

1930-007
Nansemond Co (Suffolk) Chancery Causes: Susie Ward Bunch vs R.C. Bunch

Word, Parker, Beaton

Susie Ward Bunch.....Complainant

Vs. DECREE

R. C. Bunch.....Defendant.

This cause came on again this day to be heard on the papers formerly read and on the contract of the parties hereinafter set forth, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, it appearing that the parties to this suit have entered into a contract in the following words and figures, to-wit:

"THIS CONTRACT, Made this 27th day of December, 1926, between R. C. Bunch, of Nansemond County, Virginia, party of the first part, and Susie Ward Bunch, of said County and State, party of the second part-

WHEREAS, said party of the second part instituted suit in the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, Virginia, for the purpose of obtaining a divorce from bed and board from her husband, the said party of the first part; and,

WHEREAS, on the 4th day of September, 1926, a decree was entered by said Court granting such divorce and allowing alimony in the sum of TWENTY-FIVE (\$25.00) DOLLARS per month, the first payment to be made on or before May 10th, 1926; and,

WHEREAS, it is desired by the parties hereto that said second party shall accept the sum of THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000.00) DOLLARS in lieu of the alimony provided for by said decree and that as a part of the consideration for the payment of said sum that the said second party shall release her right of dower in the real estate of the said first party, which he now has or may hereafter acquire, either by purchase or otherwise, and any and all claims to any personal estate now or hereafter belonging to said first party which may accrue to her by reason of their matrimonial status:

NOW, THEREFORE, WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the premises and the sum of THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000.00) DOLLARS paid to

said second party by said first party, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said second party agrees that said payment shall be in full satisfaction, and this contract shall operate as a full release, ^{of said alimony and} of her right of dower in the real estate of the said first party, which he now has or may hereafter acquire, either by purchase or otherwise, and any and all claims to any personal estate now or hereafter belonging to said first party which may accrue to her by reason of their matrimonial status.

The said second party intends by the contract to extinguish all her contingent rights in the real and personal property of the first party, now existing or hereafter acquired, including her statutory distributive share of his estate."

The Court doth approve and confirm said contract and doth adjudge, order and decree that all the contingent rights of Susie Ward Bunch in the real and personal property of the first party, now existing or hereafter acquired, including her statutory distributive share of his estate be, and the same are, hereby extinguished.

And there remaining nothing further to be done in this cause the same is ordered stricken from the docket, with leave to either party to have same re-instated for the purpose of making application to have the decree of divorce from bed and board merged into a decree for a divorce from the bonds of matrimony as provided by law.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NAN-
SEMOND COUNTY:

Susie Ward Bunch,
Complainant,

Vs. DECREE

R. C. Bunch,
Defendant.

Enter the 27. day of
December, 1926.

James S. McInnis

Entered in Chancery Order

Book 6, Page 52.

Rept.	5.70	
Tax	1.50	
Units, sub.	17.05	
Shf.	.50	from
"	15.50	sum, incl
	15.00	all per
\$55.25		

Left	
Units, sub.	11.55
Shf.	10.50
22.05	

5.70
17.05
22.75
11.55
34.30

55.25
22.05
77.30

Left's mts

5-

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ \hline 51 \\ 35- \\ \hline 105- \\ 105- \\ \hline 1155- \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{shf} \\ (1054) \end{array}$$

Right's mts

4

$$\begin{array}{r} 27 \\ \hline 31 \\ 35- \\ \hline 135- \\ 155- \\ \hline 1905- \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{shf} \\ (1555) \end{array}$$

TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

Susie Ward Bunch.....Complainant.

Vs. IN CHANCERY MEMORANDUM

R. C. Bunch.....Defendant.

Please issue summons returnable to First September
Rules, 1925.

Samuel Hutton
p. q.

Deposit \$7.50

Rule Notes:

September 5, 1925. process issued, returnable to Sept. Rules, 1st Monday, 1925

Susie Ward Bunch,
Complainant,

Vs. In Chancery,

R. C. Bunch,
Defendant.

MEMORANDUM.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon R.C. Bunch

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond
at the rules to be held for the said Court on the First Monday in September 19 25,
to answer a bill in chancery, exhibited against him in our said Court by
Susie Ward Bunch

And have then there this writ. Witness G.E. Bunting, Clerk of our said
Court, at the court-house, the 5th day of September, 19 25, and in the
150th year of the Commonwealth.

G.E. Bunting, Clerk

Original

No. 300.

Susie Ward Bunch

vs. }

SUBPOENA IN CHANCERY

R.C. Bunch

Saunders & Hutton, p. q.

To First Monday, Septemebr Rules,
1925

Nansemond County Circuit Court.

Rec'd. 9-7-25 37.25

H.E. Bunting

Executed on the 7th day of
Sept. 1925 within the county of
Nansemond, by delivering a
true copy of the within process,

in writing, to R.C. Bunch

in person
E.B. Rawles
Sheriff of Nansemond County.

Susie Ward Bunch.....Complainant.

