

1027

The State Of Alabama, Baldwin County
CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

SYLVESTER LETT, Complainant

VS

ANNIE PEARL LETT, Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, Decrees 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 SYLVESTER LETT, is forever divorced from the said _____

for and on account of Adultry

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 SYLVESTER, LETT, and ANNIE PEARL LETT be, and ~~they are~~ hereby permitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that SYLVESTER LETT, the COMPLAINANT, pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This 30th day of NOVEMBER, 1943.

J. W. 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.

No. 1024 Page

The State Of Alabama

Baldwin County

In Circuit Court, In Equity

.....
vs. Complainant.....

.....
Respondent.....

DIVORCE DECREE

SYLVESTER LETT,
Complainant,

E Q U I T Y .

CIRCUIT COURT OF

versus

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

ANNIE PEARL LETT,
Respondent,

DEPOSITIONS OF SYLVESTER LETT, MAUDE FARRIS AND ELLA SOUCIER,
WITNESSES FOR COMPLAINANT.

The above named witnesses, being by me first duly sworn, upon examination by the Solicitor for the Complainant, testified as follows:

SYLVESTER LETT.

I am the complainant in this cause. Both Annie Pearl and I are over the age of twenty-one years and have lived all of our lives in Baldwin County, Alabama. We were married in Bay Minette on June 13th 1941 and lived together as man and wife near Fairhope until May of this year when she left me and has lived apart from me ever since. In July last I heard that she had married a man named Willie Baldwin and was living with him as his wife. I then investigated and found that this is the case. They are living together in a house about five miles Southeast of Fairhope and she goes by his name. There is no one else living in the house. I went to the house in which they are living Monday afternoon November 22nd and asked her if she would be willing to sign an answer so I could get a divorce. She readily agreed to this and signed the paper I handed her and which my lawyer had prepared but she signed it with the name which she now bears and her husband and her mother witnessed it. There is no Notary or Justice of the Peace anywhere near there before whom she could sign. She seems to think that her marriage to Willie Baldwin is all right. All the neighbors think that they are legally married and call her by his name.

Sylvester Lett

MAUDE FARRIS.

I am a native of Baldwin County, married and live at Marlow, east of Fairhope. I am well acquainted with Sylvester Lett whom I have known since childhood and with Annie Pearl his wife who now lives with Willie Baldwin and goes by his name. Last October I went to Prine's side-camp where Annie Pearl now lives to visit her mother and stayed there a week. While there I went to Willie Baldwin's house and Annie Pearl was there. She goes by Willie Baldwin's name and lives with him as his wife. Annie Pearl's mother, with whom I stayed knows that she is going as Baldwin's wife but did not seem to think anything of it. I know Willie Baldwin and have known him about thirteen years.

Maude Farris

ELLA SOUCIER.

I am a native of Baldwin County, married and live at Marlow. I know Sylvester Lett, Annie Pearl and Willie Baldwin. I remember when Annie Pearl and Sylvester were married. Last August I went to Prine's side-camp and passed right by the house where Annie Pearl and Willie Baldwin are living though I did not go in. Soon after she and Willie Baldwin were married she came to my house and told me that she and Willie had gone to Pensacola and were legally married there. It is well known in the neighborhood that she and Baldwin are living together as husband and wife.

Ella Soucier

CERTIFICATE

I, Helen P. Baugh, acting as commissioner by agreement of parties hereby certify that in the case of SYLVESTER LETT vs ANNIE PEARL LETT, pending in the Equity side of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, I caused SYLVESTER LETT, MAUDE FARRIS and ELLA SCUCIER, witnesses for the Complainant, to appear before me at my office in the Bank Building, Fairhope, Alabama, where, after being duly sworn upon examination by the solicitor for the Complainant, they tested as is above written. That their testimony after being reduced to writing was read over and signed by them.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel nor of kin to either party of the cause or in anywise interested in the result thereof.

In witness thereof, I hereto set my hand and seal as commissioner this the 26th day of October, 1943.

Helen P. Baugh

Commissioner.

TO THE

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

Comes SLYVESTER LETT, and by this his Bill of Complaint presented against ANNIE PEARL LETT, respectfully shows:

FIRST: That both he and his wife are native born citizens and life long residents of Baldwin County, Alabama. That they were married on June 13, 1941 at Bay Minette and lived together as husband and wife near Fairhope until the middle of May, 1942, when she left him.

