

State of Michigan

The Circuit Court for  
the County of Montcalm, In Chancery

Lonetta Bliss  
Complainant

vs.

John Wesley Bliss  
Defendant

Depositions of witnesses  
produced, sworn and examined for and behalf  
and on the part of the complainant in the  
above entitled cause, by and before me,  
Frank A. Miller, a Circuit Court Commissioner  
of this Court and in and for said  
County, at my office, in the City of Stanton,  
in said County, upon the seventh (7th)  
day of March in the year A.D. 1883.

The Complainant appeared by  
Attorney, A. A. Ellis Esq.

The Defendant did not appear.

Thomas Green, a witness produced  
sworn and examined on the part of  
the complainant, his oath before me,  
doth depose and say, I live in  
Bloomer Township, in the County

The Complainant - now resides with me  
and had for three years or since she  
left the defendant. The Complainant was  
married to the defendant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of  
the month of February 1852, at New Haven  
township in Gratiot County, & was  
present at the marriage.  
Witness shown certificate  
At that time the Complainant was  
fourteen years of age. After their  
marriage she lived with the defendant  
until about October 1850.  
Since the time they separated  
she has made it her home with  
me. I have known the defendant for  
a long time and personally acquainted  
with him for about six months  
before their marriage. The defendant  
is and has been a robust, strong  
healthy man. Sometimes after their  
marriage they lived with me.  
I consider him a bad man, & heard  
him threaten to whip her and  
& interfere. He used bad language,  
and often threatened to kick her.  
She couldn't do anything to  
please him & have heard him call  
her names. I have heard him call  
her a "damn bitch" and other vile  
names. He was always swearing at  
her. He was so bad that I  
wouldn't stay around the house,

They had one child born on or  
about June 22<sup>d</sup> 1880 and died  
August 4<sup>th</sup> 1881. The defendant  
abused the child. She never  
supported the child, and have  
seen him shake the child when  
she was only six months old,  
She would always be swearing  
at the child and wishing  
her "damn mouth" would grow  
up. The defendant never helped  
the complainant. In a very short  
time before she left the complainant,  
she and her child were put  
upon the town and received  
aid from the town as town  
paupers and she came to my  
house, as usual, and after she  
came to my house the child lived  
nearly a year. The defendant was  
able to furnish clothes and support  
for the child but furnished  
nothing, and she paid for all  
the child's funeral expenses.  
Since October 1880 the def<sup>t</sup>  
has been as before a strong healthy  
man but has not furnished  
anything whatever towards the  
support of the complainant or  
the child, and she has got  
her support by working all by  
the week when she was not

at my house, from what I know  
of the defendant, his habits, morals,  
and lack of ambition and want  
of respect for others I don't  
think any woman could live with  
him. I have not seen him but  
once since the child died,  
I last saw him about three  
months after the child died,  
I have been informed that he  
is somewhere in the county.  
I know that they have not lived  
together since Dec. 1882.

Thomas M. Green

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 24 day of  
March A.D. 1883

Frank A. Miles  
Notary Public - Commissioner

Amanda R. Green a witness  
produced sworn and examined on the  
part of the complainant on her oath before  
me, that she deposes and says:

I am the wife of the last witness and the mother of the defendant and was present at the marriage at the time and place mentioned by the last witness. I am a sworn witness.

This is their marriage certificate, which is hereto annexed and marked "Exhibit" "A."

From the time of their marriage I have been acquainted with their married life. At first of the time they lived in the family with me. When they were first married he treated her well and did so far as far as you. After that he began to curse and swear at her. And during any of the time he did not support her. He never bought any clothing for her, excepting a few calico dresses. He never bought a shawl or any wrap for her. I have heard him call her bad names at various times. I have heard him call her names. She has admitted to me that he had choked and abused her. This was after she left him. They had one child, Tom, February 2, 1880, and died August 4, 1884. I have seen him whip and slap the child when she was only 5 or 6 months old. She would shake it

and why the child cruelly  
she did not furnish food or  
clothing for the child either  
before or after they stopped living  
together. He was well able  
to support them I have seen  
him drunk. Before and at the  
time she came to my house she  
and the baby were a down  
charge. When she came home  
she had only one calico dress  
and shortly after she came home  
she went out to work I gave her  
clothes to go out to work.  
She had no underclothes, and  
the baby had none. They were in  
deplorable condition. After she  
came to our house he had never  
furnished anything whatever for her  
or the baby not even its burial  
clothes. They have never lived together  
since Oct 1880. I have heard him  
call her a "damn bitch" and a  
"damn whore" I have seen him  
threaten to strike her and her  
father interfere and prevent him  
from carrying out his threats.  
The complainant is a girl of  
good character and has always  
been perfectly straight and never  
had any bad stories about  
her. The defendant is a lawless

Older than the complainant.  
I know of the  
dependence, his habits, morals, lack of  
ambition, want of respect for others,  
& don't think it possible for  
any decent woman to live with  
him, & would be glad

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 7th day  
of March A.D. 1882.

