The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

ANNA_STE	complainant
	vs.
JOSH_STE	VENS, Respondent
This cause coming on to be hea	rd was submitted upon Bill of Complaint, Decree Pro Confesso o
PERSONAL SERVICE	and Testimony as noted by the Register, and upon cor
sideration thereof, the Court is of the said bill.	opinion that the Complainant is entitled to the relief prayed for i
It is therefore ordered, adjudged	l and decreed by the Court that the bonds of matrimony heretofor
existing between the Complainant and	Defendant be, and the same are hereby dissolved, and that the said
Anna Stevens	is forever divorced from the
said Josh Stever	ASfor and on account o
Non-support	
Middle for the many of the first of the formation of the first of the	
to each other until sixty days after the lays, neither party shall marry except t	
This	y the cost herein to be taxed, for which executed may issue. Notember 1960
	bolar mittee
	Judge Circuit Court, In Equity
7	46
for Ju	urt of Baldwin County, Alabama, do hereby certify that the regoing is a correct copy of the original decree, rendered by the dge of the Circuit Court in the above stated cause, which said cree is on file and enrolled in my office.
•	Witness my hand and seal this theday
of_	,19
	Register of Circuit Court, In Equity.
	Addition Chean Court, in Equity.

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THE STATE OF ALABAMA
BALDWIN COUNTY

In Circuit Court, In Equity

Complainant

VS.

Respondent

DIVORCE DECREE

FILED

NOV 28 (S)

ALICE I. DUCK, CLERK' REGISTER

THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County

Circuit Court

TO: HELEN McDOWELL

KNOW YE: That we, having full faith in your prudence and competency, have appointed you Commissioner, and by these presents do authorize you, as such time and place as you may appoint, to call before you and examine

ANNA STEVENS

AND

JOHN MITCHELL

a witness in behalf of ANNA STEVENS
. Circuit Court in Baldwin County, of said State, wherein

in a cause pending in our

ANNA STEVENS

, Complainant

and

JOSH STEVENS

Respondent

on oath, to be by you administered, upon to take and certify the deposition of the witness and return the same to our Court, with all convenient speed, under your hand.

Witness 13 day of

, 1960 A register.

Commissioner's Fee, \$

Witness' Fees, \$

THE STATE OF ALABAMA Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT

ANNA STEVENS

Complainant

VS.

JOSH STEVENS

Defendant

COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITION

COMMISSIONER:

HELEN MCDOWELL

WITNESSES:

ANNA STEVENS JOHN MITCHELL

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY

Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama
(In Equity)

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have called and c	aused to come b	pefore me <u>An</u> r	na Steven		
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			al Waramina	tion on the	dorr of
				tion, on the	ay oi
19, at the	office of Thon	mpson & Whit	<u>ce</u>		
in Bay Mine	tte	_, Alabama, and	l having firs	t sworn said witness_	to speak th
truth, the whole	truth, and nothi	ng but the truth	, the said	Anna Stevens	
	QUESTIONS	BY C. LENO	IR THOMPS	and say as follows: SON, ATTORNEY F	

My name is Anna Stevens. I am over the age of 21 and have been a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama, all my life. The Respondent Josh Stevens, is over the age of 21 and is presently residing in the State Hospital for Negroes at Mt. Vernon, Alabama. The Complainant and the Respondent were married in Bay Minette, Alabama, on September 24, 1944, and lived together as husband and wife until our separation occurred on July 13, 1956. That since this date her husband, the Respondent, Josh Stevens, has failed to support her or her children, Josh Stevens, Jr. age about 14, Claudia Mae Stevens, age about 10, Rosie Lee Stevens age about 9, born as fruits of this marriage and they have not lived together as husband and wife since the said separation, which occurred on July 13, 1956, without fault on her part. Your Complainant shows that she has had the care, custody and control of these children since birth and further shows that she is a fit, suitable and proper person to have the permanent care, custody and control of these children and respectfully asks that this Honorable Court decree their custody to her. The Respondent has not supported the Complainant since 1952 and your Complainant shows that she does not believe that they will ever live together again as husband and wife.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY ATTORNEY, WILSON HAYES. GUARDIAN AD LITEM, FOR THE RESPONDENT:

My husband had not supported me regularly for over four years before July 13, 1956, and since that date he hasn't given me any money at all. Part of that time he has been in the State Hospital at Mt. Vernon and part of the time he has been out, but he did not support me when he was out and he did not support our children.

anna Stevens

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that the foregoing deposition on Oral Exami			
of the witness and read over to her a			
myself and Mary Thompson White ar			Οı
at the time and place herein mentioned; that l			
witnessor had proof made before me of the			
counsel or of kin to any of the parties to said			
I enclose the said Oral Examination in a			ī.
Given under my hand and seal, this	4.1	The second secon	T protesse profession
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THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

