1901-010
Nansemond Co (Suffolk) Chancery Causes: Joshua Richardson vs Annie Richardson

Copeland, Boon, Ames, Wilroy, Buckley, Tate, Walters

OVERSIZE
Box 4
-1 marriage license

Joshua Richardson R A Rawles Jr q

1900

To A. P. GOMER, Clerk Circuit Court of Nansemond County, Dr.

Nov 1st Tax ~~and Clerk Fees~~ in suit vs Chancery

against Annie Richards $ 1,50

Nov 15th 1900 Rec'd paym't A P Gomer, Clerk.

R N Rawles
$1,50

CHANCERY SUMMONS.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

TO THE SHERIFF OF NANSEMOND COUNTY—GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON Annie Richardson

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 Third Monday in November 1900, to answer a Bill in Chancery, exhibited against Hes in the said Court by Joshua Richardson

and have then and there this summons.

Witness, A. P. GOMER, Clerk of our said Court, at his office, this 2nd day of November, 1900, in the 125th year of the Commonwealth.

A copy—Teste:

_____, CLERK.

Teste: A. P. Gomer, CLERK.

R. N. Rawles p. q.

Joshua Richardson

vs. } In Chancery.

Annie Richardson

1900

November Rules.

Third Monday.

Nansemond Circuit Court.

Process Book No. 21

Page

To the Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Nansemond County :-

Joshua Richardson Pltff

vs

Annie Richardson Deft

Issue summons to 2nd November rules 1900 (third Monday)
for plaintiff against defendant
to answer of a Bill in
Chancery.

R. H. Rawles p.q.

She lives in "East Jericho" near
Suffolk. Let Sheriff at same time
serve this notice to take depositions.

R H R

She was formerly Annie "Copeland"

Joshua Richardson
95 In Chancery
Annie Richardson

To Annie Richardson

TAKE NOTICE that I shall, on the 8th day of December 1900, at the office of R. H. Rawles in Suffolk Virginia and before some ~~a~~ proper Notary Public who may then be there

between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M., on that day, proceed to take the depositions of John W. Ames Jr and others, to be read in evidence in my behalf, in a certain suit in Equity depending in the Circuit Court for the County of Nansemond wherein you are defendant and I am plaintiff; and if, from any cause, the taking of the said depositions be not commenced on that day, or, if commenced, be not concluded on that day, the taking of the same will be adjourned and continued from day to day, or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.

Respectfully yours,

Joshua Richardson
By R. H. Rawles, Counsel.

Executed this 6 day
Nov — 1900 — by Chickering
a True copy of the Writ
process to Thomas Richardson
in person & left
Ghuff

Notice to take
Depositions.

The depositions of Jno W. Ames, Jr and others taken before me, J. Walter Hosier, a Notary Public for the county of Nansemond, in the state of Virginia, on this 8th of Dec, 1900, at the office of R.H. Rawles in Suffolk Va, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. pursuant to annexed notice to be read as evidence in behalf of Joshua Richardson in a certain suit in equity depending in the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, whereon the said Joshua Richardson is Plaintigg and Annie Richardson is Defendant.

Present: R.H. Rawles, Counsel for Pktff'

No one appearing for the deft'.

Jno W. Ames, Jr, being duly sworn, deposeth and asys as follows:

Q What is your name, age, residence, occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

A Jno W. Ames, Jr, 50, Town Sgt, of Suffolk, and I know the parties to this suit.

Q Did you know Annie Richardson before her marriage to Joshua Richardson, and if so what was her mame when single?

A Yes, her name was Annie Copeland.

Q Where did she reside before marriage?

A In Suffolk, for a number of years.

Q As an officer of the town did you have occasion to learn anything as to hergeneral conduct and character?

A Yes, it was that of a common prostitute. I had occasion to arrest her

Q quite a number of times, and she was a continual and habitual lawbreaker and gave the town officers a great deal of trouble, and was sent to jail several times.

