

To the Legislature of Virginia

Your Petitioner, Mary S. M. Newell of the Town of Christiansburg County of Montgomery and State of Virginia would most respectfully state to your Honorable body that in the month of February 1858. she was married to a man who passed himself under the name of Edwin S. Newell, that they lived together as man and wife until about the 24th day of June following; when, under pretext of attending a Masonic celebration in the town of Wytheville he left this place, and not returning at the time set by him so to do. some of the citizens telegraphed to Wytheville and learned that he had left there immediately in the direction of North Carolina. In a few days further information was received in answer to letters addressed to Stage Agents on the line, that he had changed his name to J. A. Roberts and was in North Carolina, but being suspected as the man mentioned in one of our newspapers as Newell, and learning the fact he at once left for parts unknown, and has not been heard of since.

Your Petitioner would also state that she has subsequently learned that the said Newell had been married at least twice previous to his marriage with her once to a lady in ~~South~~^{Manchester} in this state under the name of Cummings and again in the state of Ohio under another name. and that both of these his said wives are still living, and were in like manner deserted by him and that he had not been divorced from them at the time of his marriage with her.

This is therefore praying your Honorable body that you will grant unto your petitioner a divorce from the said Edwin S. Newell, and that her marriage with him be annulled, that she may be restored to her rights as a feme sole and that she be permitted, together with her infant daughter, the fruit of said marriage to bear her own maiden name of Barnett.

And as in duty bound she will ever pray

Mary S. M. Barnett.

The petition of Mary
J. W. Barnet, to be
divorced from her
husband.

Montague of Montgomery

Jan 5
1841.

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