1908-017
Nansemond Co (Suffolk) Chancery Causes: Martha Laurence vs Joseph Laurence

Weaver, Brown, Mecon, White, Manley

STATE OF VIRGINIA

To-wit:

Circuit Court of Nansemond County.
In vacation.

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff.
vs.
Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce, A VINCULO MATRIMONII for the plaintiff from the defendant, and it appearing by affidavit that the above named defendant is not a resident of the State, it is, therefore, ordered that the said defendant Joseph Lawrence appear within fifteen days after due publication of this notice in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest.

R. R. Smith, clerk,
by A. P. Gomer, D. C.

A copy Teste;
R. R. Smith, clerk,
By A. P. Gomer, D C.

d. Thu. 4ts.

## Office of SUFFOLK HERALD.

*SUFFOLK, VA.,* March 7 *190*8

*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* Jan 22 *and ending* Feb 1 9

W. J. Kendrick

*Editor Herald*

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
To-wit:
Circuit Court of Nansemond County.

In vacation. January 22nd.

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff.

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

The object of this suit is to obtain a divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the plaintiff from the defendant, and it appearing by affidavit that the above named defendant is not a resident of this State, it is, therefore, ordered that the said defendant Joseph Lawrence appear within fifteen days after due publication of this notice in the Clerk's Office of our Circuit Court and do what is necessary to protect his interest.

R R Smith Clerk
By A P Gomey D.C

Filed January 24th 1908

I A P Gomey Deputy Clerk do hereby certify that a copy of the above order of publication was posted at the front door of the Courthouse of Nansemond County on Friday the 24th day of January 1908

A P Gomey D.C

Order of Publication

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY.

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff,

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

Issue summons in chancery to First February Rules, 1908.

D. N. Berger p.q.

Martha Laurence

vs. } Mem.

Joseph Laurence

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff.

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

(Affidavit)

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
To-wit:
County of Nansemond.

This day Martha Lawrence, the above named plaintiff, personally appeared before me J. K. Burgess, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, in my said County, and made oath that Joseph Lawrence, the above named defendant, is not a resident of this state.

Given under my hand this 21st day of January, 1908.

J. K. Burgess
Notary Public

Martha Laurence

vs } Affidavit

Joseph Laurence

CHANCERY SUMMONS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF NANSEMOND COUNTY—Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON Joseph Laurence

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 January 1908, to answer a Bill in Chancery, exhibited against her in the said Court by Martha Laurence

And have then and there this summons.

Witness, R. R. SMITH, Clerk of our said Court, at his office, this 22nd day of January, 1908, in the 132nd year of the Commonwealth.

A copy—Teste:
R. R. Smith, CLERK.
By H. C. Gomer D.C.

Teste:
R. R. Smith, CLERK.
By H. C. Gomer D.C.

J N Burgess, p. q.

A Copy for
Joseph Laurence

VS. } IN CHANCERY.

1908

February Rules.

First Monday.

NANSEMOND CIRCUIT COURT.

Process Book No 3

Page 47

CHANCERY SUMMONS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

TO THE SHERIFF OF NANSEMOND COUNTY—Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON Joseph Laurence

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 February 1908, to answer a Bill in Chancery, exhibited against him in the said Court by Martha Laurence

And have then and there this summons.

Witness, R. R. SMITH, Clerk of our said Court, at his office, this 22nd day of January, 1908, in the 132nd year of the Commonwealth.

A copy—Teste:

_____, CLERK.

Teste: R. R. Smith, CLERK.

By C. C. Gomer D.C.

J. W. Burgess, p. q.

Martha Laurence

vs. } In Chancery.

Joseph Laurence

1908

February Rules.

First Monday.

Nansemond Circuit Court.

Process Book No. 3

Page 47

The within bill was found in my County of Nansemond the 24th day of February 1908

A. B. Parker, Clk.

By B. E. Bell, D. C.

Suffolk, Va., March 11th, 1908.

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff.

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

The depositions of Sallie M. Brown, Lewis Macon, J. C. White and others taken before me, Bradford Kilby, a Commissioner in Chancery of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, and State of Virginia, in the above styled suit, the same being duly matured upon an order of publication duly posted and published in accordance with the law on the 11th day of March, in the year 1908, at the office of J. U. Burges, in the town of Suffolk, between the hours of nine A.M. and six P. M. to be read as evidence on behalf of Martha Lawrence in a certain suit in equity depending in the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, in the State of Virginia, wherein Joseph Lawrence is defendant, and Martha Lawrence is plaintiff.

PRESENT: J. U. Burges, attorney for plaintiff.

Sallie M. Brown, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Examined by Mr. Burges.

