DIVORCE DECREE

Printed by Moore Printing Co

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

Emma Louise Bethea , Complainant

vs.

Louis James Bethea , Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, Decree Pro Confesso on Publication _____ and Testimony as noted by the Register, and upon con-

sideration 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

Emma Louise Bethea

said Louis James Bethea for and on account of

Cruelty.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUIGED AND DECREED, by the Court, that the

Complainant be and she is hereby awarded the care, custody and control

of the two minor children, Jackie Louise Bethea 3 years old and Vivian

Louise Bethea 1 year old.

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 permitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that <u>Emma Louise Bethea</u>

the Complainant pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue. This___ -. 1955 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 __dav of ____ Register of Circuit Court, In Equity.



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SUMMONS Form 1531-3 McQuiddy Printing Co., Nashville, Tenn. The State of Alabama, Baldwin County IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY To any Sheriff of the State of Alabama-Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon _____ enve to appear and answer, plead, or demur, within thirty days from the service hereof, to a Bill of Complaint filed in said Circuit Court, in equity, for said County of said State Omme Louise 12 against ann en Herein fail not. Due return make of this writ as the law directs. Witness this 1991 day of 1100 19 5 1400 Register. (Defendant is entitled to a copy of the bill on application to the Register.) Code 1923-6528-6529

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS

Baldwin County.	- J
-O: Evelyn Watts	
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1997 - 19	
KNOW YE: that, we, hav	ving full faith in your prudence and competency, have appointed yo
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ircuit Court in Baldwin Cour <u>Emma Louise Bethea</u> ad <u>Louis James Bethea</u> a oath, to be by you administ	hty, of said State, wherein, Complainant, Complainant, Complainant

Register.

Commissioner's Fee, \$_____ Witness' Fees, \$___

No THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County	
Emma Louise Bethea	
Complainant— VS.	
Louis James Bethea Defendant COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITION	
COMMISSIONER	
WITNESSES:	

The State of Alabama, Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama Baldwin County. (In Equity)

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	ed in the Requirem	• (••/ •• •		201	Webr	
witness ^{es} name	ed in the Requirem	ient for Oral	Examination,	on the	_day of	CARAL Y

19 54 ... at the office of _____ Wilters & Brantley____

in Bay Minette _____, Alabama, and having first sworn said Witness 25 to speak the

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the said <u>Emma Louise Pethea and Carrie</u>

Hilliams_____doth depose and say as follows:

My name is Emma Louise Bethea. I am the Complainant in the above styled cause and am over the age of twenty-one years and a resident of State of Alabama and the County of Baldwin, and have been for more than one year next preceding the filing of this bill of complaint. Louis James Bethea, the Respondent, in this cause is over the age of twenty-one, and a resident of the State of Alabama, and has been for more than one year next preceding the filing of this bill of complaint. The Respondent and I were lawfully married on or about March 12, 1949, at Lucedale, Mississippi. The Respondent on or about the 18th day of Sentember, 1953, threatened to kill me with a knife which he had open in his hand. Many times prior to this he had assaulted, beat and hit me and has committed actual violence upon my person with danger to my life and health. He, on numerous times, threatened to do me physical harm and his manner and conduct toward me has convinced me he will commit actual violence upon my person attended with danger to my life and health. There were two children born to us out of the union of this marriage; Jackie Louise Bethea, a girl three years old and Vivian Louise Bethez, a girl one year old. I now have the custody, control and care of these two children and have had them all their lives. Your Complainant is the proper and fit person to have the care, control and custody of these two children and she has a suitable and fit hom in which a christian atmosphere prevails to keep these children, and I am able both physically and financially to care for these children. The Respondent in this cause is not a fit and proper person to have the care, control and custody of these children because he has many times left the children in the custody of your Complainant for unusually long periods and his contribution to the support and maintenance of these children have been negligble. He moves about from place to place and does not keep his job for more than a few days at a time.

6 mma Leuse

My name is Carrie Williams. I am the mother of Emma Louise Bethea, the Complainant in the above styled cause. I have known the Respondent ever since he has been married to my daughter, Emma Louise. I have, on several occasions, seen the Respondent commit actual violence upon the person of my daughter, Emma Louise, and I know that he has threatened her many times and I believe he will commit more violence upon her person which will endanger her life and health. My daughter, the Complainant and the Respondent have two children, one age three and one age one. The Respondent has spent very little time with the children and has made little or no contributions to their support and maintenance. The Complainant and her children are living with me in my home at the present time and they are welcome to live there so long as they desire because I feel that my home is my daughter@s and her Family's.

