TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

F. W. HARE, JUDGE
R. L. JONES, CIRCUIT SOLICITOR
M. R. FARISH, COURT REPORTER
MONROEVILLE, ALABAMA

June 14, 1939

Mr. Orvie M. Brown. Robertsdele, Alabama.

Dear Orvie:

I have just received the bill and testimony in the case of Burnetta Long vs. Rebert F. Long, and am returning the same to the Register without decree, for the reason that you failed to prove cruelty. All you proved was that they didn't get along very well together, and I thought perhaps you would wish to take additional testimony.

I have also carefully read the bill and testimony in the case of Berdella C. Gooden vs. B. B. Gooden. In this case, I do not think you have either alleged or proven grounds for divorce. You were evidently driving at Section 7409 of the Jode, as amended by Acts of 1933, page 142, which provides that divorces may be granted where the wife has lived separate and apart from the bed and board of the husband for two years without support from him for the two years next prededing the filling of the bill.

I have rendered no decree in either case because I do not wish to dismiss the bills with prejudice, but desire to give you an opportunity to make such amendments and take such testimony as may be necessary to come within the statute.

With regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly. AHHAZE

C-C Mr. R. S. Duck, Register, Bay Minetie, Alebame.

PHA/2.

TESTIMONY OF BERDELLA C. GOODEN, COMPLAINANT IN THIS CAUSE.

My name is Berdella C. Gooden. I am a resident of Fairhope, Alabama in Baldwin County and am the Complainant in the above styled cause, and in addition to my original testimony now in the file in the above styled cause I wish to add this to my testimony. We have been separated off and on during the past two years as he has mistreated me for the last two years next previous to the filing of my petition for divorce, but I had put up with his treatment as long as I could. On several occasions he has slapped me and especially on September 3, 1938 on the face and shoulder but I, thinking that he would do better, have gone back from time to time and lived with him. Since the last occasion of his striking me which was on or about April 20th, 1939 at which time he struck me about the face and shoulder I have not gone back to him and have not lived with him as man and wife. Due to his conduct in the past I do not believe that it would improve any in the future and I do not feel that it safe and I have all reason to believe and do believe that if I continue to live with him that he would be striking me which would endanger my life and health and I find it impossible to live with him further. The Respondent has a very ungovernable temper especially when I call his attention to some of his conduct and he does not try to control his temper at all.

Berdella G. Sanden

TESTIMONY OF E. H. GOODEN

My Name is E. H. Gooden, , I am a brother of the Respondent in this transaction, and I am a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama, and have been for the past 15 years and longer. I am personally acquainted with both of these parties they being my brother and sister-in-law. They are both over the age of twenty-one years of age and residents of Baldwin County, Alabama, and have been for the next three years preceeding the date of this suit. They were married in Pinckney, Michigan during the year of 1931. I do not recall at this time just exactly the month that they were married in. They first lived in Michigan, then they moved to Fairhope, Ala. They lived here in Fairhope at the time that they were seperated which was in April, about the 20th, 1939. I know for the past two years that B. B. Gooden has mistreated his wife, and especially on September 3rd, 1938 at which time he struck her about the face, they lived to-gether then off and on until about the 20th of April of 1939, at which time he struck her again about the face and she left him and they have remained seperate and apart since that time. I have no ill feeling against either of these parties. They do not have any childern. He has been very cruel to her for the past two years and she said that she could not stand it further.

EtGooden.

Complainant IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY,

VS ALABAMA.

B. B. GOODEN, IN EQUITY.

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

Comes your Complainant, Berdella C. Gooden, and humbly complaining against the Respondent, B. B. Gooden, respectfully represents and shows unto your Honor and this Honorable Court as follows:

ONE: That your Complainant and the Respondent are both over the age of twenty one years and that the Complainant is a resident of Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, and the Respondent resides at Fairhope, Baldwin County, Alabama, also.

TWO: That your Complainant and the Respondent were married in Pinckney, Michigan on September 1, 1931 and lived together as husband and wife until on or about April 20th, 1939, but for the past two years have been separated off and on during that period of time.

THREE: That for the past two years the Respondent, B. B. Gooden, has failed to contribute to the support of your Complainant in the manner that is proper and sufficient for her maintenance taking into consideration her station in life, and the necessary funds to maintain herself in a manner which her station in life demands, and that since the date of the separation of your Complainant and the Respondent the Respondent has not contributed to the support and maintenance of your Complainant in any manner whatsoever and that your Complainant is in need of support and your Respondent has failed on all occasions to supply this necessary support and maintenance and has failed, refused and neglected to do so though she often requested it of him. That during the past two years your Respondent has not contributed to the support and maintenance of your Complainant in the manner that he should have and that during this period of time of separation from time to time she was of the opinion that eventually he would do better but he has failed and neglected to support your Complainant until the date of our separation. He is an able bodied man and capable of working and supporting his wife, but he has failed to do so and that the Respondent is a man of means and could support her if

he so desired.

