

PETITION FOR DIVORCE

Willoughby Tillis

vs

Mary Tillis

On motion of the complainants, and it having been made to appear by affidavit that the defendant, Mary Tillis, formerly Mary Hinson, is out of this Territory, and in the United States, IT IS ORDERED, That the said Mary Tillis shall appear and answer the said Complainants bill of complaint, on or before the third day of August next, otherwise a hearing will be had whether the facts charged in said bill, and a decree passed in the same manner as if the defendant had appeared and was present in Court.

And it is further ordered, That this order be published once a week, until the said third day of August next, in the Florida Herald.

Dated at St. Augustine, this 2nd day of May, 1838.

ROBT RAYMOND REID

Judge Supr. Court, Dist. E. F.

The court received the following reply from Mary Tillis:

State of Georgia
Telfair County
November 8, 1839

To the Honourable Judge Reed
of the District of East Florida

Sir:

Whereas my husband Willaby Tillis has sued for a divorce and has asserted a many false assertions. Sir I deny and do declare them to be false. The intreatment that I received from his hand and on account of Mrs. Smily that I was forbidden to leave him. He has also repeatedly offered me certain sums to leave him, but I never would consent to it after finding that he could not prevail on me to do so.

He at last sent me away and he now has accused me of leaving him. I hope, therefore, that the laws of our land would abhor such an act. I am willing to come and live with him if I knew that he would foresake this his Mrs. Smily and have been willing all the time to do so. He further sent me away without the first cent, where with to support me and two little children and he is now living with the said Mrs. "S" as I have been very creditably informed and which can very easily be proven in an open _____.

Sir, I hope that you will see me right and as I believe you to be a gentleman who would see all disrespected castoff foresaken wives and children for such a detested harlot.