Carrie Williams

RAL EXAMIN	TION						
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I,- <u>H</u>	velyn Watts		••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	as Register	and Comm	issioner hereby	certify
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I enclose th	e said Oral Exam	ination in an	1 envelope_t	o the Regist	er of said Co	urt.	
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SUMMONS Form 1531-3 McQuiddy Printing Co., Nashville, Tenn. The State of Alabama, Bulanni County IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY To any Sheriff of the State of Alabama-Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon tanis to appear and answer, plead, or demur, within thirty days from the service hereof, to a Bill of Complaint filed in said Circuit Court, in equity, for said County of said State 6mma Lanno B eltra Unnez against Herein fail not. Due return make of this writ as the law directs. Witness this 19th day of Mart 19.5.5 Register. (Defendant is entitled to a copy of the bill on application to the Register.) Code 1923-6528-6529

EMMA	LOUISE BETHEA	0	
	COMPLAINANT	Ŏ	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
	VS	λ	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA,
		V	IN EQUITY
LEWIS	JAMES BETHEA	Ø	
	RESPONDENT	ð	

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TO THE HONORABLE H. M. HALL, Judge of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, Sitting in Equity:

Your Complainant, Emma Louise Bethea, respectfully represents and shows unto Your Honor:

1.

That your Complainant is over the age of twenty-one years and is a resident citizen of said State and County, and has been a bona fide resident citizen of said state for more than one year next preceding the filing of this bill of complaint; that Lewis James Bethea is over the age of twentyone years and a resident citizen of the State of Alabama, for more than one year next preceding the filing of the bill of complaint.

2.

That your Complainant and Respondent were lawfully married on or about to-wit: March 12, 1949, at Lucedale, Mississippi.

3.

Your Complainant avers and charges that the said Respondent did on or about 18th day of September, 1953, threatened to kill her with a knife which he had in his hand and opened, and many times prior thereto assaulted, beat, hit and struck your Complainant; that said Respondent has commited actual violence on her person attended with danger to her health and life. The Complainant avers and charges that the Respondent has made numerous threats of doing her 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 and health.

4.

Your Complainant further represents and shows unto your Honor that there was born to the union of this marriage two children; Jackie Louise Bethea, a girl three years old and Vivian Louise Bethea, a girl one year old; that your Complainant has had the custody, control and care of these two children all of their lives until on to-wit, September 10, 1953, at which time the Respondent did by trickery obtain possession of Jackie Louise Bethea by telling your Complainant he wanted to have the child visit him for a week end at Flomaton, Alabama. The Respondent has not to this day

5.

That your Complainant further represents unto Your Honor that she is a fit and proper person to have the care, control and custody of these two minor children; that she is residing with her mother, Carrie Williams of Loxley, Alabama, and that this is a suitable and fit home in which a Christian atmosphere prevails; that your Complainant is both physical and financially able to maintain the children herein involved.

6.

Your Complainant further represents and shows unto Your Honor that the Respondent is not a fit and proper person to have the care, control and custody of these children; that he has many times left the children in the custody of your Complainant for unusually long periods of time and that his contributions to the support and maintenance of these children has been negligible; that he moves about from place to place and does not keep a job for more than a few days at a time.

PRAYER FOR PROCESS

To the end that equity may be had in the premises your Complainant prays that Lewis James Bethea be made a party Respondent oto this bill of complaint and that service be perfected on him and that he be required to plead, answer or demur to the within bill of complaint within the time and under the penalties prescribed by the laws and rules of this Honorable Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Premises considered, your Complainant prays that on a final hearing of this cause that Your Honor will make and enter a decree forever divorcing her from the said Lewis James Bethea for an on account of his cruelty and that she will be awarded a full and absolute divorce. Your Complainant prays that Your Honor award the care, control and custody of the minor children, Jackie Louise Bethea and Vivian Louise Bether, to her; Complainant prays for all other, further and different relief to which she may be entitled, premises considered.