FOUR: There were no children born to your Complainant and the Respondent of this marriage.

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Complainant prays that your Honor will by proper process make the said B. B. Gooden party Respondent to this bill of complaint requiring him to plead, answer or demar to the same within the time and under the penalty prescribed by law and the practice of this Honorable Court.

Complainant prays that on the final hearing of this cause that this Honorable Court will give and grant unto her a decree of absolute divorce forever barring the bonds of matrimony existing between her and the Respondent, B. B. Gooden, that your Honor will further grant unto her the right of using her maiden name of Berdella C. Euler, and that this Honorable Court will further decree that the Respondent is to have and be liable for and have to pay all debts and accounts of every nature which are now standing in the name of your Complainant or in the name of the Respondent and that in the decree that this request will be so recited. And your Complainant further prays that she be given the right to marry again should she so desire and your Complainant further prays that all attorney fees, court costs and any other expense that might be attached to this proceeding be taxed as part of the court costs against the Respondent and that your Honor will give and grant unto her such other, further, different and/or general relief as she may be in equity and good conscience entitled to receive, and as in duty bound she will ever pray.

FOOT NOTE:

The Respondent B. B. Gooden is requested to answer each and every allegation of the foregoing complaint numbering paragraphs One to Four inclusive but not under oath, oath hereby being expressly waived.

Complainant Souler Solicitor For COMPLAINANT.

BERDELLA C. GOODEN,	
Complainant	}
-) EQUI TY
73)
	IN THE CIRCUPT COURT OF
B. B. GOODEN,	}
) BAIDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Respondent	

Comes B. B. Gooden, Respondent in the above styled cause and for answer to the Bill of Complaint says that he admits Paragraph One thereof, he admits Paragraph Two thereof, and he denies Paragraph Three thereof and demands strict proof thereof and he further admits Paragraph Four of the Bill of Complaint.

Respondent hereby waives service and notice of and demand for oral examination of the Complainant's witnesses, of the issue of commissioner to take testimony, notice of the time and place of the taking of the same and of the right to cross examine or introduce evidence in his own behalf; and he further consents that this cause may be submitted for final decree at any time on the pleadings of the Complainant's evidence as noted by the Register.

The Respondent hereby requests of this Honorable Court that he be given the right to marry again if he so desires upon the issuance of this final decree.

WITNESS:

Virginia E. Cremshaw.

RESPONDENT.

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT

То	VIRGINIA E. CRENSHAW		*	
KNOW Y	E: That we, having full faith in y	our prudence and co	muetency, have appoi	nted was Com
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Court of Baldwin (County, of said State, wherein	Berdella C. Goode	en	
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and	B. B. Gooden			
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AMENDED PETITION

BERDELLA C. GOODEN.

Complainant

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

vs

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

B. B.GOODEN.

IN EQUITY.

Respondent.

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

Comes now the Complainant, Berdella C. Gooden individually and by her attorney and by leave of the Court first had and obtained files this her amendment to the bill of complaint above styled and adds this paragraph as Paragraph Five and makes the same a part of the amended petition.

that on or about September 3, 1938 and various times thereafter and that on or about April 20, 1939 and various times prior thereto the Respondent has cursed, abused and threatened Complainant; and on to-wit, April 20, 1939 he did actual violence to her person by striking her on the face and on the shoulder; and his conduct is such that your Complainant has every reasonable apprehension to believe and does actually believe that if she continues to live with him he will continue to carry out his threats to do further violence to her person which will necessarily endanger her life and/or health.

Complainant

Solicitor for Complainant

FOOT NOTE: The Respondent, B. B. Gooden, is required to answer this amendment as Paragraph Five to the original Bill of Complaint but not under oath the same being hereby expressly waived.

Complainant

Colicitor for Complainant

ANSWER TO AMENDED BILL OF COMPLAINT

BERDELLA C. GOODEN,)
Complainant	IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
vs	BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
B. B. GOODEN,	IN EQUITY.
Respondent.	,

Comes now B. B. Gooden, the Respondent in the above styled cause, and for answer to the Amendment to the original bill of complaint which is Paragraph Five, states that he hereby denies Paragraph Five as amended and demands strict proof thereof.

Respondent hereby waives service and notice of the time of examination of Complainant's witnesses and issue of commission to take testimony, the notice of time and place of the taking of the same and the right to cross examine and introduce evidence in his own behalf; and he further consents that this cause may be submitted for final decree at any time on the pleadings of the Complainant's evidence as noted by the Register.

