

## DIVORCE RECORDS FOR OAKLAND COUNTY 1839 - 1865

In the winter of 1852, the complainant came to the deponent's house in her night clothes. Snow was on the ground and she said the defendant turned her out about two months before the birth of a child. The defendant told the deponent he had fastened his wife out. The complainant's arm was bruised as though she had received a severe blow and said the defendant had struck her. The deponent frequently heard the defendant say he had abused his wife and misused her. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of Mar, the defendant left the house and left the complainant without any provisions during her sickness two days before the child was born and the defendant did not come near the petitioner for a week and was less than 15 rods from his home. He was able to provide for his wife and make her comfortable but he did not. They have not lived together since Sep 1854. About that time he abandoned her and she has since had to rely on herself and assistance of friends to care for her and the child. When the defendant left he had sufficient funds to give her suitable maintenance for herself and the child but did not. He had \$1200.  
Signed Sarah Hossler (her mark). 28 Feb 1856.

Deposition: Benjamin A. Rice states he is of mature age and resides in Pontiac. He was in partnership with the defendant since his marriage and from that time until the defendant left for California. The defendant was in the habit of using intoxicating liquor to excess and was frequently drunk. The deponent termed the defendant an habitual drunkard. Benjamin A. Rice. 28 Feb 1856.

Divorce granted to Sarah C. Goodrich on 1 Mar 1856. CASE # 544.

**GORDON, PETER vs ELIZABETH GORDON.** Petition filed 26 Jun 1850. Peter's petition states that he now and has for many years past been a citizen and resident of Oakland County. About ten years ago his wife, Elizabeth Gordon, abandoned the house and residence of Peter and has ever since constantly refused to return to the habitation and residence of Peter. Since her departure, Elizabeth has refused to live with him. For more than two years last past, Elizabeth has wholly deserted Peter.

Deposition: Charles Lemon is of mature age and resides in Pontiac, Oakland County. He knows both parties. They were married some sixteen years ago at the defendant's house in Bloomfield. The deponent was present and witnessed the marriage. [Oakland County Marriages A:177 Peter Gordon to Elizabeth Gillespie, 8 Jun 1834]. After the marriage they lived together for several years as husband and wife in West Bloomfield, Oakland County, where the complainant now lives. The defendant left his house and refused to go back to live with him and has ever since refused to go back. For more than nine years last past she has wholly deserted her husband. The petitioner is a furrier and has always had sufficient means to afford her a comfortable and suitable house and maintenance. The defendant resides in Bloomfield, Oakland County. They have no children. Charles Lemon. 9 Sep 1850.

Divorce granted 10 Sep 1850 to Peter Gordon. CASE #217.

**GRAHAM, JAMES vs HANNAH GRAHAM.** Petition filed 7 Feb 1862. It contains the same information as his deposition which was given on 15 Mar 1862. James Graham resides in Orion and came to Oakland County in 1848. On 7 Aug 1851, he married Hannah Pease at Addison Township, Oakland County by Jacob Bowers, J.P. [Oakland County Marriage Records show James Graham to Hannah Peas, 7 Aug 1851 D:233]. They have always lived in Orion until Dec 1856 when Hannah deserted James and they lived separately since. They had two children, a daughter now nearly age 10 and a son a little over age 7. The complainant gave the defendant no reason to desert. She left because he forgot to bring candles home. He told her to use the temporary lamp but she refused. So he lighted it and she blew it out several times and she said she would leave and did and would never live with him again.