

THE STATE OF ALABAMA }
Baldwin County.

Circuit Court, Spring Session, 1953

The Grand Jury of said County charge that before the finding of this indictment ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR., whose name is to the Grand Jury otherwise unknown, unlawfully, and with malice aforethought, killed Thomas James Crenshaw, by cutting him with a knife, against the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama.

2. The Grand Jury of said County further charge that before the finding of this indictment ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR., whose name is to the Grand Jury otherwise unknown, unlawfully, and with malice aforethought, killed Thomas James Crenshaw, by stabbing him with a knife,

against the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama.

WILLIAM R. LAUTEN
Solicitor of the Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit.

No.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

Circuit Court

Spring..... Session, 19..53.....

THE STATE

Vs.

ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR.

INDICTMENT

Murder, first degree

No Prosecutor.

WITNESSES:

Louise McDonald

Jab Crenshaw

Taylor Wilkins

Nelson Grubbs

GRAND JURY NO.7A.....

A TRUE BILL

Robert E. Stapleton
Foreman Grand Jury.

Filed in open Court and in the presence of
the Grand Jury on the *12th* day of
Mar, 195*3*.

Abraham French, Clerk

Presented in open Court to the presiding
Judge by the Foreman of the Grand Jury, in

the presence of *17* other Grand Jurors.

Abraham French
Clerk.

Bail fixed \$ *5000*

W. H. Jones
Judge.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Baldwin County.

Circuit Court, Spring Session, 194 53

The Grand Jury of said County charge that before finding this indictment ABRAHAM FRENCH JR., whose name is to the Grand Jury otherwise unknown, unlawfully, and with malice aforethought, killed Thomas James Crenshaw, by cutting him with a knife, against the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama.

2. The Grand Jury of said County further charge that before the finding of this indictment ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR., whose name is to the Grand Jury otherwise unknown, unlawfully, and with malice aforethought, killed THOMAS JAMES CRENSHAW, by stabbing him with a knife.

against the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama.

William R. Lanten
Solicitor of the Twenty-Eighth Judicial Circuit.

No.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY

Circuit Court,

.....**Spring**..... Term, 194**53**..

THE STATE

Vs.

.....**ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR.,**.....

INDICTMENT

.....
Prosecutor.

WITNESSES:

.....**Louise McDonald**.....

.....**Jab Crenshaw**.....

.....**Taylor Wilkins**.....

.....**Nelson Grubbs**.....
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THE BALDWIN TIMES

.....
GRAND JURY NO.**7A**.....

A TRUE BILL

.....**Robert E. Stapleton**.....
Foreman Grand Jury.

Filed in open Court and in the presence of
the Grand Jury on the**12th**..... day of
.....**March**....., 194**53**.

.....**Alice J. Duck**....., Clerk.

Presented in open Court to the presiding
Judge by the Foreman of the Grand Jury, in

the presence of**17**..... other Grand Jurors.

.....**Alice J. Duck**.....
Clerk.

Bail fixed \$**5000.00**.....

.....**H. M. Hall**.....
Judge.

THE STATE

vs.

In the Circuit Court of Baldwin County,

ABRAHAM FRENCH

SPRING

Session, 19 53

Venire of the jurors in the above stated cause, names herein stated from No. 1 to No. 5 both inclusive, being the special jurors drawn in open Court by the presiding Judge, in said cause, and the other names, from No. 6 to No. 65, both inclusive, being the regular jurors drawn and summoned for the second week of the Spring Term of said Court; the said cause having been set for trial on the 27th day of March 19 53, which is a day of said second week of the Spring Term of said Court, to-wit:

