

1903-06

Southampton County - Chancery.

Bryant, S. B. vs Bryant, Grace A. (Rice)

"*Grace*"

State of Virginia

In Rockbridge County Court Clerk's Office

I H. J. Shields, Clerk of the County Court for the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do certify that the foregoing is a copy of a license on file in said Office showing the marriage of Samuel Bernard Bryant and Gracie Agnes Rice.

Given under my hand this the 5th day of September 1903.

H. J. Shields, Clerk

H. J. Shields

Marriage License

Gracie Agnes Rice

Samuel Bernard Bryant

"Exhibit X"

MARRIAGE LICENSE



VIRGINIA,

Rockbridge County

To-wit:

To any Person Licensed to Celebrate Marriages:

You are hereby authorized to join together in the

Holy State of Matrimony

according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia,

Samuel Burnard Bryant

and

Gracie Agness Rice

Given under my hand, as ^{Deputy} Clerk of the *Rockbridge* County Court
of *Rockbridge* this *9th* day of *March* 1897
P. L. Walker Clerk.

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE.

TO BE ANNEXED TO THE LICENSE, REQUIRED BY SECTION 2229 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AS AMENDED BY ACT OF FEBRUARY 8, 1900.

Time of Marriage, *March 10th 1897.*
Place of Marriage, *Lexington, Va.*
Full Names of Parties Married, *Samuel Burnard Bryant and Gracie Agness Rice*
Color, *White*
Age of Husband, *26 years*
Age of Wife, *19 "*
Condition of Husband (widowed or single or divorced) *Single*
Condition of Wife (widowed or single or divorced) *"*

Place of Husband's Birth, *Southampton Co., Va.*
Place of Wife's Birth, *Rockbridge Co., Va.*
Place of Husband's Residence, *Southampton Co., Va.*
Place of Wife's Residence, *Lexington, Va.*
Names of Husband's Parents, *Richard and Martha J. Bryant.*
Names of Wife's Parents, *John E. and Eliza J. Rice*
Occupation of Husband, *Farmers.*

Given under my hand this *9th* day of *March* 1897
P. L. Walker, Deputy Clerk.

Certificate of Time and Place of Marriage.

I, _____ of the _____
~~Church, or religious order of that name, do certify,~~ that on the *10th* day of *March*
1897, at *the bride's home, Lexington, Va.*, ~~under authority of the above License,~~ I united in Marriage
~~the persons named and described therein.~~ *the above named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.*

~~Given under my hand this _____ day of _____ 18__~~

Thos. B. Johnson

The Minister Celebrating a marriage is required, within two months thereafter, to return the license to the Office of the Clerk who issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the FACT of such marriage, and of the TIME and PLACE of celebrating the same.

S. B. Bryant Plaintiff

vs.

In Chancery.

Grace H. Bryant Defendant

1903. 31st. March. Process issued to 2nd April Rules.

1903. 2nd April Rules Process returned executed.

Bill and exhibits filed.

Deere nisi.

1903. 1st. May Rules. Bill taken for confessed
and cause set for hearing

J. B. Bryant

ADJUTANT GENERAL
U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1892

1900 2nd April Rules

Ex. 121

General

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON
D. C.

D. C.

W. J. Bryant

10.9.

Executed in the City of Springfield
on April 24, 1892, by following above
copy of the within summons
& Bryant in person
J. W. Reeves
J. B. Bryant

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

^{Sergeant of the City of Lynchburg}
TO THE ~~SHERIFF OF SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY~~, GREETING:

WE COMMAND YOU TO SUMMON

Grace R. Boyard

to appear at the Clerk's Office of our Circuit Court of Southampton County, at the Rules to be holden for the said Court on the 2nd Monday in April 1903 ~~next~~, to answer a Bill in Chancery exhibited against her in our said Court by:

S. B. Boyard

And this she shall in no wise omit under penalty of law. And have then there this writ.

Witness, L. A. GAY, Clerk of our said Court, at the Courthouse, this 31st day of March, 1903, in the 12th year of the Commonwealth

TESTE:

L. A. Gay, C. C.

Bryant S. B.

vs. } Statement of costs

Bryant Grace N.