SECOND: That after the parties hereto had been separated about two months, Complainant heard that she had again contracted marriage with a man named Willie Baldwin and was living with him at a nearby turpentine camp. That Complainant investigated and found such rumors to be true, and that his said wife was then living with Willie Baldwin in a house occupied by them alone, bearing his name and going as husband and wife in that community. Since the abandonment aforesaid, Complainant and his wife have not resumed marital relations.

Complainant therefore charges ANNIE PEARL LETT with adultery with said Willie Baldwin in Baldwin County continuously since July, 1942.

THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Complainant prays that ANNIE PEARL LETT be made party defendant to this Bill, and by proper process be required to answer same within the time prescribed by law.

Complainant further prays that decree be rendered forever divorcing him from ANNIE PEARL LETT, granting him the right to marry again should he so desire and such other, further or different relief as to equity may seem meet.

Elliott G. Rinkley
Solicitor for Complainant.

1027

SYLVESTER LEFT,
Complainant

VS

ANNIE PEARL LEFT,
Defendant

DEPOSITIONS OF SYLVESTER LEFT
AND
WITNESSES FOR COMPLAINANT

Testimony 29/19/43
P. G. G. G.

Sylvester Lett.

VS.

Annie Pearl Lett.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY

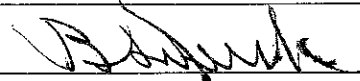
CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

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

and Testimony of Sylvester Lett. Maude Harris.

Ella Saucier.

and in behalf of Defendant upon Answer & Waiver.

 Register.

LAW OFFICES
ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

November 26, 1943.

Mr. Robert S. Duck, Register,
Bay Minette,
Alabama.

Dear Bob:

LETT vs LETT: Herewith find bill, answer and waiver and check for \$10.00 to cover costs in this case. The depositions will reach you by this mail under separate cover. I also enclose decrees for signature. Please submit this at your reasonable convenience, as while the costs are paid, I am not and the complainant is leaving for the Army soon.

You will note that this answer is not executed before a magistrate, but in the presence of two witnesses. The parties live on one of Prine's turpentine camps about five miles southeast of Fairhope. The lady in the case, shortly after leaving her husband, went to Pensacola with another negro and returned proudly proclaiming that they had been lawfully married and since then is living with him and bearing his name. When my client went down to his erring spouse to get her signature to the answer, she readily complied and the witnesses to this are her mother and husband No. 2. I mention this as this is a new kink in my somewhat large experience in divorce matters. You will note that the facts to the signature of the answer are sworn to by the complainant and are borne out by the two witnesses who are settled married women.

If Judge Hare should raise any point about the answer not being properly acknowledged, I suggest that you pass this letter on to him, that he may see that the case is a rather exceptional one.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott G. Rickarby

EGR:HB
Enc - 3
1960

SYLVESTER LETT,
Complainant,

E Q U I T Y .

vs

CIRCUIT COURT OF

ANNIE PEARL LETT,
Respondent.

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Comes Annie Pearl Lett, Respondent in the above styled cause and for answer to the bill of complaint denies each allegation of the bill.

Respondent hereby waives service and notice of demand for oral examination of Complainant's witnesses, of the issue of commission to take testimony, of the time and place for taking same and of the right to introduce evidence in her own behalf. She further agrees that this cause may be submitted for final decree at any time upon the pleading and Complainant's evidence as noted by the Register.

Annie Pearl Lett
Respondent.

Executed in the presence of

Meytle Rhodes
Willie Baldwin

RECORDED

No. 1027.

The State of Alabama,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

Sylvester Lett.

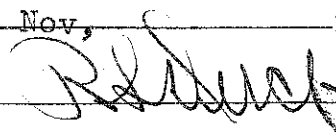
VS.

Annie Pearl Lett.

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 29th

day of Nov, 1943


Register.

1024

RECORDED

M. Smith

Filed Nov 29 1943

W. H. Smith

Sylvester Lett.

VS.

Annie Pearl Lett.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY
CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

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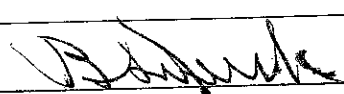
and Testimony of Sylvester Lett.

Maude Farris.

Ella Saucier.

and in behalf of Defendant upon

Answer & Waiver.



Register.