

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

MAURICE V. FULFORD

, Complainant

vs.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD

, Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~Decree and Answer~~ on 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 heretofore existing between the Complainant and Defendant be, and the same are hereby, dissolved, and that the said Maurice V. Fulford is forever divorced from the said Thelma Louise Fulford for and on account of the grounds set forth in the Bill of Complaint filed in this cause;

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 the Complainant pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This _____ day of _____, 1951.

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. _____ Page _____

The State of Alabama
BALDWIN COUNTY

In Circuit Court, In Equity

Maurice V. Fulford

Complainant

vs.

Thelma Louise Fulford

Respondent

DIVORCE DECREE

THE STATE OF ALABAMA }
Baldwin County }

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

Maurice V. Fulford

COMPLAINANT

vs.

Thelma Louise Fulford

RESPONDENT

I, Frances G. Crawford

as Register and Commissioner

have called and caused to come before me Maurice V. Fulford and Lillie West

witness ~~es~~ named in the requirement for Oral Examination, on the 15 day of May

~~1951~~ at the office of E. A. Cramer, Attorney,

in Fairhope, Alabama, and having first sworn said witness ~~es~~ to speak the

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the said Maurice V. Fulford

doth depose and say as follows:

I am 44 years old and my wife, Thelma, is 20. We were married on December 7th 1950 at Lucedale, Mississippi. We have both lived in Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, for more than ten years. Thelma was born in Baldwin County and has lived there ever since. We lived together after our marriage until the early morning of May ~~2nd~~ 1951. The reason for our separating was as follows: I came home from work on the evening of May 2nd and found that she had done nothing. My supper was not ready and she had been ~~paying~~ around all day, it seemed. In fact, she had been doing that more and more for some weeks prior to this. I guess I got mad and I told her not to bother, that I would go back up town and get a sandwich and cup of coffee. When I got back to the house, in about 45 minutes, she was not there. After a while, I went to bed. About 10:30 my sister, Mrs. West, who lives next door, came in. My wife was not home. My sister and I commenced looking for her. We went to her Uncle's and Aunt's and she was not there. Finally, about 12:45, we came back home and, when I got in, my wife was in bed. I asked her where she had been and she stated that she had been hiding ~~in~~ in the tomatoe patch. I told her she was acting like a child and went to bed. The next evening, May 3rd, at about 7 o'clock, my wife and I went to her Grandmother's. Her Grandmother asked her why she had been up town late the preceding evening. Thelma told her that she was looking for me, which was a lie since I was home the greater part of the evening. When we went home, I asked her why she had lied to me. She said because she was mad at me. I asked her how she had gone to town and how she came home. She stated that she had walked to town and had borrowed \$2.00 from Clarence Johnson to pay taxi fare home. I told her, then, that I did not like that since she could have charged the taxi fare to me. I said that she could not get anything out of Clarence Johnson without having trouble, that he had that kind of a reputation. She then admitted that Clarence had demanded that she have sexual relations with him and he would give her the money. She said that she and Johnson had gone up to the Organic School grounds and that they did have sexual intercourse. I called my sister, Lillie, in and Thelma then repeated what she had told me in my sister's presence. I then told Thelma that I would not live with her any longer but would sue for a divorce at once. I left her. The next day, I looked up Clarence Johnson and told him what a low down skunk he was. I accused him and he admitted the whole thing. I had told him that I did not want to make a public scandal and that, for that reason, I would not bring any criminal charges against him and Thelma but would ask for a divorce in the quietest and quickest way possible. Now that this had happened, I have learned that Thelma was not the most innocent

girl that I had thought when we were married. I guess I was very foolish to have married someone as much younger. It just would not work and, at my age, I could not hope to keep her as interested as a younger man might have done.

Maurice Fulford

And the said Lillie West doth depose and say as follows:

I am Maurice Fulford's sister. The early morning of May 4th, 1951, Maurice called me next door. When I got there, he asked Thelma to repeat something that she had just told him. She told me that she had had sexual intercourse with Clarence Johnson on the evening of May 2nd. From things that I had heard, I felt that Maurice made a bad mistake by marrying her but I hoped that it would work out all right. Maurice quit her immediately after her admission.

Lillie West

ORAL EXAMINATION

BT-½M-12-40

I, Frances G. Crawford 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 _____ at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said witnesses ~~es~~ or had proof made before me of the identity of said witnesses ~~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 15 day of May, 1951. ~~194~~

Frances G. Crawford (L. S.)

ORAL EXAMINATION

BT-1/2M-12-40

I, Frances G. Crawford 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 _____ at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said witnesses es or had proof made before me of the identity of said witnesses 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 15 day of May, 1951. ~~194~~

Frances G. Crawford (L. S.)

I, Frances G. Crawford 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 _____ at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have personal knowledge of personal identity of said witnesses or had proof made before me of the identity of said witnesses; 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 15 day of May, 1951.

Frances G. Crawford (L. S.)

