

1907-014 Chancery Causes: Samuel Watkins vs Bell (Belle) Watkins

25

Dale of Wight County

other surnames: Eley,
Banks, Baker, Edwards,
Costen, Barham

MARRIAGE LICENSE



Virginia, Isle of Wight 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,

Sam Watkins

and

Bell Eley

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Isle of Wight County this 13th day of March 1906

A. S. Johnson 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 3, 1900.

Time of Marriage, Mar. 14 - 1906

Place of Marriage, Isle of Wight Co.

Full Names of Parties Married, Sam Watkins

and Bell Eley

Color, Colored

Age of Husband, 24 years

Age of Wife, 22 years

Condition of Husband (widowed or single or divorced) Single

Condition of Wife (widowed or single or divorced) Single

Place of Husband's Birth, Isle of Wight Co. Va.

Place of Wife's Birth, Isle of Wight Co. Va.

Place of Husband's Residence, Isle of Wight Co. Va.

Place of Wife's Residence, Isle of Wight Co. Va.

Names of Husband's Parents, Sam and Lohar-

lotte Watkins

Names of Wife's Parents, Thomas and Rox-

anna Eley

Occupation of Husband, Laborer

Given under my hand this 13th day of March 1906

A. S. Johnson Clerk.

Certificate of Time and Place of Marriage.

I, J. H. Milteer, a minister of the Christian Church, or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 14th day of March 1906, at Chappell Grove, under authority of the above License, I united in Marriage the persons named and described therein.

Given under my hand this 14th day of March 1906.

J. H. Milteer

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.

A. copy Teste: A. S. Johnson

Sam Watkins

1000 Ely

A copy

Watkins

v

Watkins

"Exhibit A"

Samuel Watkins

v.

Bell Watkins

(
)
(
)
(

Dedree.

This cause came on this day to be heard upon the complainant's bill, and the exhibit filed therewith; the respondent, who was proceeded against by order of publication, still failing to appear, plead, answer or demur; and the depositions taken and filed on behalf of the complainant; and ^{was} argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, the Court being of opinion from the evidence furnished in the cause, independent of the admissions of either party, that the charge of adultery in the bill of complaint contained has been fully established: the Court doth adjudge, order and decree that the said Samuel Watkins and Bell Watkins be divorced from the bond of matrimony which was created by the said marriage, and that the said marriage be, and the same hereby is, dissolved and annulled. #

And nothing further appearing to be done in this cause it is ordered that the same be stricken from the docket.

And the Court doth further adjudge, order and decree that the defendant do pay to the plaintiff his costs in this behalf expended.

Samuel Watkins,

v.

Bell Watkins.

DECREE.

~~October 7th, 1907.~~

. . . No. 6 p. 519.

To be entered.

OCT 7th 1907.

R. E. Boykin

VIRGINIA:--Clerk's Office of the Circuit
Court of the County of Isle of Wight,
July 2, 1907.

Samuel Watkins.....Plaintiff
vs. Chancery

Belle Watkins.....Defendants.

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce a vinculo matrimonii. And an affidavit having been made that the defendant cannot be found after the exercise of due diligence, it is ordered that the said Belle Watkins do appear here within fifteen days after due publication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect her interests in this suit.

A. S. JOHN* ON, C. C.

A Copy, Teste:--A. S. JOHNSON, C. C.

P. P. Deans, p. q.

Office of SUFFOLK HERALD.

SUFFOLK, VA., Aug 10 1907

I hereby certify that the order of which the annexed is a copy has been published in THE SUFFOLK HERALD in the manner prescribed by law---once a week for four successive weeks.

beginning July 12, 1907 and ending Aug 5, 1907

W. J. Kendrick

Editor Herald

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Samuel Watkins

vs) Chancery

Belle Watkins

Printers certificate of order of publication.

Filed Sept. 25th.1907.

Johnson

C.C.

Virginia: Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the
County of Isle of Wight July 2nd 1907.
WIGHT, VA. 1907.

SAMUEL WATKINS-----PLAINTIFF

VS) CHANCERY

BELLE WATKINS.-----DEFENDANT.

