

## Transcription by Kathleen Spies

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Delaware County Court of Common Pleas,  
Case # M0161  
Filed 22 January 1856  
Jonas Main Plaintiff vs William Main Defendant  
for debauching of Plaintiff's daughter

Petition:

The said Plaintiff Jonas Main says that the Said Defendant on the 1st day of January 1855 and on (?) other days and times after that day and before the Commencement of this suit debauched and carnally knew Isabella Main being the Daughter of the Plaintiff and who then and during all the time aforesaid was and yet is the servant of the Plaintiff whereby the said Isabella Main became pregnant and sick with Child, and (?) (?) for a long time to wit: nine months. That in (?) until the 6th day of January 1856 when she was delivered of the Child ... (?) ... she was so frequently ... (?) ... the said Isabella Main was unable to do or perform the usual and (?) affairs and (?) of the Plaintiff, being her Father and Master aforesaid, for a long time to wit: from the day and year first mentioned, hitherto, And the said Plaintiff during that time hath lost and been deprived of the services of the said Isabella Main, and by reason of the (?), the said Plaintiff (?) incurred great expense to wit: the amount of \$25 in and about the nursing and taking care of the said Isabella Main in the delivery of the said Child upon the occasion aforesaid, and incidental (?) to the damage of the Plaintiff Two Thousand Dollars -- And the said Plaintiff demands a judgement for the sum of Two Thousand \$2000.

by Charles S(?) His Atty.

(Sworn to by Jonas Main before the clerk of the court, 22nd day of January 1856)

(Summons delivered to William Main by the Sheriff of Delaware County, 24 January 1856)

Answer filed by William Main, 8 February 1856:

The said Defendant denies the Statements in the Plaintiff's Petition charging this defendant with debauching and causing the pregnancy of the said Isabella Main, and says that he has been guilty of no wrong against said Plaintiff in any manner as stated in said Petition, wherefore he begs to be (?) with his (?)

by W P Reid Atty for Pltff (sic)

(Sworn to by William Main)

(The cover of the answer has a note that says William Main will be a witness on his own behalf at the trial of this action.)

Transcription by Kathleen Spies  
My notes are in blue font.

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Delaware County Court of Common Pleas,  
Case # M0164  
Filed 22 January 1856  
Isabella Main Plaintiff vs William Main Defendant  
for breach of promise of marriage

Petition:

The Plaintiff Isabella Main of Delaware County Says that She is a single unmarried woman of twenty three years of age, living at Home with her Father Jonas Main.

That the Defendant William Main was on the 1st day of January A. D. 1855, a single unmarried man of about 24 years of age, and that the Said Defendant in Consideration that the Plaintiff being unmarried at the request of the Said Defendant had undertaken and promised the Plaintiff to marry the Plaintiff. And the Plaintiff avers that she considering in the Said promise of the Said Defendant hath always from thence hitherto remained and is still unmarried, and was during all the time aforesaid, and still is ready and willing to marry the Defendant. Whereof he always had notice. And although the Plaintiff after making (?) Said promise to wit: on the 1st day of August 1855, requested the Defendant to marry her and a reasonable time hath elapsed, yet the Said Defendant disregarding His said promises hath deceived the Plaintiff, and the Plaintiff says that the Said Defendant in the month of September 1855 married one Martha Henry.

Plaintiff further says that the Said Defendant further deceived and injured her by (?) (?) (?) (?), and under his solemn promises of marriage Seduced Her. Whereby She became pregnant and is now the mother of a Bastard Child begotten by the Said Defendant under the Circumstances aforesaid.

Whereby, and (?) of the promises fraud and deception, and seduction aforesaid the Plaintiff is destroyed in her good name and (?) into infamy and disgraced. Wherefore she asks Judgement for the sum of Five thousand Dollars.

by Charles S(?) Her Atty.

(Sworn to by Isabel Main, 22 January 1856)

(Summons delivered to William Main by the Sheriff of Delaware County, 24 January 1856)

Answer filed by William Main, 8 February 1856:

The Defendant William Main says that he denies most positively the seduction of the Plaintiff, and that he is not the father of her bastard child. Defendant further says that the statements in the petition charging this Defendant with agreeing to marry Plaintiff are wholly untrue & unfounded

-- and that he is not guilty of the several grievances (?) to his charge in said Petition or any of them. Wherefore he begs to be (?) dismissed with his (?)

By W P Reid, Attorney Plaintiff (sic)

(Sworn to by William Main)

15 February 1856, Witnesses for the Plaintiff, Isabella Main, are notified that they must appear at the trial set for 1 March 1856:

John Roe (son-in-law of Thomas and Hannah Main)

Sabeers C Main (brother of William Main; preacher at Marlborough Church)

Sabeers Main, Esq (grand uncle of William Main; grandfather of Isabella Main)

David Martin

Eliza Martin

J (?) Williams

Lydia Williams

Mrs Hannah Main, wife of Thos Main (grand aunt of both Isabella and William)

Mrs Hannah Main, wife of Lyman Main (sister of Isabella Main's mother)

Jonas Main (father of Isabella Main)

29 February 1856 both suits are settled. "This Suit is settled. Each party to pay their own costs."  
"The Clerk will not (?) against Mr Main until after the 15th April at which time Costs will be paid." (The second note is signed by the attorney for Jonas and Isabella Main.)