WILTERS & BRANTLEY

Received in Sheriff's Office this day of 1953 TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff NN 3143 mod 2 day of Plc 1953 EMMA LOUISE BETHEA : found in my county after diligent search and io-COMPLAINANT Y Y Saylor Wilking, Shally $V\!S$ By Jot Flall Deputy Sheriff LEWIS JAMES BETHEA RESPONDENT BILL OF COMPLAINT 1923 NOV 19 ALLE L BARK, Register Flomatorie, acis

ENMA LOUISE BETHRA	X .
complat nant	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
VS	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA, X
LEVIS JARES BETHEA	IN EQUITY
RESPON DENT	λ.

Before me the undersigned authority, in and for said County, in said State, personally appeared Emma Louise Bethea, who is known to me, andwho having been by me first duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Complainant in the above styled cause; that she is a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama, living at Hoxley; that she is over thenty one years of age; that the Respondent, Lewis James Bethea, is over twenty-one years of age and that his residence and post office address are unknown and cannot be ascertained after a diligent search and inquiry.

· Emma Louise Bethea

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 10 day of December, 1953.





23 . **x**

EMMA LOUISE BETHEA	
COMPLAINANT	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
VS	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA,
LEWIS JAMES BETHEA	IN EQUITY
RESPONDENT	Q.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION BY THE REGISTER

In this cause, it appearing to the Register from the affidavit of Emma Louise Bethea the Complainant, that the residence and post office address of the Respondent, Lewis James Bethea, are unknown and further that in the belief of the affiant, the Respondent is over the age of twenty-one, it is therefore Ordered by the Register that publication be made once a week for four consecutive weeks in the Baldwin Times, a newspaper published in Baldwin County, Alabama, requiring the said Lewis James Bether to plea, answer or demur to the bill of complaint in this cause by the 15th day of January, 1953, on, in default thereof, thirty days thereafter a decree pro confesso may be taken against said Respondent.

Dohe in office, this 14 Uday of 1010, 1953.

Deief-rench Register

Witers & Brantley, Solicitors For complainant



8601. Motion For Decree Pro Co	nfesso on Publication.	B.T10-46-200
THE STATE OF ALABA Baldwin County		T, IN EQUITY , Term, 19
·	Emma Louise Bethea	Complainant
	Vs.	
	Louis James Bethea	Defendant
	:	

Motion is hereby made for a Decree Pro Confesso against

Louis	James	Bethea	Defendant
			_ Derendant

in the annexed stated cause, on the ground that more than thirty days have elapsed since the perfection of publication was made under the order of this Court; and it having been shown by due proof to the Court that said Defendant is a non-resident of the State of Alabama, and has failed to answer, plead or demur to the Bill in this cause, to the date hereof.

19 _____ day of _< This 0 h 746 Code Solicitor.

No. RECORDED Page	
THE STATE OF ALABAMA BALDWIN COUNTY	
CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY	
Emma Louise Bethe	
Complainant Vs.	
Louis ^J ames Bethea	
Defendant	
Motion for Decree Pro Confesso On Publication	
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The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette, Ala.	

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	No,	, Term, 19
	Emma Louise Bethea Vs.	Complainant
	Louis James Bethea	Defendant
In this cause it appe	ars to the Register Alice J. Duck	that the order of publicatio
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	, 19 <u>54</u> , in the <u>Baldwin Times</u>	
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EMMA 1	LOUISE BETHEA	Ŏ	
	COMPLAINANT	Ø	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
	VS	Q	BALININ COUNTY, ALABAMA,
LEWIS	JAMES BETHEA	Ø	IN EQUITY
	RESPONDENT	õ	

TO THE HONORABLE H. M. HALL, Judge of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, Sitting in Equity: Your Complainant, Emma Louise Bethea, respectfully represents and

1.

shows unto Your Honor:

That your Complainant is over the age of twenty-one years and is a resident citizen of said State and County, and has been a bona fide resident citizen of said state for more than one year next preceding the filing of this bill of complaint; that Lewis James Bethea is over the age of twentyone years and a resident citizen of the State of Alabama, for more than one year next preceding the filing of the bill of complaint.

2.

That your Complainant and Respondent were lawfully married on or about to-wit: March 12, 1949, at Lucedale, Mississippi.

3.

Your Complainant avers and charges that the said Respondent did on or about 18th day of September, 1953, threatened to kill her with a knife which he had in his hand and opened, and many times prior thereto assaulted, beat, hit and struck your Complainant; that said Respondent has commited actual violence on her person attended with danger to her health and life. The Complainant avers and charges that the Respondent has made numerous threats of doing her 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 and health.