Vs. DECREE

R. C. Bunch.....Defendant.

This cause came on again this day to be heard on the papers formerly read and on the agreement of the parties hereafter set forth, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, it appearing that the parties to this suit have entered into an agreement in the following words and figures, to-wit:

"WHEREAS, a contract was this day executed by the parties hereto and approved by the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, Virginia, in a decree entered in the divorce suit pending in said Court under the style of Susie Ward Bunch vs. R. C. Bunch, which contract is duly recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Nansemond County and by the terms of which contract the second party hereto, in consideration of the sum of THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000.00) DOLLARS paid her by said first party, agreed that said sum should be in lieu of alimony and should be in full satisfaction of her contingent rights in the real and personal property of said first party whether existing or hereafter acquired; and,

WHEREAS, it was intended by the parties hereto in the execution of the said contract that each should release all marital rights to the existing and hereafter acquired property of the other, but such release on the part of said first party was inadvertently omitted from said contract:

NOW, THEREFORE, WITNESSETH, that in consideration of the premises and of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR paid by said second party to said first party, and for the purpose of carrying out the full intent of the parties in the execution of the contract herein referred to, the said first party agrees to release, and hereby releases, all his contingent rights in the real or personal property of the said second party, now existing or hereafter acquired, including his statutory distributive share of her estate."

And there remaining nothing further to be done in this cause the same is ordered stricken from the docket, with leave to either party to have same re-instated for the purpose of making application to have the decree of divorce from bed and board merged into a decree for a divorce from the bonds of matrimony as provided by law.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NAN-
SEMOND COUNTY:

Susie Ward Bunch,
Complainant,

Vs. DECREE

R. C. Bunch,
Defendant.

Enter the 1st. day of
January, 1927.

Jas. L. W. Hodge.

*I have seen this
decre*

G. H. Bunch, Jr.

Entered in Chancery Order

Book 6, Page 53.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY:

Susie Ward Bunch.....Complainant

vs.

DECREE

R. C. Bunch.....Defendant.

This cause came on this day to be heard on the complainant's bill and the exhibit filed therewith, the defendant's answer to said bill, the complainant's replication to said answer, and the testimony of witnesses given orally in open court, 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, at the time of the commencement of this suit and for at least one year theretofore, the complainant was domiciled in and was an actual, bona-fide resident of Nansemond County, Virginia; that the defendant, at the time of the institution of this suit and now, resides in said County; that the defendant has been guilty of acts of cruelty toward the complainant, which forced her to leave his home on or about August 17, 1925, and that said cruelty is tantamount to desertion on the part of the defendant; the Court doth adjudge, order and decree that the said complainant, Susie Ward Bunch, be divorced a mensa et thoro from the said defendant, R. C. Bunch, and he from her.

And it is further adjudged, ordered and decreed that the said defendant shall pay unto the said complainant, as alimony, for the support and maintenance of the said complainant, the annual sum of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars, payable in monthly installments of Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars each on or before the 10th day of each month, the payment of said installments to commence on the 1st day of May, 1926, and to continue thereafter until the further order of this Court, or until they,

the said complainant and defendant, shall be reconciled to, or shall cohabit with, each other again as husband and wife, but not in any event for a greater period of time than their joint lives.

It is further ordered that the said defendant shall pay unto the said complainant her Court costs by her in this behalf expended, ^{but not the fees for her witnesses for their attendance upon the Court} and shall also pay unto Saunders and Hutton, her counsel, the sum of Seventy-five (\$75.00) Dollars for their services in and about her suit.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the payments herein directed to be made shall have the full force and effect of a judgment and be docketed and enforced as if it were a judgment at law.

In being suggested that defendant desires to present a petition for an appeal to the Supreme Court, seeking a reversal or modification of this decree, it is ordered that its operation be suspended for ninety days from this date, upon the execution by the defendant or some one for him of a ^{withdrawing} suspending bond before the clerk of this Court in the penalty of \$500 and conditioned and payable according to law.

Berman
is
Burch

Enter Sept. 14 1926
J. H. McNamee

#6, Page 33

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY.

_____oOo_____

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....Complainant.

vs.

R. C. BUNDH.....Defendant.

On motion of defendant, by counsel, leave is
granted him to file his answer to complainant's bill, and
said answer is, accordingly, this day filed.

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NAN-
SEMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH, Complainant.

vs.

R. C. BUNCH, Defendant.

Order filing answer.

Enter: ^{March 1st}~~February~~ ___, 1926.

Jan L. McInroe

578 593

Burch vs Burch
March 4 1926

Plf

Mrs R. C. Burch
Miss Edith Burch
Mrs Blanche Ruby
Dr. T. W. Blanchard Habbville N.C.

Def.