Q What kind of a house did she keep in town?

A She kept a baudy house on "Brier Hill" and the neighbors often cmplained to me, as a town officer, as to the same.

And further this d ponent saith not.

Jno. W. Ames Jr

A. E. Wilroy, Jr, being duly sworn deposeth and says as follows:

Q Wjat is your name, age, residence and occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

A A. E. Wilroy, Jr, 30, farmer, and I know the parties to this suit.

Q How long hwe you known the pltff', Joshua Richardson, and what do you know of his general character and conduct?

A I have known him for at least twenty years or more. He belonged to my Mother's family and worked for my Father most of that time. His general character was that of a very correct and upright man and never knew him to be considered otherwise. He was very well thought of by our family, and he always conducted himself correctly, and pro p erly. He was akwayss a very peaceful man, and got along very well before hSs marriage to Annie. She was very desperate woman and gave him a great deal of trouble. She othen slept with a revolver under her head.

And further this deponent saith not.

A E Wilroy Jr

Charles Bunkley being duly sworn deposeth and says as follows:

Q What is your name, age, residence, occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

A Chas Bunkley, Suffolk, Oysterman, age 47, and I know Annie, the Deft' very well, but I do not know the Pltff' very well, as I live in town and he lives some distance in the country.

Q Who was his wife, Annie Richardson, before she married him?

A Her name was Annie Copeland, .

Q Where did she live before their marriage?

A In Suffolk Va

Q Did You know her before their marriage and if so, for how long?

A Yes, I knew her for at least fifteen years before her marriage .

Q Will you state anything you may know of her genrral character and conduct previous to their marriage?

A Before she married him, her general reputation was very bad, and was generally considered a prostitute; I know, from my own knowledge that she was very often drunk and disorderly.

Q How far did she live in town, from where you reside?

A Right across the street from me ,

Q Please state what kind of a house she kept?, while living there?

A She kept a disorderly house. I have seen men going there at all times of the night and coming out early in the morning. I am sure they spent the night there, as I could hear them in there alll night talking loud, and this led me to believe that it was a common baudy house kept by her.

Q Was she a married woman at this time?

A She was not .

Q What business had men in the house with her at night?

A They could have but one object in going there and that you can well imagine, that of debauchery and prostitution. This fact was not only well known to me, but was also well known by all the residents of that neighborhood and we were all glad when she left our neighborhood as we considered her an improper character.

And further this deponent saith not.

Charles Bunkley

Joseph Tate, being duly sworn, deposeth and says as follows:

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

A Joseph P. Tate, 47, Suffolk Va, Oysterman

Q Do you know the Plaintiff and Defendant?

A I do not know the pltff' dut I know the deft' Annie, very well. Her name before she mafried Richardson was Annie Copeland.

Q How long did you know her before her marriage?

A About twenty years.

Q Where did she live at that time?

A In Suffolk, right opposite me

Q What was she befor she married JoshuaRichardson?

A She was a prostitute and a lude woman.

Q What kind of associates did she have in Suffolk?

A Nobody would associate with her but the lowest and vilest people.

Q What kind of a house did she keep in Siffolk?

A She kept waht is known as a Baudy house, which was a great nuisance to the neighborhood and all of her neighbors were glad when she went away.

Q Do you know anything else as to her character and conduct?

A She was very often drunk and disorderly, and I have often seen men go in her house at night and would often remain in there with her all night. That was a common thing.

And furt er this deponent saith not.

J. P. Tate

Charles Walters being duly sworn, deposeth and says as follows:

Q What is your name, age, residence, occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

A Chas Walters, 45, Suffolk Va, general laborer. I know the deft', Annie Richardson, very well.

Q How long have you known Annie Richardson and what was her name before marriage?

A I have known her for twenty or more years and her name, before marriage was Annie Copeland.

Q Where did she live before she married Richardson?

A In Suffolk, right close to me.

