

1914-001  
Nansemond Co (Suffolk)

Chancery Causes: Annie L. Davis vs Jackson Davis

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Spruell, Basemore, Knight

CIRCUIT COURT

SECOND MONDAY IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY,  
JULY AND OCTOBER

HON. JAMES L. McLEMORE, JUDGE  
GEO. E. BUNTING, CLERK  
S. E. EVERETT, COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY  
ALEX. H. BAKER, SHERIFF  
C. R. FULGHAM, COUNTY TREASURER  
LEE BRITT, COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS

# Hamsemond County Clerk's Office

SUFFOLK, VA.,

RULE NOTES:

Annie L. Davis,

Plft.

v.

Jackson Davis,

Deft.

July 21, 1914. Affidavit of non-resident filed. Order of publ'n.  
vs. Jackson Davis in Suffolk Herald.

Copy of order of publ'n. mailed to Jackson Davis, Wiggins, S.C. that being  
his last known place of address. Copy of same posted at the Court-house.

August Rules, First Monday 1914.

*Aug. 7, 1914, set for hearing on order of publication.*

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, IN VA-  
CATION, ON THE 31 DAY OF JULY, 1914.

Annie L. Davis,

vs.

In Chancery

Jackson Davis.

The object of this suit is to obtain for the plaintiff a decree for a full and absolute divorce against the defendant, Jackson Davis on the grounds of desertion; affidavit having been made and filed that the defendant, Jackson Davis is not a resident of the State of Virginia, it is ordered that the said defendant appear at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, within fifteen days after due publication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect his interest in said suit; it is ordered that a copy of this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Suffolk Herald, a newspaper published in said county, and posted according to law. The last known address of the said defendant was Wiggins, South Carolina.

The defendant is notified that depositions of witnesses will be taken on behalf of the plaintiff to be read as evidence in said cause, at the office of R. H. Rawles, in Suffolk, Virginia, on Thursday, the 17th day of September, 1914.

*between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.*

*H. E. Brantley*  
*J. Clerk*

*A copy - Test:*

*H. E. Brantley*  
*J. Clerk*

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY:

Annie L. Davis,

vs.

In Chancery.

Jackson Davis.

The plaintiff in the above cause which is now pending in the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, respectfully applies for an order of publication to be entered against the defendant, Jackson Davis; affidavit having been made and filed that the said defendant is not a resident of the State of Virginia; the object of this suit is to obtain a decree for a full and absolute divorce from the defendant on the grounds of desertion; The last known address or place of abode of the defendant was Wiggins, South Carolina.

Respectfully,

Annie L. Davis.

By R. H. Cook, Counsel.

Annie L. Davis,

vs.

In Chancery

Jackson Davis.

*In the Circuit Court of  
Nansemond County*

I, R. H. Rawles, attorney and agent for Annie L. Davis, the plaintiff in the above suit, being duly sworn, do say that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the defendant in the above cause, Jackson Davis is not a resident of the State of Virginia.

*R H Rawles*

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, on this 20 day of July, 1914.

*H. B. Smith* Clerk.

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, IN V-  
CATION, ON THE 8/ DAY OF JULY, 1914.

Andie L. Davis,

vs.

In Chancery

Jackson Davis.

The object of this suit is to obtain for the plaintiff a decree for a full and absolute divorce against the defendant, Jackson Davis on the grounds of desertion; affidavit having been made and filed that the defendant, Jackson Davis is not a resident of the State of Virginia, it is ordered that the said defendant appear at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Harrison County, within fifteen days after the publication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect his interest in said suit; it is ordered that a copy of this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Suffolk Herald, a newspaper published in said county, and posted according to law. The last known address of the said defendant was Higgins, South Carolina.

The defendant is notified that depositions of witnesses will be taken on behalf of the plaintiff to be read as evidence in this cause, at the office of J. H. Davies, in Suffolk, Virginia, on Thursday, the 17th day of September, 1914.

