







What About the Women?

- Women exist in records, but often overlooked
- Usually appear in relationship to men in their lives
- Limited in what they could own
- Guardianship not a given of minor children at death of husband
- Citizenship until 1922 often based on their husband

A Woman Before Her Time

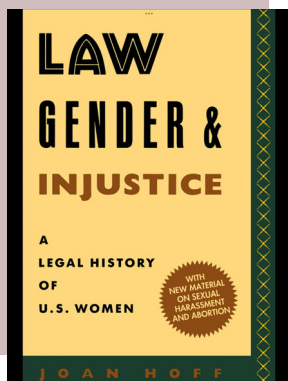


- In 1783, she was not permitted to possess cash or other personal property
- She owned a mercantile
- She encouraged her husband to “remember the ladies” when forming the new government

Resources

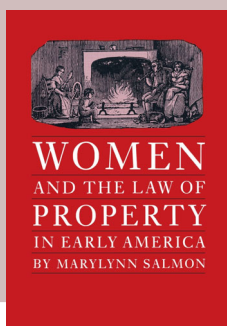
Resource

- By Joan Hoff
- In depth examination of the legal history of U.S. women
- Chapters examine law and women chronologically



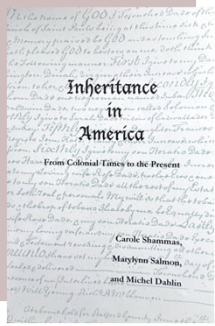
Women and Property

- By Marylynn Salmon
- Offers chapters on various situations involving property
- Includes a chapter on divorce and separation



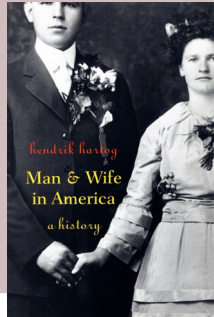
Inheritance

- By Carole Shammas, Marylynn Salmon, and Michel Dahlin
- Two important chapters focus on women:
 - 2: Colonial Testamentary Practice and Family Capitalism
 - 4: Inheritance Law and the Rights of Women and Children in the Nineteenth Century



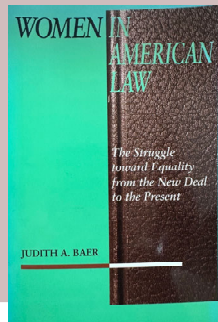
Divorce

- By Hendrik Hartog
- Ten chapters
- Focuses on 19th Century
- Chapter 10 looks at coverture after the passage of women's property acts

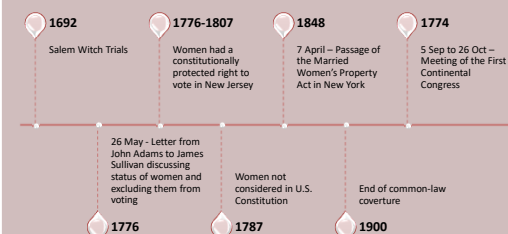


20th Century

- By Judith A. Baer
- Eight chapters
- Chapter 2 offers a look at the history of women and the Constitution before looking at the New Deal
- Offers a Research Guide to published court cases



Historical Context



Legal Terms

Feme Covert

- By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least incorporated and consolidated into that of the husband: under whose wing, protection, and cover, she performs everything...

- William Blackstone
- *Commentaries on the Laws of England*

Coverture

- The legal status of a married woman, considered under her husband's protection and authority
- Coverture gave all the power to the husband

Feme Sole

- A single woman functioned on a legal par with men in property rights
- Separate Estate – by inheritance, dower, marriage contract

Divorce A Vinculo Matrimonii

- Divorce “from the chain of matrimony”
- A total divorce of husband and wife, dissolving the marriage tie, and releasing the parties wholly from their matrimonial obligations
- Parties may remarry
- Involves the courts

Divorce A Mensa Et Thoro

- Divorce “from bed and board”
- Partial divorce that legally separates a married couple, prohibiting them from cohabitating
- Does not dissolve the marriage bond itself
- Parties may not remarry

Dower

- The provision which the law makes for a widow out of the lands or tenements of her husband for her support and the nurture of her children.

• *Black's Law Dictionary*

- Ensured her a "life estate" in one-third of the husband's real property (if there were children) and one-half (if no children)
- Upon the widow's death, the lands went either to the husband's heirs or his creditors

Probate Records

Probate Records

- Inheritance
- Dower from husband
- Guardianship

Inheritance

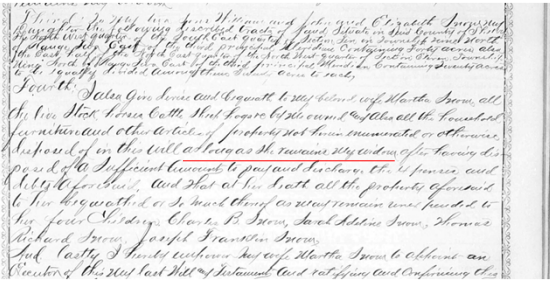
- Women often were entitled to their inheritance only until their death or remarriage (the result of coverture)
- Before 1774, only 10% of women had enough property to probate