Q What kind of a woman was she before her marriage to him?

A She was a prostitute and a common woman.

Q What kind of a house did she keep in town?

A A bad and common house, where men went for the purpose of prostitution.

Q How do you know this?

A I have often seen men going in there at night and they would remain all night and come out in the morning.

Q What was her conduct when on the street?

A She was very often drunk and disorderly.

Q Was she a fit and proper person to marry a respectable man?

A She was not, she was not fit to marry any one.

Q Where did Joshua Richardson live when he married her?

A He lived a kong distance in the country and knew nothing as to her past life.

Q What kind of people did she associate with when in town?

A Her associates were generally of the same character as herself; that is they were what is generally know as low down people.

And further this deponent saith not.

Charley Walters

Virginia,

Nansemond County to wit:

I, J. Walter Hosier, a Notary Public for the county aforesaid, in the state of Virginia, do certify that the foregoing depositions were duly taken, sworn to and subscribed before me and in my presence at the time and place stated therein.

Given under my hand this 8th day of December, 1900.

J. Walter Hosier

Notary Public.

Depositions

Joshua Richardson

vs

Annie Richardson.

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In Chancery

This cause came on this day to be heard on the Bill and exhibit filed, and the depositions of witnesses duly taken after due notice to the defendant, the said defendant having been proceeded against according to law, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, the court being of opinion, from the evidence in the case, that the said defendant Annie (Copeland) Richardson had been prior to her marriage with her husband Joshua Richardson, a prostitute without the knowledge of her said husband, and it not appearing that the said Joshua Richardson has cohabited with his said wife after knowledge of the fact that she had been a prostitute as aforesaid, the court doth order, adjudge and decree that the marriage heretofore solemnized between the said plaintiff and defendant be, and the same is hereby annulled and set aside, and the said plaintiff is hereby granted an absolute divorce a vinculo matrimonii from his said wife Annie (Copeland) Richardson; and that the plaintiff recover of the defendant his costs in this behalf expended; and nothing further remaining to be done in this cause it is ordered that the same be stricken from the docket.

Final Decree.

Enter.

April 9, 1901.

Solon Stubbs

Entered in Chancery
Order Book No. 3.
Page 346.

To the Honorable Robert R. Prentis, Judge of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County ;

Humbly complaining, sheweth unto your honor, your orator Joshua Richardson, of Nansemond county Virginia, the following case;
Your orator says that on the 30th day of August 1894 he was married to Annie Copeland, in Nansemond county Virginia, the marriage ceremony having been performed by Rev. S. S. Brozier, a minister of the Gospel duly authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony; that after the said marriage he was to his wife a faithful, kind, loving, and provident husband, always endeavoring to the best of his abiltiy to fully discharge all his duties as a husband, and to care for and protect his said wife; he further says that that up to the time of the said marriage his said wife was a comparative stranger to him, he knowing little or nothing of her former life, or her former habits, as she had lived in the town of Suffolk up to that time, while he lived in the country some distance away from town ; he further says that shortly after his said marriage his said wife began to show evidences of a desire to lead a dissolute, wayward and frivolous life; that she was very fond of intoxicating liquors, and against his earnest protest, indulged in them to an alarming extent, often getting very drunk, at which times she was disorderly, abusive, quarrelsome, and not only not disposed to discharge the duties which a wife ought to discharge, but was wholly careless, negligent and indifferent as to his domestic affairs; affairs went on in this way for some time until his said wife left him and his house and bed and board altogether and returned to Suffolk to live ; your orator says that he at this time began to make inquiries as to his said wife and as to ~~whom and~~ what she had been before their said marriage, and found out to his sorrow and deep mortification, that previous to their said marriage, she had been a prostitute and an utterly abandoned woman, a drunkard and a spendthrift; that she had been a common law-breaker and had been often arrested and jailed for crime ; of all of which said acts and doings on her part he had no knowledge before their said marriage; he says especially, that when he married her, he he did not know, and had never been informed that she was, and had been a prostitute; that he supposed he was marrying a pure and innocent woman; he further says that he has not cohabited with her since he first learned that she had been a prostitute nor has he in any way or manner had any

thing whatever of any kind or character to do with her since he became possessed of the knowledge that she had previously been a prostitute, nor h has he had any communications with her since he first learned that fact; nor would he again under any circumstances.