Sum. 25, 1 cop. 10, receipt 15, atty. 10, docket 18 = 84

Rules 1.00, entering return 35, fil. bill 15, Dr. Ex. 15 = 1.65

Dr. depositions 15, replication 15, Deem 36 = 66

1 writing copy 75
Tax costs 12, 40, fil. away papers 25 = 65

\$4.50

Bryant, S. B.

vs.

{ Bill & Exhibits.

Bryant, Grace A.

1903. 2" April Rules Filed

L. A. Gay & Co.

W. J. SEBRELL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
COURTLAND, VA.

Everett Waddey Co., Stationers and Printers, Richmond, Va.

To Honorable Robert R. Prentiss, Judge of
the Circuit Court of Southampton County:

Humbly complaining sheweth unto Your Honor your complainant, S. B. Bryant, that, on or about the 10th day of March 1897, he was united in marriage with Grace A. Rice, in Lexington, Rockbridge County, Va., as will appear from a copy of the marriage-license, with minister's return thereon, herewith filed as "Exhibit X," and prayed to be read as a part of this bill; that a few days after their said marriage your complainant returned with his wife, Grace A. Bryant, née Rice, to complainant's native County of Southampton, where your complainant and the said Grace A. Bryant, the defendant, lived together as man and wife from that time until on or about the 26th day of March 1903, when they separated as hereinafter stated; that during all this said period your complainant was to her a faithful, true and affectionate husband, and treated her kindly and provided for her as best he could, according to his means and ability; that during the last few months prior to their separation, your complainant noticed a seeming indifference on the part of his said wife towards him, but he did not then understand the cause thereof, and did not know that she was shamefully false and

faithless to him, until on or about the 26th day of March 1903, when he, for the first time, discovered and found out, to his great grief and sorrow, that, during the few months previous thereto, she had been leading an adulterous life, and had been guilty of acts of adultery with one Willard Whitley; but on or about said 26th day of March 1903, as aforesaid, your complainant found out such was the case, and he, therefore, so states and charges. That as soon as your complainant found out as aforesaid that his said wife, Grace A. Bryant, had been guilty of adultery as aforesaid, he promptly informed her that he would no longer recognize her as his wife, and that she could no longer live with him as his wife, and your complainant here states and avers that he has never co-habited with her as his wife, since he had knowledge of the fact of her adultery. That on or about the said 26th day of March 1903, the said Grace A. Bryant, having been informed by your complainant that she could no longer live with him as his wife, left for other parts, and your complainant has never seen her since. She was in the city of Lynchburg, when your complainant last heard of her whereabouts.

There are no living children, born of the said marriage between your complainant and the said defendant.

That the said Grace A. Bryant, the defendant, having been guilty of adultery as aforesaid, and your complainant having never co-habited with her since his knowledge of the fact, your complainant is advised that he is entitled to a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from her.

In tender consideration whereof, and in as much as your complainant is without remedy save in a Court of Equity where such matters are properly cognizable, your complainant prays that the said Grace A. Bryant may be made a party defendant to this bill and required to answer the same, though answer under oath is hereby waived; that the marriage heretofore had and solemnized between your complainant and the said defendant may be dissolved and annulled, and your complainant entirely divorced a vinculo matrimonii from the said defendant, and that Your Honor will grant all such other, further, general and special relief as the nature of the case may require, or to Equity shall seem meet.

And your complainant will ever pray &c.

W. J. Sebrell, p.p. {
}

J. B. Bryant,
by W. J. Sebrell, his atty.

Virginia,

Southampton County, to-wit:

This day personally appeared before me,
a Commissioner in chancery for the Circuit Court of
Southampton County, S. B. Bryant, whose name is signed
to the foregoing writing and made oath that the statements
therein contained, so far as made of his own know-
ledge, are true, and so far as made upon
information derived from others, he believes to
be true. Given under my hand this 6th day of
October 1903.

Commissioner in chancery.

My precious darling.

I will write
you just a line
am anxious to go over
yonder where you are
I was hoping you would
pick off fear this evening
I was over there by my
self all the time. My
darling I want to talk
with you so bad I
have so much to tell
you. Oh! I just love you
better every minute.
I would give my life for
you, darling if we could
just get away from all
this trouble. Love if you
can't do any thing else
tomorrow come and pick
off fear. I want to talk

with you as I had here
is a thousand kisses.
Yours and yours alone

Lawson Co
Sept 15--1912

Mr. J. B. Howell.

Dear Sir

Please send me
pattern No 75-50 in the October
No. of Standard patterns.