R. C. Burch
M. E. Jenkins
H. D. Lucas
J. J. Thomas
Clara Burch

bandy and shewing found give me a
July the 14th 1817 ^{by me} ~~giving me~~
Old-man told me ^{day and night} ~~to the~~
three years ago that he
never knew any one
any where else unless I
visited with him. He
said I was and ~~he~~ ^{he}
was in the night
and he said I let them
visit him. He also said
me about him to his
bed. He said that he did not
know if I visited I have
been a complete servant
to him. I was for four
years about 7 months of
the time I was first as big
as a baby every time
he did anything for me.
He was worse than
any one I ever met.

a dog and said there was
 nothing the matter with
 me but measure as you
 business for the time be-
 ing the four years of my
 afflictions there has not
 been money. Says that he
 has not given me a care
 and said there was nothing
 the matter with me but
 business and called me
 all kinds of Bitches and
 accused me of negro men
 and says that I am the com-
 monest man in the
 world and that I am not
 fit to control my wife
 not even a bitch he told
 me last week that he wished
 I would drop dead in my
 tracks he won't buy me

October 2

10 about dinner time

15 more from home

45 and told me that I

10 and a "backer" don't

50 up for nothing

100 speak to me only when

16 because of a letter

20 said that I was a liar

25 Mr. B. told me little

5 "I want to do

the far more than

I could do. I will

do what I can

and try to control the

children. At all cost

and about their lives

the more they treat

the better be like it

Talked about our mixed

and about the children

3 Don't allow me
to say anything

a drop of medicine for
anything says he never
will buy any he has worn
his clothes out of my room
and coat buy me one this
don't let me know anything
at all about his ^{money} more any
of his business says I
have not sense enough to
know anything about his
business says he is not
one of the family has
left the house to sleep don't
come in my room at all
when I was at Bryan
asked him one day to please
not to call mama a bitch
any more he got mad with
him and went three or
four days and would not
talk to him and talked
over

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON *H. Roby*

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-house thereof, on the *4th* day of *March*, 19*26*, at 10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Plaintiff ~~Defendant~~, in a certain matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined between..... *Sam. Bunch*

....., Plaintiff....., and *A. C. Bunch*, Defendant.....

And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the *24* day of *Feb.*, 19*26*., and in the *19th* year of the Commonwealth.

..... *G. E. Bunting* Clerk

T. P. Poby

vs.

}

SUBPOENA FOR
WITNESS

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the day of

19.....

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

Mrs. F. Raby

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-house thereof, on the *4th* day of *March*, 19*24*, at 10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Plaintiff ~~Defendant~~, in a certain matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined between *Surie Bunch*

and *A. C. Bunch*

, Plaintiff....., Defendant.....
And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the *24* day of *Feb.*, 19*24*, and in the 1*st* year of the Commonwealth.

G. E. Bunting

Clerk

Mrs. B. Baby

vs.

}

SUBPOENA FOR
WITNESS

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the.....day of.....

19.....

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

E. P. Pawter

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-house thereof, on the *7th* day of *March*, 19*26*, at 10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Plaintiff ~~Defendant~~, in a certain matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined between.....*Samir Omich*.....

....., Plaintiff....., and *A. C. Omich*.....

....., Defendant.....
And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the *26* day of *Feb.*, 19*26*, and in the 1*0th* year of the Commonwealth.

G. E. Bunting

Clerk

E. B. Pawler

vs.

}

SUBPOENA FOR
WITNESS

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the.....day of.....

19.....

E.T. Jenkins, J.J. Thomas, John Daniels, C.F. Rawles, R.L. Rawles, Jim Parker, Lem Parker,
J.H. Babb, L.L. Babb, Tom Milteer, J.W. Rabey, Danile Lucas, N.C. Eunch and G.W. Green

A. J. Johnson, A. J. Rabey

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-
house thereof, on the 4th day of March, 1926, at
10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the ~~Plaintiff~~ Defendant, in a certain
matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined
between... Suris Bunch

....., Plaintiff.....,
and R. C. Bunch

....., Defendant.....
And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the 24
day of Feb., 1926, and in the 180 year of the Commonwealth.

G. E. Bunting Clerk

Original
Juris Remch

vs. }

SUBPOENA FOR *depts*
WITNESS

A.C. Remch

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the.....day of.....

19.....

Executed

E.B. Rawls

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

Robert Byrd &
Sylvester Smith

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-
house thereof, on the *4th* day of *March*, 19*20*, at
10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Plaintiff ~~Defendant~~, in a certain
matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined
between *John Branch*

Plaintiff.....
and *R. L. Branch*
Defendant.....

And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the *12th*
day of *Mar*, 19*20*, and in the 14th year of the Commonwealth.

G. E. Bunting Clerk

Agreed

Suris Bunch

vs.

}

SUBPOENA FOR
WITNESS

Deft.

R. C. Bunch

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the.....day of.....

19.....

Tested

E. B. Rawles

✓ Jim Tidwell, Mrs. Daniels, Will Jones, ✓ Charlie Parker, F.O. Byrd, ✓ ~~Co~~ --- Jenkins, ✓
✓ W.E. Eason, E.B. Rawles, ~~Mrs. Peng Rabey, Mrs. Peng Rabey~~, ✓ W.R. Harrell, Ernest ✓ Baker,
✓ Jim Thomas, J.A. ✓ Ashley, Mrs, J.A. ✓ Ashley, Fate Brdashaw, Mrs. D.W. Henderson, Mrs.
Riddick Jones, Riddick Jones, Mrs. Elisha ✓ Jenkins, Elisha ✓ Jenkins, Emmett Rodgers,
✓ Herman Bradshaw, Mrs. ✓ ~~Joseph~~ Parker and ✓ Blanche Rabey. ✓

✓ Lober Byrd ✓

*✓ Ismael Grant
✓ Mimmie Grant
✓ Robt Miller*

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Nansemond,---Greetings:

WE COMMAND YOU THAT YOU SUMMON

to appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond at the Court-house thereof, on the 4th day of March, 1928, at 10 a. m., to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Plaintiff ~~Defendant~~, in a certain matter of controversy in our said Court before the said Judge depending and undetermined between.....Lucis Bunch.....

