

1188

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON,
Complainant

E Q U I T Y

Vs.

CIRCUIT COURT OF

DORIS JOHNSON,
Respondent

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DEPOSITIONS OF WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON and ALICE JACKSON,
WITNESSES FOR COMPLAINANT

The said witnesses, being duly sworn upon examination by
Solicitor for Complainant, testified as follows:

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON

I am the Complainant in this cause and on August 31, 1935 was married to Doris Johnson at Bay Minette and lived together with him until the middle of June 1944 in Baldwin County when we separated. We are both over the age of twenty-one years and life long residents of Baldwin County.

Although we have four children and got along fairly well for a long time in late months his attitude has changed and he has been unreasonable and cruel. He has repeatedly struck me and beaten me but I put up with this up to June 15th last, when he attacked me and cut me with a knife severely in the back. Since then I left him and have not gone back to him as I feel to do so would endanger my life.

We have four children; Doris, Jr., aged 7 years, K. C., aged 5, Frances Carroll, aged 4, and the baby, Dorothy Marie, 7 months old. The older three of these children are still with my husband's parents at Bay Minette and I have the baby with me. My husband has agreed to let me have the custody of all the children for one year; after which if we cannot agree about the disposal of them the matter is to be decided by this Court. He has also agreed to pay \$15.00 per month for their support to his mother who will use it in buying the things that I tell her are needed for the children. He also agreed that should he be called into the Army his allotment and allowance for the children should be paid to his mother to be applied for their use under my directions.

Willie Gray Johnson

ALICE JACKSON

I am a resident of Fairhope, Alabama, and have known Willie Gray Johnson for about eight years. I knew her before she was married and have kept in touch with her ever since. Up to the time they parted she and her husband lived about a mile away from me and I have been quite intimate with them. I have repeatedly heard him fussing and quarreling with her apparently without cause. About the middle of June I saw Willie Gray who showed me a serious cut made by a knife across her back which she told me had been given her by her husband. She came to my house from hers and was bleeding from this cut. She told me that she had stood his treatment as long as she could and was now leaving him and since that time she has lived apart from him. In my opinion if she went back to live with him he would do her serious harm for he is hot tempered and quarrelsome.

Alice Jackson

I, Mary F. Thomson, acting as Commissioner by agreement of parties hereby certify that in the case of Willie Gray Johnson versus Doris Johnson, pending in the Equity side of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, I caused Willie Gray Johnson and Alice Jackson, 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 testified as is above written and 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 12th day of September 1944.

Mary F. Thomson

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON,
Complainant,

vs

DORIS JOHNSON,
Respondent.

E Q U I T Y .

CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Comes Doris Johnson, Respondent in the above styled cause and for answer to the Bill of Complaint says he denies each material allegation of same.

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

Doris Johnson
Respondent.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary, personally appeared this day Doris Johnson who acknowledged that he executed the foregoing answer voluntarily with knowledge of its contents.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 22nd day of August, 1944.

Beulah G. Rinkley
Notary Public, Baldwin County,
Alabama.

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

Comes WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON, and by this her Bill of Complaint, presented against DORIS JOHNSON, respectfully shows:

FIRST: That Complainant and Defendant are both over the age of twenty-one years and have been all of their lives, bona fide residents of Baldwin County.

SECOND: That Complainant and Defendant were married on August 31, 1935 at Bay Minette, and have lived together since in this County until the middle of June, 1944, when they parted because of his treatment of her.

THIRD: For number of months past, the attitude of Defendant toward Complainant has been unreasonable and cruel. He has repeatedly struck and beaten her, which she endured up to June 15th. last when Defendant attacked her and cut her severely in the back, whereupon, she has left him and has lived separate and apart without resumption of marital relations, fearing for her life should she continue to live with him.

FOURTH: That four children were born to this marriage, the oldest about twelve and the youngest, a daughter, a nursing infant but a few months of age, who now lives with Complainant. The three older children since the separation being with the father's relations.

THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Complainant prays that Doris Johnson be made party Defendant to the cause, and by proper process required to answer this Bill within the time required by Law.

Complainant further prays that upon the hearing of this cause a decree be rendered forever divorcing her from said Doris Johnson, granting her the right to marry again should she so desire, the custody of the children of the marriage, and such other, further or different relief as to equity may seem meet.

Solicitor for Complainant.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON Complainant

VS.

DORIS JOHNSON Respondent

This cause coming on to be heard was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, ~~DEEDS BY COMMISSIONER~~

~~copy~~ 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 WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON is forever divorced from the said DORIS JOHNSON

for and on account of Cruelty

It is further ordered that the Court reserve control of this case for disposition as to the custody and support of the four children of the marriage: Doris, Jr., K.C., Frances Carroll and Dorothy Marie; as may seem to the best interests of said children from time to time.

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 DORIS JOHNSON the Respondent pay the cost herein to be taxed, for which execution may issue.

This 4th day of October, 19 45

[Signature] Judge Circuit Court, in Equity.

I, ROBERT 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 October, 19 45

Register of Circuit Court, in Equity

RECORDED

No. _____ Page _____

The State of Alabama
BALDWIN COUNTY

IN CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON

vs. Complainant

DORIS JOHNSON

Respondent

DIVORCE DECREE

Filed this _____ day of

October, 1945

Register

1188

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON,
Complainant,

vs

DORIS JOHNSON,
Respondent.

ANSWER & WAIVER.

RECORDED

Filed July 30/1944
[Handwritten signature]

E Q U I T Y

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON,
Complainant

Vs.

DORIS JOHNSON,
Respondent

- - -

DEPOSITIONS OF
WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON
and
ALICE JACKSON

Exhibit 13, 1944
B. Jackson
L. Jackson

LAW OFFICES
ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

October 2, 1945.

Mr. Robert S. Duck
Register
Bay Minette, Alabama

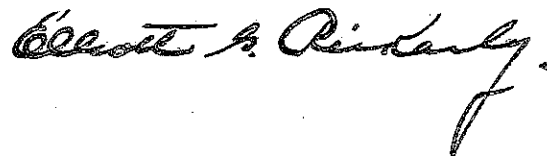
Dear Bob:

WILLIE GRAY JOHNSON vs DORIS JOHNSON, 1188:

My files show that Bill, Answer and Costs were sent you in August of last year, and the testimony on September 12th, with a request that this be held pending agreement as to alimony and custody of the children, that would be furnished later. This last was not done as the Defendant failed to keep his word, so I am now asking you to submit with the enclosed decree, which as you see permits the courts to retain custody of the case for the disposition of the children and their support.

You may remember that I called to your attention that the Complainant has a man's first name and the Defendant a woman's first name.

Sincerely,



EGR:csm
2108

Willie Gray Johns

vs.
Dee Johns

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, _____

Anderson and Marie, well
Ising at- Complaint and Dee Johns

and in behalf of Defendant upon _____

R. Duval

Register.

No. 1188

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
Baldwin County

IN EQUITY
Circuit Court of Baldwin County

Willie Gray Johnson

vs.

Doris Johnson

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

Filed in Open Court this 3d

day of Oct, 1945

R. J. [Signature]
Register.