

1899-006

Nansemond Co (Suffolk)

Chancery Causes: Joseph W. Blackwell vs Lelia F. Blackwell

Rogers, Wells, Williams, Ames

OVERSIZE

Box 2

- Marriage license

Circuit Court.

Tuesday after the Second Monday
in April and October.

HON. ROBERT R. PRENTIS, Judge.
AZRA P. GOMER, Clerk.

County Court.

Second Monday in each month.

HON. WILBUR J. KILBY, Judge.
ROBERT R. SMITH, Clerk.
E. E. HOLLAND, Commonwealth's Attorney.
ALEX. H. BAKER, Sheriff.
SYDNEY T. ELLIS, County Treasurer.
JOHN B. PINNER, Commissioner of Accounts.

Nansemond County Clerks' Office.

Suffolk, Va.,

189

VIRGINIA—IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
of Nansemond county, to wit: In va-
cation, on the 16th day of December, 1898:
Joseph W. Blackwell.....Plaintiff,
AGAINST
Lelia F. Blackwell.....Defendant.

The object of this suit is to ask for a di-
vorce *a vinculo matrimonii* for the plaintiff
from the defendant; and affidavit having
been made and filed that the said Lelia F.
Blackwell is not a resident of this State, it
is ordered that she appear within fifteen
days after due publication of this notice,
in the Clerk's office of our said court and
do what may be necessary to protect her
interest. A copy—Teste:
A. P. GOMER, Clerk.

TO LELIA F. BLACKWELL:

Take notice that I shall on the 2d day of
February, 1899, at the office of J. U. Burges,
in the town of Suffolk, Virginia, between
the hours of 9 A. M. and 6 P. M., proceed
to take the depositions of Jacob Wells and
others, to be read as evidence in my behalf
in a certain suit in equity depending in the
Circuit Court of Nansemond county where-
in I am plaintiff and you are defendant;
and if from any cause the said depositions
be not commenced on that day, or if com-
menced be not concluded, then the taking
of the same will be adjourned and con-
tinued from day to day, at the same place
and between the same hours, until the
same shall be completed.

JOSEPH W. BLACKWELL.

J. U. BURGESS, p. q.

de23-4t

I A. P. Gomer clerk of the Circuit Court of Nansemond
County do hereby certify that the above order of publication was
posted at the front door of Nansemond County Court house
on Monday the 9th day of January 1899 it being the first
day of the January Term of said County Court.

A. P. Gomer clerk

Blackwell
vs
Blackwell

VIRGINIA—IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
of Nansemond county, to wit: In vacation, on the 16th day of December, 1898:
Joseph W. Blackwell.....Plaintiff,
AGAINST
Lelia F. Blackwell.....Defendant.

The object of this suit is to ask for a divorce *a vinculo matrimonii* for the plaintiff from the defendant; and affidavit having been made and filed that the said Lelia F. Blackwell is not a resident of this State, it is ordered that she appear within fifteen days after due publication of this notice, in the Clerk's office of our said court and do what may be necessary to protect her interest. A copy—Teste:

A. P. GOMER, Clerk.

TO LELIA F. BLACKWELL:

Take notice that I shall on the 2d day of February, 1899, at the office of J. U. Burges, in the town of Suffolk, Virginia, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 6 P. M., proceed to take the depositions of Jacob Wells and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain suit in equity depending in the Circuit Court of Nansemond county wherein I am plaintiff and you are defendant; and if from any cause the said depositions be not commenced on that day, or if commenced be not concluded, then the taking of the same will be adjourned and continued from day to day, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.

JOSEPH W. BLACKWELL.

J. U. BURGESS, p. q.

de23-4t

Office of The Herald.

Suffolk, Va. March 1899

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.

J. E. Doolin

Editor Herald.

Office of The Herald.

Suffolk, Va., **MAR 11 1888**

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.

John D. Parker
Pubn. Mgr. Editor Herald.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

MAR 11 1899

Suffolk, Va.,

189

Mr Jas W Burgess

TO SUFFOLK HERALD, Dr.
Newspaper and Job Printing Establishment,
No. 9 WASHINGTON SQUARE.

Terms of this Bill

1898

Dec 13 To Publishing Order of Patn
Blackwell vs Blackwell
4 in 4 w \$ 6.00

Recd Payment
J E Dooker

Virginia - In the Circuit Court of Newsumpto
County: In vacation on the 16th day of November 1899
Joseph F. Blackwell ----- Plaintiff
against

Alia F. Blackwell ----- Defendant.