....., Plaintiff.....
and R. C. Bunch.....

....., Defendant.....
And have then there this writ.

Witness, G. E. Bunting, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house, the 26 day of Feb., 1928, and in the 18th year of the Commonwealth.

.....G. E. Bunting.....Clerk

Subpoena

Oreman

Susie Amick

vs.

}

SUBPOENA FOR

Pgt.

WITNESS

P. C. Amick

Nansemond County Circuit Court

the.....day of.....

19.....

TO R. C. BUNCH:

Take notice, that on the 1st day of October, 1925, at the office of Saunders & Hutton, Pinner Building, in the City of Suffolk, Virginia, between the hours of ten A. M. and five P. M., of that day, I shall proceed to take the depositions of J. C. Ward and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain suit in chancery, depending in the Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond, wherein I am the complainant, and you are the defendant, and if from any cause the taking of the said depositions be not commenced, or, if commenced, be not concluded on that day, the taking thereof will be adjourned from time to time, at the same place, and between the same hours until the same shall be completed.

Given under my hand this the 3rd day of ^{September}~~August~~, 1925.

Susie Ward Bunch
Complainant.

By Saunders & Hutton
Her Attorneys

Original

Susie Ward Bunch,
Complainant,

Vs. In Chancery

R. C. Bunch,
Defendant.

NOTICE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS.

ORIGINAL.

Executed on the 7th day of
Sept. 1925 within the county of
Harrison, by delivering a
true copy of the within process,
in writing, to RCBunch

in person
EB Rawley
Sheriff of Harrison County.

State of North Carolina

No.

Gates

County

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS

Nov. 22, 1890

####

To any Ordained Minister of any Religious Denomination, or any Justice of the Peace of said County:

I, J. C. Saunders Person applying for license having applied to me for a LICENSE for the marriage of R. C. Bunch Name of man to be married, in full of Gates County Residence, age 25 years, color white White, Indian, or Negro the son of James E. Bunch Name of father of man to be married and Marina Bunch Name of mother of man to be married, the father living Living or dead? the mother dead Living or dead?, resident of Gates County Residence, if known; if not, state unknown and Susanna Ward Name of woman to be married, in full of Chowan County Residence, age 21 years, color white White, Indian, or Negro the daughter of Kenneth F. Ward Name of father of woman to be married and Emily A. Ward Name of mother of woman to be married, the father living Living or dead? the mother living Living or dead?, resident of Chowan County Residence, if known; if not, state unknown

--- And the written consent of

If both parties are over 18 years of age, strike out

~~the~~ ~~of the said~~ ~~to the proposed marriage having been filed with me, and there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed marriage at any place within said county. two months~~ ~~one year~~
You are required, within ~~sixty~~ days after you shall have celebrated such marriage, to return this License to me at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

J. T. Walton

Register of Deeds.

....., being duly sworn, says:
That the parties applying for License are of lawful age; ~~that is, each is over 18 years of age~~, and, as far as he is informed and believes, there is no lawful cause or impediment forbidding said marriage. I further swear that the answers appended to the questions asked me are correct and true.
- Sworn to and subscribed before me on day and date above written. -

WITNESS: J. J. EGLESTON

Register of Deeds.

J. C. Saunders

Affiant.

Affiant.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GATES

County.

I, I. John B. Walton Name of person officiating, a Justice of the Peace If minister, what denomination? If Justice of Peace, so state, united in matrimony R. C. Bunch Name of man married and Susanna Ward Name of woman married, the parties licensed above, on the 23rd day of Nov., 1890 1892, at James E. Bunch's Place of marriage in Mintonsville Township Township, in said county, according to law.

John B. Walton J. P

- Officiating Officer.

*WITNESSES PRESENT AT MARRIAGE

M. V. Blanchard

of

A. S. Fitchett

of

J. C. Saunders

of

*Three witnesses required.

NORTH CAROLINA,
GATES COUNTY.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the marriage license as issued to R. C. Bunch and Susanna Ward on the 22nd. day of November 1890, as copied from the original, which are on file in this office.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 26th. day of Feby. 1926.

W. T. C. W.
Register of Deeds Gates County

No.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

....., 192.....

R. C. Bunch

and

Susanna Ward

RETURN TO REGISTER OF DEEDS

Returned on the..... 1st day of

Dec. 1890 - 192 -

and registered in Marriage Register on page

....., this..... same day of

..... - 192 -

J. T. Walton

Register of Deeds.

NOTE.—Minister or Justice is required to fill the blanks in the Certificate and return the License within sixty days after marriage.