4.

Your Complainant further represents and shows unto your Honor that there was born to the union of this marriage two children; Jackie Louise Eethea, a gir] three years old and Vivian Louise Bethea, a girl one year old; that your Complainant has had the custody, control and care of these two children all of their lives until on to-wit, September 10, 1953, at which time the Respondent did by trickery obtain possession of Jackie Louise Bethea by telling your Complainant he wanted to have the child visit him for a week end at Flomaton, Alabama. The Respondent has not to this day returned the child to its mother's home.

5.

That your Complainant further represents unto Your Honor that she is a fit and proper person to have the care, control and custody of these two minor children; that she is residing with her mother, Carrie Williams of Loxley, Alabama, and that this is a suitable and fit home in which a diriction atmosphere prevails; that your Complainant is both physical and financially able to maintain the children herein involved.

6.^S

Your Complainant further represents and shows unto Your Homor that the Respondent is not a fit and proper person to have the care, control and custody of these children; that he has many times left the children in the custody of your Complainant for unusually long periods of time and that his contributions to the support and maintenance of these children has been negligible; that he moves about from place to place and does not keep a job for more than a few days at a time.

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PRAYER FOR PROCESS

To the end that equity may be had in the premises your Complainant prays that Lewis James Bethea be made a party Respondent oto this bill of complaint and that service be perfected on him and that he be required to plead, answer or demur to the within bill of complaint within the time and under the penalties prescribed by the laws and rules of this Honorable Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Premises considered, your Complainant prays that on a final hearing of this cause that Your Honor will make and enter a decree forever divorcing her from the said Lewis James Bethea for an on account of his cruelty and that she will be awarded a full and absolute divorce. Your Complainant prays that Your Honor award the care, control and custody of the minor children, Jackie Louise Bethea and Vivian Louise Bether, to her; Complainant prays for all other, further and different relief to which she may be entitled, premises considered.

WILTERS & BRANTLEY Inant

ATTAINS & BEATTAIN

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entitlod, premises considered.

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JIMMY FAULKNER PUBLISHER

THE BAK IMES WA DE 3 8 Alabama's Best County's Best Newspaper BAY MINETTE ALABAMA

LEGAL NOTICE

EMMA LOUISE BETHEA, Complainant

EMMA LOUISE BETHEA, Complainant Vs. LEWIS JAMES BETHEA, Respondent In the Circuit Court of Beldwin County, Alabama, In Equity ORDER OF PUBLICATION BY THE RECISTER In this cause, it appearing to the Re-gister from the affidavit of Emma Louise Bethea, the Complainant, that the resi-dence and post office address of the Res-pondent, Lewis James Bethea, are un-known and further that in the belief of the affiant the Respondent is over the age of twenty-one, it is therefore Order-ed by the Register that publication be made once a week for four consecutive weeks in The Ealdwin Times, a news-paper published in Baldwin County, Ala-bama, requiring the said Lewis James Bethea to plea, answer or demur to the hill of complaint in this cause by the 15th day of January, 1953, on, in default thereof, thirty days thereafter a decree pro confesse may be taken against said Respondent. Done in office, this 14th day of Dec. Done in office, this 14th day of Dec. 1953. ALICE J. D'.CK Register

Wilters & Brantley Solicitors for Complainant. 48-4tc.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY.

E. R. moursette , being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the PUBLISHER of THE BALDWIN TIMES, a Weekly Newspaper pub-lished at Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama; that the notice hereto attached of

Cmma Bethea Vs. 1 Bethe .

COST STATEMENT $\frac{59}{153}$ WORDS @ $\frac{6}{2}$ cents\$ $\frac{11}{2}$ I hereby certify this it correct, due and unpaid (paid): CR. Monument A Chitan Publisher.
was published in said newspaper for $\underline{\mu}$ consecutive weeks in the following issues:
Date of 1st publication. Drc. 17, 195 3 Vol. 64 No. 48
Date of 2nd publication Dec. 24, 1953 Vol. 64 No. 49
Date of 3rd publication Dec. 31, 1953 Vol. 64 No. 50
Date of 4th publication, 195_ $Vol. 64$ No. $\sqrt{-7}$
Subscribed and sworn before the undersigned this E day of Jan, 195_4
Darptay Martin
Notary Public, Baldwin County.
E. R. Monisette h Editor Publisher

ALIER I. DECK., Register

FILED JAN 11 1854