

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

EDNA MAE COWART, Complainant

vs.

JAMES NORMAN COWART, Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~Decree Pro Con-~~
~~fesso~~ ~~Con~~ Answer and Waiver 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 here-
tofore existing between the Complainant and Defendant be, and the same are hereby, dissolved, and
that the said Edna Mae Cowart is forever divorced from the
said James Norman Cowart for and on account of cruelty

IT IS FURTHER ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that said Complainant
be awarded the care, custody and control of said children, Jimmy Earl Cowart and
Wanda Darlene Cowart. IT IS FURTHER ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court
that the said Respondent pay to the Complainant for the maintenance of said
children the sum of Thirty (\$30.00) Dollars each month. IT IS FURTHER ordered,
adjudged and decreed by the Court that said Respondent shall be allowed to visit
with the children at reasonable hours and that the older child be allowed to
visit his father over night on occasions.

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 the Complainant and Respondent be, and they are hereby per-
mitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that Edna Mae Cowart
the Complainant pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This 10th day of June, 1950

J. Fair J. Masbury
Judge Circuit Court, In Equity

I, Alice J. 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 June, 1950

Register of Circuit Court, In Equity.

RECORDED

No. 2475 Page _____

The State of Alabama

BALDWIN COUNTY

In Circuit Court, In Equity

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant.

vs.

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Respondent.

DIVORCE DECREE

FILED

JUN 10 1950

ALICE J. DUCK, Clerk

THE STATE OF ALABAMA }
Baldwin County

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

EDNA MAE COWART

COMPLAINANT

vs.

JAMES NORMAN COWART

RESPONDENT

I, Peggy Orr

as Register and Commissioner in the above-styled cause

have called and caused to come before me

Edna Mae Cowart and Rena Overstreet

witnesses named in the requirement for Oral Examination, on the 10th day of May

19450, at the office of C. LeNoir Thompson

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

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the said

Edna Mae Cowart and

Rena Overstreet

doth depose and say as follows:

That my name is Edna Mae Cowart, that I am over the age of twenty-one and a resident of Baldwin County, that James Norman Cowart, my husband, the Respondent, in this cause, also over the age of twenty-one and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama and that we have resided in Baldwin County more than five years next preceding. That we were married in Bay Minette on August 13th, 1946 and lived together as husband and wife until on-to-wit, December 3rd, 1949, at which time we separated. That on prior occasions the Respondent had left the Complainant for varying periods of time, using threats to effect a reconciliation and on to-wit, May 2nd, 1950, the Respondent returned to the residence of your Complainant and assaulted her twisting her arm and leaving black and blue marks on her arm, threatening to kill her and the children, Jimmy Earl Cowart, age 2, and Darlene Cowart, age 2 months, and then do away with himself. This was approximately 5:00 or 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon, that shortly after dark the Respondent returned to the premises and called your Complainant out of the house trying to get her to go outside of the yard in the dark with him which she refused to do, because of the threats which placed her in fear of her life or health and further because she noticed that he held one hand behind him, as he talked, urging her to come outside. That when your Complainant suddenly refused to go out of the yard gate and return without warning to the house, having stayed out of reach of the Respondent, the Respondent suddenly withdrew the hand concealed behind him and making some statement not understood by your Complainant, stabbed himself in the abdomen with a knife. That because of his threats to do away with your Complainant and her children, as fruits of their marriage and then do away with himself; which threats had been made on previous occasions and because of the Respondent's actions on the night of May 2nd, stabbing himself after failing to get his hands on your Complainant, your Complainant brought a peace warrant proceedings against him in the Court of Justice of the Peace, T. C. Hand, which proceedings were temporarily withdrawn upon assurance of the Respondent's father that he would not go upon the premises of your Complainant for any cause whatsoever and further that said Respondent might comply with a order of the Court of Judge W. R. Stuart, requiring him to pay \$30.00 a month support for the older child.