*Original papers are hereby given by Joseph Ayer, of New
 England, the former, as follows: That to my
 wife and I, my Brother
 Elijah Ayer, of Nova Scotia, Miller.
 my wife, Hannah Ayer, in full for his portion of all
 my said Estate, I have and I request to my Beloved &
 my wife, Hannah Ayer, all the said Estate of my said
 Estate, whatever it may be, the same shall or may be
 found, to be entirely for her use, comfort, & as long as she shall
 without any hindrance, disturbance, or molestation from
 any person, or persons Whatsoever, Nothing Excepted or
 Reserved. I do hereby testify and*

Obadiah Ayer, 1778, Will

*my spirit to God who gave it I wish all my honest debts to be paid & I will to my
 wife Lydia one horse saddle & bridle my Cuir & harness two cows & fifteen sheep and
 all the things that she had when she came to live with me together with all her
 wearing apparel and also one half of all the bed and bedding that she has made
 since she has lived with me and also five notes against Leonard Janna which
 he gave to my wife Lydia & I will to my son Ira five shillings & I will to my
 son Eli my best suit of cloaths & a pair of two year old steers & I will to my
 other Children viz. Delana, Samuel (Joe) Kezia, John, Martha, Esther & Althea
 all the rest of my estate to be equally divided except my scone book great
 Bible & red chest with drawers which I will as follows the scone book to Samu-
 el the great Bible to John & the red chest with drawers to Kezia I do hereby
 ordain my sons Samuel & John sole Executors of this my last will in trust for
 the intent and purposes contained in this Will which I have hereunto set my
 hand and seal this third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand
 eight hundred and thirteen John Howe Esq. signed & sealed in presence of*

John Howe, 1813, Will



Charles B. Snow, 1871, Will

[illegible]

Dower from Husband

- Massachusetts and Connecticut began restricting dower interests during 18th century
- Some Mid-Atlantic colonies and South Carolina created chancery (equity) courts and were more generous with dower allocations
- Pennsylvania honored limited dower rights
- By 1790s Pennsylvania placed creditors above rights of married women

Guardianships

- Appointed for minors
- A father may be appointed guardian if his children inherit from his deceased wife's family
- Mothers were appointed, but it wasn't a given

The Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the
above-bounded *John Ayres* Nominated and Allowed to be
Guardian unto *a Minor aged about 15*
years Son of Edward Ayres late of *Bepton* in the County of *Suffolk* Deceased, shall
and do well and truly perform and discharge the Trust and Office of Guardian
unto the said Minor, and that in and by all Things according to Law; And
shall render a plain and true Account of his said Guardianship upon Oath,
and all and singular such Estate as shall come to his Hands and Possession by
Virtue thereof, and of the Profits and Improvements of the same, so far as the Law
will charge him therewith (when he shall be thereunto lawfully
required) and shall pay and deliver what and so much of the said Estate as shall be
found remaining upon his Account, (the same being first Examined and
Allowed of by the Judge or Judges, for the time being, of the Probate of Wills, &c.
within the County of *Suffolk* aforesaid) unto the said Minor when he
shall arrive at full Age; or otherwise as the said Judge or Judges by his or their
Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall Limit and Appoint: Then this Obligation
to be Void, otherwise to remain in full Force.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered

John Ayres, Guardianship, 1748

QUESTIONS?