Frank W. Miller  
Notary Public

Emma Green a witness produced, sworn,  
and examined on the part of the  
complainant on her oath before  
me, each depose and say,

I am a sister of the complainant,  
& am unmarried and live with  
my father. I was present at  
the time of my sister's marriage.  
During the time they lived together  
as husband and wife, a portion of the  
time they lived with father,  
& have seen them during the last  
year they lived together. He treated her

mean. He called her names and  
threatened to whip her. He called  
her a "bitch" and all other  
vile names a man called him  
his tongue to. I know what my  
sister claimed she left him for,  
she claimed to have left him  
on account of his refusing to  
support her and his abuse.  
Sometime after she came home, my  
mother talked the matter over  
with the defendant, and in my  
presence. At that time he  
admitted he had choked her and  
threatened to throw his foot  
through her. I knew she was a  
Gavin Chace at that time. My  
sister came home about the  
6th of October, 1880, she was  
distressed. She had at that time  
a child, also distressed clothing.  
Since that time she had taken  
care of herself and worked out for living,  
making her home with father. She  
does not furnish her with  
child, with anything since she  
came home. As far as I know he is well  
able to work and take care of wife  
and baby.

Emma Gillin

deposited and sworn to before me

this 24 day of March 1880

Frank A. Miller

Justice of the Peace



Rosetta Green a witness produced  
1 known and examined on the part  
2 of the complainant, on her oath  
3 before me, deposes and says  
4  
5 I am a sister of the late witness and  
6 of the complainant, and was present at  
7 the marriage during the time they lived  
8 together and shortly before they separated  
9 at was at their home and he became  
10 angry at the complainant and called  
11 her a "damn bitch" and kicked her,  
12 on other times I have heard  
13 him call her bad names and  
14 curse and swear at her but this  
15 is the only time I saw him  
16 kick her  
17  
18 Rosetta Green

18 Subscribed and sworn to  
19 before me this <sup>major</sup> 8th day of 3

20 Frank A. Miller  
21 Circuit Court Commissioner  
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State of Michigan

The Circuit Court

for the County of Montcalm In Chancery

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Bonetta Bliss

Complainant

vs.  
John Wesley Bliss

Defendant

Do the bicentennial  
law for the County of Montcalm  
In Chancery

In pursuance and by  
virtue of an Order of this Court  
heretofore made & entered in this  
cause, by which it is referred to one of  
the Circuit Court Commissioners  
of this County, to take proof of all  
the material facts charged in the  
Bill of Complaint and to report such  
proof to the Court with his  
Opinion thereon, therefore, the  
undersigned Circuit Court  
Commissioner, do hereby certify  
and report that I have taken  
proof in this cause on the  
part of the complainant and that  
such proof are hereto annexed and  
make a part of this my report, and  
I do further certify and report that

in my opinion all the material facts  
1 charged in said Bill are true and  
2 have been sufficiently proved before  
3 me, and that the defendant has  
4 been guilty of the offence, and has  
5 as charged in the said Bill of complaint.

6  
7 Dated March 7th 1880

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9 All of which is respectfully submitted.

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11 Frank A Miller  
12 Circuit Court Commissioner.

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Monte Carlo Circuit  
Court in Chicago

Loetta Wier  
vs.  
John W. Wier

Commissioner Report

Filed March 7th 1880  
M. J. Fuller  
Clerk of Circuit

W. A. Miller  
Paid for Commissioner

# Certificate of Marriage.

"Happy they! the happiest of their kind!  
Whom gentle stars unite, and in one fate  
Their hearts, their fortune, and their being  
blend."

"How blest the sacred tie that binds  
In union sweet accordant minds!  
How swift the heavenly course they run  
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes are one."

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

Gratiot } COUNTY, } 88.

I Certify, That on the 28.

day of February A. D. 1877, at New Haven in the  
county aforesaid, I, hereby certify that I  
joined in **Marriage**, John Wesley Oriss,  
(color white) of New Haven in the State of Michigan  
aged 24 years, born in Columbus Ohio, by occupation  
a Farmer and Dorothy Louisa Green  
(color white) of New Haven  
in the State of Michigan aged 15 years, born in  
North Plains Tonia Co Mich; that the parties did then and there  
solemnly declare that they took each other as **HUSBAND AND WIFE**,  
and that there were present as witnesses David Alexander Oriss  
of New Haven and Martha Brown  
of New Haven

Dated at New Haven this 28 day of February  
A. D. one thousand eight hundred and 77

John D. Becker, J. P.

Calvin A. Fisher