That \$30.00 a month is not enough to support both children, but I will accept \$30.00 a month, if the Court will award it and will provide the remaining support needed myself. My husband served in the Navy and after spending seven months in the Brig received a Bad Conduct Discharge. I ask that I be given the care, custody and control of our children.

Edna Mae Cowart

That my name is Rena Overstreet, that I know both parties to this cause and have known them about four years. I know they were married and lived together as husband and wife from August 13th, 1946 to the first part of December, 1949. They have two children as fruits of their marriage, Jimmy Earl Cowart about two years old, and Darlene Cowart about two months old. I know that they have been separated several times, but would return to each other for short periods. That I heard the Respondent threaten to kill his wife, children, and himself and I know that he did assault her leaving black and blue marks on her. I was also present on the afternoon and night of May 2nd, when Edna Mae Cowart was assaulted and threatened and I saw the blood on the Respondent's shirt front from the wound, where he had stabbed himself. I know that she was in fear of her life and health and that of her children, because of the Respondent's threats and actions. I know that both parties are over the age of twenty-one and have resided in Baldwin County more than two years next preceding.

Rena Overstreet

I, Peggy Guy 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 es and read over to them and they signed the same in the presence of myself and C. LeNoir Thompson at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said witness es or had proof made before me of the identity of said witness es; 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 10th day of May 194 50.

Peggy Guy (L. S.)

No. 2475 Page

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

JAMES EARL CONNOR

COMPLAINANT

VS.

JAMES EARL CONNOR

RESPONDENT

ORAL DEPOSITION

Filed 5-23, 1945

James L. Arnold, Register.
RECORDED IN

Record

Vol. Page

 , Register

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

Circuit Court

TO: Peggy Guy

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

Edna Mae Cowart and Rena Overstreet

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

Edna Mae Cowart, Complainant

and

James Norman Cowart Respondent

on oath, to be by you administered, upon Peggy Guy

to take and certify the deposition^s of the witness^{es} and return the same to our Court, with all
convenient speed, under your hand.

Witness 10th day of May, 1947

Register.

Commissioner's Fee, \$

Witness' Fees, \$

No. _____

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant

VS.

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Defendant

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITION

COMMISSIONER:

PEGGY GUY

WITNESSES:

EDNA MAE COWART

RENA OVERSTREET

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

Circuit Court

TO: Percy Guy

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 _____

Edna Mae Cowart and Rena Owenstreet

as witnesses in behalf of _____ Edna Mae Cowart _____ in a cause pending in our
Circuit Court in Baldwin County, of said State, wherein _____

Edna Mae Cowart, Complainant

and _____

James Norman Cowart Respondent

on oath, to be by you administered, upon _____ Percy Guy _____
to take and certify the depositions of the witnesses and return the same to our Court, with all
convenient speed, under your hand.

Witness 10th day of May, 1940

Reinhold
Register.

Commissioner's Fee, \$ _____

Witness' Fees, \$ _____

STATE OF ALABAMA
BALDWIN COUNTY

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

You are hereby commanded to summon James Norman Cowart, to appear and plead, answer or demur within thirty days from the service hereof, to the bill of complaint, filed in the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, in equity by Edna Mae Cowart, as Complainant, and against Norman Cowart, as Respondent.

WITNESS my hand this 23rd day of May, 1950.

W. J. 40
Register

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant

Vs

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Respondent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN EQUITY

TO HON. TELFAIR J. WASHBURN JR., JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA:

Your Complainant, Edna Mae Cowart, respectfully represents and shows unto your Honor and this Honorable Court as follows:

1.

That your Complainant is over twenty-one years of age, and a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama; that the Respondent is over the age of twenty-one years, and a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama.

2.

That your Complainant and the Respondent married in Bay Minette, Alabama, on the 13th day of August, 1946, and lived together as husband and wife, in Baldwin County, Alabama, until on to-wit, December 3, 1949.

3.

There was born to your Complainant and Respondent, as fruits of thier marriage, two children; Jimmy Earl Cowart, age two, and Wanda Darlene Cowart, age two months.

