

whittling away the time for the "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye", etc., of the court crier were those whose business or curiosity led them there. Leaving for home they raced out Kings road in a cloud of dust.

### First Lawyer in Jacksonville

Abraham Bellamy, son of John Bellamy the commissioner, was the first lawyer to settle at the county seat. This was in 1823. He built a little office west of John Brady's cabin, which was then owned by his father, and here he drew up most of the early legal papers for the residents of this section.<sup>b</sup> Enough odds and ends of descriptions have been gathered to picture it as a typical country lawyer's office, equipped with a table and time-worn chairs of home manufacture; a few law books scattered here and there amidst a disorderly array of bundles of papers; a map tacked up against the door; plenty of dust, and finally a box spittoon filled with sand. Nevertheless, Abraham Bellamy's ability as a lawyer was greater than his surroundings indicated, for he was afterward a familiar figure in the Territorial councils and at one time was president of that body.

\*John Bellamy moved to Middle Florida in 1826 and Abraham Bellamy likewise sometime later.

### First Marriage License

One of Duval County's oldest official records is a court copy of the first marriage license issued by the county. It reads:<sup>c</sup>

Territory of Florida

County of Duval

To any Judge, Justice of the Peace, ordained Minister of the Gospel, I license or permit you to Join together in the Holy State of Matrimony Mr. Robert Robertson and Miss Sarah Tucker, and this shall be your sufficient warrant. After the above marriage is solemnized you are hereby commanded to return the same certified on this license to my office.

October 7, 1823.

J. BELLAMY, Clerk.

### The First Court House

Court evidently was held under the trees until 1825, as prior to that time there was no building here suitable for the purpose. In 1825, John Warren erected a two-story building