No.	NAME	Occupation	Residence Address	Business Address
1	✓ Clyde Styron	Farmer	Bon Secour	
2	✓ James R. Allen Jr.	Fisheries Insp	Bon Secour	
3	Dead George Boehn <i>not found</i>	Farmer	Summerdale	
4	✓ John Schenk	Farmer	Elberta	
5	✓ Ed Middleton	Farmer	Loxley	
6	Luther V. Street	Farmer	Point Clear	
7	William Collins	Fisherman	Foley	
8	C. J. Long	Mechanic	Foley	
9	O. E. Middleton	Truck Driver	Loxley	
10	K. E. Welford	P.M. A.	Bay Minette	
11	Elias G. McKenzie	Defense	Foley	
12	Carl Lenz	Mechanic	Elberta	
13	Lawrence Nelson	Fisherman	Bon Secour	
14	Calvin Childress	Farmer	Summerdale	
15	B. J. Simmis	Hardware	Belforest	
16	Donald Cain	Jeweler	Bay Minette	
17	C. F. Echols	Teacher	Bay Minette	
18	Julius Lee Bryant	Butcher	Stockton	
19	Neilson Hurley	Farmer	Foley	
20	Alton B. Hankins	Farmer	Rosinton	
21	Clarence Eiland	Mill	Bay Minette	
22	Ben E. Sims	Merchant	Daphne	
23	Dennis B. Howell	Clerk	Bay Minette	
24	Herbert Baskin	Flagmaster	Perdido	
25	Leslie Bye	Brooklay	Robertsdale	
26	Dana Davis	Merchant	Daphne	
27	Clyde Waters	Farmer	Bay Minette	
28	D. J. Giacomelli	Flowers	Foley	
29	Hershal Guthrie	Farmer	Bon Secour	
30	Percy Cox	Paperwood	Stockton	
31	Sherman R. Hinote	Butcher	Robertsdale	
32	Windell Hardy	Insurance	Bay Minette	
33	Joseph Wesley	Clerk	Silverhill	
34	Angie F. Bertolla	Farmer	Belforest	
35	Albert M. Redd	Mgr. R.E.A.	Foley	
36	W. M. Gullledge	Farmer	Robertsdale	
37	Perry Prescott	Sesfood Insp.	Bay Minette	
38	Wallace L. Green	Forman Export	Bay Minette	
39	Edward Carver	Farmer	Bon Secour	
40	Martin C. Crosby	Retired Druggist	Foley	
41	J. Dougal Crosby	Turpentine	Bay Minette	
42	Donald E. Hastings	Farmer	Rosinton	
43	William Simmons	Merchant	Fairhope	
44	Lawrence E. Callaway	Fisherman	Bon Secour	
45	A. J. Engel	Farmer	Summerdale	
46	A. R. Bonton	Mechanic	Fairhope	
47	Frederick Pierce	Farmer	Fairhope	
48	W. A. Goer	Mechanic	Fairhope	
49	Frank Dusek S r.	Mechanic	Lillian	
50	Jess Gann	Fisherman	Bon Secour	
51	D. C. Melhon	Merchant	Fairhope	
52	Nolan Neal	Labor	Fairhope	

No.	NAME	Occupation	Residence Address	Business Address
53	Lamar McBride	Mechanic	Foley	
54	Elmer Lindell	Filling Sta.	Silverhill	
55	Autrey Stedham	Carpenter	Foley	
56	George Brown	Papercarrier	Foley	
57	Noah Resmondo	Farmer	Summerdale	
58	George E. Fuller	Theater Oper.	Farihope	
59	Perry Head	Farmer	Stapleton	
60	Henry McAllister	Farmer	Rosinton	
61	Wilbur Richerson	Postal Clerk	Bay Minette	
62	Sidney Cameron	Rest. Clerk	Foley	
63	Albert Faulk	Merchant	Foley	
64	H. B. Corbett	Grocery	Bay Minette	
65	R. N. Stanton	Farmer	Robertsdale	
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I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct list of the venire in the case of the State vs. Abraham French, Jr. charged with Robbery; that the names of jurors from No. 1 to 5, both inclusive, are the special jurors drawn by the presiding Judge, in open Court, and that the names of jurors from No. 6 to No. 65, both inclusive, is a correct list of the regular jurors drawn and summoned for the Second week of the Spring Term, 1953, of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama. I further certify that the foregoing copy of the indictment is a true and correct copy of the indictment in this case.

Witness my hand this 17th day of March 19 53

Jay B. Walker
Sheriff-Baldwin County, Ala.

Executed by serving a copy of the indictment and a correct list of the jurors in this case, on this the 18th day of March, 1953, upon Abraham French Jr the Defendant.

Jay B. Walker Sheriff.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, Baldwin County.	CIRCUIT COURT	List of Jurors and Copy of Indictment	STATE vs.	
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THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

Baldwin County

We, Abraham French Jr, as principal, and undersigned as sureties, agree to pay THE STATE OF ALABAMA, the sum of Five Thousand DOLLARS unless the said Abraham French Jr appears at the March 27 Term, 1953 of the ircuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama and from term to term thereafter until discharged by law, to answer a criminal prosecution for the offense of Murder in the 1st degree

We hereby waive as to all amounts that may become due hereunder the benefit of all laws exempting personal property from levy and sale under execution or other process for the collection of debt by constitution or laws of the State of Alabama, and we hereby severally certify that we have property over and above all debts, liabilities, exemptions and this bond to the amount of: real property of the value of \$2,000.00 and personal property of the value of \$1,000.00.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the

_____ day of _____, 195_____

_____ Baldwin County, Ala.

Taken and approved this the

16th day of March, 1953

John Walker Sheriff
By _____, Deputy Sheriff

Abraham French Jr L. S.
Gulf Lumber Co. L. S.

