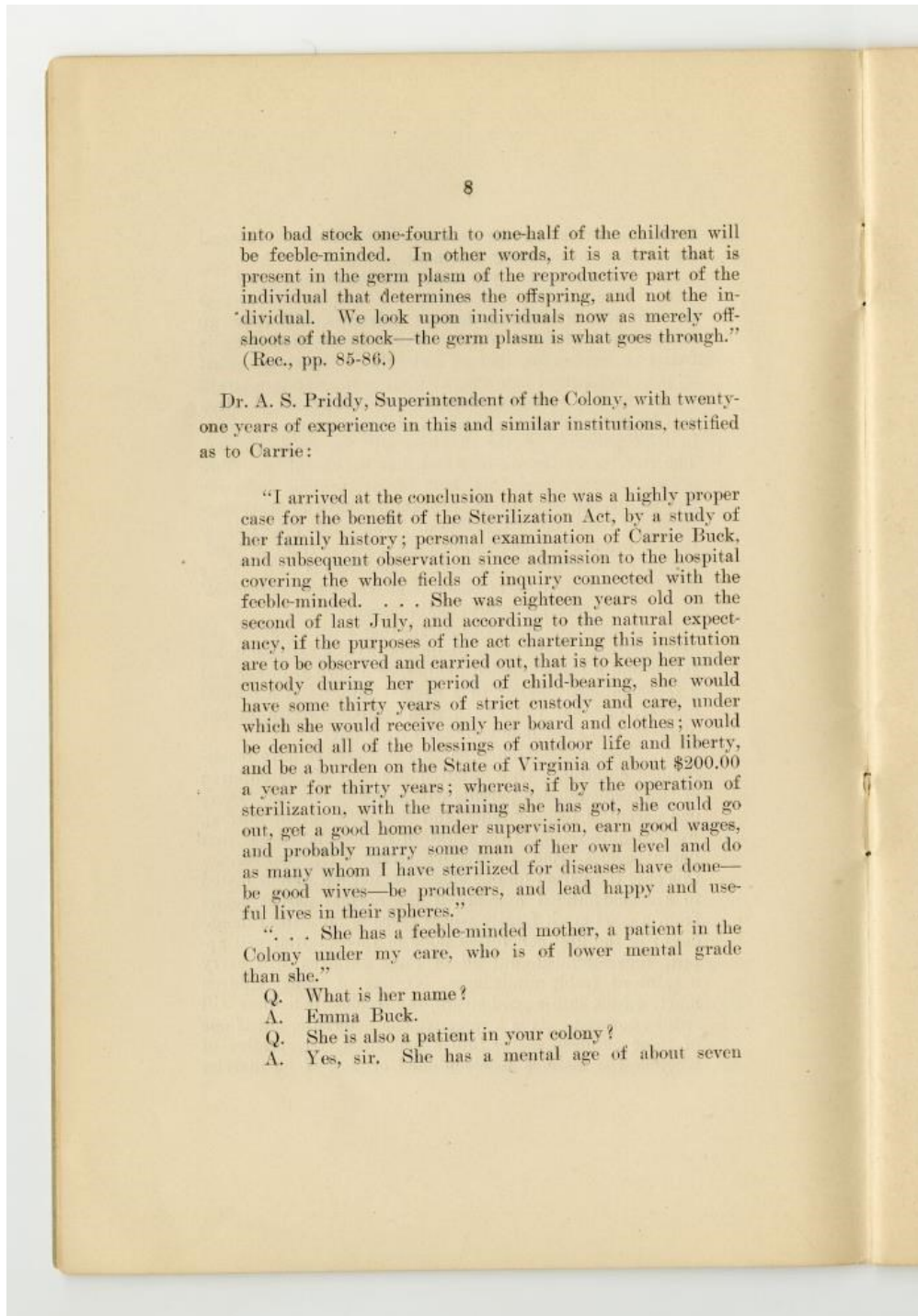




## Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925



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into bad stock one-fourth to one-half of the children will be feeble-minded. In other words, it is a trait that is present in the germ plasm of the reproductive part of the individual that determines the offspring, and not the individual. We look upon individuals now as merely offshoots of the stock—the germ plasm is what goes through.” (Rec., pp. 85-86.)

Dr. A. S. Priddy, Superintendent of the Colony, with twenty-one years of experience in this and similar institutions, testified as to Carrie:

“I arrived at the conclusion that she was a highly proper case for the benefit of the Sterilization Act, by a study of her family history; personal examination of Carrie Buck, and subsequent observation since admission to the hospital covering the whole fields of inquiry connected with the feeble-minded. . . . She was eighteen years old on the second of last July, and according to the natural expectancy, if the purposes of the act chartering this institution are to be observed and carried out, that is to keep her under custody during her period of child-bearing, she would have some thirty years of strict custody and care, under which she would receive only her board and clothes; would be denied all of the blessings of outdoor life and liberty, and be a burden on the State of Virginia of about \$200.00 a year for thirty years; whereas, if by the operation of sterilization, with the training she has got, she could go out, get a good home under supervision, earn good wages, and probably marry some man of her own level and do as many whom I have sterilized for diseases have done—be good wives—be producers, and lead happy and useful lives in their spheres.”

“. . . She has a feeble-minded mother, a patient in the Colony under my care, who is of lower mental grade than she.”

Q. What is her name?

A. Emma Buck.

Q. She is also a patient in your colony?

A. Yes, sir. She has a mental age of about seven

**Citation: Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September Term 1925, Records of Western State Hospital, 1825-2000, Box 88, Folder 27, State Government Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond.**