

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

S. E. Flowers Complainant

VS

Letha F. Flowers Respondent

stipulation,
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ answer of respondent, 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 S. E. Flowers is forever divorced from the said

Letha F. Flowers

for and on account of adultery.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that complainant, S. E. Flowers, be and he hereby is awarded the custody and control of L. W. Flowers and A. G. Flowers, minor children of complainant and respondent, but that jurisdiction of this cause be and hereby is retained for any further and future orders or decrees necessary or proper in the premises concerning the custody and control of said minor children.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that respondent have and recover of complainant the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for services of her solicitors, Messrs. Beebe and Hall, herein.

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 complainant and respondent

be, and are hereby permitted to again contract marriage upon the payment of the cost of this suit.

It is further ordered that complainant pay said solicitors' fee and

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This 21st day of August, 1944.

J. N. Hare
Judge Circuit Court, in Equity.

I, R. S. 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 August, 1944

Register of Circuit Court, in Equity.

RECORDED

No. Page

The State Of Alabama
Baldwin County

In Circuit Court, In Equity

.....
vs. Complainant.

.....
Respondent.

DIVORCE DECREE

S. E. Flowers,
Complainant,

vs

Letha F. Flowers,
Respondent.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN EQUITY

TO THE HONORABLE F. W. HARE, JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Now comes your complainant, S. E. Flowers, and brings this his bill of complaint against the respondent, Letha F. Flowers, respectfully alleging and representing to your Honor and the Court as follows:

1. He is over the age of twenty-one years and is now and has been for more than one year next preceding the filing hereof a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama. The respondent is over the age of twenty-one years and is now a non-resident of the State of Alabama, her last known place of residence being Waynesboro, Mississippi.

2. The complainant and the respondent were lawfully married to each other on the third day of December, 1927, and lived together as man and wife until, to-wit: the thirteenth day of March, 1944.

3. On, to-wit: the thirteenth day of March, 1944, respondent committed an act, or acts, of adultery with a man whose name is unknown to complainant, and shortly prior thereto had committed other acts of adultery with other men whose names are also unknown to complainant. Such act or acts of adultery were without the connivance, knowledge or consent of your complainant and have not been condoned by him. Since said date of, to-wit: the thirteenth day of March, 1944, complainant and respondent have not lived together as man and wife, or otherwise.

4. Two sons, A. G. Flowers, aged twelve years, and L. W. Flowers, aged nine years, were born to complainant and respondent. Both of said children are now in the care, custody and control of complainant, who is an able-bodied man, earns a good and comfortable living for them and, if granted their custody and control by your Honor, will give them proper religious and educational training.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, complainant prays that proper process, in accordance with law and practice of this Court, by publication or otherwise forthwith issue for service upon respondent, the said Letha F. Flowers, making her a party respondent to this bill of complaint. Complainant further prays that upon the final hearing hereof your Honor will give and grant to complainant a decree of absolute divorce from respondent, the said Letha F. Flowers, and will further give and grant by said decree custody and control of the said minor children, A. G. Flowers and L. W. Flowers. Complainant further prays for such other and further and different relief, orders and decrees as may be proper, the premises considered.

H. E. Smith
Solicitor for Complainant.

S. E. Flowers,
Complainant,

vs

Letha F. Flowers,
Respondent.

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

AFFIDAVIT OF NON-RESIDENCE

Personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said state and county, S. E. Flowers, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the complainant in the foregoing cause for divorce against Letha F. Flowers, that the said Letha F. Flowers is a non-resident of the state of Alabama, her last known place of residence and Post Office address being Waynesboro, Mississippi.

Affiant further deposes and says that both he and the said Letha F. Flowers are over the age of twenty-one years.

S. E. Flowers

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the 5th day of May, 1944.

Winnic B. Scarborough
Notary Public, Baldwin County,
Alabama.

S. E. FLOWERS,
COMPLAINANT
VS
LETHA F. FLOWERS
RESPONDENT

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

And now comes the Respondent, and for answer to the Complainant's bill of Complaint, and to each paragraph thereof, says:

ONE:

She admits the allegations of Paragraph 1, that the Complainant is over twenty one years of age, and is now and has been for more than one year next preceding the filing thereof, a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama; she denies the allegation that she is a non-resident of the State of Alabama, but on the contrary, says that she is over twenty one years of age and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama;

TWO.

She admits the allegation contained in Paragraph 2, in that she and the Complainant were lawfully married on December 3, 1927;

THREE:

She denies the allegation contained in Paragraph 3, and demands strict proof of the same.

FOUR:

She admits the allegation contained in Paragraph 4, that they have two sons, who are now in the custody of the Complainant; she denies the other allegations contained therein and demands strict proof of the same.

FIVE:

The Respondent denies each and every paragraph contained in the foregoing not herein expressly admitted, and demands strict proof of the same.

SIX:

The Respondent, for further answer to the Bill of Complaint, says:

(A) The Complainant is an able bodied man, earns an good and com-


fortable living; that he has real and personal property of the value of, to-wit, \$2,000.00; that the Respondent has no property and no money and no means of supporting herself other than by her manual labor; that she has no funds with which to employ counsel to defend this action.

