

BENTON BLAND, COMPLAINANT  
VS.  
MELLIA PATE BLAND, RESPONDENT.

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

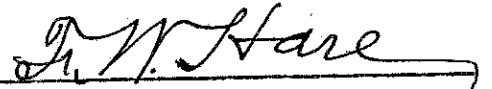
This cause coming on to be heard is submitted for final decree upon the original Bill of Complaint, answer and waiver of the Respondent, and testimony of BENTON BLAND and MRS. OLLIE LEE.

The Court is of the opinion that the Complainant is entitled to the relief prayed for.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that the marriage between the Complainant, BENTON BLAND, and the Respondent MELLIA PATE BLAND, be and it is hereby annulled, and the Complainant is forever released and discharged from any and all obligations and duties arising from said marriage.

It is further ordered that the Complainant pay the costs of this proceeding for which execution may issue.

Done at Monroeville, Monroe County, Alabama, this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1943.



Judge of 21st Judicial Circuit  
of Alabama.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, }  
Baldwin County }

CIRCUIT COURT

TO (Mrs) Virginia Keel

KNOW YE: That we, having full faith in your prudence and competency, have appointed you Commissioner, and by these presents do authorize you, at such time and place as you may appoint, to call before you and examine

Benton Bland and Mrs. Ollie Lee

as witnesses in behalf of Complainant in a cause pending in our Circuit Court of Baldwin County, of said State, wherein

Benton Bland

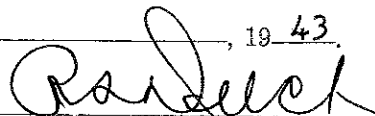
Complainant

and Mellia Pate Bland

Defendant,

on oath to be by you administered, upon to take and certify the deposition of the witness and return the same to our Court, with all convenient speed, under your hand.

Witness 23rd day of January, 19 43.



REGISTER

Commissioner's Fee \$

Witness' Fees, \$

My name is Benton Bland. I am over 21 years of age and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama.

The respondent Mellie Pate Bland is over 21 years of age and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama, however, at the present time staying in Mobile, Alabama.

The respondent and I were married at Pascagoula, Mississippi on Sunday November 1, 1942. The said marriage was never legally consummated, for the reason that at the time the respondent and I were so drunk that we did not know what we were doing. I had known the respondent for only a short time and on the said Sunday we were riding around with friends and began drinking early in the day. The friends called it a joke, carried us down to Pascagoula and made all arrangements for the marriage.

We came on back to Mobile in the afternoon and have not lived together, the respondent and I, as husband and wife. We were so much under the influence of liquor that we did not realize that we had married until later when told by our friends. The respondent and I had never discussed marriage and in fact, neither of us had ever entertained such ideas. The marriage was and is absolutely impossible, and we cannot live together, as husband and wife. We do not know and have never recognized the marriage.

Benton Bland

Mrs. Ollie Lee, a witness for the complainant, being first duly sworn deposes and says; My name is Mrs. Ollie Lee. I live in Mobile, Alabama. I was a member of the party that went with Benton Bland and Mellie Pate to Pascagoula, Mississippi on Sunday November 1, 1942. I am a sister of the respondent.

We all got together early Sunday and began drinking, the complainant and respondent drinking to excess. Some member of the party suggested that the complainant and the respondent marry and, that at that time, being so much under the influence of liquor as to scarcely know what they were doing, consented. We all rushed

then to Pascagoula where a form of ceremony was gone through. The Complainant and the Respondent, at that time was in such a condition, that they did not know what they were doing. We immediately returned to Mobile and the Complainant went to his home and the respondent went to her home and they have never lived together. The marriage was never consummated. The parties upon being told of what they had done, denied it and have never considered themselves as man and wife.

Ollie Mae Lee

STATE OF ALABAMA

BALDWIN COUNTY

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA- GREETING:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon MELLIA PATE BLAND to be and appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, exercising Chancery jurisdiction within thirty days after the service of summons, and there to answer, plead or demur, without oath, to a Bill of Complaint lately exhibited by BENTON BLAND against the said MELLIA PATE BLAND, and further to do and perform what said Judge shall order and direct in that behalf, and this the Respondent shall in no wise omit, under penalty, etc. And we further command that you return this writ with your endorsement thereon, to our said Court immediately upon the execution thereof.