No. _____ Page _____

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

COMPLAINANT

VS.

RESPONDENT

ORAL DEPOSITION

Filed _____, 194

FILED _____, Register.

MAY 24 1951

ALICE J. DICK, Register
Record

Vol. _____ Page _____

Register

E. A. CRAMER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

May 28th 1951

Miss Alice: Maurice V. Fulford vs Thelma Louise Fulford
to
This case is filed but, due/unexpected developments, I feel that
the records should show personal service upon the Respondent. Hence,
I am enclosing herewith an additional copy of the Bill which I would
like to have the Sheriff's office serve upon Mrs. Fulford. Her present
address is c/o J. W. Leavins, Battles Wharf, altho she might be at one
of her other aunt's, Mrs. Ira Leavins or Mrs. Aaron Bishop.
Will please inform Judge Mashburn concerning this development ?
Thank you much.

Ed. Gravel

Maurice V. Fulford, Complainant

CIRCUIT COURT

vs

BALDWIN COUNTY

ALABAMA

Thelma Louise Fulford, Respondent

IN EQUITY

To THE HONORABLE TELFAIR J. MASHBURN, Jr., Judge of said Court,
sitting in Equity;

Comes Maurice V. Fulford and exhibits this, His Bill of Complaint,
against Thelma Louise Fulford, and shows unto Your Honor as follows:


First: Complainant, whose age is 44 years, and Respondent, whose age is 20 years, intermarried December 7th 1950 at Lucedale, Mississippi.


Second: Both parties hereto have been residents of Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, for more than ten years past and they lived together as husband and wife in said Baldwin County from said marriage until May 2nd 1951 at which time, because of the acts complained of herein, they separated.

Third: On May 2nd 1951, Respondent did commit ADULTERY with one Clarence Johnson at and within said Town of Fairhope.

The premises considered, Complainant prays that said Thelma Louise Fulford be, by all due and appropriate process, made party Defendant to this suit and that she be required to answer, plead or demur to the several paragraphs hereof within the time prescribed by law and that she be compelled to abide and obey all orders and decrees made against her in the premises.

Complainant prays further that, upon a hearing of the within cause, a decree be rendered granting him an absolute divorce from said Thelma Louise Fulford and granting him such other, further and different relief as, to Your Honor, may seem meet and proper.


E. A. Cramer, Fairhope, Ala.
Solicitor for Complainant


Complainant

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

Baldwin Times

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

BALDWIN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT, BALDWIN COUNTY

No. 2642.....

.....TERM, 19.....

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

You Are Hereby Commanded to Summon THELMA LOUISE FULFORD

to appear and plead, answer or demur, within thirty days from the service hereof, to the complaint filed in
the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, State of Alabama, at Bay Minette, against _____

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD

_____, Defendant

by MAURICE V. FULFORD

_____, Plaintiff.....

Witness my hand this 12th day of May 1951....

Alice J. Duck

_____, Clerk

RECORDED

No. 2642

Page

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
BALDWIN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT

MAURICE V. FULFORD

Plaintiffs

vs.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD

Defendants

SUMMONS and COMPLAINT

Filed May 12, 1951

Alice J. Duck, Clerk

E. A. Cramer

Plaintiff's Attorney

Defendant's Attorney

Defendant lives at

RECEIVED IN OFFICE

June 1, 1951

Taylor E. Williams Sheriff

I have executed this summons

this June 12, 1951

by leaving a copy with

Thelma Louise Fulford

Taylor E. Williams Sheriff

Edling S. Williams Deputy Sheriff

E. A. CRAMER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

May 23rd 1951

Dear Mrs. Duck:

Please submit the enclosed but hold up the issuance of a
decree until I advise you. I prefer not to complete the
matter until I am in receipt of full fee and costs.

I hope that you and your family are in the best of health.

Nick

Maurice V. Fulford, Complainant)	Circuit Court
)	
vs)	Baldwin County
)	
Thelma Louise Fulford, Respondent)	Alabama
		In Equity

Comes Thelma Louise Fulford, Respondent, and, for answer to the Bill of Complaint in the above titled cause, says that she denies each and every allegation therein contained.

Respondent hereby waives the right to demand for formal issuance of commission to take testimony, the right to introduce evidence in her own behalf or to cross examine Complainants' witnesses and she agrees that the within cause may be submitted for a hearing and final decree at any time without further notice to her upon Complainants' pleadings and evidence as noted by the Register.

Thelma Louise Fulford
Thelma Louise Fulford

State of Alabama, Baldwin County

Before me, E. Cramer, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally came Thelma Louise Fulford, Respondent in the above titled cause and known to me and she acknowledged that she executed the foregoing answer and waiver VOLUNTARILY with full knowledge of the contents thereof.

Given under my hand and seal this 10th day of May

1951.