VIRGINIA,

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HANSENOMD.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....COMPLAINANT)

vs.

R. C. BUNCH.....DEFENDANT)

DEPOSITIONS.

Depositions of R. C. Bunch, J. P. Parker and
Lemuel Parker, taken before me, John H. Palmer, Commissioner in
Chancery for the Circuit Court of the County of Hansenomd, Virginia,
on the 23rd day of August, 1930, in pursuance of the annexed notice,
at the office of G. A. Harris, Esquire, Room 313 National Bank of
Suffolk Building, Suffolk, Virginia, between the hours of ten o'clock
in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon of said day, to be
read in evidence in a further proceeding in the above untitled cause,
pending in said Circuit Court.

Appearances:

For the defendant: G. A. Harris, Esquire, of counsel.

For the complainant: No appearance.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....COMPLAINANT)
vs.)
R. C. BUNCH.....DEFENDANT)

N O T I C E

TO SUSIE WARD BUNCH:

Take notice that I shall, on Saturday, August 30, 1930, apply to the Circuit Court of Nansemond County, Virginia, to have the divorce a mensa et thoro, entered by the aforesaid Court on the 14th day of September, 1926, merged into an absolute divorce.

You are further given notice that I shall, on the 23rd day of August, 1930, in the office of G. A. Harris, attorney at law, room 313 National Bank of Suffolk Building, Suffolk, Virginia, between the hours of ten o'clock A. M. and four o'clock P. M., take the depositions of myself and others, to be read on behalf of my petition.

Given under my hand this 18th day of August, 1930.

R. C. Bunch
By Counsel

G. A. Harris p d

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF HANSEMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH

vs.

R. C. BUNCH.

.....
NOTICE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
.....

*Executed 8/19/30
By delivering a copy
of the within notice to
Susie Ward Bunch in
person.*

*E. B. Rawles
Shriff*

Mr. R. C. Bunch, being duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Q. Mr. Bunch, you were the defendant in the suit of Susie Ward Bunch vs. R. C. Bunch in the Circuit Court of Wanswold County, were you not.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. In that proceedings Mrs. Bunch obtained a divorce a mensa et thero, did she not.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Bunch, has there been any reconciliation as between you and Mrs. Bunch.

A. No, sir. Never spoke to her. She has never been in my presence and I in hers.

Q. Mr. Bunch, is there any likelihood of there being any reconciliation between you and Mrs. Bunch.

A. No, sir. None whatever. Never will be under any circumstances whatsoever.

And further this deponent saith not.

R C Bunch,

Mr. J. P. Parker, being duly sworn, testified as follows:

Q. Mr. Parker, do you know Mrs. Susie Ward Bunch and Mr. R. C. Bunch.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How near do you live to Mr. Bunch's home.

A. About a half a mile from his home.

Q. Do you know whether or not Mr. and Mrs. Bunch have lived together as man and wife since the 17th day of August, 1925.

A. No, sir. They haven't lived together.

Q. Would you have known it if they had lived together, Mr. Parker.

A. I think so. Yes, sir.

Q. You are in and out of Mr. Bunch's home quite frequently, are you not, Mr. Parker.

A. From once to three or four times a day. I attend all Mr. Bunch's land.

And further this deponent saith not.

J. P. Parker.

Mr. Lenuel Parker, being duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Q. Mr. Parker, where do you reside.

A. With my brother, J. P. Parker.

Q. Do you know Mrs. Susie Ward Bunch and Mr. R. J. Bunch.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know whether or not they have lived together as man and wife since the 17th day of August, 1925.

A. They haven't, No, sir.

Q. What opportunity have you had to know whether they have lived together or not.

A. I have been going over to Mr. Bunch's home practically every day. My brother and I cultivate Mr. Bunch's land.

And further this deponent saith not.

Lenuel Parker

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
CITY OF BUFFOLK, To-wit:
COUNTY OF NANSEMOND,

I, John H. Palmer, a Commissioner in Chancery
for the Circuit Court of the County of Nansemond, Virginia, do
herely certify that the foregoing depositions were duly taken,
reduced to writing and signed before me, in my immediate presence,
at the time and place in the caption mentioned, pursuant to the
aforesaid notice.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
at the City of Buffol., Virginia, this twenty-third day of August,
A. D. 1930.

John H. Palmer
Commissioner in Chancery

Fees: \$2.50 for Stenographer
5.00 for Commissioner
\$7.50

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF NANTMOND COUNTY.

BUSIL WARD BUNCH

vs.

R. C. BUNCH.

.....

DEPOSITIONS

.....

1930. Sept. 6. filed.
J.L.M.

G. A. HARRIS

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HANOVER COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....COMPLAINANT

vs.

R. C. BUNCH.....DEFENDANT.

THIS CAUSE came on again to be heard upon the papers formerly read, and the proceedings had therein, this cause having been reinstated on the docket on motion of the defendant, upon the petition of R. C. Bunch praying that the divorce a mensa et thoro, heretofore granted the complainant in these proceedings, be merged into an absolute divorce, and was argued by counsel.

On consideration of which, it appearing to the Court, as established by decree heretofore rendered in this cause, that the defendant had abandoned and deserted the plaintiff, and that five years have elapsed since the date of said abandonment, and it appearing from satisfactory evidence taken and filed herein that the said parties have not been reconciled to each other since the rendition of the former decree herein, and that no reconciliation is probable, it is adjudged, ordered and decreed that the decree for divorce from bed and board be, and the same is hereby, merged into a decree for a divorce from the bond of matrimony, and the said R. C. Bunch and Susie Ward Bunch are forever divorced from each other, but neither of the said parties shall marry again within six months from the date of this decree.

And it is ordered that this suit be dismissed from the docket.

Ended

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF HANSMOND COUNTY.

BESSIE WARD BUNCH

vs.

R. J. BUNCH.

.....

D E C R E E

.....

Entered this 6th day of September
1930.

J. L. McInnis

Judge.

Chancery Order Book
No. 6 Page 345

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HANSELMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....COMPLAINANT

vs.

H. C. BUNCH.....DEFENDANT.

TO THE HONORABLE JAMES L. McLMORE, JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Your petitioner, H. C. Bunch, respectfully represents unto the Court that on the 14th day of September, 1926, a decree was entered in the above styled suit granting a divorce a mensa et thoro to the complainant and allowing alimony to the complainant against the defendant in the sum of \$25.00 per month, the first payment to be made on or before the 1st day of May, 1926, and that subsequent to said date, to-wit: on the 27th day of December, 1926, an agreement was made and entered into by and between the plaintiff and defendant whereby the said complainant agreed to accept the sum of \$3000.00 in lieu of the alimony provided for in said decree, and that as a further consideration of the agreement aforesaid, the said complainant released her right of dower in the real estate of the said defendant which he then owned or which he might thereafter acquire, either by purchase or otherwise, and any and all claims to any personal estate then or thereafter belonging to said defendant which might accrue to her by reason of her matrimonial status, which said agreement, by decree entered on the 27th day of December, 1926, by said Court was ratified, approved and confirmed.

Your petitioner further sheweth unto the Court that the complainant deserted the defendant on the 17th day of August, 1926, and that there has been no reconciliation of said parties, and that they have not co-habitated or lived together as man and wife since the date aforesaid.

On consideration whereof, your petitioner prays that a divorce a mensa et thoro heretofore granted as aforesaid be merged into a divorce a vinculo matrimonii.

And your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

G. A. Harris p. g.

R. C. Bunch
Petitioner.
By Counsel

STATE OF VIRGINIA,
CITY OF SUFFOLK, to-wit:

This day personally appeared before me, Minnie Lavine, a Notary Public for the City aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, R. C. Bunch, who made oath that the statements contained in the foregoing petition are true.

Given under my hand this 6th day of August, 1930.

My commission expires the 2nd day of October, 1930.

Minnie Lavine
Notary Public.

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
HANSMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH

vs.

R. C. BUNCH.

.....

PETITION

.....

Filed this 6th day of Sept., 1930.

J. L. M.

Judge.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH.....Complainant)
vs.) IN CHANCERY
R. C. BUNCH.....Defendant)

THE ANSWER OF R. C. BUNCH.

This respondent, reserving to himself the benefit of all just exceptions to complainant's bill, for answer thereto, or so much thereof as he is advised is material he should answer, answers and says:

The defendant admits that the complainant is a resident of Nansemond County, Virginia, and that she has resided in said County and State for a period of more than sixteen years immediately preceding the institution of her suit. He also admits that he and the complainant were married, as set forth in said bill.

The defendant admits that about twelve years ago the complainant had physical trouble for which the complainant was treated at the St. Andrews (now Virginia) hospital, in the City of Suffolk, Virginia, for more than a week, the entire expense of which was paid by the defendant.

The defendant denies that he failed to provide proper medical attention, food and clothing for the complainant, but, to the contrary, did provide medical attention, food and clothing for her.

The defendant denies that he was cold, cruel and unkind to the complainant, but to the contrary, was kind and affectionate until his kindness and affection were spurned by her.

The defendant denies that he has heaped indignities of all sorts upon the complainant, and further denies that he has, at any time, used physical violence towards her; and says that he has

not, at any time, struck her or used any form of violence whatsoever towards her, and has only attempted to hold her at times to prevent her from doing physical violence to him. On one occasion it became necessary for him to take hold of her chin and cover her mouth with his hand in order to keep her from spitting in his face, as she had done on many previous occasions. The defendant says that, in protecting himself in the manner indicated, he used no greater force than was absolutely necessary to prevent her spitting in his face as aforesaid; and denies that any blood flowed from her mouth as the consequence of his act other than a few drops of blood that were caused by the defendant's thumb nail in trying to cover the complainant's mouth to prevent her spitting in his face.

The defendant denies that he has thrown mud in the complainant's face, but admits that he has splashed water on the complainant from a puddle of water near the defendant's kitchen window, and that at times ^{he} has thrown water in the complainant's face when she came to the windows, doors and out on the porch and abused the defendant and threatened to have him arrested and to report him to her brothers, without any just cause whatsoever for such conduct on her part.

The defendant further answers and says that on or about August 17, 1925, the complainant willfully deserted and abandoned him without just cause; that he was not informed of her intention to leave his home or of her future plans; that she left his home voluntarily with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Rosa Ward, the wife of her brother, E. T. Ward, who resides in Portsmouth, Virginia; that the defendant, Mr. Burney Parker and wife, and Mrs. Lillian Ballard were at the defendant's home when the complainant left; that the complainant did not consult the defendant about leaving, nor did she inform the defendant as to where she was going. In

view of the fact that the complainant left with the said Mrs. Rosa Ward, who lives in Portsmouth, Virginia, the defendant naturally assumed that she intended to visit her, and would return within a few days. About two weeks later, the defendant was informed by Edith Bunch, daughter of the complainant and defendant, that her mother would return on the following Tuesday.

The day following the Tuesday on which she was expected to return home, the defendant saw three of the complainant's brothers in Nansemond County (in the vicinity of his home) as he was returning from Suffolk to his home, and that night he was advised by his daughter that, in the absence of the defendant, the complainant's brothers had been to his home and endeavored to prevail upon the defendant's daughters to go with them to see an attorney representing the complainant and answer certain questions which the said attorney wished to ask them. This was the first intimation your defendant had that the complainant was to desert him and the home which he had provided for her.

The defendant denies that, at the time the complainant departed from his home, the conditions had grown intolerable from his mistreatment or that she had been left practically alone and unable to take care of herself, as alleged in the bill.

The defendant denies all the acts of cruelty alleged in the bill, and denies emphatically that he has done any act to cause the complainant to leave his home, and says that her leaving was voluntary and without justification.

The defendant admits that they have five children, namely: Eunice Parker, Doris Beaton, Cleon Bunch, Bryant Bunch and Edith Bunch; that Cleon Bunch is married and did live in Norfolk, but now lives in the City of Richmond; and that Bryant Bunch is twenty-six years old and lives in Norfolk. It is true that

Edith Bunch is about seventeen years of age, but she does not live with her sister, Doris Beaton, but boards with Mrs. Benton on Morgan Street, in the City of Suffolk, and is being partly supported by herself and partly by the defendant.

The defendant admits that the complainant and the defendant last co-habitated in Nansemond County, Virginia.

The defendant neither admits nor denies that the complainant is without means of support or without funds to prosecute this suit, or that she is living upon the charity of her brothers and sister, but calls for strict proof thereof.

The defendant admits that he owns a farm in Nansemond County, Virginia, located on the unimproved highway known as the old Somerton Road, the value of which, in defendant's opinion, is not over \$7,000.00.

The defendant denies that he has \$10,000.00 in cash on deposit in the banks of the City of Suffolk or any other place. He admits that he has a few hundred dollars which is being used by him in the conduct of his farm and for the support of his seventeen year old daughter.

The defendant denies that he owns a large quantity of personal property, but admits that he has two horses which he uses on the farm, valued at approximately \$50.00 each, and two farm carts and one old buggy, and a few farming implements, only such as are necessary to be used on a two-horse farm.

The defendant denies that he has converted or attempted to convert, assign or turn over any of his personal property to prevent the complainant from obtaining alimony.

During the entire period of their married life, the complainant has been cold, cruel, disagreeable, contentious, abusive, quarrelsome and insulting to your defendant in divers ways, and has

made his home life a veritable hell. On frequent occasions the complainant has actually spit in the face of the defendant, and she has frequently mistreated and abused him to such an extent that, in order to secure the necessary rest and sleep, he has been forced to leave the room on the first floor of the house occupied by them, and occupy another room on the second floor of the house; the complainant has, on many occasions, followed the defendant upstairs and prevented his resting and sleeping by quarreling, knocking on the door, and otherwise disturbing the peace and order of the house, so much so that the son of the complainant and defendant had to come to the door of the defendant and take the complainant back to her room; and at other times the defendant has had to leave the house entirely in the middle of the night and sleep in the stable and other outbuildings. This has taken place on hundreds of nights. The defendant has never, at any time, given the complainant any cause or justification whatsoever for the treatment he has received at her hands. On the contrary, she has provoked every quarrel and misunderstanding that they have ever had.

The defendant has endured his wife's mistreatment largely on account of their children, and with the hope that she would reform and make a dutiful and kind wife, but in spite of his forbearance and patience, she has gotten gradually worse.

And now, having fully answered the complainant's bill, the defendant prays to be hence dismissed with his reasonable costs by him in this behalf expended.

W. P. Lipscomb
G. A. Davis
P. J.

R. C. Burch
By Counsel

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY.

SUSIE WARD BUNCH

vs.

R. C. BUNCH

.....
1926. Mich. 1. filed Jan.

ANSWER OF R. C. BUNCH

Susie Ward Bunch.....Complainant.

Vs.

