

EX PARTE: OCTAVE ATKINS, AN INFANT. IN CHANCERY. UPON PETITION FOR ADOPTION.

This day came Everett Adam Pittman and Avenell Brooks, Pittman, his wife, and presented to the court their petition, in writing, duly verified, praying for the adoption by petitioners of octave Atkins, an infant female child, which petition, on motion is ordered filed in Court and is hereby filed with the Clerk of this Court; and it appearing to the Court that Andrew Jackson Atkins is the father and only surviving parent of said child, and that said surviving parent is a resident of Kanawha County, West Virginia, it is adjudged, ordered and decreed that process do issue in the name of the State of West Virginia, summoning said surviving parent to appear before this Court, or the Judge thereof on the 20th day of December, 1929, at which time it is adjudged, ordered and decreed that the matters arising upon said petition be set down for hearing, at which time the parties in interest herein will be examined on oath, and this proceeding is accordingly continued to said date.

Friday the 20th day of December, 1929.

Present the same Judge as on yesterday.

The proceedings of yesterday were this day read and being examined and corrected were signed.

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This day this cause came on to be heard upon the petition of Everett Adam Pittman and Avenell Brooks Pittman, his wife, and upon notice and process duly served upon and accepted by Andrew Jackson Atkins, and upon the written consent, duly acknowledged and witnessed, of the said Andrew Jackson Atkins, father and only surviving parent of the infant female child herein sought to be adopted, which said written consent is herein ordered filed, and upon the order heretofore entered in this cause, and upon papers heretofore and now filed in this cause, and the Court proceeding to have a hearing of the matters contained in said petition, an examination was had in open Court of the parties in interest, and their witnesses, under oath, and from the testimony adduced the Court is of opinion and doth find the facts stated in the said petition to be true, that the said petitioners, Everett Adam Pittman and Avenell Brooks Pittman, are persons of good moral character and of responsible standing in the community where they reside, and are of adequate ability to maintain and educate the child herein sought to be adopted; that said infant child is under the age of fourteen (14) years, said child having been born on the 14th day of March, 1928, and is in the legal guardianship and custody of its father, the said Andrew Jackson Atkins, which said father and guardian has herein consented in writing to the adoption of said child and to the change of its name, as prayed for in the original petition herein, and that it is not necessary to appoint a next friend for said child in this proceeding. And it further appearing to the Court that said infant child has been in the custody and care of said petitions for some time last past and that the mother of

said infant child is dead, and that the best interests of Octave Adkins, the infant child named in said petition, and of the State, will be promoted by the granting of the relief prayed for in said petition.

It is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that said prayer for adoption be and is hereby granted, and that Octave Atkins, the said infant child, shall hereafter be known by the name of Lorretta Eileen Pittman, and that from and after this date the rights, duties, privileges and relations heretofore existing between said child and its natural parents be and the same are, in all respects, at an end, except the right of said child to inherit from either or such of both parents; and that the rights, duties and privileges and relations between the said infant child and Everett Adam Pittman and Avenell Brooks Pittman, the petitioners herein, shall henceforth, in all respects, be the same, including the right of inheritance, as provided by law, as if the said infant child had been born to said adopted parents, the petitioners, in lawful wedlock.

It is further ordered that all of the papers and proceedings in this cause be recorded by the Clerk in the book in his office kept for said purpose, and that this decree be entered in the Chancery Order Book of this Court and that a duly authenticated copy hereof be furnished by the Clerk of this Court to said petitioner, and this cause is ordered stricken from the docket.

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EX PARTE ORDERS of ADOPTION for Octave Atkins/Adkins retyped verbatim line by line, by Doug Couch 21 October 2013, as available images of the documents are very poor. Evident in the original, a line is placed above the word "past" because it appears to have represented a place to add a specific time period alluded to in that statement. CHANCERY ORDERS (book) header and date only present on one of the 3 images. Image re order given on 19 December 1929 for hearing for examination and decree had no header. Text of orders excerpted from pages containing other adoptions. Fonts approximated to those in original: *Courier New* for any typed text, and *MingLiU-ExtB* for preprinted header text.

- sic: Octave's birth surname is spelled both as Atkins and Adkins in these documents. Due to the preponderance of the Atkins spelling, it appears that Atkins was believed to be the legal spelling of her father, Andrew Jackson Atkins, at the time these documents were signed. This spelling is further attested to by Andrew signing his draft registration using this spelling.

- sic: The word "granting" is misspelled as "granding" in the original documents.