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

A. Sallie M. Brown, twenty-nine, Suffolk, Virginia, school-teacher and I know both plaintiff and defendant.

Q. Where did you reside at or about the year 1897?

A. In Winton, N. C.

Q. While there did you know Martha and Joseph Lawrence?

A. Yes sir I did.

Q. Were they living together when you first knew them?

A. When I first knew them.

Q. About when and why did they separate?

A. About eleven years ago but for what cause I do not know.

I simply know he left her. He did not support her prior to the time he left her even when he was living with her.

Q. Did I understand you to say that while they lived together prior to the year 1897 that he did not support her and about that time he left her?

A. He left her about that time and even before he left her he did not support her.

Q. How much longer after he left her did Martha Lawrence live in Winton?

A. Between three and four years. Since that time she has lived in Suffolk, Virginia.

Q. Did he ever come back to see her while in Winton?

A. No sir.

Q. How long have you been living in Suffolk?

A. Nine years.

Q. How near have you lived to Martha Lawrence since you have been in Suffolk?

A. She has lived with me part of the time.

Q. Have you ever heard of his coming to see her or contributing to her support since she has been in Suffolk?

A. He has never been here and has never given her a cent.

And further this deponent saith not.

Sallie M Brown.

Lewis Macon, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Q. Please state your name, age, residence, and occupation and do you know the parties, both Martha and Joseph Lawrence?

A. Lewis Macon, fifty years old, Suffolk, Va., Work with Shoop-Withers Company, and I know both Martha and Joseph Lawrence.

Q. Where were you living in 1897?

A. In Winton, N. C.

Q. When did you leave there?

A. About four years and a half ago.

Q. While there did you know Martha and Joseph Lawrence?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did they live together?

A. Well they were living together when I first went there.

Q. How far did you live from them?

A. About a quarter of a mile.

Q. Do you know whether he helped take care of her before he left her?

A. I don't think that he was any help to her. She took in washing to support herself. She would come to Winton every Monday and Friday bringing clothes she had washed. He worked for Mr. Shaws. Soon after that he left her. When I first went there they were living together. I have been away from there about ten years.

Q. Do you know where he stayed after he left her?

A. There in Winton.

Q. Have you known her since you have been in Suffolk?

A. Yes sir. I come to Suffolk the first Saturday in last May. She had been staying here before I come.

Q. Was it well known before you left Winton that Joseph Lawrence had deserted Martha Lawrence?

A. Yes sir. They was parted before I left there.

And further this deponent saith not.

his
Lucie X Macon
mark.

J. C. White, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Q. Please state your name, age, residence, and occupation and do you know the plaintiff and defendant in this suit?

A. J. C. White, thirty, Suffolk, Virginia, grocer, and I only know Martha Lawrence.

Q. How long have you know Martha Lawrence?

A. About seven or eight years?

Q. How far have you lived from her?

A. About a quarter of a mile.

Q. Have you seen her frequently?

A. Quite often.

Q. Do you know whether or not Joseph Lawrence has ever been to see her while you have known her?

A. Not to my knowing.

Q. If he had been here would you have heard of it?

A. Quite likely I would have heard of it.

And further this deponent saith not.

J. C. White.

A. J. Brown, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Q. Please state your name, age, residence and occupation and do you know Martha and Joseph Lawrence?

A. A. J. Brown, forty, Suffolk, Va., school-teacher, I know Martha Lawrence.

Q. Have you known Martha Lawrence since she has been living in Suffolk?

A. I have.

Q. Have you ever heard of Joseph Lawrence coming here, living with her or contributing to her support?

A. No sir.

Q. What is the general reputation of Martha Lawrence?

A. Good. She is honest, industrious and bears a good reputation.

And further this deponent saith not.

A. J. Brown.

Hattie Manley, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

Q. Please state you name, age, residence and occupation and do you know the parties to this suit?

A. Hattie Manley, twenty-two, Suffolk, Va., house-keeper and I know both Joseph and Martha Lawrence.

Q. Where did you reside at or about the year L897?

A. Between fifty and a hundred yards from the house of Martha and Joseph Lawrence in Winton, N. C.

Q. Were they living together when you first knew them?

A. Yes sir.

Q. About how many years have they been separated?

A. About 11 years.

Q. What became of Joseph Lawrence?

A. He went away.

Q. How long did he stay away from Winton?

A. About three years.

Q. Have you ever heard of their living together, or of his helping support her, since he left her?

A. No sir.

Q. Are you sure it was about eleven years ago that Joseph Lawrence left his home in Winton, N. C. and went away?

A. Yes sir.

Hattie Manley

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
To-wit:
County of Nansemond.

I, Bradford Kilby, a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that the foregoing depositions of Sallie M. Brown, Lewis Macon, J. C. White, A. J. Brown and Hattie Manley were duly taken, sworn and subscribed to, before me at the time and

place and for the purpose in the caption hereto mentioned.

Given under my hand this 11th day of March, 1908.

Bradford Kilby

Commissioner in Chancery.