Henry Pyburn L. S.

_____ L. S.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, }
Baldwin County

TO ANY SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA:
An indictment having been found against

ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR.

at the SPRING Term, 19453, of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, for the offense of
Murder, First Degree

you are, therefore, commanded forthwith to arrest the said Defendant and commit him
to jail, unless he give bail to answer said indictment, and that you return this Writ accord-
ing to law.

Dated this 12th day of March, 19453

Alvin P. French
Clerk Circuit Court of Baldwin County.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, }
Baldwin County

We, _____, as principal and
the other undersigned as sureties, agree to pay the State of Alabama _____
Dollars, unless the said _____ appears
at the _____ Term of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, and from Term to
Term thereafter until discharged by law, to answer a criminal prosecution for the offense of _____

In signing the above bond we and each of us hereby waive all legal rights of exemptions al-
lowed us by the Constitution and Laws of Alabama.

Witness our hands and seals this _____ day of _____, 194_____.

(L. S.)

(L. S.)

(L. S.)

(L. S.)

(L. S.)

Taken and approved _____ day of _____, 194_____.

Sheriff of Baldwin County.

1625-

CAPIAS

No. 7 A

THE STATE

vs.

ABRAHAM FRENCH, JR.

Bail Fixed in This Case in Open Court at

\$

By Hubert M. Hall
Judge Presiding.

Attest: Clerk.

Executed this 16 day of March, 1943

By arresting the within

named Defendant

and placing him in jail

Jay R. Wilkins, Sheriff

W. F. Hall, Deputy Sheriff

0 miles

1625

147 THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

Baldwin County

Justice Court of T. C. HAND

Precinct 4,

Bay Minette, Ala.

To Any Sheriff of the State of Alabama:

You are hereby Commanded to Summon

*L. B. Benjamin, Mrs. L. B. Benjamin
Taylor, Wilkins, W. D. Taylor
Kate Sellers, Dr. Nelson, Grubbs*

personally to be and appear before the Justice Court, to be holden for Baldwin County, at my office on the

3 day of *Feb*, 19*53*, and from day to day of said term,
and from term to term thereafter, until discharged, to give evidence and the truth to speak in behalf of
THE STATE, in a prosecution now pending in said Court, wherein the State of Alabama is plaintiff and

Abraham French, Jr.

there this Writ, with your endorsement thereon.

Defendant, and have you then and

Witness my hand this *20* day of *Jan*, A. D., 19*53*

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4

Executed in full, this the

30

day of

Jan

, 1953

Taylor Melkin

Sheriff.

Robert Seeger

Deputy Sheriff.

1625

STATE OF ALABAMA }
Baldwin County

Case No.

No. 4040

The State of Alabama

In the

Justice Court of
Baldwin County, Alabama

Before me, J. C. Ward, Clerk of the Justice Court of
Baldwin County, Alabama, personally appeared Taylor Wilkins, who being duly sworn deposes and says:

I am the Sheriff of Baldwin County, Alabama. In the above case, in the above mentioned court, in
executing the warrant of arrest or in arresting the said defendant, I or one of my duly authorized deputies,
traveled 80 miles by the most direct route to the point of arrest and return, and I am entitled to
mileage at ten cents per mile to be taxed as costs in the case.

Point of arrest Little River Sheriff T. Wilkins

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of June 1953

Disposition Bound over to Grand Jury. Clerk J. P. Ward Circuit Court

After considering the above affidavit made by the Sheriff of Baldwin County, Alabama, I, as the trial
Judge of said court, do hereby approve the claim for mileage in the sum of \$ 8.00 incurred in the
making of the arrest or executing the warrant of arrest in the above styled cause and I hereby order the
clerk of the court to tax the said sum as part of the costs in said case.

This the 3 day of Feb 1953

T. J. Ward
Judge of the above named court

147

1625

✓

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Baldwin County

Justice Court of T. C. HAND

Precinct 4,

Bay Minette, Ala.