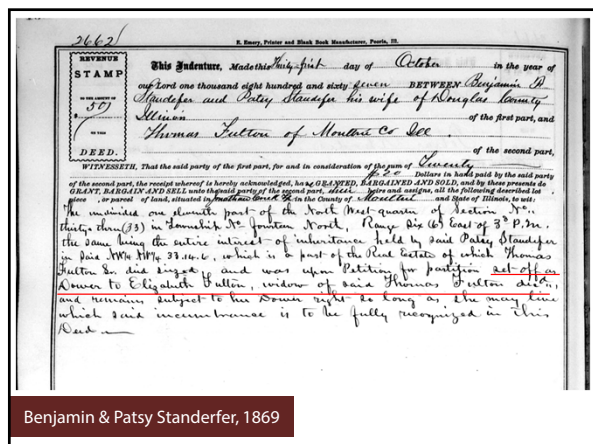
Land Records

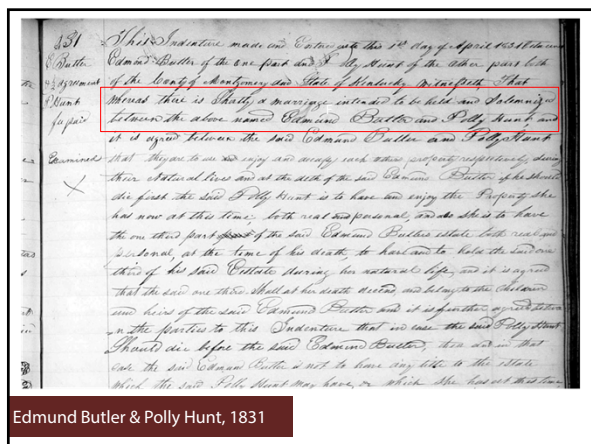
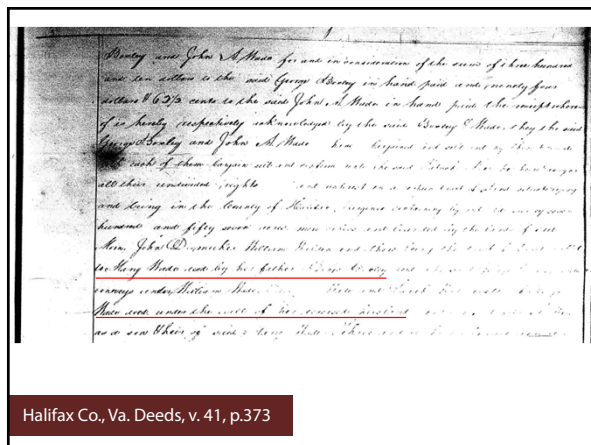
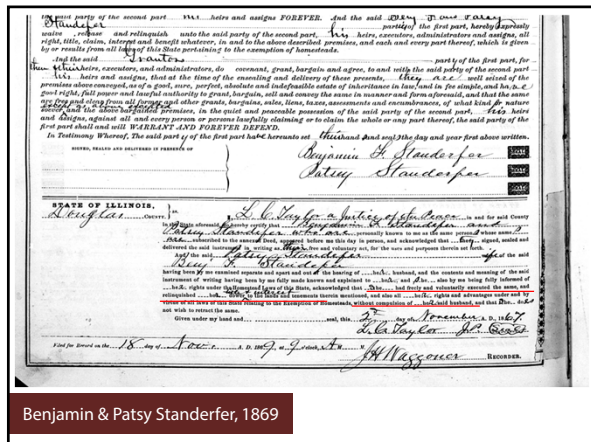
Land Records

- Release of Dower
- Deeds with family members
 - Estate settlements
- Agreements (prenups)

Release of Dower

- The reason that married men's wives are listed in deeds on land they are selling
- A separate paragraph stating the wife swears she was not coerced in selling
- But remember how much the woman relied on her husband





Married Women's Property Act of 1848

- Passed by the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York, 7 April 1848
- Established protection for any real or personal property she owned at time of marriage
- Allowed her to receive by gift, grant devise or bequest from someone other than her husband as if she were a single female

Married Women's Property Laws

- An answer to life in "the rapidly expanding and industrializing nineteenth-century United States"
- Dower had failed women in this period
- States began to rectify with the passage of laws that treated married women as if they were single
- Rather ad hoc as each state could chose how to address the situation

SOUTHERN LAW REVIEW

VOL. VI., N. S.] ST. LOUIS, DECEMBER, 1880. [NUMBER 5.]

MODERN LEGISLATION TOUCHING MARITAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

The foregoing article was originally prepared for and read before the American Social Science Association, and we are indebted to the courtesy of the writer for permission to publish it in the *REVIEW*, in advance of its regular publication in the "Proceedings." Its treatment of the subject is not, nor was designed to be, as practical as if it had been prepared for these pages. But we have long desired to present to our readers an acceptable discussion of the property rights of married women, and this paper exhibits so clearly and simply the evolution of the modern *legislation* on that subject, that it serves as an admirable introduction to the more practical consideration of the work of the courts on this problem, in an article now in preparation, which we hope to publish in our next number. — [Ed. *SOUTHERN L. REV.*]

During more than thirty years past the several States of this Union—some earlier, some later, now with hesitating steps, again with innovating boldness—have been legislating upon the subject of property rights under and as affected by the marriage relation. In no less than fifteen States this topic has been thought to deserve a place among the provisions of their Constitutions, beginning with the Constitution of California adopted in 1849.

The Southern Law Review, 1880

Divorce

Divorce

- Are civil court cases
- Usually they are found at the county level
- Older records may no longer be at the county courthouse
- Difference between bound volumes and case files
- May require searching indexes, dockets, and finding aids

Types of Divorce in Early Years

- Divorce A Vinculo Matrimonii – total divorce that allows both parties to remarry
- Divorce A Mensa Et Thoro – allows the couple to live separately, but neither may remarry
- Desertion – often the husband would “go west,” deny having been married, and remarry (*legal divorce often only if the deserted wife wishes to remarry*)

The Husband

- Once married, the husband owned and controlled most of what the wife may have had
- Likewise, he was responsible for her and any debts she had (*coverture*)
- In the 17th and 18th centuries she could not purchase things like stocks or land on her own, separate from her husband

Querists, and fold by B. Franklin. Price eight Pence.

WHERE AS Mary, Wife of Charles Robinson, of New-Castle County, hath eloped from her said husband and persists in it: These are to forwarn all persons not to credit or deal with the said Mary on her husband's account, for he will not pay any debts contracted by her after the date hereof. And likewise these are to forwarn any persons buying any thing of the said Mary belonging to her said husband, which she has now in possession and clandestinely conceals.

June 4. 1741. Charles Robinson.

JUST IMPORTED.

