorized to decide upon the quantity of

land contained in any deed, without further survey.

Act of Jan. 23, 1815, ch. 24.

Instruments executed by the parties or their attorneys shall be considered legal by the commissioners.

A further time allowed where releases, &c. are defectively drawn.

Commissioners authorized to finally settle all claims.

On reports of the commissioners certificates of stock to be issued.

Secretary to record releases, &c., and return them to the Secretary of State's office.

Terms of recording.

On the dissolution of the board of commissioners, the President may grant additional compensation.

Proviso.

authorized to decide, in a summary way, upon the quantity or boundary of land contained in any grant or deed exhibited before them, by any of the claimants of lands released to the United States, agreeably to said act, according to such maps, surveys, or other evidence, as now exist or which they may be now able to procure, without requiring or permitting any other survey to be made.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall be, and they are hereby authorized to allow, and receive, in all cases, except those where femes covert are parties, as sufficient legal releases, assignments, and powers, required by said act, and the supplement thereto, and as lawful conveyances, all such instruments as may be executed by the party, or his, her, or their attorney or attorneys, lawfully empowered, and either acknowledged by the party making the same, before some judge, or justice of the peace, notary public, mayor, recorder or alderman of a corporation, or master in chancery, or one of the said commissioners, or proved by other evidence to the satisfaction of the commissioners to have been duly executed by the party.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall be, and they are hereby authorized, in all cases where the releases, assignments, and powers required by the act aforesaid, already presented, or which may be presented on or before the third Monday in March instant, or powers of attorney, by which said releases shall have been, or shall be made, shall be, in the judgment of the commissioners aforesaid, defectively drawn or executed, to allow a further time not exceeding two months, from and after the said third Monday in March instant, to perfect the same.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall be, and they are hereby authorized to admit and finally settle all such claims as have been, or may be, within the time limited, duly released, assigned, and transferred to the United States, any thing in the said original act, or any supplement thereto, to the contrary notwithstanding; and to administer oaths, or take affirmations, and to compel the attendance of witnesses, in all cases where necessary.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized, from time to time, to cause to be issued such certificates of stock as are specified in the said original act, and supplement thereto, to such claimant or claimants, whose claim may be decided on and reported by the commissioners, on receiving such report in relation to such claim, from the said commissioners.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the releases, assignments, and powers, required by the act aforesaid, and the supplement thereto, now received, and which may be hereafter received, shall be recorded by the secretary of the said commissioners, and the said records returned with all other papers and documents in relation to said claims, when the business of the said commissioners shall be closed, to the office of the Secretary of State; and that the said secretary shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, out of any money not otherwise appropriated, at the rate of twelve and a half cents for each and every hundred words contained in each instrument so recorded.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That on the dissolution of the said board of commissioners, and the performance of the duties assigned them, the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized, if in his judgment he shall consider the said commissioners entitled to any further additional compensation for their services than is now provided for, to cause them to be paid such other and further sums, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, as he shall think just and reasonable; *Provided*, That such additional compensation shall not exceed fifty cents to each commissioner, for every deed or evidence of title which shall be submitted to their examination and decision, in

pursuance of the provisions of the said original act, and the supplements thereto.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCVIII.—*An Act regulating and defining the duties of the United States' Judges for the territory of Illinois.*

March 3, 1815.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the Illinois territory shall be divided into three circuits in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

[Obsolete.]  
Act of April  
29, 1816, ch.  
154.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the counties of Madison and St. Clair shall compose the first circuit, the counties of Randolph and Johnson shall compose the second circuit, and the counties of Gallatin and Edwards shall compose the third circuit.

Illinois territory to be divided into three circuits.

Counties composing each circuit.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the judges heretofore appointed, or which may hereafter be appointed for the Illinois territory, under the authority of the government of the United States, shall, previous to the time prescribed by this act for holding the first court in the said territory, proceed to allot amongst themselves the circuit in which they shall respectively preside, which allotment shall continue in force for and during the term of one year thereafter; and such allotment shall be annually renewed, and which allotment, in writing, signed by the said judges, or a majority of them, shall be entered of record in the said courts, respectively, by the clerks thereof, at the commencement of the term next after such allotment shall have been made.

Allotment of circuits.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the said judges respectively to hold two terms annually in each county in their respective circuits, in conformity with the preceding sections of this act, which shall commence at the times hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, in the county of Madison on the last Mondays in May and September, in the county of St. Clair on the second Mondays in June and October, in the county of Randolph on the third Mondays in June and October, in the county of Johnson on the fourth Mondays in June and October, in the county of Gallatin on the first Mondays in July and November, and in the county of Edwards on the second Mondays in July and November, in each year, and the said courts shall be styled circuit courts for the counties in which such courts shall be held respectively.

Two terms to be held annually in each county.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the said courts shall be holden at the respective courthouses of said counties, and the said judges respectively shall in their respective circuits have jurisdiction over all causes, matters or things at common law or in chancery, arising in each of said counties, except in cases where the debt or demand shall be under twenty dollars, in which cases they shall have no jurisdiction.

Where courts are to be holden.

Extent of jurisdiction.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the said judges shall be conservators of the peace, and the said circuit courts, in term time, or the judges thereof in vacation, shall have power to award injunctions, writs of ne exeat, habeas corpus, and all other writs and process that may be necessary to the execution of the power with which they are or may be vested.

Authority of the judges.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the said circuit courts respectively shall have power to hear and determine all treasons, felonies, and other crimes, and misdemeanors that may be committed within the respective counties aforesaid, and that may be brought before them respectively, by any rules or regulations prescribed by law.

Circuit courts empowered to try felonies, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That all suits shall be tried in the counties in which they originate, unless in cases that are or may be specially provided for by law.

Suits to be tried in counties where they originate.