He further says that he and his said wife last cohabited in the county of Nansemond, and that they both now reside in said county, and did reside therein at the beginning of this suit ; And that both the plaintiff and the defendant resided within and were citizens of this State for upwards and domiciled within of one year next preceding the commencement of this suit.

.Your orator further says that he cannot condone the ~~the~~ conduct or actions of the defendant in deceiving him in this most important matter of life, and can and will never againn cohabit with her ~~and~~ and that he believes it is best under all the circumstances for them to be absolutely divorced, and he is informed that he is in this case entitled to an absolute divorce from her.

In tender consideration whereof and forasmuch as your orator is remediles in the premises without the aid of a court of equity where alone such matters are properly cognizable your orator prays that the defendant Annie Richardson may be made a party defendant to this suit and required to answer this bill though an answer under oath is hereby waived; that all proper depositions may be taken and that your orator may be wholly and entirely divorced from his said wife and the marriage heretofore solemnized between them may be wholly annulled and set aside and a divorce a vinculo matrimonii may be granted him and ~~for~~ all such other and further relief may be granted him as his case may require or which to equity may seem meet and he will ever pray & .

Witness:—
E.H.Rawles

Joshua X Richardson
his
mark

Virginia ; Nansemond County to-wit ;

I,R. H. Rawles a notary public for for the county aforesaid in the State of Virginia do certify that Joshua Richardson whose name is signed to the above bill has this day personally appeared before me in my said county and made oath that the facts stated in the said bill are true. Given under my hand this 19th day of November 1900.

R H Rawles. Notary Public.

Bill.

Joshua Richardson
VS In Chancery
Annie Richardson

1905 Novr 2nd Process issued returnable to Novr Rules third Monday.

" " 1905 Process returned executed on defendant Bill filed and decree nisi VS her.

" Decr 3rd Decree nisi confirmed and cause set for hearing

Chancery

Notes

Costs
Clerk 5.08 pd
Sheff 5.00 pd
Jay 1.5.0 pd
Atty ~~5.00~~
$22.08

Joshua Richardson

Vs

In Chancery

Annie Richardson

1901

April 9th

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,

Joshua Richardson

and Annie Copeland

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the County Court of Nansemond County this 30th day of August 1894

A. P. Gomer D.C.

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE,

TO BE ANNEXED TO THE LICENSE, REQUIRED BY SECTION 2229 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA.

Time of Marriage, 1894 August 30th

Place of Marriage, Suffolk Va.

Full Names of Parties Married, Joshua Richardson and Annie Copeland

Color, Colored

Age of Husband, 40 years

Age of Wife, 43 years

Condition of Husband (widowed or single), Widower

Condition of Wife (widowed or single), Widow

Place of Husband's Birth, Norfolk County Va

Place of Wife's Birth, Southampton Co. Va

Place of Husband's Residence, Nansemond Co. Va.

Place of Wife's Residence, Suffolk Va.

Names of Husband's Parents, Jesse Richardson and Mariah Richardson

Names of Wife's Parents, Thomas Boon and Carthenia his wife

Occupation of Husband, Laborer

Given under my hand this 30th day of August 1894

A. P. Gomer D. Clerk.

MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE.

I Certify, That on the 30th day of Aug 1894 at Suffolk Virginia I united in Marriage the above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.

J. S. Brosier.

☞ 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 R Smith Clerk

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Joshua Richardson

With } Marriage Certificate.

Annie Copeland

1894

August 30th

$100

Pg. 175