To Any Sheriff of the State of Alabama:

You are hereby Commanded to Summon

junior member, m.p. Brown, assey, Willie Cook, will be served, Louis McDaniel, R. J. McDaniel

in case, Essey, Essey, junior French (Red), the Robinson, Charles Finley, Joe McDaniel

personally to be and appear before the Justice Court, to be holden for Baldwin County, at my office on the

3 day of Feb. 9 A.M., 1953, and from day to day of said term, and from term to term thereafter, until discharged, to give evidence and the truth to speak in behalf of THE STATE, in a prosecution now pending in said Court, wherein the State of Alabama is plaintiff and

Abraham French Jr.

Defendant, and have you then and there this Writ, with your endorsement thereon.

Witness my hand this 30 day of Jan, A. D., 1953

T. C. Hand

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4

Executed in full, this the

30

day of

Jan

, 1953

T. G. M. ...

Sheriff.

Robert ...

Deputy Sheriff.

of Alabama,

vs.

French Jr

No. _____

is the _____ day of _____, 193____, the Defendant, being
Court in person, and it being made known to the Court that the Defendant in this case is indicted
trial offense and that he is unable to employ counsel, it is ordered by the Court that _____
_____, who _____ a regularly
attorney practicing in this Court, be, and _____ hereby appointed counsel for the Defendant
s case.

On this the 16 day of March, 1933, the Defendant being in
Court in person, and attended by his counsel, is duly and legally arraigned upon the indictment, and
his plea thereto says that he is not guilty

On this 16 day of March, 1933 in the cause of the State of Alabama
inst Abraham French Jr
erein the Defendant is charged with the offense of Murder first degree

the Defendant in person being then and there in open Court and attended by his counsel, the following
proceedings were had and orders made in open Court in the presence of the Defendant and his counsel :

It is ordered and adjudged by the Court that the 27 day of March, 1933
it being Friday of the Second Week of this Term of the Court, be and the same is
hereby fixed for the date of the trial of this cause, and that the Sheriff of this Court summons 65
persons in this cause, including those persons drawn on the regular juries for the second week of this
term of this Court.

It is ascertained and adjudged by the Court that 60 persons have been drawn on the
regular juries for the said Second Week of this Term of this Court. And the Court ordered that the legal
jury box of this County be brought into open Court, and the Court ascertained and adjudged that said order

be obeyed, and that said box was, in open Court, well shaken. The Court then and there in open
Court, publicly drew from the said jury box the names of 5 persons, the same being the number
of persons required, with the regular juries drawn for the Second Week of this Term of this Court, to make
the number of persons the Sheriff was commanded to summons in this cause by order of the Court herein-
before set forth. The Clerk of the Court, in the presence of the Court, immediately made a list of the
names drawn by the Court from the jury box in this cause. And it is ordered and adjudged by the Court
that the said Clerk forthwith issue a mandate to the Sheriff of this County, commanding him to summons
said persons whose names the Court drew from the jury box in this cause and the regular jurors drawn for
the Second Week of this Term of this Court to appear in this Court as jurors in this cause at the Court
House of this county at 9 o'clock on Friday morning of the Second Week of this
Term of this Court, the same being the 27 day of March, 1933

It is ordered and adjudged by the Court that the Sheriff of this County forthwith serve on the De-
fendant a list of the names drawn in this cause by the Court from the jury box, and a list of the names of
all the jurors drawn for the Second Week of this Term of this Court, together with a copy of the indict-
ment in this cause.

WITNESSES FOR THE STATE

1625

Junior Weaver

M. P. Brown

Dorsey Lee

Williams

Willie Cook

Will McDonald

Louis McDonald

Ruby Bell-Olive

submitted

Jim Dees

Essex Dees

Junior French (Red)

Joe Robbins

Charles Finley

Jab Crenshaw

Taylor Wilkins

W. D. Taylor

Pete Sellers

Dr. Nelson Grubbs

L. B. Benjamin

Mrs. L. B. Benjamin

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,

Baldwin County

We, Abraham French Jr, as principal, and undersigned as sureties, agree to pay THE STATE OF ALABAMA, the sum of Fifteen hundred DOLLARS unless the said Abraham French Jr appears at the Spring Term, 1953 of the Grand Jury Court of Baldwin County, Alabama and from term thereafter until discharged by law, to answer a criminal prosecution for the offense of Murder of _____

We hereby waive as to all amounts that may become due hereunder the benefit of all laws exempting personal property from levy and sale under execution or other process for the collection of debt by constitution or laws of the State of Alabama, and we hereby severally certify that we have property over and above all debts, liabilities, exemptions and this bond to the amount of: real property of the value of \$2,000.00 and personal property of the value of \$1,000.00.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the _____

_____ day of _____, 195_____

_____ Baldwin County, Ala.

Taken and approved this the _____

day of _____

3rd day of Feb - 1953

_____, Sheriff
By James B. Wilkins, Deputy Sheriff

Abraham French Jr. L. S.

