

Jefferson County Circuit Court
Case Files
April 1864

Box No. 15 Folder No. 24

Blake, Martha F., by next friend
Lanham, Thomas
vs

Blake, John Wesley

DIVORCE

Bigamy in Illinois; desertion;
married 9 April 1854; 4 unnamed
children

Martha F. Blake By Thomas Lanham, her Next Friend, - Plaintiff Against John Westley Blake, - Defendant	In the Cir- cuit Court of Jefferson County Missouri
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The Plaintiff, by her Next Friend,
 Thomas Lanham, states that on the 9th
 day of April 1854, in the County of
 Jefferson in the State of Missouri she was lawfully mar-
 ried to the Defendant; That Plaintiff
 continued to live with Defendant as his
 wife from the time of said marriage
 until some time in the Spring of the
 year 1863, during which, she faithfully
 demeaned herself and discharged all the
 duties as wife of Defendant, - That about
 the time last stated, the Defendant with-
 out any just cause or provocation went off
 and abandoned Plaintiff, leaving her
 without scarcely any means of support
 and that he has failed to provide
 for her ever since, and that Plaintiff
 has since been informed, and believes,
 and therefore charges, that the Defendant
 has since married another woman in the
 under the assumed name of Westley Blake
 State of Illinois, and that he is therefore
 living in a State of adultery.

The Plaintiff therefore charges that
 the Defendant has committed adultery
 since his marriage with Plaintiff.
 And Plaintiff further charges that the
 Defendant, by disregarding his obligations

as the husband of Plaintiff, and contracting marriage with another person as aforesaid, has treated Plaintiff with such indignities, as to render her condition intolerable,

Plaintiff states that there was born of her marriage aforesaid four children, now of tender years, two girls and two Boys,

Plaintiff further states that she has resided within the State of Missouri one whole year next before the filing of this Petition. She further states that the Defendant is the owner of about 220 acres of Land in this County, of the value of about five hundred dollars; and that Plaintiff is wholly without the means of support, and for the prosecution of this suit,

Plaintiff therefore prays to be divorced from the bonds of matrimony contracted with Defendant as aforesaid, that she may have the Custody and Care of her ^{and that she may be restored to her maiden name, Martha J. Lantham} children aforesaid - and that the Court will adjudge to her such support and maintenance out of the property of the Defendant as the circumstances of the case may require, and to make such other and further ^{and judgments} orders, in the premises as may be just and proper.

Abner Green
Attorney for Plaintiff.

This Affiant, the Plaintiff, makes oath and says the facts stated in the above Petition are true, according to the best knowledge and belief of the Plaintiff, and that the

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In Circuit Court
of Jefferson County

Martha J. Blake
vs
Herbert Moore

vs,
John W. Blake

Petition for Divorce.

Filed April 5th 1864

Chas J. Hooley

W. J. Price by Atty

complaint is not made out of court only
collection from a restaurant between the 18th
tiff and the defendant, for the more than
years of being separated from each other
that in sincerity and truth for the cause
mentioned in the petition. And I am
tiff further states that the said Peter
Blake, the defendant is a man
the state of Michigan
Martha J. Blake
Herbert Moore
John W. Blake
100 50
50 10
50 20

To E. F. Mooney, Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Jefferson County Missouri.

Martha F. Blake states that she
desires to institute suit against her hus-
band, John Wirtley Blake, for a divorce,
and requests that you will appoint
Thomas Lanham to act as her Next
Friend in said suit.

April 3rd 1864. Martha F. Blake

I, Elias F. Mooney, Clerk of the Circuit
Court of Jefferson County Missouri, do
hereby appoint Thomas Lanham
to act as Next Friend for Martha F.
Blake in the suit above stated.

In testimony whereof I here to set
my hand and affix the seal of
said Court April 3rd 1864
Elias Mooney Clerk

I, Thomas Lanham do hereby
consent to act as Next Friend for Martha
F. Blake in the above contemplated suit
against her husband for a divorce.

Thos^{us} Lanham
made

Abantha of Blake

as

John Wesley Blake

Petition for Appointment
of New Justice

Made April 5th 1864

John A. Honeys
Clerk