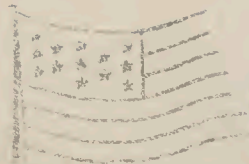
between the hours of 8. a.m. and 4. p.m.  
H. E. Runtz, Jr.

A copy. Test:

H. E. Runtz, Jr.

J. Clerk

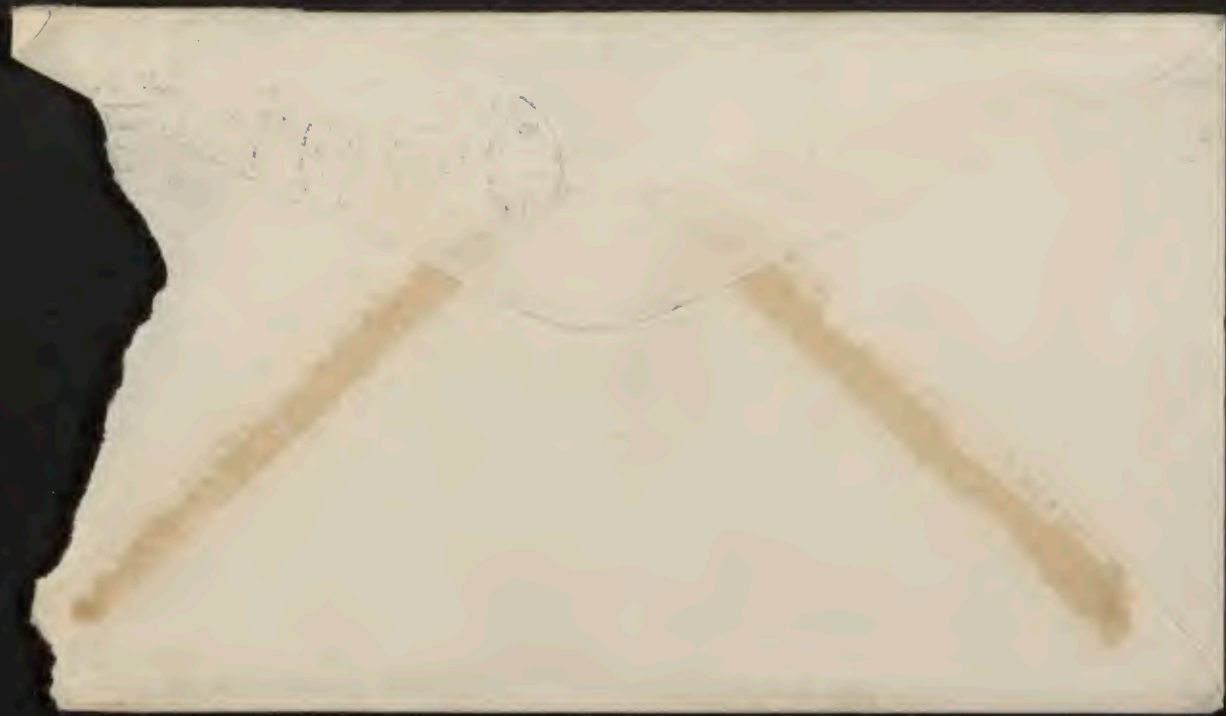
GEORGE E. BUNTING,  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT OF  
NANSEMOND COUNTY,  
SUFFOLK, VA.



*Returned to Writer*

Jackson Davis,  
Wiggins,

S.C.



VIRGINIA:

In the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond.

Annie L. Davis ..... Pltff. )  
vs. ) In. ....  
Jackson Davis ..... Df't )

I hereby certify that on the 21st day of July 1914.

I posted a copy of the order of publication entered herein, at the front door of the Courthouse of the County of Nansemond; that being on or before the next succeeding rule day after said order was entered.

Given under my hand this 21st day of July, 1914

L. E. Bunting ..... , Clerk,

--By-----, Deputy Clerk.

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY,  
IN VACATION, ON THE 21 DAY OF  
JULY, 1914.

Annie L. Davis,

vs. In Chancery.

Jackson Davis.

The object of this suit is to obtain for the plaintiff a decree for a full and absolute divorce against the defendant, Jackson Davis on the grounds of desertion; affidavit having been made and filed that the defendant, Jackson Davis is not a resident of the State of Virginia, it is ordered that the said defendant appear at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, within fifteen days after due publication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect his interest in said suit; it is ordered that a copy of this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in The Suffolk Herald, a newspaper published in said county, and posted according to law. The last known address of the said defendant was Wiggins, South Carolina.

The defendant is notified that depositions of witnesses will be taken on behalf of the plaintiff to be read as evidence in said cause, at the office of R. H. Rawles, in Suffolk, Virginia, on Thursday, the 17th day of September, 1914, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M.

G. E. BUNTING, Clerk.

A Copy—Tester:

G. E. BUNTING, Clerk.

jy. 24-4t.

Office of SUFFOLK HERALD.

SUFFOLK, VA., <sup>AUG 14 1914</sup>-----190---

*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 24 --- 1914*  
*Aug 1 --- 1914*-----and ending

*W J Kendrick*  
-----

Editor Herald

*Charges*  
*34" = 9 60*

W. J. KENDRICK, President and Editor  
J. C. HOLLADAY, Secretary and Treasurer

Suffolk, Va.,

SEP 17 1914 1914

Mr. R. H. Rawes Atty

City

THE SUFFOLK HERALD CORPORATION, Dr.

:: Newspaper and Job Printing ::

Suffolk's Leading Job Printers

No. 912 WASHINGTON ST.

TERMS OF THIS BILL NET CASH

BELL PHONE 135

1914  
Aug 10

To Pub Notice Suit of  
Annie L Davis vs Jackson Davis  
"T" is heard July 24 to  
Aug 10 - 1914 = 24

SEP 17 1914

960

THE SUFFOLK HERALD CORPORATION

By Henrick M. M.

Mr. George E. Bunting Clerk of the  
Circuit Court of Massachusetts

Annie L. Davis

Plff

<sup>vs</sup>  
Jackson Davis

Def.

Issue summons in chancery for  
plaintiff against defendant to  
answer a Bill in chancery, to  
1<sup>st</sup> August rules 1914.

R H Roach Jr.

\$7<sup>50</sup> deposited on  
Clerk's Costs.

The depositions of Inez Spruell and others, taken before L. P. Holland, a Commissioner in Chancery, for the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, Virginia, at the office of R. H. Rawles, in Suffolk, Virginia, on the 17th day of September, 1914, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. pursuant to notice hereto annexed, to be read as evidence on behalf of the plaintiff in a certain suit in equity depending in the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, Virginia, wherein Annie L. Davis is plaintiff and Jackson Davis is defendant.

PRESENT:

R. H. Rawles, counsel for plaintiff.

The defendant made no appearance either in person or by counsel.

This cause stands on an order of publication; the defendant did not appear within fifteen days after due publication of the order, nor has he appeared at any time; nor demurred, pleaded or answered the said bill; nor set up any defense whatever; therefore no notice to him was necessary for the taking of these depositions, but notice was given of their taking at the time and place stated in the caption hereof, in the order of publication.

INEZ SPRUELL, being duly sworn deposes and says as follows:

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

A. Inez Spruell, 33 years, Whaleyville, Nansemond County, Virginia, I wash and iron, I know both the plaintiff and the defendant.

Q. How long have you known the plaintiff?

A. I have been knowing her all my life.

Q. How long have you known the defendant?

A. I have known him since they were married.

Q. Do you remember about the date of their marriage?

A. Yes sir, in 1903.

Q. Were you present at the wedding?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Where were they married?

A. She was married at her fathers at Whaleyville, Va.

Q. Where did they live when they were first married?

A. They lived with her father at Whaleyville.

Q. What does the plaintiff do to make a living?

A. Washes and irons, and housecleans and such as that.

Q. Will you state whether or not she is an industrious woman, or whether she is given to idleness?

A. Yes sir, she is an industrious woman, known throughout her neighborhood to be an industrious woman.

Q. Do you know whether her husband himself ever provided her with a home of his own after their marriage?

A. No sir he never made any provision for any home, but he lived there with her father, and really she did more providing than he did, herself.

Q. Is the defendant, Jackson Davis now living with his wife?

A. No sir, he is not.

Q. Do you know where he is?

A. No sir, I do not know where he is.

Q. How long did he live with her after their marriage?

A. He lived with her about three years after they were married.

Q. What then became of him?

A. He left and went some place or another, I don't know where and stayed about two years, and then he come back and stayed about three days.

Q. Did he take his wife with him when he left on that occasion?

A. No sir, he left her right at home with her father.

Q. About what year was it when he left the first time?

A. About 1906.

Q. Then he came home in about two years you say and stayed three days?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What did he then do?

A. He then left finally and he has not been back since.

Q. Then that was about 1908 when he left the last time?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you remember about what part of the year it was, whether it was in the spring or fall?

A. It was in the fall, about September.

Q. How did Annie Davis treat her husband and act toward him while they were living together?

A. She treated him as kind as she could, as near like a wife as she could, she did everything she could for him while he was with her, and while he was awy she would send him money just to help support him, instead of him supporting her.

Q. What cause, if any, did she give him for leaving her?

A. She didn't give him any, I never heard of any.

Q. Did you ever hear of any trouble or annoyance which she caused him while he was living with her?

A. No sir.

Q. What was his disposition, and how did he make a living?

A. When he was working at all he worked at the saw mill, but he didn't work very much.

Q. State whether he was an industrious man or not?

A. No sir, he was not in my opinion.

-3-

Q. Was he a steady worker?

A. No sir, he idled more than he worked.

Q. How did he provide for his wife, while they were living together?

A. He was a very poor provider, if it hadn't been for her father I don't think she would have gotten supported at all, unless she worked for it herself.

Q. How far do you live from the plaintiff?

A. About 150 yards.

Q. How long have you been living that near to her?

A. From my birth.

Q. You have stated that Jackson Davis left his wife the last time about September, 1908?

A. I have.

Q. And that he has not since been back to live with her?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Would you have known it if he had come back to resume his duties as a husband, and to live with her?

A. Yes sir, I would.

Q. Why would you have known it?

A. By my living so close to her, there wouldn't have been anything to have prevented me from knowing it.

Q. Were you very intimate and friendly with them while they lived together?

A. Yes sir, I am a cousin of hers.

Q. Have you ever seen him in that neighborhood, since he left the last time in 1908?

A. No sir, I have not.

Q. How long has Annie Davis been living in this County?

A. About thirty-three or four years.

And further this deponent saith not.

*Inez Spruell*

NEHEMIAH BASEMORE, being duly sworn deposes and says as follows:

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

A. Nehemiah Basmore, 38 years, Whaleyville, Nansemond County, I am a fireman at the Jackson saw mill there, and I know the parties to the suit.

Q. How long have you known Annie Davis?

A. I have been knowing her fifteen or eighteen years, since I have been in this country.

Q. How long have you known Jackson Davis, the defendant?

A. Ever since they have been married.

Q. How long have you been living in Nansemond County, at Whaleyville?

A. I have been living there about eighteen or nineteen years.

Q. Where does the plaintiff, Annie Davis now live?

A. At Whaleyville.

Q. Who does she live with?

A. With her father, Moses Savage.

Q. How long has she been living continuously in Nansemond County?

A. Ever since I have been knowing her, living right there with her father.

Q. Do you remember her marriage to the defendant?

A. It has been about eleven years ago.

Q. Were you present at the marriage?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What kind of work was the defendant then engaged in?

A. When he worked at all he worked at the saw mill.

Q. State whether he was an industrious and steady worker or not?

A. No sir, he worked some and walked about, worked about one-third of his time, something like that, he was not a steady worker.

Q. Do you know what he did with or how he spent his money that he earned?

A. More by drinking.

Q. Did he furnish his wife with a home of his own after their marriage?

A. No sir, she still lived with her father after they got married.

Q. How did his wife act toward him and treat him while he was with her?

A. Just as good as a woman could towards her husband, I am married myself and know about what a woman's duty is, and she was good and kind and never contrary towards her husband.

Q. What does she do for a living?

A. She washes and irons, and housecleans.

Q. Do you know whether she is industrious or not?

A. Yes sir, she is all the time washing and ironing, night and day, keeps her father cutting wood for her to wash and iron with.

Q. Who seemed to support the family while they were living together?

A. She and her father.

Q. Do you know whether Jackson Davis is now living with the plaintiff or not?

A. No sir, he is not.

Q. How long did he live with her after their marriage?

A. About three years.

Q. Where did he then go?

A. He went away somewhere, I think he went down south.

Q. Did he take his wife with him?

A. No sir.

Q. Where did he leave her?

A. At her father's.

Q. Do you know whether he left anything for her support when he left her?

A. No sir, he didn't leave anything.

Q. How long was he gone when he went away the first time?

A. About two years.

Q. Did he return home for her when he returned at the end of that two years?

A. No sir.

Q. How long did he remain at home when he returned at the end of that two years?

A. He stayed three days

Q. What did he then do?

A. He left.

Q. Do you remember about the year he left the last time?

A. It has been about eight years ago, I don't remember the date.

Q. That is as near as you can recall it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Has he ~~has~~ ever been back to live with her since the last time that he left her?

A. No sir, he has not.

Q. How near do you live to her and her home?

A. About five hundred yards.

Q. How long have you been living that near?

A. About thirteen years.

Q. Are you very well acquainted with Jackson Davis?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And with the plaintiff also?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you see her almost daily?

A. I see her every Sunday at church and Sunday School, and prayer meeting nights, and such as that, of course I work you know.

Q. Would you have known the fact if he had been back within the last five or six years to live with her?

A. Yes sir, every time he come I see him and heard tell of it.

Q. Have you ever seen him in that neighborhood since he left the last time?

A. No sir, I have not.

Q. Have you ever heard of his being in Whaleyville since he left the last time?

A. No sir.

Q. You say he went down south when he left?

A. Yes sir, that is where she sent him \$10.00.

Q. Did you ever know him to send her anything for her support while he was away from home?

A. No sir, I knew her to send him some, because I went to Norfolk and carried him some money from her.

Q. What cause did she give him, if any, to leave her?

A. Not any that I know of.

Q. Do you feel sure that he has abandoned and deserted her for more than three years?

A. Yes sir, I do.

Q. Is it a matter of common notoriety in that neighborhood that Jackson Davis has left his wife for the last six or seven years?

A. Yes sir, it is true he has not been seen in that neighborhood since that time.

And further this deponent saith not.

Witness: *L. P. Halland*

*Chemical* <sup>*his*</sup> *Breemore*  
*mark*

CHARLES KNIGHT, being duly sworn deposes and says as follows:

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

A. Charles Knight, forty years, Whaleyville, farmer and engineer, and I know the parties to this suit.

Q. How long have you been living at Whaleyville, or near there?

A. I have been living near there about twenty year.

Q. How long have you known Annie Davis and Jackson Davis?

A. Well I have been knowing Annie Davis from her birth up, and Jackson Davis, I have been knowing him about eleven year.

Q. Were you present at their marriage?

A. Yes sir, I was.

Q. Where did it take place?

A. At home, at her father's near Whaleyville.

Q. About when did it take place?

A. It took place about eleven years ago.

Q. Where has the plaintiff been living since her marriage?

A. No where but right there with her father.

Q. Did her husband provide her with a home after marriage?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he go over to her father's to live with her there?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How did she act towards him after marriage?

A. Well she acted as nice as ever I seed a lady treat her husband.

Q. What does she do for a living?

A. Well she washes and irons, and housecleans.

Q. State if she is industrious?

A. Yes sir, she is an industrious woman.

Q. State the nature of her husband, whether he was industrious or not?

A. No sir, he wasn't industrious, what I knew of him he would work some two or three days and then you could catch him most any time in a crap game or a drinking spree, that is about what he done.

Q. State whether Jackson Davis is now living with his wife or not?

A. No sir, he is not.

Q. How long did he live with her after marriage?

A. About three years.

Q. What cause did she give him for leaving her?

A. Not any as I know of, I never heard of any.

Q. Did you ever hear him make any complaint against her?

A. No sir, I never has.

Q. Have you ever heard anybody make any complaint of any kind against her?

A. No sir.

Q. Where did he go after he had lived with her for about three years?

A. He went to South Carolina.

Q. How long did he remain away the first time he want away?

A. Between two and three years.

Q. Did he then return home?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did he take his wife with him to South Carolina?

A. No sir, he did not.

Q. Where did she live in his absence?

A. At home with her father.

Q. How did she provide for herself in his absence?

A. Well by washing and ironing and such as that, and what her father hope her to do.

Q. Has she any children?

A. Not now, she had two but they are both dead.

Q. How much money or provisions of any kind did he send her while he was away?

A. He never sent her any as I can understand it, I never heard of it.

Q. When he came home at the end of that two years how long did he remain?

A. He remained with her about three days.

Q. What did he then do?

A. He left and come to Suffolk when he first left home, and I was working at the Montgomery mill, I was engineering over there, and he was working at the dry shed, and at noon he come around where I was at, I was much surprised to see him, and I says to him then, I says "Jackson your baby is dead" and he says "what" and I said "your baby is dead and will be buried today, ain't you going home?" and he didn't never give me no answer whether he was going or not, but he didn't go, and he left the mill after finding out, and he was standing there, and at that time he was courting another girl, she didn't know that he was married, and by me not knowing and didn't care either, I exposed him before the girl's father, and he kind of winked, and I didn't catch on, and I didn't care, I wanted to give him away anyhow, but he didn't go home, and he left the mill and I have not seen nor heard of him since.

Q. Has he ever been back to live with his wife since?

A. No sir he has not.

Q. How many years ago has that been?

A. It has been as near as I can get at it about six or seven years.

Q. Were you well acquainted with him?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Would you have known the fact if he had come back to live with her after that?

A. Yes sir, if he had stayed any length of time.

Q. Have you ever seen him around Whaleyville since that time?

A. No sir, I have not.

Q. Have you ever heard of his being at Whaleyville or in Nansemond County since that time?

A. No sir, I have not.

Q. How long has Annie Davis been living in this county continuously?

A. Well about thirty some odd years.

Q. From all you know of the circumstances of this case, and your knowledge of the parties are you prepared to say that Jackson Davis has left his wife and her home for more than three years?

A. Yes sir.

Q. After you were here in Suffolk on the occasion that you have spoken of, when you saw him, did you move back to Whaleyville?

A. Yes sir, I had not moved my family from Whaleyville at any time, I was only working here by the day, at that time.

Q. So then I understand that your proper residence and your family residence has been at Whaleyville all the while?

A. Yes sir.

Q. When you were working here in Suffolk by the day, did you frequently go home?

A. Every Saturday evening.

Q. How long has it been since you ceased working in Suffolk?

A. I has worked in here since I have seen him. I worked at the John King Peanut Company, but it has been about six years since I ceased working when I saw him.

-11-

Q. When you are home do you see the plaintiff very frequently?

A. Yes sir, I meets her at church, and she lives right on my way to Whaleyville, has to pass her house when I goes to Whaleyville.

Q. How long has it been since you stopped working in Suffolk the last time and went back to Whaleyville?

A. This last gone July two years ago.

And further this deponent saith not.

Witness: L. P. Holland.

Charles <sup>his</sup> Knight  
ruler

ANNIE L. DAVIS, being duly sworn deposes and says as follows:

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

A. Annie L. Davis, 38 years, Whaleyville, Va., I wash and iron for a living, I am the plaintiff in this suit, and the defendant is my husband.

Q. How long have you been living in Whaleyville in this County?

A. About thirty-three or four years, about thirty-five years.

Q. When were you married?

A. I was married in 1903.

Q. Where did you live before marriage?

A. I lived at Whaleyville with my father.

Q. Where have you been living since your marriage?

A. I hasn't lived no where else.

-12-

Q. Then you have lived with your father all the while?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Is your husband now living with you?

A. No sir.

Q. How many children were there?

A. Two.

Q. Are they living or dead?

A. Dead.

Q. How long did your husband live with you after marriage?

A. About three years.

Q. State if he made your father's house his home?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What did he provide toward your support and your children while you were living with him?

A. Not very much.

Q. What kind of work did he do?

A. He worked at the saw mill.

Q. Did he work every day?

A. No sir.

Q. What did he do with his earnings?

A. Why I don't know sir, I know that he was a crap-shooter, I suppose that was where a good bit of it went, and I know that he drank too.

Q. Did he ever provide a home for you?

A. No sir.

Q. State whether you had to work for a living after you married him just the same as you did before?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How did you treat him while he was with you?

A. I treated him just as kind as I knew how, I never heard no complaint from him.

Q. What cause did you give him for leaving you?

A. I never gave him any cause at all.

Q. At the end of the three years where did he go?

A. He went to South Carolina, Wiggins.

-13-

Q. How long did he remain away?

A. About two years.

Q. How much money did he send you for your support during that two years?

A. Not any.

Q. Did you ever send him money while he was away?

A. Yes sir, he written to me and told me that he was crippled and could not walk, and that if I would send him money to come home that he would come home and never leave again, I did not have the money by me myself, so I went to a neighbor and borrowed it, I sent him \$10.

Q. Did he come home as promised?

A. Yes sir, he came home but he only stayed three days.

Q. Then that was about the year 1908 was it?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What time of year was it?

A. Sept. 1908.

Q. What did he then do?

A. He left again.

Q. Where did he go?

A. I don't know sir.

Has he ever returned to live with you since September, 1908?

A. No sir.

Q. Have you ever seen him since that time?

A. No sir.

Q. What has he contributed towards your support since that time?

A. Not anything at all.

Q. Then you say on your oath that since September 1908 you have not seen nor heard from your husband, and that he has given you no support? Is that true?

A. Yes sir, it is.

And further this deponent saith not.

Annie L Davis

-14-

Virginia, City of Suffolk, to-wit:

I, L. P. Holland, a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, do certify that the foregoing depositions of Inez Spruell, Nehemiah Basemore, Charles Knight and Annie L. Davis, were duly taken, sworn to and subscribed before me, at the office of R. H. Rawles, in Suffolk, Virginia, on the 17th day of September, 1914, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. as set forth in the caption hereto.

Given under my hand this 17th day of September, 1914.

  
Commissioner in Chancery.

*Tw - \$5.00 - Paid.*

Davis to Davis

Depositors

Annie L. Davis,

vs.

In Chancery.

Jackson Davis,

This cause came on this day to be heard on the bill of the complainant and the depositions of witnesses duly taken according to law, and the defendant, who was proceeded against in the manner prescribed by law as to non-resident defendants, failing to appear, plead, answer or demur, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, it appearing from the testimony filed in this case that the defendant has wilfully abandoned and deserted his wife, the plaintiff for upwards of three years next preceding the commencement of this suit; that the plaintiff is a resident of the County of Nansemond, and State of Virginia, and has been domiciled in said county for upwards of one year next preceding the commencement of this suit; and that the defendant is not a resident of the State of Virginia, the court doth order, adjudge and decree that the plaintiff Annie L. Davis be and she is hereby granted a full and absolute divorce a vinculo matrimonii from her husband Jackson Davis, the defendant; that the marriage relation heretofore existing between them be and the same ~~be~~ is hereby wholly annulled and set aside; and the court doth further decree that the plaintiff recover of the defendant her reasonable cost 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 Octo. 12. 1914  
James L. Moore

Order Book No. 4 -  
Page 665-

TO THE HONORABLE JAMES L. McLEMORE,

JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY:

Humbly complaining sheweth unto the court your oratrix, Annie L. Davis, of Nansemond County, Virginia, the following case:

She says that she was married to her present husband, Jackson Davis, about the month of February, 1903, in the County of Nansemond; that since said marriage two children have been born to them, both of whom are now dead; that neither she nor her husband own any real estate and but very little chattel property.

She further says that at all times since said marriage she has been to her said husband a dutiful, loving, faithful and constant wife, and has discharged all her duties towards him as a wife should, and done everything in her power to make his life pleasant and happy.

She further says that during the first years of their married life her husband seemed to be very devoted to her and ministered to her wants, but that after a while his love for her apparently began to wane and he grew cold and indifferent to her by degrees. After a year or two he failed to provide for her as a husband should, but left her to work and make her own living, while he squandered most of his earnings away from home. This went on until September 1906 when without any just or sufficient cause he left and abandoned his wife and home and went away, without making any provision for her support. During the two following years he came back home three times, but only remained a day or two at the time, and contributed nothing to his wife's support. The last of these three visits he made in the month of March, 1908, and after lingering around home for a day or two he left for parts unknown and has not since again been back to life with his wife, nor has she ever seen him since, or held any communication with him, nor has he at any time since that period contributed anything toward her support.

She therefore charges that her said husband has wilfully abandoned and deserted her without any just or sufficient cause, for upwards of three years next preceding the commencement of this suit.

Your oratrix is informed and believes and therefore charges that her husband has so wilfully abandoned and deserted her for upwards of three years, without cause and that she is in law entitled to an absolute divorce from him, as she thinks that under all the circumstances of this case it will be better for her. She says that she is a resident of the County of Nansemond, and has resided here continuously for many years; that after her husband left her as aforesaid her father took her to his house and gave her a home and that she has been living at her father's since his desertion of her; that she is at present domiciled in the said County of Nansemond, and State of Virginia, and has been domiciled here for upwards of one year next preceding the commencement of this suit; that she and her said husband last cohabited in the said County of Nansemond; that to the best of her knowledge and belief her husband is not a resident of the State of Virginia.

IN TENDER CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, and forasmuch as your oratrix is without remedy in the premises, save by the aid of a court of equity, where such matters are alone and properly cognizable, your oratrix prays that the said Jackson Davis may be made a party defendant to this suit, and required to answer this bill, though an answer under oath is hereby waived; that proper process may issue; that a proper order of publication may be entered against said defendant as a non-resident; that all proper accounts and depositions may be taken; and that your oratrix may be granted a full and absolute divorce a vinculo matrimonii from her said husband; and for all such other, further and general relief as this case may require or which to equity may seem meet, and your oratrix will ever pray, etc.

*Amin L. Davis*  
*by Counsel,*

STATE OF VIRGINIA:

County of Nansemond, to-wit:

I, R. H. Rawles, a Notary Public, in and for the County aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, whose term of office expires on the 3d day of February, 1915, do certify that Annie L. Davis, whose name is signed to the foregoing bill has this day personally appeared before me, in my county aforesaid, and being duly sworn makes oath that the statements contained in her said bill as coming of her own knowledge are true and that all other statements therein contained as coming from knowledge or information derived from others she believes to be true.

Given under my hand this 21st day of July, 1914.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public.

Davis vs Davis

Bill.

Dated July 23, 1914

W. E. B. Smith

Att. Gen.

R. H. RAWLES  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
SUFFOLK, VA.

11/4/14  
R. H. Rawls, p. 9.

Amir L. Davis

vs.

Jackson Davis

Final decree entered

Oct. 12 - 1914

1  
D. H. Rawls, p. 9.

Received for p. 9.

Wit Tm

150

Clark

3,50

Paul

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