WHEREFORE, the Respondent prays that this be taken as her cross bill, and that the said S. E. Flowers be made party cross-Respondent hereto, and required to plead, answer or demur to the same within the time prescribed by law and the practice of this Honorable Court.

Complainant further prays that your Honor will order a reference to determine a reasonable amount to be paid by the Complainant to the Respondent as alimony pen dente lite and as attorneys fees.

Respondent prays that your Honor will give and grant to her such other, further, different and general relief as she may be in equity and good conscience entitled to receive, and as in duty bound she will ever pray.

BEEBE & HALL

BY 
Solicitors for The Respondent

1713

Adiant

Hyacin

Lawrence

June 6 1944
~~John Lawrence~~
 Lawrence

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOV 17 1944

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Handwritten signature
22.1944

TO THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FROM THE SAC, [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible]

[Faded typed text]

[Faded typed text]

[Faded typed text]

1173

RECORDED

Dauphin

David

Hansen

1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950

1173

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Flowers

&
Flowers

Answer,

John P. Jones 1944
St. Paul
Tape

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

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

S. E. Flowers COMPLAINANT

-VS-

Letha F. Flowers RESPONDENT

I, R. S. Duck

as Register and Commissioner

have called and caused to come before me S. E. Flowers and Sterling Flowers

witnesses named in the Requirement for Oral Examination, on the 22nd day of August

1944, at the office of myself

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

the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the said S. E. Flowers

doth depose and say as follows:

My name is S. E. Flowers. I am the complainant in this cause for divorce against my wife, Letha F. Flowers. I am over the age of twenty-one years and am now and was for more than one year next preceding the filing of my bill of complaint in this cause a bona fide resident of Baldwin County, Alabama. The respondent at the time of the filing of my bill of complaint in this cause was a non-resident of the State of Alabama, and her place of residence was Waynesboro, Mississippi. Both myself and the respondent were at the time of the filing of my bill of complaint herein over the age of twenty-one years.

I and the respondent were lawfully married to each other on December 3, 1927, and lived together as man and wife until the thirteenth day of March, 1944.

On the thirteenth day of March, 1944, the respondent committed an act or acts of adultery with Orrie Stewart, who is a strong and able-bodied man. She knew that my father had caught her and him in the very act of adultery and left me and the children without telling us that she was going. She said when she left the house she was going down to the schoolhouse but we did not see or hear from her or know where she was until I heard she was in Waynesboro, Mississippi just before I filed my bill of complaint in this case. She did not have any cause for leaving me as I always treated her as a dutiful husband should and took good care of her and our children, A.G. Flowers, aged 12 years and L.W. Flowers aged nine years.

Just two or three days before she left, I found this letter to her from Orrie Stewart because I knew his handwriting which is his. I had known for some time that something was the matter on account of the way she neglected me and the children. She had been a different woman for several months and I knew in my own mind they were meeting but could not know it for certain until I found the letter and from what my father told me the day after she left. I attach this letter to my testimony and mark it "EXHIBIT A".

ORAL EXAMINATION

I, R. S. Duck, 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 witnesses and read over to them and they signed the same in the presence of myself and H. E. Smith, solicitor for complainant.

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 23rd day of August, 1944.

R. S. Duck

(L. S.)

No. _____ Page _____

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

Complainant

Vs.

Respondent

ORAL DEPOSITION

Filed 23 1944

Register

RECORDED IN

Record

Vol. _____ Page _____

Register

Sterling Flowers, being first by me duly sworn, testified in substance as follows:

My name is Sterling Flowers. I live in Baldwin County, Alabama, about 11 miles by road out of Bay Minette. I am 67 years of age and have lived here for the past 45 years, moving here from Florida. The complainant in this cause is my son and at the time of their separation in March of this year I lived about two or three hundred yards from them.

About six months or more before March 1944, a man named Orrie Stewart became very attentive to the respondent and came around real often when my son, who works in the shipyard, was not there. When he was in her company, he could not keep his eyes off of her. My son and her had two children, both boys the oldest aged twelve years named A. G. Flowers and the youngest aged nine years named L. W. Flowers. She had become very neglectful of her housekeeping, giving them their meals and keeping their clothes neat and clean.

On or about the thirteenth day of March, 1944, she just picked up and left my son and his home without any explanation. A day or two before she left I had gone to their home to see about some work and not seeing her or anyone in the house I walked on out the back way to see if I could find any of them. When I got down in a thick place sort of west of the house, I looked over ~~the~~ towards the back of the thicket, and saw them sit up on the ground, she jumped up and came by me on to the house, and he did not think I had seen him and tried to crouch down and hide behind some bushes. He was so scared and excited that he could not say anything I could understand and I left him still on the ground. He was a strong, able-bodied man and from all the circumstances as I saw them, I know he was not there for but one thing and that was to commit adultery with her, and I know from their actions and behaviour that was what they did. The next day or two after, she left her husband and the children without any excuse or explanation and has not been back to them. I did not tell my son of this and other similar occurrences until after she left.