BALDWIN COUNTY

Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama
(In Equity)

*	ANNA STEVENS	COMP	T. A TNI A NITT
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	the requirement for Oral E		day of
in Bay Minette	, Alabama, and hav	ing first sworn said	witnessto speak the
truth, the whole truth, and	nothing but the truth, the	said John Mitcl	hell
N ANSWER TO QUESTI LAINANT:	ONS BY C. LENOIR T	HOMPSON, ATTOI	ollows: RNEY FOR COM-

My name is John Mitchell. I know both parties to this cause. They are both over the age of 21 and are residents of the State of Alabama. They were married in Bay Minette, Alabama, September 24, 1944, and lived together as husband and wife until 1952 when they were separated from time to time. The latest separation occurred on or about July 13, 1956, and they have not lived together as husband and wife since that date. Since that separation, the Respondent has not furnished any support to the Complainant of which I know since I live nearby. There are three children born as fruits of their marriage being: Josh Stevens, Jr., age about 14, Claudia Mae Stevens, age about 10, Rosie Lee Stevens, age control of these children since birth and since Josh Stevens has not supported them since about 1952, I respectfully represent to this Honorable Court that Anna Stevens is a fit, suitable and proper person to have the permanent care, custody and control of these children. I do not believe that Anna Stevens and Josh Stevens will ever live together as husband and wife again.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY ATTORNEY, WILSON HAYES, GUARDIAN AD LITEM, FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Beginning about 1952 Anna Stevens was having to make out the best she could as Josh quit supporting her some time before, but after 1952 didn't give her anything as far as I know. Then he went to the State Hospital at Mt. Vernon and got out awhile after that, but he failed or refused to support Anna or the children. Since he went back in the hospital he could not support her because he did not have any property that she could sell to take care of herself.

John Matchell

I,	Helen	McDowel		. : :	as	Register	and Cor	nmissio	ner h	ereby c	ertify
that the fo	regoing d	eposition o	n Oral Exa	ıminati	on was	taken d	lown in w	riting	by me	in the v	vords
of the witn	nessa:	nd read ov	er to hir	n_and	<u>he</u>	si	igned the	same	in the	e presen	ce of
myself and	<u>Mary</u>	Thompso	n White	e and	Wils	on Ha	yes		····	*****	
at the time	and place	herein me	ntioned; th	at I hav	ve pers	onal kno	owledge o	of perso	nal id	entity of	said
witness	or had p	roof made	before me	of the i	dentity	of said	witness_		; tha	t I am n	ot of
counsel or	of kin to	any of the	parties to	said car	ıse, or	any mar	nner inter	ested in	n the i	result the	ereof.
I enc	close the sa	aid Oral Ex	amination	in an er	ivelope	to the	Register	of said	cour	t.	ing and the second seco
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ANNA STEVENS	ind.				1=						1			
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JOSH STE	VENS			Company and Compan		
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	ANNA STEVENS		Complainant
	Vs.		
	JOSH STEVENS		Defendant
Motion is hereby made	for a Decree Pro Confesso against		
	Josh stevens	*	Defendant
	No am Africa and Arthur and Arthu	1	
upon said Defendant	se, on the ground that more than thirty days ; and that saidsummons was duly served acco , plead to or answer the Bill of Complaint in the	ording to law, and tha	t said Defendant
upon said Defendant ha S - failed to demur	.; and that saidsummons was duly served acco	ording to law, and tha	t said Defendant

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Circ	cuit Court, In	n Equity
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ANNA	STEVENS	···
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STATE OF ALABAMA BALDWIN COUNTY

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA:

You are hereby commanded to summon JOSH STEVENS, to appear and plead, answer or demur within thirty days from the service hereof, to the bill of complaint filed in the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, in equity by ANNA STEVENS, as complainant, and against JOSH STEVENS, as respondent.

WITNESS my hand this the 30 day of Oct 1959.

Register. Louck

ANNA STEVENS X IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

COMPLAINANT X BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

VS X IN EQUITY.

JOSH STEVENS X CASE NO.______

RESPONDENT X

TO HONORABLE HUBERT M. HALL, JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA:

Your Complainant, Anna Stevens, respectfully represents unto Your Honor and this Honorable Court as follows:

-1-

That your Complainant is over the age of 21 and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama, and has been all her life; the Respondent is over the age of 21 and is presently residing in the State hospital for Negroes in Mt. Vemnon, Alabama.

-2-

That your Complainant and the Respondent married in Bay Minette, Alabama, on September 24, 1944, and lived together as husband and wife until our separation occurred on July 13, 1956.

-3-

The Complainant further shows unto the Court that she hax lived separate and apart from the bed and board of Josh Stevens, her said husband, for two years and without support from him for two years next preceding the filing of this bill and furing said period she has been a bona fide resident in the State.