My Own Darling;

This has been
a long miserable day with
me I have been in bed all
day. I went down the lane
last night, and you were not
there. I came to the house
and, when I got in the
house my arm commenced to
pain me and in a few
minutes I was full of pains
I suffered dreadfully untill
the Dr. came and gave me
some sunshine. I guess I
will be all right tomorrow.

My love I want to see you
so bad. I am sorry you
are going to work down
in the woods. I will miss
you so much. Darling I
love you better every day
every minute. I have been
wondering all day what
you were doing. I want
to see you now more than
I ever did in my life
darling write me long
letters and tell me every
thing. I had rather you
would tell me you love me
than any thing on earth.
good bye Darling. I don't
know whether you will
get this or not.

My darling I am so small
because I went to — this
evening & wish I had
stoped at your house. a
while. love if I give this
to you tonight work here
tomorrow if you are able,
and all the rest of this
week if you can. every
time I am with you a
while it just makes me
want to be with you more
I long for the time when
we can be together all
the time. darling I wish
you knew how dear you
are to me. you can never

know. this has been a short
evening to me.

Darling my heart is a little lighter
than it has been. I feel more
like you love me now. you dont
know what I have been through
since Saturday night. dear tell
me if you expect to work here
untill Mr. Simmons gets ready
for you, if you do tell - today
dont tell him you are not
going to Suffolk tomorrow. dont
tell any one here. But as soon
as they start tomorrow come
over here come in the back
way and no one will know
you are here. it will be a
happy day if I can spend
it with you. if the preacher
goes away in time I will
go to Smith's after the mail.
I guess I will find you there. if
I do I will bring you back if
you want to come. darling I love
the ground you walk on. I
worship you. you are my life
my all. How willingly would I

die for you but I had rather
live for you. I don't expect
will go over yonder to work
before Monday. I am afraid he
won't, dear if you go over yonder
to work. I will not see you or
hear from you. go over yonder
tonight and play Muggins.
A thousand kisses for you. I am
yours untill death. I feel some
times like that will come soon
if I have to live this way much
longer it will.

in - go to garden
I don't know how
to turn corn over
there.

My love I guess you think
I am not going to write
any today but I am just
the same, the house is full
of company over yonder
but I got tired staying
over there. and come over
here to write to my darling.
when I can't talk to you
I had rather be writing to
you, I could be satisfied
never to talk to anyone

else but you. my dear I have time enough, this
love you so much. I wish has been a long evening
I could tell you half. to me. every hour seems
I wish we could go away like two when I have
tonight. I could bid this to spend their away
country good bye with- from you. love I hate
out a tear. love I hate this way living now and
to think about you leaving more every day I dear I.
me. I wish you could I want you to come over.
stay here next year. I here when ever you get
expect to try to get away ready. and when I can
some time next year if in the pecanut patch or
I live and nothing happen any where. go where I am
to prevent. I guess I will when ever you want to
have to go on the road I just want him to say
tonight if those people something to see again.

and I will fix him well
my love this is all I can
write to-day will write
again tomorrow if I
can, you write as often as
you can

devotedly yours.

Darling I hated to leave you so bad
this evening and I didn't
even get a kiss. dear I want
you to go to work and save
every thing you can and let
me get away soon. I expect to
go away in August love please
don't go away now. not before
the spring I can't give you
up.

Can down
not seen in the
morning I will
leave about eight
o'clock for the
night

Willard I don't think you will be
surprised when you read this.
I love you deeper than my own
life. If you can, any thing for
me, and are willing for me
to be more than I have
been, or ought to be, come
over here tonight just before
dark, or after sunset. I know
this is asking but it will
never be known unless you
tell it. I would shield you
with my life. I am coming to
say I never loved before.
Love this at once.

if I go away I will talk
with you this evening if
you are willing for this

Well dear I am bound to write a
little more. I will go up to the
store directly and will give it to
you. I am so sleepy I can hardly
see. I expect I will be nearly
dead by morning. Love if I had
time I could write this tablet
full. and all of it would be
love and then it would not
tell half. half of it can never
be told. I love you dearly. I
don't believe any one ever loved
as I do you. you will never
know how full of love my
heart is. dear don't stay down
there any longer than Christmas
day. I will not ask you to
promise me. because I don't want
you to make another unless you
know you can keep it. Well

love I will have to stop soon
and go Dr. Beth wants to go
away after I come back.
bye bye my precious. write
as often as you can.

