

Meditation on the Maiden Name

*Mrs. stands to the right of me, and Miss stands to the left.
Me is a ghost somewhere in this middle.—Doris Fleischman*

One of five sisters, my wife
was the only one of them
to take her husband's name –
she joked it sounded funny.

Question is, in that situation,
who is the iconoclast,
breaking with the norm?
Does it matter?

Doris Fleischman became the first married woman
to get a passport using her “maiden name,” in 1925.
A reporter for the *New York Tribune*,
Doris was also the first woman
to report on a boxing match.
She interviewed Jane Addams and Teddy Roosevelt
for the *Tribune*, too...
Her husband? Edward Bernays.
They married in 1922 at New York City Hall.
After the wedding, she signed into the Waldorf-Astoria
using her maiden name.
Made the headlines next day.

First woman to use her maiden name?
Lucy Stone, abolitionist and suffragist;
also the first woman from Massachusetts
to earn a college degree.
Married in 1855 to a dude named Blackwell.
Their child's name? Lucy Stone Blackwell.

Anyway, it was my wife's choice
to go by my name.
But I took her religion –
same as Doris Fleischman's.

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