E. Cramer



Bay Minette, Alabama
May 28, 1951

Judge Telfair J. Mashburn, Jr
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Judge Mashburn:

Maurice V. Fulford, my husband, has filed in your Court divorce proceedings against me. These papers were filed in your Court on May 12, 1951. I wish to advise that Maurice and I have been living together as man and wife since these papers were filed. I desire that these proceedings be dropped. I can come to your office and discuss this matter with you at most any time which is convenient for you.

Very truly yours,

Thelma Louise Fulford

Thelma Louise Fulford

Witness to signature:

Lutz L. Lewis

Barbara L. Lewis

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF BALDWIN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY
CASE #2642

MAURICE W. FULFORD,
Complainant

VS.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD,
Respondent

ANSWER AND CROSSBILL

Comes the respondent, THELMA LOUISE FULFORD, and in answer to the complainant's bill says that complainant is forty-four years old and that she is nineteen years old and admits they were married on the 7th of December, 1950, in Lucedale, Mississippi.

SECOND: Complainant admits that the parties have been residents of Baldwin County, Alabama, for ten years past, and have lived together as husband and wife in Baldwin County from said marriage until about May 2, 1951, AND THAT on May 2, 1951 they quarrelled and shortly thereafter the complainant spoke to the respondent about getting a divorce but that they were later reconciled and complainant told respondent that this divorce was dropped AND THAT they lived at his sister's and he condoned the alleged acts of misconduct by having intercourse with her on several times after this divorce was filed between the 12th of May and the 16th of May, 1951.

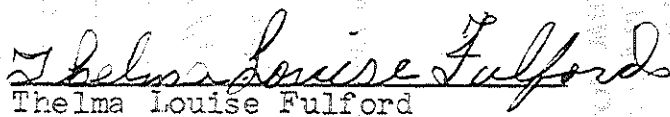
THIRD: Respondent denies that she committed adultery with Clarence Johnson.

Respondent further shows that on or about the 12th day of May, 1951, the complainant committed actual violence upon the person of his wife, attended with danger to her life and health by striking her and choking her.

Respondent further shows that the complainant is an able-bodied man, drawing good wages as a barber in the City of Fairhope, and that she is in delicate health and with child AND THAT she is without funds to sufficiently care for the support of herself and child AND THAT the complainant has sufficient funds and estate to provide for her. Respondent further shows that she is without funds to employ counsel AND THAT she has meritorious

defense to this course of action.

Wherefore, respondent prays that this answer be made a cross-bill AND THAT due notice of same be given to complainant AND THAT on a final hearing thereof, the bill for divorce filed by MAURICE J. FULFORD be dismissed AND THAT the Court determine a reasonable and proper amount for the complainant to contribute to the support of this respondent and her child and allow the respondent for counsel's fees in order that the same be paid by the complainant, and respondent further prays for such other different or other relief as to Equity may seem proper.


Thelma Louise Fulford

RICKARBY & RICKARBY
Solicitor for Respondent


E. G. Rickarby, Jr.

Received in Sheriff's Office
this 10 day of July, 1951
TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff

executed 7-10 1951

by serving copy of within Summons and
complaint on answer & cross

W. M. Hall as
Attorney for Respondent

Taylor Wilkins Sheriff
By W. F. Hall Deputy Sheriff

MAURICE V. FULFORD,
Complainant

VS.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD,
Respondent

ANSWER AND CROSS-BILL

In The Circuit Court of
Baldwin County, Alabama

In Equity

Case #2642

FILED
JUL 10 1951
ALICE J. DUCK, Register

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF BALDWIN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

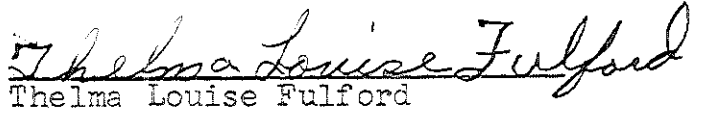
IN EQUITY
CASE #2642

MAURICE V. FULFORD ,
Complainant

VS.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD,
Respondent

Comes the respondent in the above-mentioned cause and moves that the Court allow her to amend her pleading by withdrawing the alleged waiver heretofore filed in this cause and further moves that the testimony in this case taken under said waiver, and without notice to her, be suppressed.


Thelma Louise Fulford

RICKARBY & RICKARBY
Solicitor for Respondent
By:


E. G. Rickarby, Jr.

MAURICE V. FULFORD,
Complainant

VS.

THELMA LOUISE FULFORD,
Respondent

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY
CASE #2642

FILED

JUL 10 1951

ALICE A. DUCK, Register

LAW OFFICES

RICKARBY & RICKARBY

ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA
6 July, 1951

E. G. RICKARBY, JR.

Mrs. Alice J. Duck
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Duck:

With this we are handing you answer and
cross-bill in the case of Fulford vs.
Fulford.

Please file these and have them served on
Mr. Cramer right away.

Yours very truly,

RICKARBY & RICKARBY

By: 

EGRjr:ms
Enc.
1211