

Interviewee: Hillary Hutchison (retained maiden name) (email)

Interviewer: Jaira Wilsey

Hey lady,

I am typing this so you will have notes. Dad will be on the computer all day today doing employees end of the year reviews, so here goes. We can still talk because I don't know the questions for the interview, but I thought this might help.

\*When the time came to actually make a choice about my name (marriage), my career was going strong. I had a growing name in the oil and gas business, at least in the Rockies.

\*I got married at 30, so I had had my name for 30 years. It was who I was. 60 seemed a long way off (and so old); I had had my name for half my life (or so it seemed then).

\*I liked my name.

\*At 30, I had assets in my name. House, car, investments.

\*I grew up in a large family. The three middle kids were as alike as peas in a pod. I lost my sister when I was a junior in college at age 20. I lost my brother during my first year in grad school at age 22. Keeping my last name was a kind of memorial to them and their lost lineages.

\*My husband was supportive. It bothered him that I kept my name, but he loved me and married me despite that (and maybe a little because of that?). It could have been a divisive area of our marriage. Ultimately, I still would have married him if it had meant more to him for me to change my name than to me to keep my name.

\*I went to Oberlin, a progressive small liberal arts college. It did help mold a strong "sense" of womens' rights.

\*It is my personal belief that there should be a paternal and maternal family name lineage. Boys should carry the mans family name and girls should carry the womans family name. The womens family name would have just as much a chance of carrying through historically as a mans. Family lineages could be traced with ease, no matter how many marriages. The kids would carry on the family names on one side or the other.

The problem is that, now, no matter what point you choose to start the paternal/maternal lineage, you are perpetuating a male lineage. If we had the paternal/maternal lineage custom, would I have my mom's maiden name (Kelly) which was actually her dad's name? Or her mom's maiden name (Dudley), which was actually HER dad's name? Or my mom's grandmother's name (Witten), which was actually HER husband's name? All paternal, at this point in time. We don't have enough geneology to actually trace it back to the FIRST marriage...ha

\*\*Now I am nearing 60. My name is not so nearly important (I've been MOM for quite a while now). I know who I am. It was a source of strength and stability @ age 30. As I've aged, what's important has changed too.

Ultimately it is a choice you make at the time you get married. Just make sure it is not a divisive area in the marriage. Talk it out. Be prepared for the long term. Be prepared for questions from people and bad forms from the government. Moving to OK, a very religious and traditional

place, I was abnormal for my age group to have kept my maiden name. People your age, it is not a big deal at all.

I do not like the hyphenated name. As those kids get married and have kids, are we going to see name-name-name-name? Past on down to name-name-name-name-name-name-name-name?

Love MOM

Hope this helps