Elopement

Divorcing Parties

- Libellant: The petitioner or plaintiff in the divorce; the one seeking the divorce
- Respondent: The other spouse

Courts

- Chancery Court
- Circuit Court
- Court of Common Pleas
- District Court
- Family Court
- Law and Equity Court
- Probate Court
- Superior Court



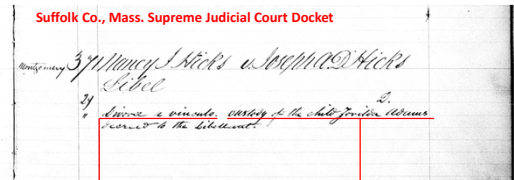
Reasons for Divorce

- Cruelty (not available in all states)
- Abandonment
- Adultery
- Felony
- No-Fault divorce
 - 1969: California adopts first no-fault law
 - 2010: New York last state to adopt no-fault law

Abandonment/Desertion

- One or the other spouse has left
- Often it is the husband
- Sought if the remaining spouse wishes to remarry

Suffolk Co., Mass. Supreme Judicial Court Docket

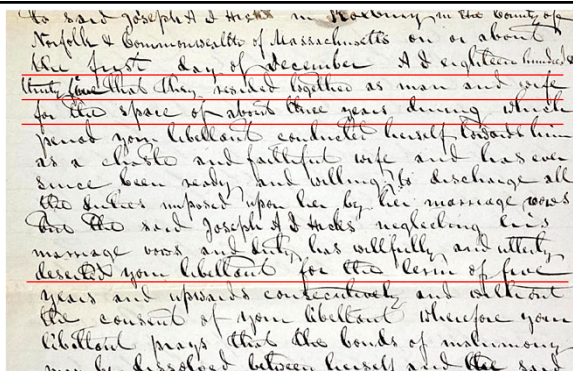


3/11/1880 *Nancy J. Hicks vs. Joseph A. Hicks*
Divorce a vinculo, custody of the child Zorilda Adams Hicks

Divorce a vinculo = Complete divorce (allowing parties to remarry)

The couple had a child, Zorilda Adams Hicks, and she was to be in the custody of Nancy J. Hicks

Nancy J. Hicks of Boston

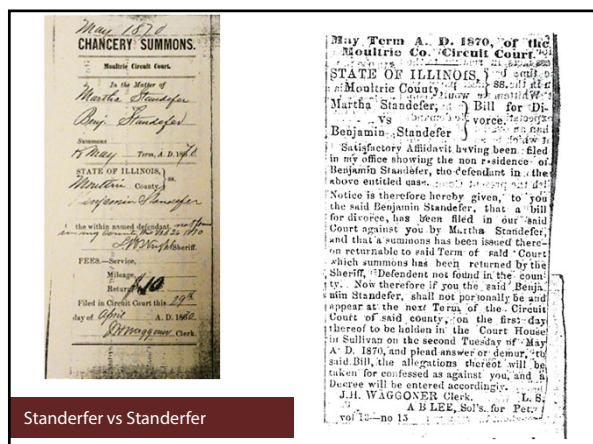


to said Joseph A. Hicks in the County of Suffolk & Commonwealth of Massachusetts on or about the first day of December A.D. eighteen hundred and eighty that they married together as man and wife for the space of about three years during which period your libellant conducted herself towards him as a chaste and faithful wife and has ever since been ready and willing to discharge all the duties imposed upon her by her marriage vows and the said Joseph A. Hicks neglecting his marriage vows and duties has willfully and utterly deserted your libellant for the term of five years and upwards contumaciously and without the consent of your libellant therefore your libellant prays that the bonds of matrimony now be dissolved between herself and the said

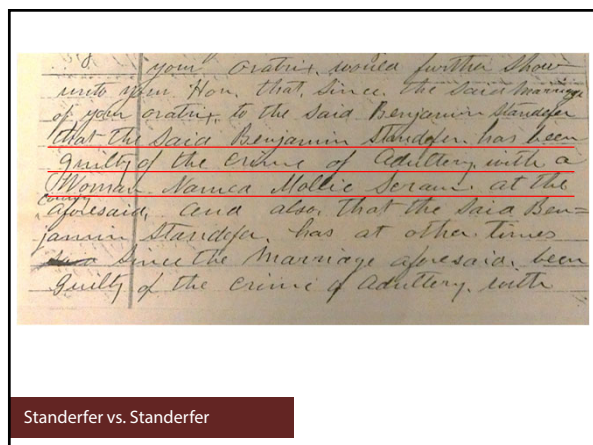
Nancy J. Hicks of Boston

Adultery

- Required proof
- Cases may include depositions from those who knew of the adultery
- In the 20th century, photos were often supplied
- May have been “fake” as a way to get the divorce