My wife and myself are now looking after the complainant and the two children, we have a good home and all of us will give them the proper religious and educational training.

Sterling Flowers

She left without even saying goodbye to me or the children and we did not know she was going. My mother and father are now looking out after me and the children and will give them the best religious and educational training, for with my job at the shipyard and farming, and my father being of fair means, we will all do the best we can for them in every way.

Her acts of adultery with Orrie Stewart, or any one else, was without connivance, knowledge or consent on my part and have not been condoned by me. We have not lived together as man and wife since we separated.

S E Flowers

The **BALDWIN**
Times BEST NEWSPAPER
ALABAMA'S BEST COUNTY'S-
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT
The State of Alabama, Baldwin County,
Circuit Court in Equity This the 6th
day of May, 1944.
S. E. Flowers
No. 1113
Vs.
In this cause it being made to appear
to the Clerk of this Court by the affida-
vit of S. E. Flowers, that the respondent
is a non-resident of the State of Alabama
and further, that, in the belief of said
Affiant the respondent is over the age of
21 years, it is therefore, ordered that
publication be made in the Baldwin
Times, a newspaper published in Bay
Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama, once
a week for four consecutive weeks, re-
quiring the said L. C. F. Flowers to
answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint
in this cause by the 12th day of June,
1944, or after thirty days therefrom a
decree Pro Confesso may be taken
against her.
R. S. DUCK, Register.
H. B. SMITH
Solicitor, for Complainant. 156 15-4tc

STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY.

Ford Cook, 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

Notice to Non-Resident

COST STATEMENT

156 WORDS @ ~~44~~ ^{2 1/2} cents ~~7.02~~ 3.90

I hereby certify this is correct, due and unpaid (paid).

Ford Cook
Publisher.

Was published in said newspaper for 2 consecutive weeks in the following issues:

- Date of 1st publication May 11, 1944 Vol. 55 No. 15
- Date of 2nd publication May 18, 1944 Vol. 55 No. 16
- Date of 3rd publication May 25, 1944 Vol. 55 No. 17
- Date of 4th publication June 1, 1944 Vol. 55 No. 18

Subscribed and sworn before the undersigned this _____ day of _____ 1944

Notary Public, Baldwin County.

Ford Cook
Publisher.

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT

TIMES PRINTING CO., BAY MINETTE

S E FLOWERS.

No. 1113

vs.

LETHA F FLOWERS.

The State of Alabama,

County.

Circuit Court, in Equity

This the 6th day of

May, 1944

In this cause it being made to appear to the Clerk of this Court by the affidavit of

S E FLOWERS.

that the ~~Defendant~~

is a non-resident of the State of Alabama

and further, that, in the belief of said Affiant ~~the Defendant~~ ^{Respondent.} is over the age of 21

years; it is, therefore, ordered that publication be made in the Baldwin Times, a newspaper published in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama, once a week for four consecutive weeks, requiring

the said Letha F Flowers.

to answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in this cause by the 12th day of

June, 1944, or after thirty days therefrom a decree Pro Confesso may be

taken against her.

Register.

H E Smith
Solicitor for Complainant

memory the many promises
that you have made me
you seem to be so happy & content
but & working here on earth can
you seem so happy.

EXHIBIT "A" to testimony of S.E. Flowers,
the complainant.

Register.

want be long 3 new

few more days I am
all most sick now since
spent my life trying to get
to see you & trying to get
a chance to get a few words
to you doctors I am going
to sell every thing I get
& buy my children a nice
home in town where
they can be happy for
me I have no home no one
to care for me no one to do
for me but for you no
just what I am in this
dia you no who sustained
it all so take these few
words to heart & an love
at once from your true love
ill with
want be long

in love to feel till death
went the love

Rate your me

+++++
+++++

My dear love one

I will write you a few
words this mo. I fear the
love is bad & broken heart
nothing in this world for me
& I see no hope of this life
what ever all I have in
this life is disappointments
& heart aches & I have nothing
to live for nothing to care for
some else has the one I
love & I can't stand
for it my heart is broken
what I put in my heart
no one sees but it will
soon be none but every
body knows you have

And in papers about things
 happening & heard a hint
 then but this has come
 home since has caused
 it all you no money that
 you have promised me to
 stand by me till death
 separated us I don't know what
 on earth to do trouble trouble
 I am all most lard by I want
 work but right I don't know
 I will see you some where
 I want you to be at your
 mother's Sunday night
 if your sister is at home
 I want to meet me out side I
 got something to tell you
 I no I can't ^{stand} this But a

S. E. Flowers,

Complainant,

VS.

Letha F. Flowers,

Respondent.

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, agreement
of counsel, answer of respondent, and testimony of witnesses on behalf of
complainant, namely: S. E. Flowers, the complainant, and Sterling Flowers.

and in behalf of Defendant upon answer and agreement of counsel.

R. J. Welch Register.

~~RECORDED~~

No. 117 RECORDED

The State of Alabama,
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN EQUITY
CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

S. E. Flowers

VS.

Letha F. Flowers.

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 23
day of July 1944

[Signature]
Register.