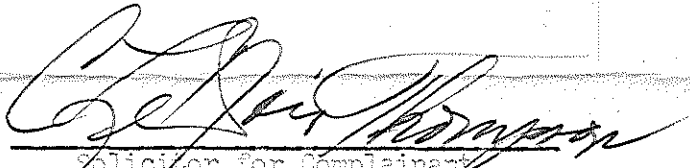
4.

Your Complainant avers and charges that the said Respondent did on or about the 2nd day of May, 1950, and many times prior thereto, on said day he did threaten her life and the lives of her children and assault and bruise your Complainant; that said Respondent has committed actual violence on her person attended with danger to her health or life;

Complainant further avers and charges that Respondent has made numerous threats of doing her and their children physical harm and from his manner and conduct toward her, she is reasonably convinced that he will commit an actual violence upon her person, attended with danger to her life or health and that of her children.

WHEREFORE the premises considered your Complainant prays that your Honor will by proper process make the said James Norman Cowart party Respondent to this bill of complaint, requiring him 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 hereof your Honor will make and enter a decree forever barring the bonds of matrimony existing between your Complainant and the Respondent; that she be granted the care, custody and control of the infant children, Jimmy Earl Cowart, age two, and Wanda Darlene Cowart, age two months; that she be awarded the sum of \$30.00 each month for the maintenance and support of said infant children; and that she be granted such other, further, different or general relief as she may be in equity and good conscience entitled to receive.


Solicitor for Complainant

NO 2475 -

RECORDED

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant

Vs

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Respondent

SUITIONS AND COMPLAINT

FILED

15723 1950

ALICE L. DUCK, Register

From the law office of
C. LeNoir Thompson
Bay Minette, Alabama

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant

Vs

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Respondent

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY

Now comes the Respondent and accepts service of the summons and complaint in this cause.

The Respondent admits the allegations as to ages, marriage and residence, but denies all other allegations contained in the bill of complaint, and demands strict proof of the same.

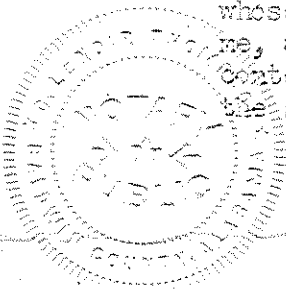
The Respondent waives notice of the time of taking of testimony on behalf of the Complainant; the right to cross-examine Complainant's witnesses; and agrees that this cause be submitted for final decree without notice.

STATE OF ALABAMA
BALDWIN COUNTY

I,

Le Roy Thompson a Notary Public, in and for said County, in said State, hereby certify that James Norman Cowart, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand and seal on this the 11 day of May, 1950.



Le Roy Thompson
Notary Public, Baldwin County, Alabama.

RECORDED

EDNA MAE COWART

Complainant

Vs

JAMES NORMAN COWART

Respondent

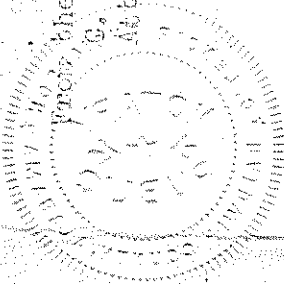
ANSWER AND WAIVER

FILED

MAY 23 1950

ALICE J. DUCK, Register

From the law office of
G. Lelloir Thompson
Attorney-at-Law



RECORDED

No. 2475

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

IN EQUITY
Circuit Court of Baldwin County

EDNA MAE COVART

vs.

JAMES NORMAN COVART

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 23rd

day of May, 1947

Eric J. Lebeck
Register.

Printed By The Baldwin Times

2475

EDNA MAE COWART

vs.

JAMES NORMAN COWART

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

IN EQUITY
Circuit Court of Baldwin County

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

and oral depositions of Edna Mae Cowart and

Bena Overstreet

and in behalf of Defendant upon _____ answer and waiver

Charles F. Thompson
Attorney for Plaintiff

Henry J. ...
Register.