Nathaniel Wilkins L. S.

W. B. Horn L. S.

Abraham French Jr. L. S.

AFFIDAVIT

1625

Printed by Moore Printing Co.

State Of Alabama, }
Baldwin County. }

In the Justice Court of

T. C. HAND

Before me, T. C. HAND, Justice of the Peace

in and for said County, personally appeared Taylor Watkins who, being
duly sworn, deposes and says on oath that he has probable cause for believing and does believe that in said County,

on or about 18 Jan 1953 that one Abraham French Jr.

unlawfully, and with malice aforethought,
killed Fannie Lee French, by cutting & or
stabbing him with a knife.

against the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18

day of Jan, A. D., 1953.

J. P.

Taylor Watkins

WARRANT

State Of Alabama, }
Baldwin County. }

To Any Lawful Officer of Said County, Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to arrest

Abraham French Jr.

and bring him

before me

to answer the State of Alabama on a charge

murder

and have you then and there this writ with your return thereon

Witness my hand this 18

day of Jan

1953.

J. P.

No. _____ Page _____

The State of Alabama,
Baldwin County

Justice Court of
T. C. HAND

AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
VS.

Abraham French Jr.

Witnesses for the State:

Taylor Wilkins
W. D. Taylor
Pete Sellers
Nelson Grubbs

Printed by Moore Printing Co.

Justice Court of

Baldwin County

WARRANT OF ARREST

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
VS.

Abraham French Jr.

Executed this *18* day of *Jan* 19*53*

By arresting the within

named Defendant

and placing him

In Jail
Taylor Wilkins, Sheriff
_____, Deputy Sheriff

Little River 80 mi

1625

Transcript of Criminal Cases from Justice Court of Baldwin County, Ala.

Attorneys	Case	Charge
	THE STATE OF ALABAMA.	
No. 4147	Vs.	
	Abraham French Jr.	Murder.

	Disposition of Case	Fees	Amount
	Affidavit made and Warrant Issued to <i>Jayles Wilkins</i>	Judge's Fees	
	Returnable <i>Grand Jury</i>	Warrant at 50c, Affidavit at 25c	.75
	Witness—for State <i>Junior Weaver, M. P. Brown</i>	Bond at 50c, Sci Fa at 50c	
	<i>Borsey Williams, Willie Cook,</i>	Witnesses' Recognizances at 25c	
	<i>Willie Donald, Louis M. Donald</i>	19 Subpoena or notice at 25c	4.75
	<i>Ruthie Bell, Chief, Jim Sess,</i>	Continuance at 25c	
	<i>Essey Sess, Junior French (Rel)</i>	Trial of Misdemeanor at \$1.00	
	<i>Mr. Robbins, Charles Farley,</i>	Mittimus at 25c	.25
	<i>Mr. Crenshaw, Jayles Wilkins, W. D. Taylor,</i>	Judgment on Forfeited Bond at 25c	
	<i>Pete Selles, Dr. Nelson Grant, L. B. Benjamin</i>	Taking Bond, etc, on Appeal at \$1.00	
	<i>Mr. L. B. Benjamin.</i>	Execution of costs at 25c	
		Constable's Fees	
		Subpoena or Notice at 25c	
		Carrying Defendant before Justice	
		each mile for himself and guard at 10c	
		Arrest 50c	
		Sheriff's Fees	
		Arrest \$2.00 Bond, \$1.00, Sci Fa 50c	5.00
		Committing \$1.00, Releasing \$1.00	2.00
		Subpoenas at 25c Day's Board at 30c	9.50
		Witness Fees 80 m.	8.00
		Days at 50c	
		50c	9.50
		50c	
		50c	
		50c	
		50c	
		50c	
		50c	
		DEFENDANT'S COSTS	
		Witnesses' Recognizance at 25c	
		Subpoenas at 25c	
		Executing Subpoenas	

3 Feb 53

After hearing evidence in case
 it was adjourned over to
 Grand Jury. Bond set at \$1,500.00
 on Potted Bond.

J. L. D.
Justice of Peace.

1625