The object of this suit is to ask for a decree
of divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the
plaintiff from the defendant. And
affidavit having been made and filed that the
said Alia F. Blackwell is not a resident of
this state, it is ordered that she appear
within fifteen days after the publication
of this notice in the Clerk's Office of our
said court and do what may be necessary
to protect her interest.

A. J. Gomer Clerk

I, J. H. Burgo do hereby make affidavit -
that Alia F. Blackwell the defendant in this
cause is not a resident of this state

J. H. Burgo

Blackwell
Dr. } Order of Publication
Blackwell

CHANCERY SUMMONS.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

TO THE SHERIFF OF NANSEMOND COUNTY—GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON Lelia F Blackwell

to appear at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, at the Rules to be held
for the said Court, on the 1st Monday in December 1898, to answer
a Bill in Chancery, exhibited against her
in the said Court by Joseph W Blackwell.

and have then and there this summons.

Witness, A. P. GOMER, Clerk of our said Court, at his office, this 28th day of October, 1898, in the 3rd year of the Commonwealth.

A copy—Teste:

A P Gomer, CLERK.

Teste:

A P Gomer, CLERK.

Not found in my copy this Dec 1st 1898
J. W. Blackwell
H. H. H. H.

a copy for Lelia F Blackwell

p. q.

Joseph W Blackwell

vs.

In Chancery.

Lelia F Blackwell

18-----

Rules.

Monday.

Nansemond Circuit Court.

Process Book No.-----

Page-----

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

TO THE SHERIFF OF NANSEMOND COUNTY—GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON Lelia D. Blackwell

to appear at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, at the Rules to be held for the said Court, on the First Monday in December 1898, to answer

a Bill in Chancery, exhibited against her in the said Court by Joseph W. Blackwell

and have then and there this summons.

Witness, A. P. GOMER, Clerk of our said Court, at his office, this 28th day of October, 1898, in the 123rd year of the Commonwealth.

A copy—Teste:

Teste:

, CLERK.

, CLERK.

J. M. Binges p. q.
Joseph W Blackwell

vs. } *In Chancery.*

Lelia F. Blackwell

1898

December Rules.

First Monday.

Nansemond Circuit Court.

Process Book No. 2

Page 171

To. W. P. Gower Clerk of the Circuit -
Court for Nassau and County -

Joseph W. Blackwell

vs { In Chancery

Helia F. Blackwell

Please issue summons in Chancery
to meet 1st Monday in December 1898.

Pay 150

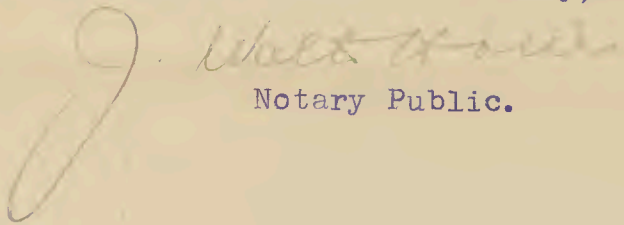
J. H. Burges

P. q.

Memoranda

The depositions of Jacob Wells and others, taken before me, J. Walter Hosier, a Notary Public in and for the county of Nansemond, in the state of Virginia, pursuant to a publication hereunto annexed, this 20nd of February, 1899, whereof Joseph W. Blackwell is Plaintiff and Lelia F. Blackwell is Defendant

Given under my hand this 20nd of February, 1899


Notary Public.

(2)

Jacob Well, the witness, being duly sworn and cautioned answers to the questions propounded to him by J.U. Burgess, as followsN

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

A Jacob Wells, 80, Suffolk Va, general laborer and I know the parties to this suit

Q 2 Have you ever seen the defendant, Lelia F. Blackwell and Marm^a Duke Jones together, and if so when and under what circumstances?

A I live just across the Seboard Railroad and Blackwell lives on the other, or South side, and our houses are in sight of one another and about Three Hundred and Fifty Feet apart. Nearly every day last year, for ~~some~~ month^a before She and Blackwell ~~seperated~~^a, I saw these two together nearly every day. They would go over in the woods back of my field and spend some times, a half day over there; and I have often seen them at all hours of the night until 1 or 2 Oxclock going to and from this woods and other places

Q 2 Did this conduct leave any suspicion in your mind?

A Yes, they ~~were~~ could have had but one purpose, that of committing adultery

Qe3 What is the general reputation of Lelia F. Blackwell?

