

[Derrick, Thomas H.]

MINISTER DIVORCED  
Justice Wright Grants Decree to Mrs. Ida Derrick  
Whose Husband Was a Clergyman

An Onondaga County divorce case which has created quite a sensation, was one of the matters brought up in Justice Wright's adjourned special term at chambers this morning.

Readers of the Syracuse papers will remember a story about the Rev. Thomas H. Derrick, a Universalist minister at Cicero who, after being accused of undue intimacy with a Miss Wright, skipped and enlisted in the United States Army. He is now stationed at Fort Slocum and is the defendant in the divorce action. His wife, Ida M. Smith Derrick through Attorney William H. Gilbert of Syracuse secured an absolute divorce this morning. Mrs. Derrick is a very handsome young woman about twenty-five years of age. She stated in her complaint that she married Derrick at Cicero in June, 1896, the Rev. Gillespie of Clay, Onondaga County, performing the ceremony. Derrick then had a pastorate at Cicero. He has since been expelled from the ministry and the church. The couple lived together until March, 1897, when Derrick's indiscretions with the Wright woman developed. A child born to the latter is declared to be Derrick's son. On the evidence Justice Wright granted the decree asked and Mrs. Derrick left the courtroom apparently very happy.

*Oswego Times*, Oswego NY, Sat. 30 Apr 1898

Transcribed on 12 Aug 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY