

THE STATE OF ALABAMA }
Baldwin County }

Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama,
(In Equity)

Lillie Belle Ward COMPLAINANT

vs.

J. H. Ward RESPONDENT

I, R. S. Duck

as Register and Commissioner

have called and caused to come before me Lillie Belle Ward and G. J. Ward

witness named in the requirement for Oral Examination, on the 30th day of September

1941, at the office of R. S. Duck, Register

in Bay Minette, Alabama, and having first sworn said witness es to speak the

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the said Lillie Belle Ward

and G. J. Ward doth depose and say as follows:

TESTIMONY OF LILLIE BELLE WARD.

My name is Lillie Belle Ward. I am the complainant in this cause for divorce against J. H. Ward, the respondent. I am over the age of twenty-one years and am now and have been for more than one year next preceding the filing of this my bill of complaint a bona fide resident of the State of Alabama, now residing in Prichard, Mobile County, Alabama. The respondent, J. H. Ward, is over the age of twenty-one years and resides in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama.

I and the said respondent were lawfully married on June 30, 1941, at Monroeville, Alabama, and lived together as man and wife until the 17th day of July, 1941, when we separated for the reasons hereinafter stated. We have not lived together as man and wife since July 17, 1941. We have and have had only one child, Clara Belle Ward, born to us and she is now five years of age. I am a suitable and proper person to have the care, custody and control of our child as I am and will be able to support her and give her proper religious and educational training.

On the date of July 17, 1941, the respondent committed actual violence on my person attended with danger to my life of health. On this last date he struck me, cursed me and threatened to kill me. He is a man of ungovernable temper and there is reasonable apprehension of further acts of such violence. On one occasion about three weeks before I finally left him, his father had to pull him off of me as he was beating me, and I know he would have seriously injured me further if he had not done so. For my health and safety, I was forced to go to the home of friends to live. Our separation occurred in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama.

Lillie Belle Ward

I, Randuch as Register and Commissioner hereby certify that the foregoing deposition on Oral Examination was taken down in writing by me in the words of the witness _____ and read over to John and _____ signed the same in the presence of myself and W. E. Smith _____ at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said witness _____ or had proof made before me of the identity of said witness _____; that I am not of counsel or of kin to any of the parties to said cause, or any manner interested in the result thereof.

I enclose the said Oral Examination in an envelope to the Register of said Court.

Given under my hand and seal, this 30 day of Sept 1941

Randuch (L. S.)

No. _____ Page _____

**THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY**

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

COMPLAINANT

vs.

RESPONDENT

ORAL DEPOSITION

Filed September 30, 1941

R. S. Randuch, Register.

RECORDED IN

Record

Vol. _____ Page _____

Register

TESTIMONY OF G. J. WARD.

I have heard and read the testimony of Lillie Belle Ward and know that it is all true. About the first of July, 1941, I saw my son, the respondent, strike and beat the complainant, and in fact pulled him off of and away from her. I do not consider it safe for her to live further with him as they cannot get along together at all.

I think and am of the opinion that Lillie Belle Ward is the proper person to have the custody and care of the child, Clara Belle Ward, as I know she will see that it gets the proper educational and religious training.

G. J. Ward

LILLIE BELLE WARD,
Complainant,

vs

J. H. Ward,
Respondent.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN
COUNTY, ALABAMA. IN EQUITY.

ANSWER OF RESPONDENT.

Now comes J. H. Ward, respondent in the foregoing cause and accepts service and waives all further notice of the filing of the bill of complaint in this cause.

And for answer to the bill of complaint filed herein respondent denies each and every allegation thereof and demands strict proof thereof.

Respondent further waives all further notice of taking of testimony and submission of said cause for final decree.

J H Ward

Respondent.

TO THE HONORABLE F. W. HARE, JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA, SITTING IN EQUITY:

Comes Lillie Belle Ward, as your complainant, and brings this her bill of complaint against J. H. Ward, as respondent, and respectfully alleges and represents unto your Honor and the Court as follows:

1. Complainant is over the age of twenty-one years and is now and has been for more than one year next preceding the filing of this her bill of complaint, a bona fide resident of the State of Alabama, residing now in the City or Town of Prichard in Mobile County, Alabama. The respondent, J. H. Ward, is over the age of twenty-one years and resides in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama.

2. Complainant and respondent were lawfully married on June 30, 1934, at Monroeville, Alabama, and lived together as man and wife until, to-wit: the 17th day of July, 1941, when they separated for the reasons hereinafter set out, and they have not lived together as man and wife or otherwise since said last date. One child, Clara Belle Ward, was born to complainant and respondent, the said child now being of the age of five years. Complainant is a suitable and proper person to have the custody and control of the said Clara Belle Ward and will give her the proper religious and educational training.

3. On said date of to-wit: July 17, 1941, the respondent committed actual violence on the person of complainant attended with danger to her life or health. The respondent on said last date struck complainant, cursed her and threatened to kill her, and complainant alleges that from his conduct there is reasonable apprehension of further acts of such violence. On numerous occasions prior to said last date, respondent had struck and abused complainant. Complainant was forced for her health and safety to go to the home of friends to live. The said separation occurred in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama, where complainant and respondent were living at said time.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, complainant prays that the said J. H. Ward be made a party respondent to this her bill of complaint and that due process of law forthwith issue for service upon him, the said J. H. Ward.

And complainant further prays that upon the final hearing of this cause your Honor and the Court will be pleased to give and grant to her a decree of absolute divorce from the respondent, with permission to complainant to again marry should she see fit so to do. And complainant further prays that upon the final hearing hereof your Honor will give and grant to her, the said Lillie Belle Ward the care, custody and control of the said Clara Belle Ward, a minor child. And complainant prays for such other, further and general relief as she may be entitled to, the premises considered.

Lillie Belle Ward
Complainant

J. E. Smith
Solicitor for Complainant

The State Of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

LILLIE BELLE WARD, _____ Complainant

VS

J. H. WARD, _____ Respondent

Answer & Waiver,
~~Decree Pro Confesso~~

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~Decree Pro Confesso~~

on _____ and Testimony as noted by the Register, and upon consideration thereof, the Court is of the opinion that the Complainant is entitled to the relief prayed for in said bill.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between the Complainant and Defendant be, and the same are hereby, dissolved,

and that the said LILLIE BELLE WARD,
is forever divorced from the said
J. H. WARD,

for and on account of cruelty;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT, that
the complainant, LILLIE BELLE WARD, have the care, custody and contro
of the minor child, Clara Belle Ward, subject to further orders of
this Court;

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that neither party to this suit shall again marry except to each other until sixty days after the rendition of this decree, and that if appeal is taken within sixty days, neither party shall again marry except to each other during the pendency of said appeal.

It is further ordered that LILLIE BELLE WARD and J. H. WARD,
^{are}
be, and ~~they~~ hereby permitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that J. H. WARD,
the Respondent, pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This 4th day of ~~September~~ October, 19 41.

J. M. Hare
Judge Circuit Court, in Equity.

I, _____, Register of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original decree rendered by the Judge of the Circuit Court in the above stated cause, which said decree is on file and enrolled in my office.

Witness my hand and seal this the _____ day
of _____, 19 _____

Register of Circuit Court, in Equity.

The State Of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

LILLIE BELLE WARD,

Complainant

VS

J. H. WARD,

Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~Decree Pro Confesso~~ on _____ and Testimony as noted by the Register, and upon consideration thereof, the Court is of the opinion that the Complainant is entitled to the relief prayed for in said bill.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between the Complainant and Defendant be, and the same are hereby, dissolved, and that the said LILLIE BELLE WARD, is forever divorced from the said

J. H. WARD,

for and on account of cruslty;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT, that the complainant, LILLIE BELLE WARD, have the care, custody and control of the minor child, Clara Belle Ward, subject to further orders of this Court;

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that neither party to this suit shall again marry except to each other until sixty days after the rendition of this decree, and that if appeal is taken within sixty days, neither party shall again marry except to each other during the pendency of said appeal.

It is further ordered that LILLIE BELLE WARD and J. H. WARD, ^{are} be, and ~~they~~ hereby permitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that J. H. WARD, the Respondent, pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This _____ day of September, 1941.

Judge Circuit Court, in Equity.

I, R. S. Duck, _____, Register of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original decree rendered by the Judge of the Circuit Court in the above stated cause, which said decree is on file and enrolled in my office.

Witness my hand and seal this the _____ day of September, 1941

Register of Circuit Court, in Equity.

RECORDED

Answer of Respondent

Filed September 30, 1941.

R. S. Dush, Register

No. Page

The State Of Alabama

Baldwin County

In Circuit Court, In Equity

LILLIE BELLE WARD,
vs. Complainant.

J. H. WARD
Respondent.

DIVORCE DECREE

The State Of Alabama Baldwin County

CLERK OF THE COURT

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No..... Page.....

The State Of Alabama
Baldwin County

In Circuit Court, In Equity

LILLIE BELLE WARD,
vs. Complainant.

J. H. WARD,

Respondent.

DIVORCE DECREE

Filed this 10 day October 1947

R. S. Duch

Clerk-Register

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

Circuit Court in Equity

FILED

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RECORDED

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FILED

CLERK

REGISTER

ALABAMA

BALDWIN COUNTY

OCTOBER 10 1947

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RECORDED

BILL OF COMPLAINT.

Lillie Belle Ward,
Complainant,

vs.

J. H. WARD,
Respondent.

Filed September 30, 1941

R. S. Church, Clerk - Register

Lillie Belle Ward

vs.

J. H. Ward

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

IN EQUITY
Circuit Court of Baldwin County

This cause is submitted in behalf of Complainant upon the original Bill of Complaint, _____

answer of respondent and oral deposition of Complainant

G. J. Ward, witnesses in behalf of complainant

None

and in behalf of Defendant upon _____

R. S. Parks

Register.

REQUEST FOR DECREE IN VACATION

Printed by The Baldwin Times

State of Alabama,
Baldwin County.

} NO. _____ TERM, 194__.

Lillie Belle Ward

Complainant—

VS.

J. H. Ward

Respondent—

TO R. S. DUCK, REGISTER:

In the above stated cause a n answer and waiver of notice
having been filed by J. H. Ward the Respondent—,
and evidence having been taken, and the cause being ready for submission for final decree, and
no defense having been interposed, the complainant—, by H. E. Smith,
Solicitor— of record, now files with the Register of this Court this written request to deliver the
papers in this cause to the Judge for final decree in vacation.

H. E. Smith

Solicitor— for Complainant—

RECORDED
NO. _____

Complainant—

VS.

Respondent—

Request For Decree In Vacation

Filed September 20, 1941

A. S. Ruch

Register.

RECORDED

No. _____

The State of Alabama
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY
Circuit Court of Baldwin County

VS.

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 30

day of September 1941

R.S. Dorch

REGISTER