A Everybody says she is a whore

Q 4 Did you ever see her out in the woods with any other man?

A No.

Q 5 How did the defendant Lelia F. Blackwell, and Marm^a Duke Jones conduct themselves when they were going to and from the woods at the back of your field?

A They did not seem to care for anybody except Blackwell, and when he would be looking for them they would try to dodge him

And further this deponent saith not

to them.

this
Jacob X Wells
Mark

(3)

The witness, Jacob Williams, being duly sworn and cautioned, answers to the following questions propounded to him by J.U.Burges

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

A Jacob Williams, 30, Suffolk Va, laborer and I know the parties to this suit

Q 2 Have you ever seen the defendant, Lelia F. Blackwell and Marmaduke Jones together and if so when and under what circumstances?

A Last Summer I was working over on Broad Street and I have often seen them out there in the woods for a half day at the time and again for several hours

Q 3 Did their conduct leave any suspicion on your mind?

A I suppose that they went there for the purpose of committing adultery

Q 4 What is her general reputation?

A I always heard that she was bad, that is a common woman

And further the deponent saith not

Jacob Williams

E.G. Rodgers, a witness of lawful age being first duly sworn and cautioned, answers as follows:

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

A E.G. Rodgers, 34, Chuckatuck, farmer

Q Do you know the parties to this suit?

A Yes, the defendant is my sister

Q How did Lelia F. Blackwell, the defendant in this cause conduct herself after her marriage to Jos W. Blackwell?

A She would not obey him, and the very thing that he did not want her to do, she delighted in doing. She persisted in going with Marmaduke Jones and no one could stop her. I would advise her to quit it and she would get angry and stop speaking to me on account of it. Although her husband, her father and myself, repeatedly told her how he had talked about her. On occasions when Jones was drunk he would speak out loud in ^{the} company of others, that he, Jones, had carnal intercourse with her and that he was keeping and sleeping with her. I know that Blackwell was a man that took care of his wife and did all in his power to make her comfortable.

Her conduct was so bad that none of us would have anything to do with her. Finally, one morning, after Blackwell had ordered Jones to keep off his premises, (when Blackwell was supposed to be gone on an excursion, but on account of the lateness of the train he had not gone,) I went to his house and found Marmaduke Jones there. I immediately went to the train and told Blackwell what I had seen. I asked him to go home and investigate it. On his return from the excursion he spoke to her about it. After this time they separated and have not, to my knowledge lived together since. *In court Nov 11 a few days afterwards & I know Mr Jos not returned.*

Q What do you know of her associates?

A They were considered the lowest order of people, so much so that it was very humiliating to all of us. I had ceased to have anything to do with her and was glad when she left. I am forced to believe that she was untrue to her husband. And while I regret the step he has

taken, I must say that I believe him justifiable in doing so
And further this deponent will not
E. G. Rodgers

John W. Ames, a witness oof lawful age deposeth and says as follows:

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

A Uno W. Ames, 49, Suffolk, Sgt of Suffolk and I know the parties to this suit

Q How long have you known the defendant, Lelia F. Blackwell

A About nine years

Q State her general reputation?

A A common whore, thatis she is generally known as a prostitute

xxxx She has been in the Mayor's court several times and has been *fined*

I, Lelia, did they last Co. Trial.

Ans. In Suffolk so far as I know.

And further this deponent saith not.

John W. Ames Jr

I, J. Walter Hosier, a Notary Public in and for the county of Nansemond in the state of Virginia do certify that the foregoing depositions of Jacob Wells and others were duly taken before me, the 2ond of February 1899, pursuant ot the publication hereunto annexed.

Given under my hand this 2ond of February, 1899

J. Walter Hosier
Notary Public

In the Arcueil-Court of the County of Harbourside
Joseph W. Blackwell
vs.
Eliza F. Blackwell.

This cause, in which the complainant appears to have proceeded against the defendant in the mode prescribed by law as to absent defendants, and still failing to appear and plead answer or answer, came on this day to be heard on the bill, and depositions of facts, facts and other witnesses and was argued by counsel; the consideration whereof, the court being of opinion from the evidence in the cause, that the defendant has been guilty of adultery as charged in the bill doth, order, adjudge, and decree, that the said plaintiff Joseph W. Blackwell be forever divorced from the said defendant Eliza F. Blackwell, and that the marriage hitherto solemnized between them be wholly and utterly dissolved, and that all the legal, title and interest of the said defendant in the estate of the said plaintiff shall henceforth cease and determine; and further that the plaintiff recover of the defendant the cost of this suit, and nothing further remaining to be done, it is ordered that this cause be stricken from the docket.

