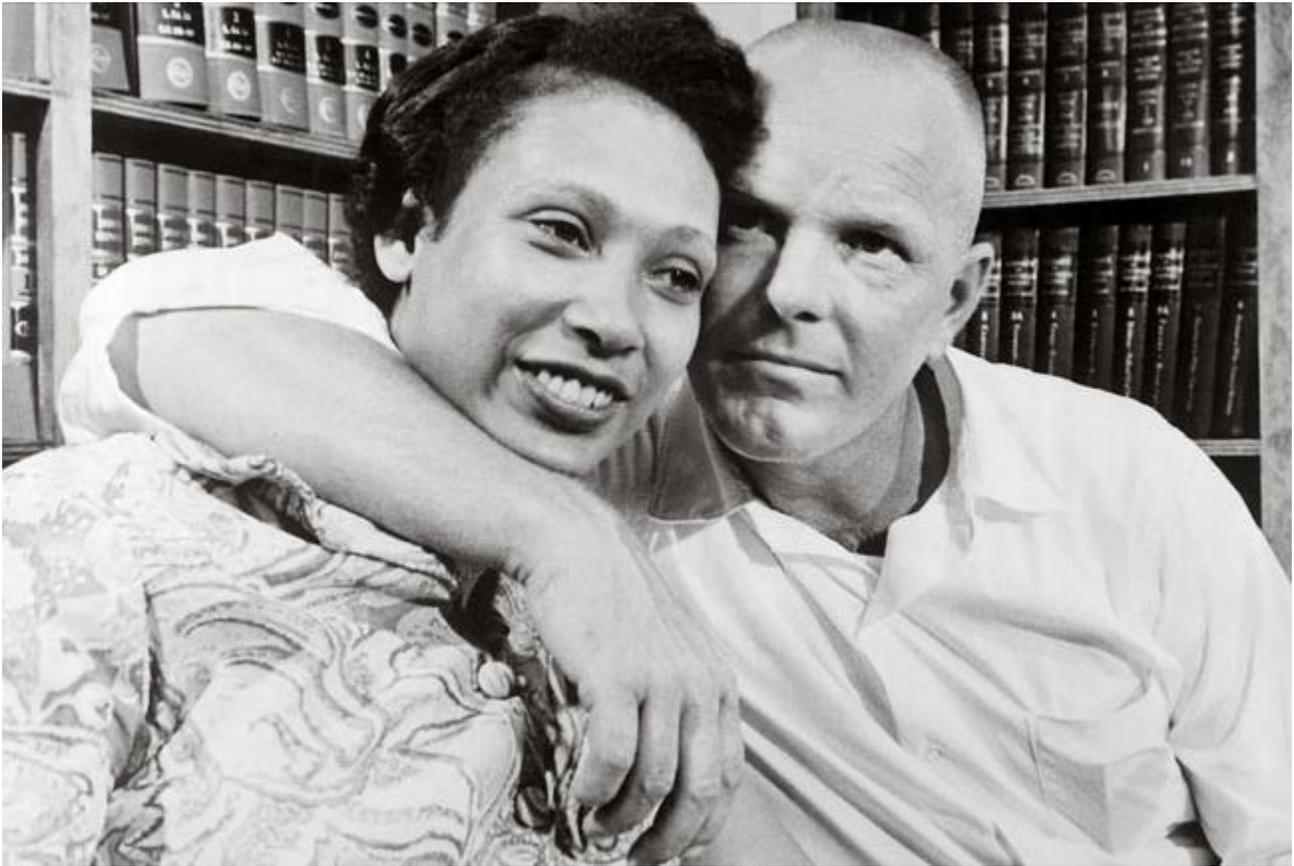


Title: The Lovings

Source: Photograph by Francis Miller for Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

Date: 1957

Doc A



Loving v. Virginia
388 U.S. 1 (1967)

Title: Loving v. Virginia (1967)

Source: Bill of Rights Institute

Date: undated

Doc B

Mildred Jeter and her new husband, Richard Loving, returned to their home in Caroline County, Virginia. The newlyweds had recently taken their vows in nearby Washington, D.C. and were happy to begin their new life together as married couple. But there was a big obstacle to their marital bliss. The year was 1958, and Virginia was one of sixteen states that prohibited and punished interracial marriages. Mildred was African American and her husband Richard was Caucasian. Four months into their married life they were indicted by a grand jury.

The following January, the Lovings pleaded guilty to the charge and were sentenced to one year in jail. The trial judge agreed to suspend the sentence if the Lovings would leave the state for twenty-five years. The judge told Mr. and Mrs. Loving: "Almighty God created the races...and he placed them on separate continents.... The fact he separated the races shows that He did not intend for the races to mix."

The Lovings moved to Washington, D.C. and appealed their conviction on the grounds that Virginia law, The Racial Integrity Law of 1924, violated their rights to equal protection of the law and due process under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously to overturn their conviction and strike down the Virginia law. The Court held, "There can be no doubt that restricting the freedom to marry solely because of racial classifications violates the central meaning of the Equal Protection Clause." The Court also found that the Virginia law deprived the Lovings of liberty without due process of law. "The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men.... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications ...is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law."

Title: Racial Integrity Act of 1924
Source: State Legislature of Virginia
Date: 1924

EXCERPT:

5. It shall hereafter be unlawful for any white person in this State to marry any save a white person, or a person with no other admixture of blood than white and American Indian. For the purpose of this act, the term "white person" shall apply only to the person who has no trace whatsoever of any blood other than Caucasian; but persons who have one-sixteenth or less of the blood of the American Indian and have no other non-Caucasic blood shall be deemed to be white persons. All laws heretofore passed and now in effect regarding the intermarriage of white and colored persons shall apply to marriages prohibited by this act.

Title: Amendment XIV to the United States Constitution

Source: United States Constitution

Date: July 9, 1868

Doc E

EXCERPT:

Amendment XIV

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Loving v. Virginia
388 U.S. 1 (1967)