WITNESS:

gima Crensbaw.

Respondent.

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY

	BERDELLA C. GO	ODEN,	Complainant	
	VS.		Complaina	
	B. B. GOODEN,		— Respondent	
This cause coming on to	be heard was submitte	ed upon Bill of Com		rielbeit die Hel
on Answer and Waive consideration thereof, the Cour for in said bill. It is therefore ordered, a	and the opinion that the street of the opinion that the street of the diudged and decreed by	d Testimony as note the Complainant is y the Court that the	d by the Register, ar entitled to the relief	nd upon prayed
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is forever divorced from the s				
B. B. G(OODEN			
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It is further Or	dered, adjudged	l and decreed	that the Comp	olaina
BERDELLA C. GOODEN,	be given the ri	Ight to resume	e her maiden n	na me
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It is further ordered, adjusted to each other until sixty within sixty days, neither party appeal.	days after the rendition shall again marry exce	on of this decree, a ept to each other di	nd that if appeal is uring the pendency	taken of said
It is further ordered that be, and they hereby permit	tted to again contract	marraige upon the	I B. B. GUODEN	<u> </u>
this suit.			payment of the c	ost of
It is further ordered that	t B. B. GOO	DDEN,		
the Respondent/ pay	the cost herein to be	taxed, for which e	xecution may issue.	
Thisday of	July		, 19_39	
		-711	Thank	
		Judge (Circuit Court, in Equ	ity.
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	foregoing is a correlation foregoing is a correlation for Baldwin	county, Alabama,	do hereby certify the nal decree rendered we stated cause whice	hat the
	Witness my	hand and seal this	the	day
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		Register of (Circuit Court, in Equ	uity.
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Filed July 6, 1939 R.S. Durch, Register

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The State of Alababal Midwig County

The State Of Alabama Circuit Court, In Equity VORCE DECREE Baldwin County GOODEN,
Respondent,

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The State of Alabama

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

BERDELLA C. GOODEN	COMPLAINANT
u e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	VS.
B. B. GOODEN	RESPONDENT
I, Virginia E. Crenshaw	
have called and caused to come before me	rdella C. Gooden, and Harold Yates
witnesses named in the requirement for Oral F	Examination, on the day of
193 9, at the office of Orvis M. Brown	
in Robertsdale, Alabama, a	and having first sworn said witness es to speak the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the tru	th, the said Berdella C. Gooden and
Herold Vetes	doth depose and say as follows:

TESTIMONY OF COMPLAINANT, BERDELLA C. GOODEN

My name is Berdella C. Gooden. I am a resident of Fairhope, Alabama which is in Baldwin County and have been for the past seven years and I am the wife of B. B. Gooden who is the Respondent in this cause of action. We are both over the age of twenty one years and were married at Pinckney, Michigan on September 1st, 1931 and after that time we moved to Fairhope which is located in Baldwin County, Alabama and we have lived here since that time with the exception of a few months when we lived in Mobile. We were separated on April 20th, 1939 or the reabouts, which is this year but for the past two years we have not gotten along together very well and at times we have been separated but we got our difficulties ironed out temporarily but it seems that it has been impossible to get them straightened out at this time. During our marriage especially during the past two years the Respondent B. B. Gooden who is my husband has not contributed to my support in the manner that a man of his station in life should. He is an able bodied man, strong and able to work but he has neglected, failed and refused to support me in the manner that is mecessary for my maintenance taking into consideration my station in life and society. Since our separation on April 20, 1939 he has not contributed to my support in any manner whatsoever and though I have often requested that he contribute to my support he has neglected, failed and refused to do so at all times.

There were no children born of this marriage to us.

I am not employed and have no means whereby to pay the costs and expense of this divorce proceeding and I feel that the Respondent being an able bodied man capable of working and earning money, that all the costs and expenses of this proceeding should be taxed on him as I have no means by which to pay any portion of the same whatsoever. At this time we have considerable debts and some of these debts and accounts are in my name personalby. I feel that he should be made responsible for all these debts the ones listed in his name and the ones listed in my name also as he is capable of earning money and paying the same and the same if left on me would

Winnesda B. Aubrecher	
I, Virginia E. Crenshaw	as Register and Commissioner hereby certify
that the foregoing depositions on Oral Exami	nation was taken down in writing by me in the words
of the witnesses and read over to them	and <u>they</u> signed the same in the presence of
myself and Orvis M. Brown	
at the time and place herein mentioned; that	have personal knowledge of personal identity of said
witnesses. or had proof made before me of	the identity of said witness_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 a	n envelope to the Register of said Court.
Given under my hand and seal, this	day of June 19 39
	day of June 19 39. Virginia E. Crenshau(L. S.)
	(L. S.)
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DEPOSITION , 193 f , Registe RECORDED IN Reco. , Registe	Page Page STATE OF ALABAMA BALDWIN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, IN EQUITY BERDELLA C. GOODEN COMPLAINANT VS. B. B. GOODEN RESPONDENT
	13 3 5

be a burden on me to pay the same.