WITNESS, *R. S. Duck*, Register of said Circuit Court, this the 23 day of January, 1943.

BENTON BLAND, COMPLAINANT,

VS.

MELLIA PATE BLAND, RESPONDENT.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA,

IN EQUITY.

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

Now comes your Complainant, BENTON BLAND, and humbly complaining against the Respondent, MELLIA PATE BLAND, respectfully represents and shows unto your Honor and this Honorable Court as follows:

1.

That your Complainant and Respondent are both bona fide residents of Baldwin County and over the age of twenty-one years.

2.

That on to-wit: November 1, 1942 at Pascagoula, Mississippi, the Complainant and the Respondent went through a marriage ceremony; that at the said time both the Complainant and the Respondent were drunk and did not know what they were doing; that said marriage was, in fact never consummated and that they have not considered themselves as man and wife and have never lived together as man and wife.

PRAYER FOR PROCESS

Wherefore, the premises considered, your Complainant prays that the said MELLIA PATE BLAND by proper process be made party hereto and be required to plead, answer or demur to the same within the time and under the penalties prescribed by law and the practice of this Honorable Court.

Complainant further prays that upon a final hearing that said marriage may be annulled, and that Complainant be forever released and discharged from any and all obligations and duties arising from said marriage and from all other proper relief.

BEEBE & HALL

By *H. H. Beebe*  
Solicitors for Complainant.

899

STATE OF ALABAMA,  
BALDWIN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Term, 194\_\_\_\_\_

Benton Bland

, Complainant

Vs.

Mellia Pate Bland

, Defendant

To R. S. Duck, Register

In the above stated cause a Decree Pro Confesso having been taken against the Defendant, and evidence having been taken, and the cause being ready for submission for final decree, and no defense having been interposed, the Complainant, by Beebe & Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ Solicitors 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.

Beebe & Hall  
Solicitor for Complainant.

Benton Bland

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,  
BALDWIN COUNTY

VS.

IN EQUITY

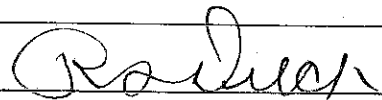
Mellia Pate Bland

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

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

~~Answer and waiver of the Respondent, and testimony of Benton Bland  
and Ollie Mae Lee~~

and in behalf of Defendant upon \_\_\_\_\_



Register.



BENTON BLAND  
VS.  
MELLIE PATE BLAND

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)  
)  
)  
)  
)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN  
COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY

And now comes the Respondent, Mellie Pate Bland, in her own proper person, and accepts service of the summons in complaint of this cause and denies each and allegation contained in the complaint and demands strict proof of same.

The respondent waives notice of the time of taking testimony on behalf of the Complainant; the right to cross-examine the complainant and stipulates and agrees that this cause be submitted for final decree without further notice.

Mellie Pate Bland RESPONDENT

WITNESSES:

David Mac Lee

W. E. Lee

RECORDED

NO.

899

**THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

**Baldwin County**

CIRCUIT COURT

Complainant

VS.

Defendant

**Commission To Take Deposition**

COMMISSIONER:

Witnesses:

RECORDED

RECORDED

RECORDED

RECORDED

RECORDED

RECORDED

RECORDED

899

RECORDED

Executed 1/23 1943

by serving copy of within Summons and  
Complaint on

Mellia Pate Bland

\_\_\_\_\_

W.R. Stuart Sheriff

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Sheriff

BENTON BLAND,  
Complainant,  
VS  
MELLIA PATE BLAND,  
Respondent,

SUMMONS AND COMPLANT

*Filed* 23 1943  
*Reed,*  
*Ref*

899

RECORDED

Bland

vs.

Bland

Answer

J. H. Jones 3/19/43  
Ranch  
By

**RECORDED**

No. 899

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**The State of Alabama,**

Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

Vs.

**REQUEST FOR DECREE IN  
VACATION**

Filed Jan 23 1943  
Robert  
Register.

Recorded in \_\_\_\_\_ Record

Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Register.

899  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDED**

The State of Alabama,  
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

*Bland*

VS.

*Bland*

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 23

day of June 1943

*Rodney*  
Register.