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce a vinculo matri-
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found after the exercise of due diligence, it is ordered that the
said Belle Watkins do appear here within fifteen days after due pub-
lication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect her interests
in this suit.

A copy, Test: *A. S. Johnson*-----J. C.

A. S. JOHNSON, C. C.

4
Samuel Watkins
vs { Copy and Puba
Bue Watkins

CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF ISLE
OF WIGHT, JULY 2ND?, 1907.

SAMUEL WATKINS,.....PLAINTIFF

VS) CHANCERY

BELLE WATKINS,.....DEFENDANT

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce
a vinculo matrimonii. And an affidavit having been made
that the defendant cannot be found after the exercise of
due diligence, it is ordered that the said Belle Watkins
do appear here within fifteen days after due publication
hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect her inter-
ests in this suit.

A. S. JOHNSON, C.C.

A copy, Teste, *A. S. Johnson* C.C.

I, A. S. Johnson, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County
of Isle of Wight, do hereby certify that the foregoing
copy of order of publication was posted at the front
door of the courthouse of the said county on the 2nd. day
of July, 1907.

Teste, *A. S. Johnson* C.C.

Samuel Watkins

vs) Chancery.

Copy of order of publication
and certificate of clerk.

The depositions of Ada Edwards, et als, taken before me,
A. S. Johnson, A commissioner in chancery of the Circuit
court of the county of Isle of Wight, at the office of Par
Parke P. Deans, Attorney at Law, in the town of Windsor,
in the county of Isle of Wight, State of Virginia, on the
25th. day of September, 1907, to be read as
evidence in a cause in said court depending wherein Samuel
Watkins is plaintiff, and Belle Watkins is the defendant.

Present, Parke P. Deans, p.q.

Ada Edwards being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Q. What is your name, age, residence and occupation.

A. Ada Edwards, sixteen years of age, live in Windsor.

Q. Do you know the parties to this suit, Sam and Belle Wat-
kins?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you remember seeing Belle Watkins in company with
Emanuel Banks, if so when, and state what you saw.

A. I saw Belle, went down to her side of my house with Banks
and went in a house and stayed three hours, and come out
on the back side and went to Sam's house on the 17th. of
~~xxxxxxx~~ april last year, it was on a Tuesday night.

Q. Do you know who was in that house, I mean this house
you call his house into which they went besides Banks on
that night?

A. no sir, there did not any one stay in that house but
him that I knows of. I never heard of any one.

Q. When she left Bank's house how did she leave, which door
did she leave from?

A. She left by the back door and cut round through the
woods.

Q. When she left the house you mentioned first and went to

Sam's house ~~xxxxxxx~~ how did ~~he~~ leave.

A. She went out the back door and did like she did not want any of us to see her. We were sitting out at our front door. She went from that house through the woods to Sam's house.

Q. Do you ^{know} of any other times she went into Bank's house.

A. No sir, but I have seen her with Banks several times.

Q. Did she appear to be a faithful wife to Sam?

A. No sir. She kept company with other people a lot, right much more than she did with Sam.

Q. What kind of a husband did Sam appear to be to Belle?

A. He was all right to Belle, as good as any man to his wife.

And further this deponent saith not.

Ada N. Edwards
mark

Mariah Edwards being duly sworn deposes and says:

Q. State your name, age, and residence.

A. Mariah Edwards, I am between sixty and seventy, and I live in Windsor, I have been living here nearly all my life.

Q. Do you know Sam Watkins and his wife Belle?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you ever see her with a man other than Sam? and acting improperly? If so please state when and where?

Q. No body but Banks. It was on a Tuesday night in April before last. I see her down to Costens one time, and next time I saw her jump across the ditch and go up stairs at the house in which Bank's stayed, he was up there then, and she stayed two hours or better and when she come out she come out the back way through the woods towards her house.

Q. Was any one else in that house but Banks?

A. No sir he was in the by his self, Didn't no one stay in that house but him, and he had his bed in there.

Q. Who does the house belong to that Banks lived in at that time- I mean the house that she went in to-Banks as you state?