Standerfer vs Standerfer



Standerfer vs. Standerfer

Cruelty

- Not recognized in every state
- Was not always filed by the wife

Hallow, T. C. et al	vs. Coleman, Mary A. et al	Madison Co., Mississippi Plaintiff: Minerva Battle Defendant: Turner Battle Docket Book: No. 1 Case File: 1689
Hacon, M. S. et al	vs. Sarah & Elizabeth Wilhoit	
Breeding, Rachel-----	Guardianship	
Hattley, James W.-----	Guardianship	
Bennett, Robert H. Adm.	vs. McMahon & Brown	
Harlow, Alice R.-----	Guardianship	
Brown, Edmond	vs. Barksdale F. Adm	
Harlow, Florence and Light-----	Guardianship	
Hell, David	----Estate	
Hyans, Harriet-----	Estate	
Hailey, Wm. S	-----Estate	
Barksdale, Fountain Adm	vs. Gould, R. H. Adm	
Boaz, Fennessew	vs. Boaz, Saml. F.	
Brown, Agnes & husband	vs. Jones, V. H et al	
Hunch. Martha et al	vs. Shannon. Wm. H et al	

Index to Docket

1689

State of Mississippi
Madison County
In Chancery Court of
said County do hereby
Show that 1153.

Minerva Battle
vs.
Turner Battle

To the Hon. C. C. Byler
Judge of the Chancery
Court of the State of Mississippi
Show that Minerva
Battle a resident of Madison
County, Miss. would report
that she was once taken
before that her husband
was Minerva
Battle: that on the
day of January 1891 she was
separated from her present
husband Turner Battle
at said County of Madison:
by George H. Bailey to Judge of
said County of Madison
Show that soon after her
said husband

husband Turner Battle com-
menced a course of cruel
unlawful treatment
towards her, often striking
beating & kicking her
without cause & prison-
ing her in said prison
of said County in the
of her said husband was
detained from the time
of commitment until
she was compelled with her
young child to abandon
the last in about about the
1st day of September 1896.

Her husband would further
show that for several months
prior to leaving her said
husband she was not
properly supplied with
clothing for herself &
her infant child, often
leaving them without
food for several days at
a time, although he was
at the time able to furnish
her with necessary food
& clothing if he desired so

Case File 1689 - Complaint

In this case, the libellant is Rufus H. Bailey, who is seeking the divorce.

The case is: Extreme Cruelty

Record of Divorce.

Husband's name in full
Rufus H. Bailey

Wife's name in full
Mina T. Bailey

Residence
Winham

Date of Marriage
Dec. 17, 1886

Place of Marriage
Tewksbury, Mass.

Sex of Libellant
Male

Date of Divorce
May 27, 1906

Cause
Extreme Cruelty

The State of New Hampshire.
Rockingham ss. Superior Court.

I certify that the above record is correct.

Clark

Date
May 29, 1906

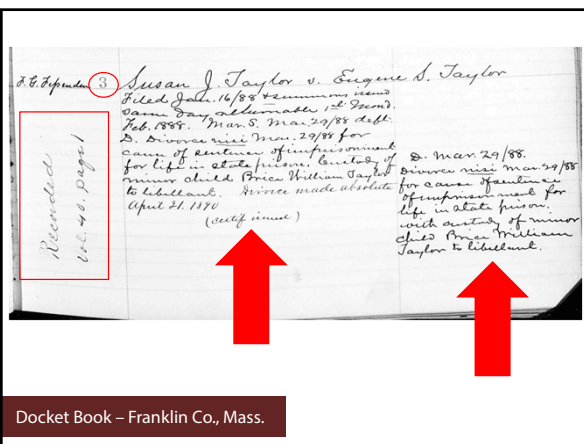
Bailey vs. Bailey

...on the 17th day of December, 1885, by a minister of the Gospel, and that he has always behaved as a dutiful and faithful husband. Yet, the said Mina P. Bailey, wholly regardless of her married covenant and duty, is, and for a long time has been, guilty of extreme cruelty to the said libellant, and on diverse days and times, viz; on to wit; the 17th day of August, 1889, at Windham, aforesaid, struck your libellant with her fists and committed other brutal and unprovoked assaults upon him. And your libellant further says that on, to wit; January 2, 1900 at Windham, aforesaid, she also struck your libellant in the face with her fists; And your libellant further says that on, to wit; November 3d, 1903, she attempted an assault on your libellant with an Oak chair, and, only for his interfering and taking the chair from her, he would have received a very severe and

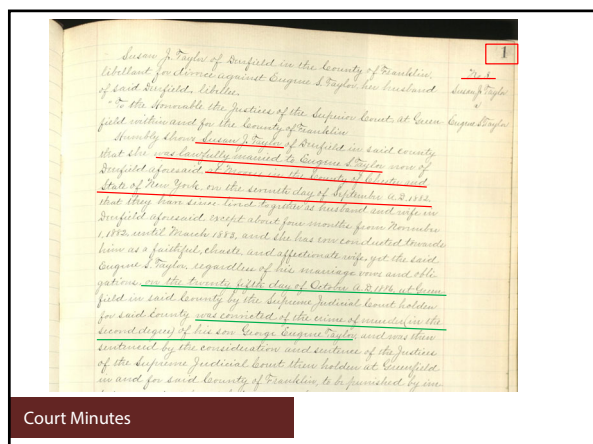
Bailey vs. Bailey

Felony

- Carry with them a much longer prison sentence
- Could include:
 - Aggravated assault
 - Armed robbery
 - Tax evasion
 - Kidnapping
 - Murder



Docket Book – Franklin Co., Mass.





