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Court case regarding divorce, Jane Dodge v. Israel G. Dodge

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To the Honorable the Circuit Court in and for the
County of Lawrence in the Territory of Missouri

The petition of Jane Dodge of the County
aforesaid by William Moore her next friends, of the
County and Territory aforesaid

Respectfully sheweth

That in the fond hope, and well founded
expectations of enjoying happiness and protection
your petitioner was on the twenty Eighth day of
March in the year One thousand eight hundred
and fourteen lawfully married to one Isaac
Dodge at the County of St. Genevieve; that
for some time your petitioner enjoyed that protection
from her said husband until he left her as herein
after stated; that during the time she lived with
him her conduct was that of a virtuous, kind
and affectionate wife towards him: that the said
Isaac inconsiderable to her exposed situation, and
disregardless of his sacred vows to his said wife—
and the duty which he owed to her, to God, and to
the Laws of his Country on the fourth day of March

in the year One thousand eight hundred and fifteen
without any reasonable or just cause whatever, needfully and
maliciously deserted, and absented him self from your
Petitioner, and has ever since that time so continued
to desert her that sent himself from her - that is to say
for and during the space of two years and upwards; thus
having your said Petitioner to be exposed to all the
wants of life, without that support her necessities
require, and without that protection so essentially
necessary to her in her deplorable situation -

Therefore for the causes above mentioned -
(and inasmuch as your Petitioner has resided for more than
one year in the Territory) she respectfully prays that
a Divorce may be to her granted from her said husband
Israel S. Dodge by your honorable Court - not only from
bed and board, but from the bonds of matrimony themselves
- and that your writ of Summons may issue according
to Law &c - and the &c - Yours Truly

by her next friend
William Moore

Territory of Missouri of
County of Lawrence I personally appeared before
me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for the County
aforesaid the foregoing Libellant Doree Dodge who being
truly sworn says that the facts stated in the said
Petition are true to the best of her knowledge and belief
- and that the said complaint is not made out of covin
or by collusion, fear or constraint between her said
husband - for the mere purpose of being freed and separated
from each other, but in sincerity and truth for the causes
mentioned in said petition

Given to and Subscribed before
me this twenty fifth day of July 1817
William Moore J.P.

Territory of Missouri of The United States of
In the Southern Circuit America to the Sheriff of Lawrence County
Treaty

You are hereby Commanded that you summon the
within named Israel S. Dodge if he may be found in your jurisdiction so that
he personally be and appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court in &
for the County of Lawrence aforesaid, at the Town of David's Summit, at a
Court to be there held in & for said County on the first Monday
in November next - then & there to answer the Libel or complaint of the above
named Doree Dodge - by her next friend William Moore - & that you then John
Certify how & when you shall see cause - this writ - and then you then there
this writ -
In testimony whereof I

I Richard Thomas Judge in for said
Southern Circuit have hereunto set my hand & seal
this 10th day of August A.D. 1817 and of
our independence the 42nd
R. S. Thomas

No. 30 To Elwell 1817

John D. [unclear]

Wm. [unclear]

Wm. [unclear]

~~Joseph [unclear]~~

The said [unclear] is not an inhabitant of this County

John [unclear]

July 3rd 1817

Richd. Thomas J. Ck