IN CHANCERY

R. C. Bunch.....Defendant.

TO THE HONORABLE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

Your complainant, Susie Ward Bunch, respectfully represents:

1. That on the _____ day of November, 1890, your complainant, whose maiden name was Susie Ward, was lawfully married in Gates County, North Carolina, to R. C. Bunch, as will appear from a certificate of marriage herewith filed, marked "EXHIBIT A" and made a part of this bill; and,

2. That your complainant and the said defendant lived together thereafter in Gates County, North Carolina, for eleven years when they removed to Nansemond County, Virginia, where they have continuously lived together as man and wife for about twenty-four years, with the exception of one year when they resided in Gates County, near Corapeake; and,

3. That about ten or twelve years ago your complainant began to have physical trouble for which she had to go to the hospital, ^{and} shortly thereafter she became afflicted with rheumatism from which she has suffered continuously ever since; that about seven years ago she was confined to her bed for several months and thereafter, until about one year ago, was able to do light housekeeping; that for the past ^{year} she has been confined to her bed a large ~~er~~ part of the time and has been unable to help herself or do any work; that during her affliction, as aforesaid, the said defendant gradually became cold toward her and cruel to her; that for the past seven years he has failed to provide necessary medical attention; ^{He amply able to do so} that while she was unable to help herself he failed to provide food and necessary attention; that he has heaped indignities upon her in all sorts of ways; for no good cause whatsoever he has struck her, twisted her chin until the blood flowed from her mouth; has thrown mud in face and from time to time recently has dashed cold

water in her face; that he has accused her of having loathesome diseases and has cursed and abused her generally.

4. That on or about the 17th day of August, 1925, your complainant left the defendant's home to visit E. T. Ward, one of her brothers who lives in Portsmouth, Virginia; that at the time she departed from her home the conditions above described had grown intolerable and she was, at the time, left practically alone and unable to take care of herself; that she has not returned for the reason that she is physically and mentally unable to suffer further cruelty at the said defendant's hands.

5. That the aforesaid acts of cruelty and other such acts not herein mentioned have been, and were, at the time of your complainant's departure from her home, such as to endanger the health and life of your complainant, and that such condition of affairs rendered it necessary for her to depart from the defendant's home as aforesaid, and constituted on the defendant's part desertion without just cause.

6. That your complainant and the said defendant have five children whose names are as follows: Eunice Parker, Doris Beaton, Cleon Bunch, Bryant Bunch and Edith Bunch; that Eunice Parker and Doris Beaton are married and supported by their husbands; that Cleon Bunch is married and lives in Norfolk; that Bryant Bunch is about twenty-six years of age and lives in Norfolk, and Edith Bunch is about seventeen years of age and lives with her sister, Doris Beaton in Suffolk.

7. That both your complainant and the said defendant are domiciled in and are and have been actual bona fide residents of this state for more than one year next preceding the commencement of this suit.

8. That your complainant last co-habited with the said defendant in the County of Nansemond, Virginia.

9. That your complainant is without any means of supporting herself; or with which to prosecute this suit; that she is now

living upon the charity of her brothers and her sister; that her husband, the said R. C. Bunch, owns a farm in Nansemond County, Virginia, worth about \$15,000.00 and that your complainant has been advised that he has approximately \$10,000.00 on deposit in one or more of the banks of the City of Suffolk; that he owns considerable personal property in addition to the aforesaid money, the value of which your complainant does not know.

10. That your complainant believes and charges that the said R. C. Bunch will endeavor to convert, assign or dispose of his property to prevent your complainant from obtaining alimony, unless enjoined from so doing.

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 R. C. Bunch 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 the said R. C. Bunch may be enjoined and restrained from interfering in any way with your complainant; that a divorce a mensa et thoro be decreed her; that the said R. C. Bunch be required to furnish to your complainant sufficient money to prosecute this suit, and to employ counsel therefor; that the said R. C. Bunch be required to pay to the complainant temporary alimony pending the same; that it be decreed that the said R. C. Bunch shall pay to your complainant as permanent alimony, annually, so long as both your complainant and the said R. C. Bunch shall live, such sums of money as to the court may seem right and proper; that the said R. C. Bunch be restrained and enjoined from converting, assigning, or in any way disposing of any of his property whatsoever until further order from this court; that the court may not require that any notice whatever be given to the said R. C. Bunch, or any one else, before the said injunction is awarded; 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.

Witness:

Erlynn T. Palmer

Samuel H. Butler
COUNSEL

Susie Brand Bunch
Complainant
mark

STATE OF VIRGINIA,

City of Suffolk, to-wit:

Susie Ward Bunch, 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 upon information, and that so far as they are therein stated to be upon information she believes them to be true.

Witness:

Evelyn T. Palmer

Susie Ward Bunch
Complainant.
mark

Taken, sworn to and subscribed before me, Evelyn Palmer, a notary public of and for the City and State aforesaid, in my City aforesaid, this the 22nd day of September, 1925.

Evelyn Palmer
Notary Public.

VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF NANSE-
MOND COUNTY:
#####

Susie Ward Bunch,
Complainant,

Vs. IN CHANCERY

R. C. Bunch,
Defendant.

BILL.

Filed Sept. 23, 1925-

*H. E. Emery
Clerk*

SAUNDERS & HUTTON
Attorneys at Law
Suffolk, Va.

Daunders & Hutton Tr. Co.

Susie Ward Birch
& Co.

R. B. Birch

Final Decree

9/6/26

9/6/30

Sept. 5, 1925 - Kapaemahu