JUSTIA U.S. Supreme Court

Search Log In Sign Up

Overview

Annotation

Opinions

Opinions & Dissents

Materials

Oral Arguments

[Copy Citation](#)

Reed v. Reed, 404 U.S. 71 (1971)

A mandatory provision of the Idaho probate code that gives preference to men over women when persons of the same entitlement class apply for appointment as administrator of a decedent's estate is based solely on a discrimination prohibited by and therefore violative of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

93 Idaho 511, 465 P.2d 635, reversed and remanded.

BURGER, C.J., delivered the opinion for a unanimous Court.

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER delivered the opinion of the Court.

Richard Lynn Reed, a minor, died intestate in Ada County, Idaho, on March 29, 1967. His adoptive parents, who had separated sometime prior to his death, are the parties to this appeal. Approximately seven months after Richard's death, his mother, appellant Sally Reed, filed a petition in the Probate Court of Ada County, seeking appointment as administratrix of her son's estate. [Footnote 1] Prior to the date set for a hearing on the mother's petition, appellee Cecil Reed, the father of the decedent, filed a competing petition seeking to have himself appointed administrator of the son's estate. The probate court held a joint hearing on the two petitions and thereafter ordered that letters of administration be issued to appellee Cecil Reed upon his taking the oath and filing the bond required by law. The court treated §§ 15-312 and 15-314 of the Idaho Code as the controlling statutes, and read those sections as compelling a preference for Cecil Reed because he was a male.

Section 15-312 [Footnote 2] designates the persons who are entitled to administer the estate of one who dies intestate. In making these designations, that section lists 11 classes of persons who are so entitled, and provides, in substance,

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/404/71/>

JUSTIA U.S. Supreme Court

Overview
[Annotation](#)
Opinions
[Opinions & Dissents](#)
Materials
[Oral Arguments](#)

[Copy Citation](#)

Orr v. Orr, 440 U.S. 268 (1979)
440 U.S. 268
APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS OF ALABAMA
Syllabus
Following a stipulation between appellant husband and appellee wife, in which appellant agreed to pay appellee alimony, an Alabama court, acting pursuant to state alimony statutes under which husbands, but not wives, may be required to pay alimony upon divorce, ordered appellant to make monthly alimony payments. Some two years thereafter, appellee filed a petition seeking to have appellant adjudged in contempt for failing to maintain the alimony payments. At the hearing on the petition appellant, though not claiming that he was entitled to an alimony award from appellee, made the contention (advanced for the first time in that proceeding) that the Alabama statutes, by virtue of their reliance on a gender-based classification, violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The trial court, ruling adversely to appellant on that issue, entered judgment against him, which was affirmed on appeal.
Held:
1. This Court has jurisdiction over appellant's appeal. Pp. 440 U. S. 271-278.
(a) Appellant's failure to ask for alimony for himself does not deprive him of standing to attack the constitutionality of the Alabama statutes for underinclusiveness. That attack holds the only promise of relief from the burden deriving from the challenged statutes, and appellant has therefore
"alleged such a personal stake in the outcome of the controversy as to assure that concrete adverseness which sharpens the presentation of issues upon which the Court so largely depends for illumination of difficult constitutional questions."
Baker v. Carr, 369 U. S. 186, 369 U. S. 204; Pp. 440 U. S. 271-273.

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/440/268/>

JUSTIA U.S. Supreme Court

Overview
Opinions
[Opinions & Dissents](#)
Materials
[Oral Arguments](#)

[Copy Citation](#)

Stanton v. Stanton, 421 U.S. 7 (1975)
Decided April 15, 1975
421 U.S. 7
Syllabus
When appellant wife and appellee husband were divorced in Utah in 1960, the decree, incorporating the parties' stipulation, ordered appellee to make monthly payments to appellant for the support of the parties' children, a daughter, then age seven, and a son, then age five. Subsequently, when the daughter became 18, appellee discontinued payments for her support, and the divorce court, pursuant to a Utah statute which provides that the period of minority for males extends to age 21 and for females to age 18, denied appellant's motion for support of the daughter for the period after she attained 18. On appeal the Utah Supreme Court affirmed, rejecting appellant's contention, *inter alia*, that the statute violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
Held:
1. The support issue is not rendered moot by the fact that appellant and the daughter are now both over 21, since, if appellee is obligated by the divorce decree to support the daughter between ages 18 and 21, there is an amount past due and owing. Nor does appellant lack standing because she is not of the age group affected by the statute; another statute obligates her to support the daughter to age 21. Pp. 421 U. S. 11-12.
2. In the context of child support, the classification effectuated by the challenged statute denies the equal protection of the laws, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. *Reed v. Reed*, 404 U. S. 71. Notwithstanding the "old notions" cited by the state court, that it is the man's primary responsibility to provide a home, that it is salutary for him to have education and training before he assumes that responsibility, and that females tend to mature and marry earlier than males, there is nothing rational in the statutory distinction between males and females which, when related to the divorce decree, results in appellee's liability for support for the *in*—inter only to age 18, but for the son to age 21, thus imposing