-4-

There are no children as fruits of this marriage and no property to be divided.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, your Complainant prays that Your Honor will by proper procedure make the said Josh Stevens, party respondent to this bill of complaint requiring him to plead, answer, or demur to the same within the time and under the penalties prescribed by law and the practice of this Honorable Court.

Your complainant further prays that upon a hearing hereof,
Your Honor will enter an order and decree granting to her an
absolute decree of divorce, forever barring the bonds of matrimony
existing between her and the respondent; your complainant prays
for such other further, different or general relief as she may be
in equity and good conscience entitled to receive.

OCT 30 1000
ALICE I. DUCK CLERK & REGISTER

By: Solicitors for Complainant

248 m. 4754 91

anna Stevens Loph Stevens Dr. H.S. Rowe, Lupt.

now Herron, alex

EXECUTED

This 2 day of now; 11.59

by serving a copy of the within the of Seone, Noopital For Josef Stituens, Hospital RAY DESIDGES, Sheriff

By D. R. Jackson D.S.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

ANNA STEVENS	χ	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
COMPLAINANT	X	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
VS ,	X	IN EQUITY.
JOSH STEVENS	Ϋ́	CASE NO. 4754
RESPONDENT	χ	,

Comes the Complainant in the above styled cause and amends Count four of said complaint to read as follows:

-4-

There were three children born as fruits of this marriage, Josh Stevens, Jr. age about 14, Claudia Mae Stevens, age about 10, Rosie Lee Stevens, age about 9, and no property to be divided. These children are presently in the care, custody and control of your Complainant.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, your Complainant prays that your Honor will by proper procedure make the said JOSH STEVENS, party 'Respondent to this bill of complaint requiring him to plead, answer or demur to the same within the time and under the penalties prescribed by law and the practice of this Honorable Court.

Your Complainant further prays that upon a hearing hereof, your Honor will enter an order and decree granting to her an absolute decree of divorce, forever barring the bonds of matrimony existing between her and the Respondent; That a decree be made awarding to the Complainant the care, custody and control of the minor children, Josh Stevens, Jr. age about 14, Claudia Mae Stevens age about 10, Rosie Lee Stevens age about 9, and your Complainant prays for such other, further, different or general relief as she may be in equity and good conscience entitled to receive.

OEC 8 1059
AMELIUM, CLERK
REGISTER

Sy: Solicitors for the Complainant.

THOMPSON & WHITE

elved I day of December 19.59
on 22 day of December 19.59
or red a copy of the within Service on Jack Stevens

TAYLOR WILKINS, Sheriff
By Jackson, S.

2 gar

RETURNED 559
Not found in my County after diligent search and inquiry.

RAY DEMOCES, Sheriff

FILED

ama stevens
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Anna Stevens
197

Anna Stevens

DEC 8 1959

ALICE J. DUCK, CLERK REGISTER

ANNA STEVENS Complainant, Vs.	In the Circuit Court.
JOSH STEVENS Respondent,	In Equity No.——.

DECREE PRO CONFESSO ON PERSONAL SERVICE

In this cause, it appears to the Register, that service was had on the Respondent
JOSH STEVENS
by the Sheriff of <u>BALDWIN</u> County, on the <u>2nd</u> day of <u>November</u>
19 <u>59</u> .
And it futher appears to the Register, that the said
That it facility appears to the regions, that the data
JOSH STEVENS
the Respondent, baving to the date hereof.
failed to plead, demur to or answer the Bill of Complaint filed in this cause, it is now, therefore,
on motion of Thompson & White Solicitors
for Complainant, ordered, and decreed by the Register that the Bill of Complaint in this cause be
and it hereby is, in all things taken as confessed against the said
JOSH STEVENS
This
Deine A. Work
Register.

BALDWIN ALAE	COURT OF COUNTY, BAMA. QUITY
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ANNA STEV	
	Complainant
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JOSH STEV	ENS
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ANNA STEVENS	•	χ	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
COMP	LAINANT	X	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
VS		X	IN EQUITY.
JOSH STEVENS		χ	CASE NO. 4754
RESP	ONDENT	χ	

Upon consideration of the complaint filed herein the Court is of the opinion that a guardian ad litem should be appointed to represent the said Josh Stevens, respondent in the above styled cause, said respondent being presently confined in the insane hospital for Negroes at Mt. Vernon, Alabama. It is therefore, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court as follows:

That the Register give notice to the guardian ad litem of the appointment and that the said guardian ad litem be notified of the time and place for the taking of testimony in said cause.

ORDERED AND DECREED this _____ day of February, 1960.

Sircuit Tudge in Facility Sitting

Comes Wilson Hayos, attorney and accepts the appointment as guardian ad litem of the said Josh Stevens, respondent in said cause.

ALISE J. DUCK, REGISTERS