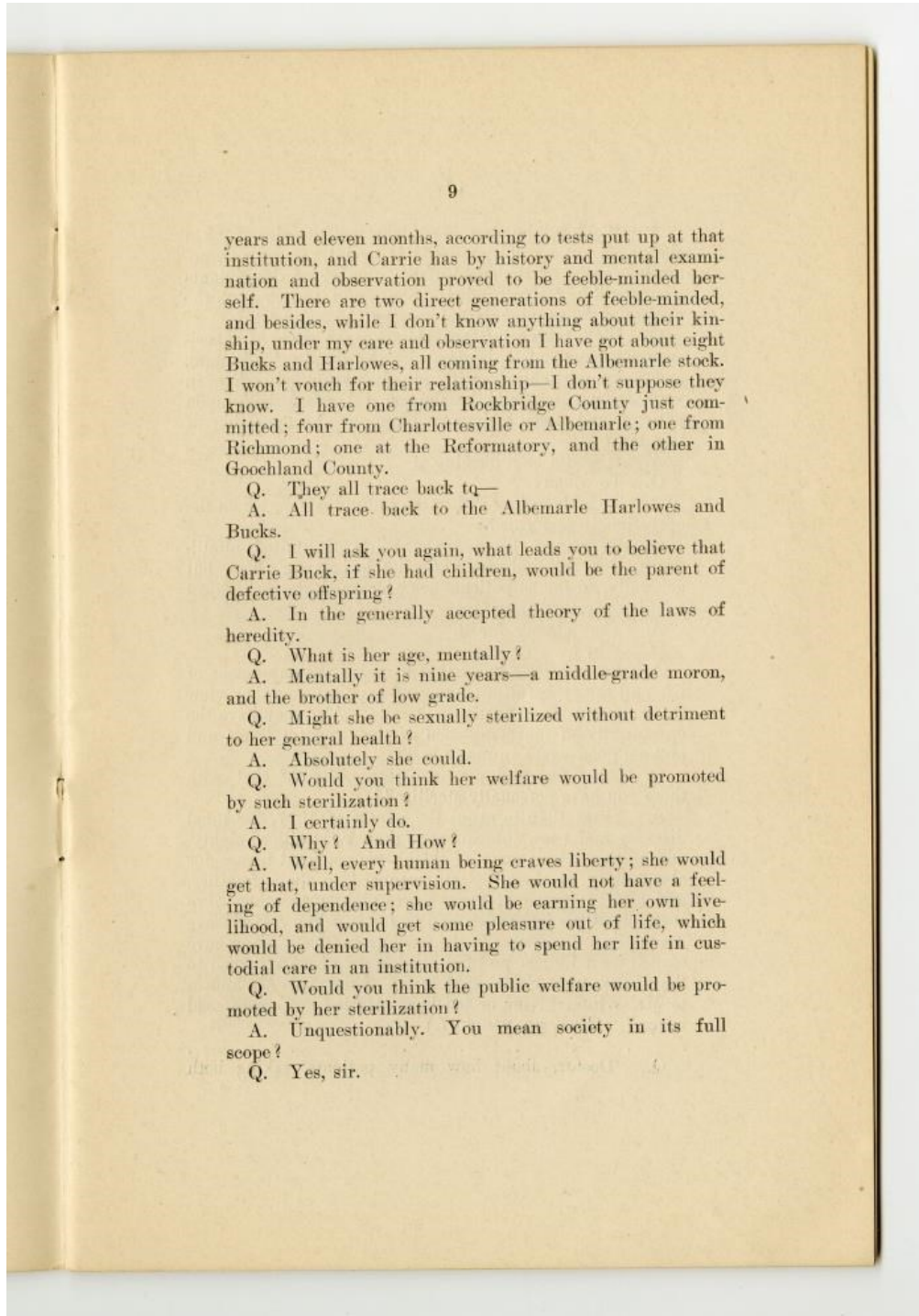




## **Buck v. Bell, Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Brief for Appellee, September 1925**



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.

**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.***