

Charity is also listed in the 1840 census as living adjacent to **Mary Lee**, and she later remarried to Houston H. Lee / Lea. In fact, her house was later mentioned in newspaper articles as being the “Lee House”, even though Charity had executed a pre-nuptial agreement to exclude Mr. Lea’s ownership, control, or inheritance of her property, which would have included her house. Obviously, she was a “wealthy widow” who had good business sense about her remarriage, and she planned better than the commonly-held concepts of most women’s roles of her day.

ninth day of December
twenty ninth day of Decem

Dec. 1, 1840
MAD. Co. AL
Deed Book S
Pages 173-4

and forty
Rich. B. Purdom Clk Co

Marriage Contract } Whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be solemnized
between Charity Cooper and Houston H. Lea and the said Charity is possessed in her
own right of a large property ^{let} of a real and personal and whereas it is agreed by and
between the contracting parties that said Charity Cooper shall reserve to her own
separate use benefit and control the whole of said property both real and personal
wholly free from all Right claim or contrall whatever of the said Houston H Lea
by the law accruing to or to be acquired by said Lea in consequence of said
intended marriage and that the same shall in nowise whatever be liable
for subject to any right or control of said Houston H Lea or liable or subject
to the Claims demands or debts of any or all persons whatever by said Lea
already contracted or ^{hereafter} increased But that the same shall in all things rema
in subjects to the rights controul and dominion of said Charity Cooper
in as full and ample manner as if said intended marriage had never taken
place
Now for and in consideration of the premises and for the further consideration