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/421/7/>

JUSTIA U.S. Supreme Court

Overview
Opinions
[Opinions & Dissents](#)
Materials
[Oral Arguments](#)

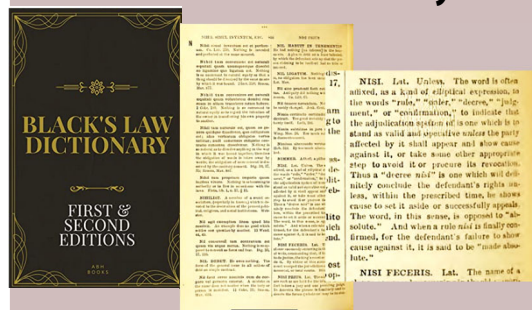
[Copy Citation](#)

Kirchberg v. Feenstra, 450 U.S. 455 (1981)
Syllabus
In 1974, the husband of appellee Feenstra (hereinafter appellee), without her knowledge, executed a mortgage on their jointly owned home as security on the husband's promissory note to appellant. The husband executed the mortgage pursuant to a now superseded Louisiana statute (Art. 2404) that gave a husband the unilateral right to dispose of jointly owned community property without his spouse's consent. In 1976, after appellee refused to pay her husband's note, appellant commenced foreclosure proceedings and instituted the instant action in Federal District Court for declaratory relief. Appellee asserted a counterclaim challenging the constitutionality of Art. 2404, and Louisiana and its Governor were joined as third-party defendants on the counterclaim. The District Court granted the State's motion for summary judgment. While appellee's appeal to the Court of Appeals was pending, Louisiana completely revised its community property code provisions so as to grant spouses equal control over the disposition of such property. Because the new code did not take effect until January 1, 1980, it did not control the mortgage executed by appellee's husband. The Court of Appeals held that Art. 2404 violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, but limited its decision to prospective application because the ruling "would create a substantial hardship with respect to property rights and obligations within the State of Louisiana."
Held:
1. Article 2404 violated the Equal Protection Clause. Gender-based discrimination is unconstitutional absent a showing that the classification substantially furthers an important governmental interest, and it is immaterial that, under the earlier statutory provisions, appellee could have made a "declaration by authentic act" prohibiting her husband from executing a mortgage on her home without her consent. The "absence of an insurmountable barrier" will not redeem an otherwise unconstitutionally discriminatory law. *Timberlawn v. Gordon*, 420 U. S. 712, 420 U. S. 774. Because appellant has failed to offer any justification for the challenged classification, and because the State, by declining to appeal from the decision below, has apparently abandoned any claim that

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/450/455/>

Finding & Understanding Divorce Records

Black's Law Dictionary



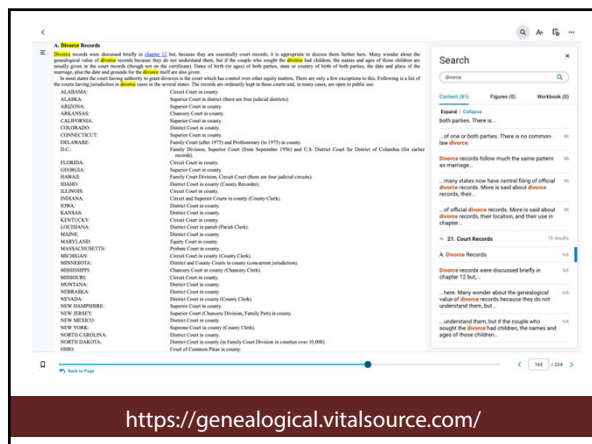
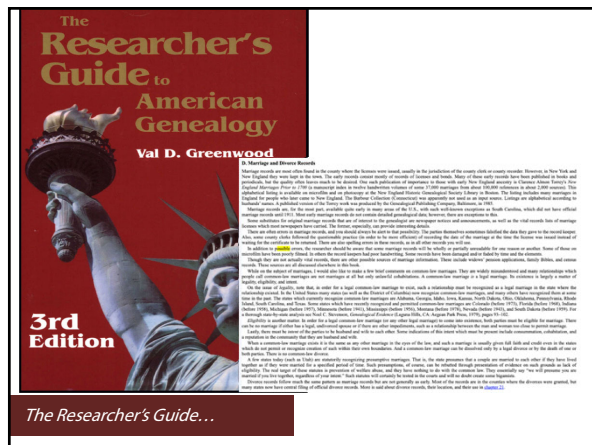
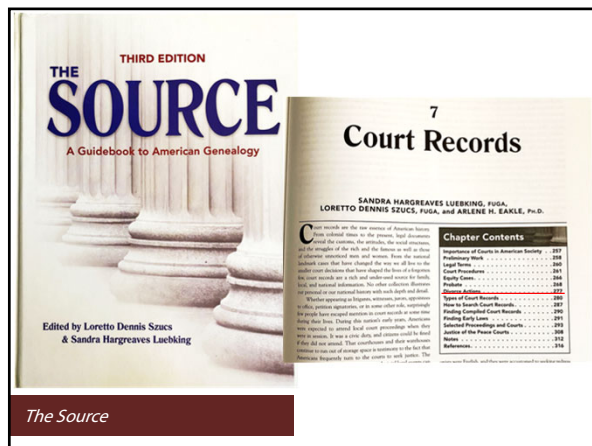
Colorado