Martha Hawmee

B- Depositions

Joseph Hawmee

Filed March 17, 1908

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

Martha Lawrence.....Complainant.

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

This cause, in which the complainant appears to have proceeded against the defendant in the manner prescribed by law against absent defendants, and he, the said defendant, still failing to appear and plead, answer or demur, to said bill came on this day to be heard upon the complainant's bill, the exhibits filed therewith, and the depositions of witnesses taken before Bradford Kilby, a Commissioner in Chancery of the said Court, and filed on behalf of the complainant, and was argued by Counsel.

On consideration whereof, and it appearing to the Court, independently of the admissions of either party in the pleadings or otherwise, that the said parties were lawfully married on the 1st day of August, 1869; that the said Joseph Lawrence has wilfully deserted and abandoned the said Martha Lawrence for more than three years; that the said Martha Lawrence has been domiciled in this state for more than one year preceeding the commencement of this suit; that the said Joseph Lawrence is not a resident of this state; and that the said Martha Lawrence is a resident of the County of Nansemond: the Court doth adjudge, order and decree that the said Martha Lawrence and Joseph Lawrence be divorced from the bond of matrimony which was created by the aforesaid marriage, and that the said marriage be, and the same hereby is, dissolved and annulled.

And it is ordered that the said Joseph Lawrence shall pay unto the said Martha Lawrence her costs by her in this behalf expended. And nothing further remaining to be

done in this suit, it is further ordered that the same be removed from the docket but leave is reserved to the parties, or either of them, to make application to this Court for such further orders as are authorized by law.

Decree

Martha Laurence

vs.

Joseph Laurence.

Entd. March 14. 1908.

James L. McDermond

Entered in Chancery Order Book No. 4. Page 236.

JAMES U. BURGES,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
POST OFFICE BUILDING,
SUFFOLK, VA.

ALVAH BUSHNELL CO., LAW STATIONERS, 942 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

# COUNTY OF HERTFORD,
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF
JOHN A. NORTHCOTT,
REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Winton, N. C., Jany 24th 1908

North Carolina
Hertford County. }

I Jno. A. Northcott Register of Deeds for Hertford County, N.C. do hereby certify that the records of this office show that Joseph Laurence and Martha E. Weaver were married on August 1st 1869 - by Jno. N. Hoggard D.D. Witness my hand and official seal this 24th day of January 1908.

A Northcott
Register Deeds.
Hertford Co.

All Available Text Successfully Captured

Martha Lawrence.....Plaintiff.

vs.

Joseph Lawrence.....Defendant.

To the Honorable Circuit Court of Nansemond County:

(1) Your complainant, Martha Lawrence, respectfully represents that on the 1st day of August, 1869, your complainant, whose maiden name was Martha Weaver, was lawfully married at Winton, in the County of Hertford, in the State of North Carolina, to Joseph Lawrence as will appear from certificate of marriage herewith filed marked exhibit "A" and prayed to be made a part of this bill.

(2) That continuously from the date of said marriage until sometime in the year 1897 your complainant and the said Joseph Lawrence lived together as husband and wife at Winton, North Carolina, and

(3) That the said Joseph Lawrence has wilfully deserted and abandoned your complainant for a period of more than three years; that is to say that sometime during the year 1897, the said Joseph Lawrence did, voluntarily, wilfully, and without justification whatever, leave his home stating that he did not propose to live longer with said complainant; that he has never returned nor since that time contributed to her support.

(4) That your complainant has been domiciled in this State since the year 1901 and is domiciled and now resides in this State.

(5) That your complainant last co-habited with said Joseph Lawrence at Winton, in the County of Hertford, in the State of North Carolina,

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 Joseph Lawrence 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 proper process may be issued; that a divorce from the bond of matrimony which was created by the aforesaid marriage be decreed her; and that your complainant may have all such further, and other, and general relief in the premises as the nature of her case may require, or to equity shall seem meet.

Martha Lawrence

Complainant.

James H. Keeyes

Counsel.

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
To-wit:
County of Nansemond.

Martha Lawrence, 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 on information, and so far as they are stated to be on information, she believes them to be true.

Martha Lawrence

Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, this 14 day of February, 1908.

J H Newton

Notary Public.

Martha Lamme

vs

Bill

Joseph Lamme

J. U. BURGES,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
SUFFOLK, VA.

1908 Feby 15th Filed

Martha Laurence
vs } Chancery
Joseph Laurence

1908 Jany 22nd. Process issued returnable February Rules 1st Monday.

" " " Order of Publication

" Feby 3 Process returned unexecuted
Bill filed

" " 29. Set for hearing on order of publication.

Chancery Notes

J. W. Burgess Esq.

Martha Laurence

vs } In Chancery

Joseph Laurence

1908

March 14th

Final Decree

Costs
Clerk $4.12
Say 1.50
Atty 15.00
$20.62