A. Mr. Griffin- the Farmers Peanut Company.

Q. Do you know where Belle is now?

A. Last time I heard from her she was in Suffolk. Banks is in Suffolk and I have hearn that shewas living with him.

Q. What kind of a husband did Sam seem to be and what kind of a wife did she appear to be to him?

A. Sam appeared to be all right to her. She was not good to him, from the way she done. She was with other men more than she was with Sam.

Qx And further this deponent saith not.

Mariah Edwards
mark

Crosby Costen

~~Crosby Costen~~ being duly sworn deposes and says:

Q. State your name, age, residence and occupation?

A. Crosby Costen, I am twenty four years old, I live in Windsor and I fire for Mr. Wiley Bradshaw.

Q. Do you know Sam Watkins and Belle his wife?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you ever see Belle with any other men that Sam, if so state when, where and under what circumstances.

A. It was in july, Saturday after the 4th. of July, last year, she was with Banks in Suffolk in a house near the Fair Grounds on the Southern road. Banks went down there and rented a room and come down and got her and carried her up there with him. I was in the house with a girl my self and I saw him in the bed with her. She was there about two hours with him.

Q. Have you ever seen them together more than ^{that} time?

A. I have never seen them in that fix but I have seen them together a lot walking about, except the time in Suffolk,

And further this deponent saith not.

Lerosby ^{his} Coaster
mark

W. H. Barham being duly sworn deposes and says:

Q. State your name, age, residence and occupation?

A. W. H. Barham, Forty years old the fifteenth of July, live in Windsor, have been here about sixteen years, I farms, house carpenter and fires an engine.

Q. Do you know Sam Watkins and Belle Watkins, his wife?

A. Yes sir. I hope raise her.

Q. How well were you situated to observe their married life?

A. They lived in about four hundred yards of me all the time they were married. I never went to their house but once after they were married and that was the morning after they were married? and I saw her standing in the back door with Banks when I went in there and he ~~was~~ had his hand under her clothes. Sam was gone to his work. I

Q. Did you observe Sam's actions toward her?

A. Yes sir. I passed their house five times every day except when I was sick, and I certainly believe Sam was a good husband to her.

Q. Do you know where she is now?

A. I do not, not now. the last I saw her she was in Suffolk. Sam was with me at the depot then and she did not even speak to him? but she was with Banks all the time. The night she left Sam she was in my house and she told Sam then that she was no longer Mrs, Watkins but Miss Isabelle Eley. I brought her satchel to the train and Banks was there to meet her.

And further this deponent saith not,

W. H. Barham
mark

Given under my hand this 25th. day of September, 1907.

Johnson

Commissioner in Chancery.

For fees & depositions \$5⁰⁰

Samuel Watkins

vs) Chancery.

Belle Watkins,
6666-----

Depositions

Received, from the hands of A. S.
Johnson, Commissioner, and filed
on the 26th. day of September,
1907.

17. W. Johnson C.C.

I, Samuel Watkins, do solemnly swear in due form of law that diligence has been used on my behalf to ascertain in what County or Corporation Belle Watkins against whom I am about to bring suit in equity in the Circuit Court of the County Isle of Wight, Virginia is, without effect.

Samuel Watkins

Samuel Watkins

v. Affidavit.

Belle Watkins.

State of Virginia,

County of Isle of Wight, to-wit:

This day Samuel Watkins, the above named plaintiff, personally appeared before me, Parke P. Deans, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, in my County aforesaid, and made oath that diligence has been used on his behalf to ascertain in what County or Corporation, Belle Watkins, the above named defendant is, without effect.

Given under my hand this ^{15th} day of July 1907.

Parke P. Deans

Notary Public.

My term of office expires July 8th 1909.

Samuel Watkins

r/

Belle Watkins

Affidavit of
Diligence to locate defendants

Received of
Belle Watkins
the sum of \$10.00
for the above

Received of
Belle Watkins
the sum of \$10.00
for the above

Suffolk Va 6/27/1907.