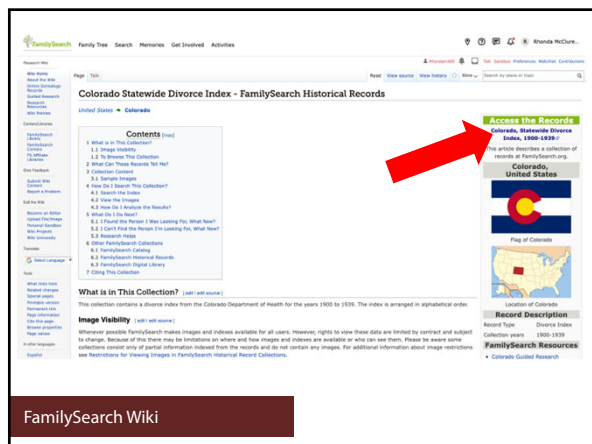
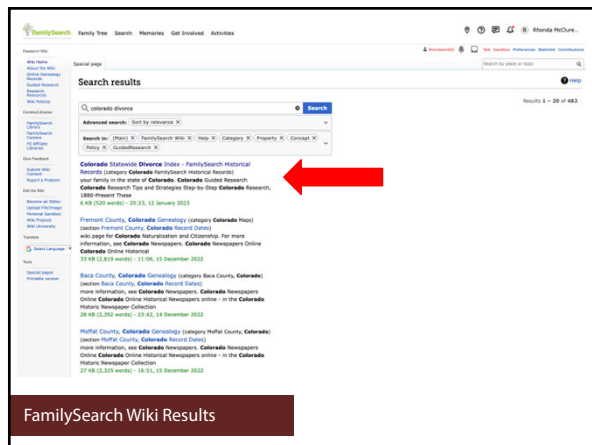
THIRD EDITION
RED BOOK
American State, County, and Town

The county's clerk and recorder maintains marriage records (generally available from the early days of the county), and the clerk of the district court holds divorce records. A statewide list of marriages and divorces indexed by name of the groom exists for the years 1900 through 1939 (with one quarter of entries pre-1900) and is located at the Colorado State Archives and Denver Public Library—Western History and Genealogy Department (see Archives, Libraries, and Societies) and the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City. Denver Public Library has an online version of the marriage index (1975-present) that will include brides as well as grooms at www.denverlibrary.org/research/genealogy/index.html.

The divorces are indexed online at www.sctc.state.co.us/marriages/divorces.aspx. Both agencies have a microfiche marriage index, by bride and groom (1975-present) and a divorce index (1968-present). An up-to-date

Red Book





COLORADO
State Archives

Home Make a Request Archives Search Collections Records Management CHRM About

Home > Collections > Legal Records > Divorce Records

Divorce Records

PLEASE READ THIS PAGE BEFORE REQUESTING DOCUMENTS. IT COULD SAVE YOU CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE PROCESS OF RETRIEVING THE RECORDS YOU NEED.

Colorado State Archives does NOT have most divorce records for people who are alive and need their own divorce records to file for Social Security, claim child support, or prove their divorce in order to be re-married.

This list of Divorce Records also lists all the State Archives within the counties and years we have divorce records. If the county and time frame of your divorce are not included on this list, then State Archives does not have your record.

- If the divorce happened in the county and during the time period detailed on this list, then you can request the record from the State Archives. You will need to provide the case number for most requests. If you don't have a case number, try using the [Archives Search](#). If you are still unable to find a case number, contact the District Court in which the divorce was filed.
- If the county and time period for the divorce you are looking for is not on this list, the records are held by the District Court. Contact the District Court in which the divorce was filed for your record. Most people who are looking for divorce records that concern themselves will need to contact the courts for their records.

archives.colorado.gov/collections/legal-records/divorce-records

Colorado State Archives - Records Request Form

This form is designed to gather all the information we need to fulfill your request, as well as answer questions you may have about the request process. 7/1/2022 - Please read each page thoroughly as some pages have changed!

I am...
☐ requesting to make an appointment to view records in the research room
☐ requesting records be sent to me, as I don't have to visit the research room

Next

Next submit payments through Google Forms.

This form was created using Google Forms.

State of Colorado
Division of the Records
DIVORCE RECORD REPORT

County: El Paso

Plaintiff's Name: Billy, William

Defendant's Name: Billy, George Clinton

Date of Divorce: 11-2-11

Place of Divorce: El Paso

State of Divorce: El Paso

Date of Divorce: 11-2-11

County: El Paso

Plaintiff's Name: Billy, William

Defendant's Name: Billy, George Clinton

Date of Divorce: 11-2-11

Place of Divorce: El Paso

State of Divorce: El Paso

Record Request Form

Women and the Law

- Women have often been restricted by laws
- Some of the laws though do generate records on your women
- Some women, such as Abigail Adams, understood their situation and looked to change it
- Always seek records that involved the law in one way or another as there may be answer hiding there









