

Women lawyers "legitimized" by alluding to their male-lawyer connections

Even in The Woman's Journal, women lawyers are typically described in their relationships to male lawyers--husband, father, or mentor. Unspoken but implicit is the veneer of added respectability that a man's imprimatur brings to a woman's practice of the law. Examples (from the "Women Lawyers--General" folder):

\* Woman lawyer applying for a license to practice law in the Circuit Court of Pittsylvania, Virginia:

"The lady . . . has for years been assisting her husband in the preparation of some of his most complicated legal cases."

WJ, 1/4/1890, at 1, col. 1.

\* "Mrs. Annie Smith, of Danville, Va., the lady lawyer who is trying to obtain admission to the bar in that State, . . . is the wife of a lawyer, and is herself well versed in legal lore."

WJ, 2/8/1890, at 41, col. 2.

\* "Nebraska's first lady lawyer was Mrs. Ada M. Bittenbender, of Lincoln. She read law in the office of her husband . . . She then entered into partnership with her husband."

WJ, 7/12/1890, at 218, col. 1.

\* "Mrs. Winona S. Sawyer, wife of the Hon. A.J. Sawyer . . . . When she married, in 1875, she came with her husband to reside in Lincoln. She began the study of law under his direction. . . . While she is not actively engaged in practice, she assists her husband in the preparation of his cases, and is regarded by the members of the bar as a well-read lawyer, with a well-balanced, judicial mind."

WJ, 7/12/1890, at 218, col. 1.

\* "Mrs. Mary B. Bryan . . . was married to W.J. Bryan, an attorney . . . and in the fall of 1886 began the study of the law with her husband as instructor, taking the regular course of the Chicago Union Law School. . . Mrs. Bryan has never practised at the bar, and has no intention of doing so. Her only object in studying was to prepare herself more fully to enter into the work and plans of her husband."

WJ, 7/12/1890, at 218, col. 1.

\* "Mrs. Mary W. Lucas, wife of Judge J.N. Lucas, of McCook, Neb., was admitted to practice as an attorney-at-law . . . Her father, Judge Buckland, was a first cousin of the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas . . . She read law under the direction of her husband, and is engaged in active practice in partnership with him. She is fascinated with the work, and goes regularly to the office each day to assist in the preparation and trial of cases."

WJ, 7/12/1890, at 218, col. 2.

\* "Among the legal firms in Lansing, Mich., is one whose title is 'Judge Lucas & Wife, Attorneys,'"

WJ, 7/26/1890, at 237, col. 2.

\* "Mrs. Anna C. Fall was admitted to the Boston bar Jan. 20. . . . Mrs. Fall is the wife of a lawyer, Geo. H. Fall. . . . After her marriage, Mrs. Fall began to attend court with her husband, in order to assist him by taking notes during his cases. She watched the proceedings closely, and often gave him useful hints in the cross-examination of witnesses, etc. Up to this time Mrs. Fall had never thought of studying law, but she found the work so interesting and developed such an aptitude for it that Mr. Fall urged her to read for the bar. She will practice with her husband . . . They will not be in partnership at first, as the law does not permit of contracts between husband and wife . . ."

WJ, 1/24/1891, at 29, col. 3.

\* "Miss Jessie Wright . . . this bright young girl married a classmate, in partnership with whom she is now practising law in a leading city in Kansas. . . . Miss Daniels . . . left to be married. . . . Mis Sturgis . . . left because she was needed at home. . . . Neither of these ladies intended to make a regular study of the law, but only took it up in connection with other studies in the College of Liberal Arts. . . . Miss Southworth . . . gave up her intention of practising, and the reason may perhaps be seen in the fact that a few weeks ago I saw an item in the paper announcing her marriage to an able young lawyer, who, if I do not mistake, was a classmate of hers in the school [Boston University]."

WJ, 3/21/1891, at 90, col. 3-4 (letter from Leila Robinson Sawtelle).

\* "Miss Sarah Herring, the eldest daughter of Attorney-General Herring, of Arizona, has been admitted to practice in the court of that territory. . . . Miss Herring is the first lady lawyer in Arizona, and is described as one of the brightest girls in the Territory. Her father, Col. Herring, championed woman suffrage in the Constitutional Convention last year."

WJ, 12/3/1892, at 387, col. 5.