Fondly yours.

My own darling
ask Sam tomorrow or Sunday
what he wants you to do next
week. if he tells me I will forget
I wish I had known you were
coming back so early this
evening. I would have been
over here when you got
back. darling I love you
better tonight than I ever
have in my life you are
so sweet and so good, dear
I wish I had a chance to
be as big duncer over you as
I want to, I am going to
write to you tomorrow and
will give it to you when I
go by if I get a chance.
Tell my precious love. I will
stop for this time by bye a
thousand kisses.

Yours as till death.

My precious darling, I don't think
I will get a chance to go to the
store this morning. Mr. Brett is being
and I will have to stay here
I will go home this evening.
If nothing happens to prevent I
will be at the store some
time tomorrow. I don't know
whether I will come in the
morning or afternoon. If I knew
I could catch you by yourself
I would come in the morning.
If I knew George would go after
dinner today I would go up
there for a few minutes at dinner
time. But I might go and you
would be gone and then I would
be mad. Darling I wish you would
not stay there next week. I have
worried about your being there
until I am so weak. I can't
eat or sleep. I had rather be
dead than live like this.
Well darling it is nearly time for
me to go home. I would not

Mind going if you were there
but I know where I go you
are so far away from me,
I can't see you down here but
I know you are near me.

Well love I will have to stop

Write when ever you can.

A thousand kisses for you.

Yours for ever. Can stop work
down there if you don't I will
die. I can not stand it.

My love I have spent this morning
so different from what I expected
yesterday. I am so mad because
Mr Lewis Bryant didn't go down
you & him self. I hope you will
be back by dinner time it is
about ten o'clock and I have just
eaten my breakfast. I was sick
all night last night. and am
not much better this morning.
I can hardly get my breath.
sometimes, darling I want to
see you so bad. I will be glad
to see Monday we will be by
our selves three or four days
next week. I may have to take
him to Martins Sunday evening
if I don't take him Sunday I will
have to take him Monday
morning. love as usual I dread
to see Sunday it will be such a
long day. my darling I love you
so much last night. I wanted
to be in your arms and kiss
you so bad. love I hope the time

will soon come when I can do
it whenever I am with you.
last night I was feeling miserable
and just the minute your hand
touched mine I felt so much
better. if no one else had been there
I would have been almost happy.
No one will ever know how dear you are
to me, you are my life my all.
I feel like we are one in heart
and mind. I wish it could be
in name too. I trust that it will
be some day.

My Darling My

I felt awful today at dinner time I just feel like I don't want to be with any one but you. My love I do love you so much you will never know how dear you are to me. I long to see the time when we can be together all the time. if that time ever comes I hope it will soon. If I do go up home Christmas and we can spend one night together it will be a happy night. and yet it will be sad. for after we are together that long, we will hate worse than ever, to be separated. I know either one of us will not close our eyes for sleep. I expect to go if I possibly can. dear work every day you can. and don't spend any more money than

you are bound to spend. I know myself. darling I don't write
you will not keep it and even if you more know. I will have to
bit you get to spare. give it
to me and I will keep it. if
it is not but be at the time
a little will count up. love don't
spend one cent that you are not
bound to spend. I will keep it
for you. and if you ever want
it for any thing else I will
give it to you. I will save all
I can get. and maybe we can
go sooner than we expect to
know. I am going to the store
and to Dr. Britto I dread to go
I am afraid they have heard
something Alice asked me this
morning if Lizzie went with
me to Limbham the other day
I never did answer her. I started
to tell her about something else.
I don't know who will go with
me Saturday. I may go by

go. if I get time I will write
some more after I get back.
My darling I love you dearer
every minute. I don't believe I could
ever love you less. Bye Bye and a
kiss. I am yours only until death.

Exvented in The City of Great Britain
April 7th 1798 by Delivering a true copy of the
Division Notice to Grace Bryant in person

D. A. Johnson
D. C. L.

For Review

Bryant, D. B.

vs.

Notice.

Bryant, Grace A.

To Grace A. Bryant:

You are hereby notified that on the 15th day of April, in the year 1903, at the store-house of R. Howard ~~office of B. F. McLEMORE~~, in the village of Newsons ~~Courtland~~, Southhampton county, Va., between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. of that day, I shall proceed to take the depositions of

Lucy Whitley and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain Suit in Chancery depending in the Circuit Court for Southhampton county, wherein I am plaintiff and you are defendant; and if, from any cause, the taking of the said depositions be not commenced, or, if commenced, be not concluded on that day, the taking thereof will be adjourned from day to day, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.

Your obedient servant,

S. B. Bryant

By Counsel.

The depositions of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Whitley and others, taken before me J.B. Prince, jr., a commissioner in chancery of the Circuit Court of Southampton county, in the state aforesaid,, pursuant to notice hereto annexed, at the Store of R. Howard ~~Company~~, in Newsoms, Va., on the 15th day of April, 1903, between the hours of 8 ~~and~~ a.m. and 6 p.m., to be read as evidence in behalf of S.B. Bryant in a certain suit in equity depending in the Circuit Court for the county of Southampton wherein S.B. Bryant is plaintiff and Grace A. Bryant is defendant.

Present:- W.J. Sebrell, Attorney for the plaintiff.

The witness, Elizabeth S. Whitley, being duly sworn deposes as follows:-

1.Q. State your name, age residence, occupation and do you know the parties to this suit ?

A.1. Elizabeth S. Whitley, 59 years of age, Southampton county, live within a quarter of a mile of where plaintiff and defendant lived when they were living together as man and wife, I know the parties to this suit.

Q.2. Did you see much of them during their married life.

A. Yes, sir.

Q.3 Will you please state how he treated her, and how he provided for her as far as you were able to see.

A. He was good and kind to her, and treated her her well, and provided for her well.

Q. Do you know whether or not she was true to him ?

A. She was at first. For the latter part of ~~their~~ married life, while they remained together, for as much as six months or more, she was not true to him, and did not behave as wife should have done to him.

Q. ~~Will~~ Have you known her during the past six months or more, to be guilty of any improper conduct, or have too intimate relations with any other man except her husband ?

A. Yes. I have.

Page

2.

Q. Please state all that you know or have seen of such improper relations or conduct ?

A. She was too intimate with my son, Willard, He told me of it himself. Then she came to me and told me of it her own self. Told me what they were doing. She told me she loved him better than anything else on earth. She told me she didn't love her husband, and didn't want to stay with him and was going to make a change in some way. She went to my house one morning before sunrise, ~~he~~ went in my son's room before he had got up. I told her he was not up, and she said that it didn't make any difference, and in she went. She staid in there alone with him about one half an hour or three quarters of an hour. She was there another time. It was just a little ~~before~~ ^{after} Christmas, last Christmas, He, Willard, was sick, lying on the bed. She was in the room with him and staid with him all the evening, all alone, He told me that she went and laid down on the bed with him. She traced her arm under his head, and he went to sleep, or nearly asleep, with her arm in that position. He was not sick much, but just felt a little badly, and we were keeping him there because we thought his uncle, Lewis, was dangerously ill, and we were expecting him to die, and he was there awaiting any emergency.

At another time, a short while after the last time I have named, about four weeks before she left, she was at my house, I saw her throw her arms around Willard and commence pushing him back against the hall door. I heard them kiss.

Just before last Christmas, seeing these too intimate relations between Mrs. Bryant and my son, I told her that she ought to and must stop, that she was ruining herself and my son, and she told me she couldn't help it nor she won't going to try. That she loved him, and she was going to get away from her husband in some way, and get away with Willard, and after they were gone she didn't care what folks said. ~~*****~~

I also caught her sitting in his lap once. I didn't see them, but they were in a room to themselves, and Mr. Bryant her husband came by and I thought he saw them, but I have learned since that he did not. After he had passed the window, she came running in the room where I was, and I said "you are caught now and I am glad of it." She said "I expect I am, and I don't care, and if he says anything to me about it, I am going to tell him I was sitting in his lap, and it was not the first time either".

Q. Did you have any conversation with her just before she left ~~for~~ in regard to her conduct with your son, letting her know that you understood the relations with her and your son, and remonstrating with her against such conduct, and if so, please state what that conversation was.

A. The day before she went away, which was about three weeks ago, I said to her, "Grace you ought to be ashamed to do as you do, and carry on so, for you are committing a sin". She said I don't see

that it is any sin." I said, if you will just wait until I can get that book there I will show you it is a sin," I pointed to the Bible. She didn't open her mouth ~~any~~ one way or the other. I waited awhile. Then I said: "If you don't want to see it and will allow me to tell you, you are guilty of committing adultery, and it is a violation of one of the commandments." She stood there, and listened to me and didn't say anything one way or the other. She hung her head down, and was picking at her finger nails, She didn't look up for some time, but had an expression of guilty shame. When she left then, after I had talked with her that time, she walked out with her head down and didn't say a word, good-bye, nor anything else.

Q. Have you ever seen her, or known her to pass any notes or letters to your son, Willard.

A. Yes, I have seen her drop them, and by the time she would drop them she was there to pick them up.

Q. The witness is here handed several letters, and asked to take them and examine them carefully, and see if she knows anything about them, and if so, to tell what she knows about them.

Q. Mrs. Whitley do you know about these letters, and how did you happen to have them.

A. After examining the letters, I have to say: My son told me he was bound to go away to get rid of this woman, and he left these letters with me, and said they were written by her, Mrs. Bryant, to him, my son, Willard Whitley.

Q. I know too they were written by her because I know them to be her handwriting.

A. W. V. The letters are here filed with these depositions as a part thereof, Marked "A."

Q.2. Please state whether or not you saw the plaintiff and defendant during their married life, and whether plaintiff acted his part as a husband should have.

And further this deponent saith not.

Elizabeth D. Whitley
mark

Q.3. Do you know where they last resided as man and wife?

A. Yes, in Southampton county.

Q.4. Do you know how long they lived together as man and wife in this county?

A. Yes, they came here a few days after they were married, and continued to live together as man and wife in this county until they separated about three weeks ago.

And further this deponent saith not.

W. V. [Signature]
mark

Witness J.N. Caroon, after being first duly sworn deposes as follows:-

Q. 1. State your name, age residence, occupation, and do you know the parties to this suit.

A. J.N. Caroon, 56, Southampton County, I live about a quarter of a mile from Mr. S.B. Bryant, farmer, Yes, I know the parties to this suit.

Q. 2. As a near neighbor, having an opportunity to see them, do you think that Mr. Bryant acted the part of a husband to his wife, and treated her kindly, and provided for her according to his means and circumstances?

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. 3. Do you know at what place they last lived together as man and wife?

A. Yes, it was in this county, Southampton.

And further this deponent saith not.

J. N. Caroon

Witness W.V. Simmons, after being first duly sworn, deposes as follows:

Q. 1. State your name, age residence, occupation, and do you know the parties to this suit?

A. W. V. Simmons, 47, Southampton County, Va., Farmer, I know the parties to this suit.

Q. 2. Please state whether or not you saw the plaintiff and defendant during their married life, and whether plaintiff acted his part as a husband should have done to her, and whether he treated her kindly, and provided for her according to his means and circumstances?

A. Yes, I think he did.

Q. 3. Do you know where they last cohabited as man and wife?

A. Yes, in Southampton county.

Q. 4. Do you know how long they lived together as man and wife in this county?

A. Yes, they came here a few days after they were married, and continued to live together as man and wife in this county until they separated about three weeks ago.

And further this deponent saith not.

W. V. Simmons
sworn

Witness R.L. Bryant, after being first duly sworn, deposes as follows:-

Q.1. State your name, age residence, occupation, and do you know the parties to* this suit.

A. R.L. Bryant, 73. Southampton county, Va., Farmer, and know the parties to this suit. I am the father of the plaintiff.

Q.2. Where did plaintiff and defendant live since their marriage, and how far did you live from them?

A. In my yard for five years. They came there immediately after their marriage, and lived there up to the time of their separation about three weeks ago, with the exception of one year when they moved to his farm in the same county, Southampton, and lived there one year.

Q.3. Do you know why they separated about three weeks ago?

A. He found out that there was an intimacy existing between this young man Willard Whitley and his wife, Grace A. Bryant. He immediately went to her and informed her that he couldn't live with her as his wife.

Q. 4. Do you know whether he has ever cohabited with her since he found out the intimate relations between her and Whitley.

A. I know that he has not.

Q.5. Do you know anything as to the improper relations between Mrs. Bryant and Whitley?

A. He told me that he had had sexual intercourse with her. She staid in my house some nights during ~~my~~ her husband's absence, and one morning, about last October, she got up before day and met up with him. I afterwards asked him about it, and he told me that he had criminal intercourse with her ~~that~~ morning. I had noticed an intimacy between them before which had attracted my attention.

Q.6. Do you know where Willard Whitley is now?

A. He went from here to Woodland, N.C. I reckon he is there now. He stated to me that he went away to get rid of Mrs. Bryant.

And further this deponent saith not.

R. L. Bryant

No other witnesses appearing, the further taking of these depositions is continued until to-morrow - at the same place and between the same hours -

Johnnie J. Cairns, in Chy.

Apr. 16th, 1903. No witnesses appearing the further taking of these depositions is continued until to-morrow at the same place, and between the same hours - Johnnie J. Cairns, in Chancery

Apr. 19th, 1903. No witness appearing the further taking of these depositions ~~is~~ continued until tomorrow - at the same place and before the same laws - John J. & James in Ch.

Apr. 18th, 1902 The witness Willard K. Whitley, after being first duly sworn deposes as follows:-

Q. 1. State your name, age, residence occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

Ans. Willard K. Whitley, 29 yrs. - Southampton County, Va.,
Yes, I know the parties.

Q. 2. Please state whether or not you have ever had sexual intercourse with the defendant, Mrs. Mary A. Bryant, since her marriage to the plaintiff, A. Bryant, and if so, when, where, and the circumstances?

Ans. Yes - I have had sexual intercourse with Mrs. Bryant a number of times. The first time was about a month before last Christmas, 1902. The intimacy between us began last summer. I first got a note from her telling me to come over there that night just after sunset if we wanted to carry on as people ought not to do. Then she said it would never be known unless I told it.

It continued to go on in this way until I was persuaded by her to take the first step, which was about a month to Christmas as I have said. The note, (first) was in September.

After that time I met her about at a number of places, and had intercourse with her. She was continually after me, writing me notes and asking me to meet her &c. - She continued to write me notes - asking me to meet her and the intimacy was.

was so great that I thought it better to leave, and in last March I left to get rid of her and have staid away until yesterday, except I came home once in the meantime, one day after she left. The time I mentioned as having had intercourse with her the first time was in her own house, that is, Mr. Bryant's. Mr. Bryant was six miles from home at Marvin Stiel's at work.

Q. 3.

The witness is here shown the letters, which are filed in these depositions as Exhibit A and asked to examine them, and state whether or not they were written to him by Mrs. Grace A. Bryant, the defendant within the last twelve months.

Ans.

They were written to me by Mrs. Grace A. Bryant, and are within the last twelve months. She would readily hand them to me at different times.

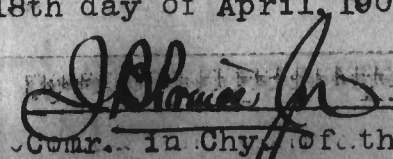
And further this deponent says the not.
W H Whitley

Virginia:-

County of Southampton, to-wit:-

I, Jos. B. Prince, jr., a commissioner in chancery of the Circuit Court for the county and state aforesaid, in the said state, and county, do hereby certify that the foregoing depositions of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Whitley, J. N. Caroon, W. V. Simmons, R. L. Bryant and Willard K. Witley, were duly taken, sworn to, and subscribed before me, at the times and place, and for the purpose in the caption hereto annexed.

Given under my hand this 18th day of April, 1903.


Commr. in Chy. of the Cir. Ct. of
Southampton County, Va.

1903

BRYANT, S. B.

vs

Decree

BRYANT, GRACE A.

Entered on
page 30.

October 6th 1903.

Enter this:

Robert R. Dennis

W. J. SEBRELL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
COURTLAND, VA.

Everett Waddey Co., Stationers and Printers, Richmond, Va.

Bryant, S. B.

vs.

Bryant, Grace A.

Decree.

This day this cause came on to be heard on the bill of complainant and exhibits therewith filed and the depositions of witnesses, the defendant, upon whom process has been duly served, still failing to appear and plead, answer or demur to the said bill, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, the Court doth adjudge, order and decree that the marriage heretofore had and solemnized between S. B. Bryant and Grace A. Bryant, nee Grace A. Rice, be and the same is hereby dissolved and that the said S. B. Bryant be forever divorced a vinculo matrimonii from the said Grace A. Bryant.

And it appearing to the Court that nothing further remains to be done in this cause, it is ordered that the same be removed from the docket.