Dear Sir:

I herin return you the papers in case of Samuel Watkins vs Belle Watkins. I have been unable to find the party in my town or County and from the best information I can get; she has gone to Baltimore.

Very Respectfully
A. A. Baker Sheriff

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

Nansemond
To the Sheriff of the County of ~~Isle of Wight~~, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU that you summon Belle Watkins.

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of ~~Isle of Wight~~
at the rules to be held for the said Court, on the 1st. Monday in July 1907,
to answer a bill in chancery, exhibited against her in our said court ~~for~~
Samuel Watkins

A. S. Johnson
And have then there this writ. Witness ~~Nathaniel P. Young~~, Clerk of our said court, at
the court-house, the 25th. day of June 1907, and in the 12 131st.
year of the Commonwealth.

Johnson

June 27 1907. Belle Watkins not found in my County.

A. H. Barker Shiff

Samuel Watkins,

vs.

SUBPOENA
IN
CHANCERY.

Belle Watkins,

Parke P. Deans

p. q

To First July Rules,
Circuit Court.

1907.

B 33119

Samuel Watkins

v. Bill

Bell Watkins.

To the Honorable Circuit Court of Isle of

Wight County:

Your complainant, Samuel Watkins respectfully represents:

That on the 14th day of March, 1906, your complainant was lawfully married in the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia, to Bell Watkins, whose maiden name was Bell Eley, as will appear from a certificate of marriage herewith filed, marked "Exhibit A", and made a part of this bill; and

That continuously from the date of marriage until the 30th day of June, 1906, your complainant and the said Bell Watkins lived together as husband and wife, and he was a true and faithful husband to his said wife, and at all times supporting her by his labor; there were no children born to them; and

That the said Bell Watkins has since the aforesaid marriage, committed adultery; that is to say on or about the 17th day of April 1906 the said Bell Watkins had carnal illicit intercourse with one Emanuel Banks, at a house on the ~~ax~~ lands of the Farmers Peanut Company in the Town of Windsor, in the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia and on or about the 7th day of July, 1906 the said Bell Watkins had carnal illicit intercourse with one Emanuel Banks, at a house on East Washington Street near the Southern Railway Depot in the Town of Suffolk in the County of Nansemond, Virginia; and your complainant has not cohabited with her at all after the knowledge of the fact of adultery; and,

That at the time of institution of suit it had not been five years since the said adultery occurred, and that it was not committed by the procurement or connivance of your complainant; and,

That your complainant and the said Bell Watkins last resided together in the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia, and that for more than one year next preceding the commencement of this suit, your complainant has and now is domiciled in this State; and,

In consideration whereof, and forasmuch as your complainant is remediless in the premises save in a court of equity, your complainant prays that the said Bell Watkins may be made a party defendant to this bill, and required, but not on oath, to answer the same, the oath being hereby waived; that a divorce from the bond of matrimony (a vinculo matrimonii) which was created by the aforesaid marriage be decreed him; that your complainant may have all such further, and other, and general relief in the premises as the nature of this case may require, or the equity shall seem meet,

And he will ever pray &c.

Samuel Watkins
Parke P. Deans p.q. Complainant.

State of Virginia,

Isle of Wight County, to-wit:

Samuel Watkins the complainant named in the foregoing bill, being duly sworn, says that the facts and allegations therein contained are true, except so far as they are therein stated to be information, and that so far as they are therein stated to be upon information he believes them to be true.

Samuel Watkins
Complainant.

Taken and sworn to and subscribed before me Parke P. Deans, a Notary Public for the State aforesaid in my County this 13th day of July, 1907.

Parke P. Deans,
Notary Public
My term of office expires July 8, 1909.

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Sumner Haddock
v. Bell Haddock
Bill of Complaint.

1st July rules 1907
Process returned - "Deft
not found" - Order publication
issued and posted at front
door of Court House and
Copy sent to Suffolk Herald
for publication.

2nd July rules 1907
Bill filed
Continued on 6th July

11th August rules 1907
Continued on 6th July

2nd Aug rules 1907
Order publication executed
Case set for hearing