To the Clerk of the Arcueil-Court
of Harbourside County.

Serial Drawings —

Entered April 20, 1899.

Robert M. Mills

Entered in Chancery
Order Book No 3
Page 213.

Hon R. R. Arulis,

Judge of the Circuit Court for
Nauvoo County.

Joseph W. Blackwell, the husband
of Eliza F. Blackwell, complaining Sheweth unto
the Court. That he was married to his said
wife Eliza F. Blackwell on the 20 day of
February 1877, as is shown by a copy
of the marriage license herewith filed
marked Exhibit "A" and prayed to be read
as a part of this record. That they have
they last cohabited in the County of Nauvoo
within the Territory for since and that
your orator charges that he has provided
his wife with a suitable and comfortable
home, and that he has always been to her
a kind fatherly & constant husband
On the other hand your orator charges
that his said wife Eliza F. Blackwell
has broken her marriage vows, and
that she has within the last few months
committed adultery with one Marquardt
Jones and others men also. In fact she
has taken men into their home at night
during his absence, and conducted
himself in a shameful and disgraceful
manner. And he further says that
since learning of her despicable conduct
he has not lived nor cohabited with his
said ^{wife}, nor does he intend to again
but desires that he may be forever divorced
from her.

In tender consideration thereof, and for
as much as your orator is helpless
in the premises save in a court of

Equity; he prays that the said Alice F. Blackwell may be made a defendant to this bill, and required to answer the same, that he may be divorced from her a vinculo matrimonii, and that all such other ~~particulars~~ and general relief may be afforded him as the nature of his case may require or to Equity shall seem meet. And your orator will ever pray etc.

Joseph W. Blackwell J. H. Burgo P. G.

Nigeria. County of Massachusetts to wit:
This day personally appeared before me the undersigned a Notary Public for the County of Suffolk, ^{Joseph W. Blackwell} and made oath that he believes that the statements made in the foregoing bill are true.
Given under my hand this 15. day of December 1898
J. H. Burgo
Notary Public

Blackwell

To { Bill

Blackwell

Blackwell
vs In Chancery
Blackwell

1898 Octo 28th Process issued returnable
to December Rules
first Monday.

" Decr 5th Process returned unexecuted.

" " 16th Order of Publication

1899 Jan'y 2nd Bill filed and decree
nisi against her.

" " 16th Decree nisi Confirmed
and Cause set for hearing
on Order of Publication

Blackwell
W. Chancery Notes
Blackwell

Costs
Clerk. 5.15
" Co. 1.00
\$6.15
Jay 1.50
Print 6.00
atty 15.00
\$28.65

Joseph W Blackwell

W In Chancery

Lelia S. Blackwell

1899

April 20th

Final Decree

MARRIAGE * LICENSE



Virginia, *Nansemond 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,

Joseph Blackwell
and *Lelia Rogers*

Given under my hand as Clerk of the *County* Court
of *said County* this *20th* day of *February* *1879*
Peter B Prentiss Clerk.

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE,
TO BE ANNEXED TO THE LICENSE REQUIRED BY SECTION 2229 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA.

Acts passed 15th March 1861 and February 27th 1866

Time of Marriage, *1879 February 20th*
Place of Marriage, *Nansemond County Va*
Full Names of Parties Married *Joseph Blackwell*
and Lelia Rogers
Color, *Colored*
Age of Husband, *22 years*
Age of Wife, *16 years*
Condition of Husband (widowed or single), *single*
Condition of Wife (widowed or single), *single*

Place of Husband's Birth, *Clarksville Mecklenburg Co Va*
Place of Wife's Birth, *Nansemond County Va*
Place of Husband's Residence, *Suffolk Va*
Place of Wife's Residence, *Nansemond County Va*
Names of Husband's Parents *James & Henrietta*
Blackwell
Names of Wife's Parents, *Orphy Rogers*
+ Penny Rogers
Occupation of Husband, *Labourer*

Given under my hand this *20th* day of *February* *1879*
Peter B Prentiss Clerk.

Minister's Return of Marriage.

I Certify, That on the *20th* day of *February* *1879*
at *Nansemond County Va* I united in Marriage the
above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.

Jordan Thompson the minister

The Minister celebrating a marriage, is required, within TEN days 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:

R. B. Smith Clerk

28

Joseph Blackwell
with } Certificate
of
marriage

Lelia Rogers

1879

Feb 20th

✓