Berdella E. Gooden

TESTIMONY OF HAROLD YATES

My name is Harold Yates. I am a resident of Fairhope, Alabama in Baldwin County and have been since 1931. I am personally acquainted with both Berdella C. Gooden and B. B. Gooden, the Complainant and Respondent in this cause. I know that they are both over the age of twenty one years and I have known them since about 1932. They have resided in Fairhope, Alabama practically all of this time with the exception of a few months when they lived in Mobile. I know of my own personal knowledge that for the past two years they have got ten along together so well and have been separated from time to time during the last two years next preceding this date and were separated again on or about April 20th, 1939 and have continued to be separated since that date. Mrs. Gooden told me that she did not intend to go back to and live with the Respondent B. B. Goodens since their separation in April he had contributed to her support not an amount which is required for a person holding her station in life. During the past two years the Respondent has contributed practically nothing to her individual support taking into consideration the necessities required for a person occupying her station in life and the necessities required by society. I am personally acquainted with B. B. Gooden and know that he is an able bodied man able to work and support his wife. Since the time that I have been knowing the Goodens there has not been born to them any children. The Complainant, Berdella C. Gooden does not have any means of support or any means whereby she can pay the costs and expenses of this proceeding and I know that the Respondent B. B. Gooden is an able bodied man and can take care of the expenses of the same.

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No. _

The	State	of	Alabama
	BALDWI	N CO	UNTY

IN EQUITY Circuit Court of Baldwin County

BERDELLA C. GOODEN

B. B. GOODEN

VS.

NOTE OF TESTIMONY

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BER	DELLA C	. GOOD	ŒN	
		Vs.		, .
В	. B. GO	ODEN		
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	BER	Baldw CIRCUIT COU BERDELLA C B. B. GO QUEST FOUNDAME	Baldwin Count CIRCUIT COURT, II BERDELLA C. GOOD Vs. B. B. GOODEN VACATIO	B. B. GOODEN QUEST FOR DECREI VACATION

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Vol.	Page	, ,
		Register.

Moore Ptg. Co. Bay Minette

I, Virginia Crenshaw	, as Register an	ıd C ommissioner	hereby certify
that the foregoing deposition a on Oral Examination	a was taken dow	n in writing by n	ne in the words
of the witnesses and read over to them and	they sign	ed the same in	the presense of
myself and Orvis M. Brown		<u> </u>	
at the time and place herein mentioned; that I have	personal knowle	dge of personal i	dentity of said
witness_esor had proof made before me of the	identity of said	witness_es; 1	that I am not of
counsel or of kin to any of the parties to said cause	, or any manner	interested in th	e result thereof
I enclose the said Oral Examination in an env	elope to the Reg	ister of said Cou	ırt.
Given under my hand and seal, this26	day of	June	19 39
	Virginia	Cresso	haw (L. S.)

~ * * * :	TE OF		-	No				Term, 193
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		BE	RDELLA C.	GOODEN			······································	Complainant
			:	V_s	•		1	
		•						:
		В.	B. GOODEN					–, Defendant
	;						÷	, -,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-
o	R. S.	Duck			_, Register :			
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In the above stated cause a Decree Pro Confesso having been taken against the Defendant, and evidence having been taken, and the cause being ready for submission for final decree, and no defense having been interposed, the Complainant, by

Orvis M. Brown,

Solicitors of record, now files with the Register of this Court this written request to deliver the papers in this cause to the Judge for final decree in vacation.

Solicitor for Complainant.

VS.	
7 61	
B. B. GOODEN	

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,

Answer and Waiver, Request for Decree in Vacation and Testimony of

Berdella C. Gooden and Harold Yates and E. H. Gooden; Amended

Petition:

and in behalf of Defendant upon Answer and Waiver; Answer and Waiver to Amended
Bill of Complaint;

R.S. Duck
Register.
By Vandhie Thursty

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

	BERDELLA C. GOODEN	Complainant.
	VS.	9
	B. B. GOODEN	Respondent.
IVirginia Cr	enshaw	
as Register and Commission	ner	
		oden and E. H. Gooden
···		
<u>.</u>		
*		a, on the 26 day of June
•		<u>,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, </u>
*		rst sworn said witness <u>es</u> to speak the
truth, the whole truth, and	nothing but the truth, the said.	Berdella C. Gooden and E. H.
Gooden	doth denose and say as	follows: