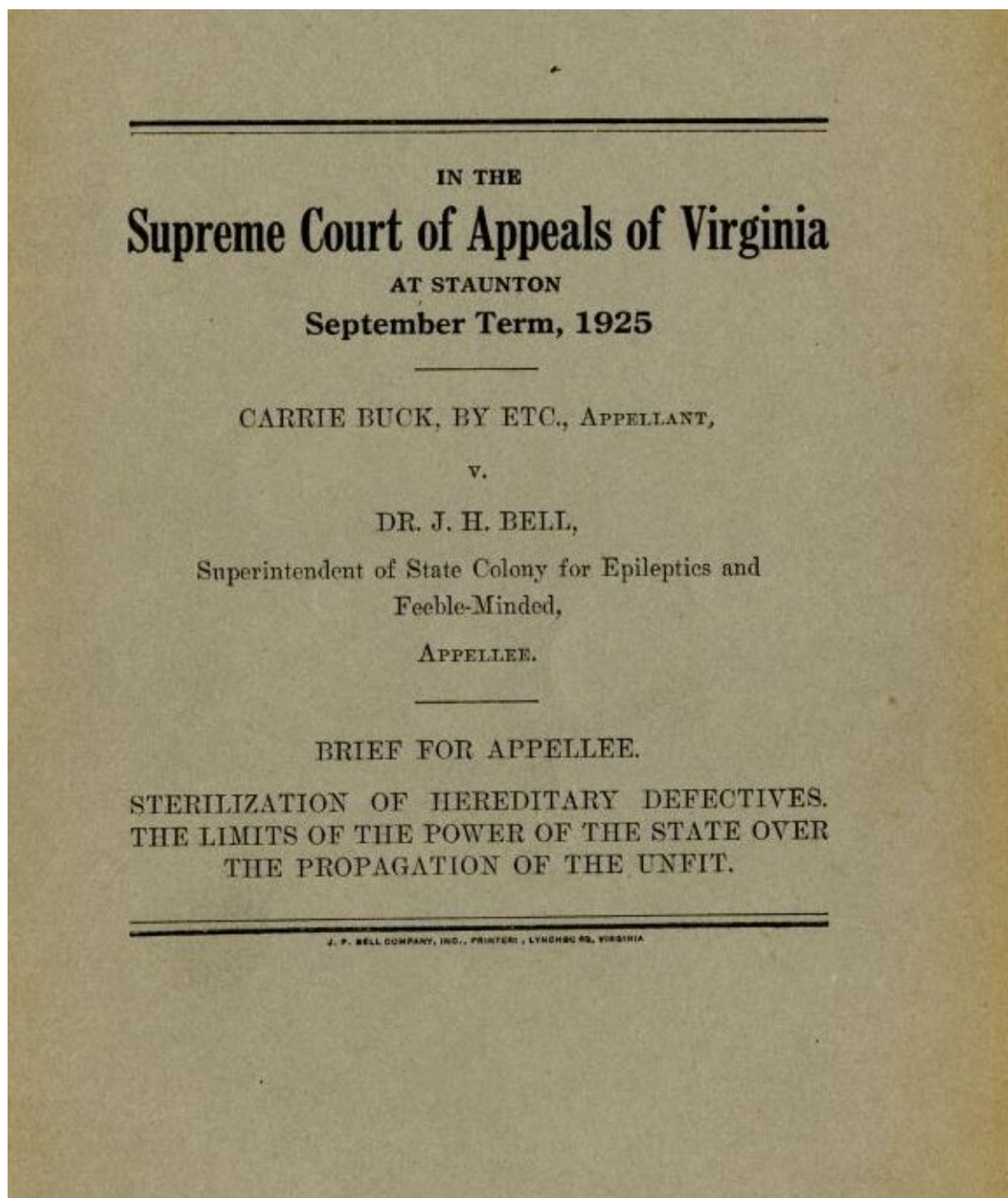


Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925 (page 1 of 4)



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

Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925 (page 2 of 4)

8

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 plasma 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 plasma 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

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Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925 (page 3 of 4)

9

years and eleven months, according to tests put up at that institution, and Carrie has by history and mental examination and observation proved to be feeble-minded herself. There are two direct generations of feeble-minded, and besides, while I don't know anything about their kinship, under my care and observation I have got about eight Bucks and Harlowes, all coming from the Albemarle stock. I won't vouch for their relationship—I don't suppose they know. I have one from Rockbridge County just committed; four from Charlottesville or Albemarle; one from Richmond; one at the Reformatory, and the other in Goochland County.

Q. They all trace back to—

A. All trace back to the Albemarle Harlowes and Bucks.

Q. I will ask you again, what leads you to believe that Carrie Buck, if she had children, would be the parent of defective offspring?

A. In the generally accepted theory of the laws of heredity.

Q. What is her age, mentally?

A. Mentally it is nine years—a middle-grade moron, and the brother of low grade.

Q. Might she be sexually sterilized without detriment to her general health?

A. Absolutely she could.

Q. Would you think her welfare would be promoted by such sterilization?

A. I certainly do.

Q. Why? And How?

A. Well, every human being craves liberty; she would get that, under supervision. She would not have a feeling of dependence; she would be earning her own livelihood, and would get some pleasure out of life, which would be denied her in having to spend her life in custodial care in an institution.

Q. Would you think the public welfare would be promoted by her sterilization?

A. Unquestionably. You mean society in its full scope?

Q. Yes, sir.

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Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925 (page 4 of 4)

10

A. Well, in the first place, she would cease to be a charge on society if sterilized; it would remove one potential source of the incalculable number of descendants who would be feeble-minded. She would contribute to the raising of the general mental average and standard.

Q. Well, taking into consideration the years of experience you have had in dealing with the socially inadequate, and more particularly with the feeble-minded, what, in your judgment, would be the general effect, both upon patients and upon society at large, by the operation of this law?

A. It would be a blessing.

Q. To whom?

A. To both society and to the individuals on whom the operation is performed.

Q. Of course these people, being of limited intelligence, lack full judgment of what is best for them, but generally, so far as patients are concerned, do they object to this operation or not?

A. They clamor for it.

Q. Why?

A. Because they know that it means the enjoyment of life and the peaceful pursuance of happiness, as they view it, on the outside of institution walls. Also they have the opportunity of marrying men of their mental levels and making good wives in many cases.

Q. Have you had personal observation of that with those you have personally sterilized?

A. From 1916 to about the winter of 1917, for tubal diseases, and a few subsequent to that, we sterilized eighty-odd cases. About sixty of them—we got good homes for about sixty of them. Some returned to their families, and after a period of from six to eight years they have been out of the institution and so far as I know, they have never given the officers of the law any trouble. They have earned their livings, and not one has ever been returned to the institution. Some eight or ten of the cases are known to Mr. White. Nine or ten have married and made good wives." (Rec., pp. 95-96-97.)

Q. "Doctor, about how many patients, taking both

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