

IN MEMORIAM.

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JAMES F. LEWIS.

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DIED AUGUST 17, 1886.

## PROCEEDINGS

IN

# THE SUPREME COURT.

*In the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada,*

*September 6, 1886.*

Present:

HON. CHARLES H. BELKNAP, Chief Justice.

HON. ORVILLE R. LEONARD,

HON. THOMAS P. HAWLEY,

} Associate Justices.

Officers of the court and several members of the bar. On the opening of the court, at 10 o'clock A. M., the chief justice announced the death of Hon. J. F. Lewis, a former member of this court, and submitted the following tribute to his memory:

### IN MEMORIAM.

We are again called to lament the death of one of our former members.

Hon. James F. Lewis died at Yuma, in the territory of Arizona, on the seventeenth day of August last. In view of his honorable career upon the bench of this court, and as one of its members, we desire to place upon its records a memorial of his high character and judicial and professional ability.

Upon the organization of the court in the month of December, 1864, Judge Lewis became its chief justice. At the succeeding election he was re-elected, and remained upon the bench until

the month of January, 1873. The volumes of our reports during this period contain the published opinions pronounced by him. They are clear, concise and learned, and attest his ability, industry and conscientious performance of duty. His services were of great value to the state and profession, and deservedly gained for him a high reputation. Upon retiring from the bench he resumed the practice of his profession of the law. The qualities that had distinguished him upon the bench, characterized him at the bar. In the trial of causes and the presentation of legal questions he was logical and candid. His briefs and arguments at the bar evinced thorough preparation of his cases. He carefully considered the legal principles applicable, and examined the authorities bearing upon them and mastered the questions involved before presenting his views to the court. His success at the bar is attributable to his well applied industry rather than to reliance upon readiness of thought or language at the argument. His mind was richly stored with legal principles and decided cases, and his association with his brothers of the bar, and especially the younger members, was kind and instructive and will long be borne in affectionate remembrance. He was highly esteemed for the purity of his character and his many deeds of unostentatious charity. An able and upright judge, an honest lawyer, a good citizen, he commanded and retained the confidence and respect of his fellow men. The circumstances of his sudden and unexpected death while engaged in the active duties of his profession are sad and affecting. We deeply sympathize with his bereaved widow and friends in their affliction, and commend them to the consolation (though inadequate) to be found in the record of his useful and honorable life.

These sentiments will be entered in the records of the court and a copy transmitted to Mrs. Lewis, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the court will now adjourn for the day.