DEC 1932 #1086

COMMONWEALTH

V.) Felony (extortion)

LAURA LAM and v. G.
ROBERT CRAIG v. G. Jan. 13

K. E. Brill
R. M. Reilds
H. Miller Sitzer
Bowen Mullins
E. A. Ringgold
Carl L. Garber
Geo. C. Harrell
A. E. Garber
Aldine M. Funkhouser
Lemuel H. Miller
Ray L. Clark
Myrl H. Nagley

Sheriff cost

arrest	3.00
Summons	8.50
Sent Jury	1.50
Sent Jury	1.00
Bridge	14.00

to save Sweetness. Now won't you Sweetheart
I would like to serve time & keep you from ~~ing~~
having to take a chance Now I am not going
back on my words, but I am kindly asking
Sweetness again. & I realy mean to do so If
you give me the O.K. how about It Dear?
I like to act a man If I am not. Thanks a lot
for the complimentary ha! I will just reverse
the thing right back. You the Sweetest, Dearest,
Lovingest, & most precious girl I have ever
met. & for jammin you at the top of the page
now you got me, I am not flattering you the least
for It is all too true for me to be other wise
Ha! ha! Now I have been around a little
& I say you are good can draw the kinder
ha! ha! Realy I mean every word. at least
I am satisfied with my choice & now I must
all most fight to hold you, think so? Why
Honey If you wasn't built that way, I would
not be where I am to nite, & still I am
proud of it. I can be free I guess some
day. I can in a paper where a man 27 has
a wife 65 hours that now & honey before a
man can go through with what I have & take
the chances, there must be something more
than only lust. With me It is Love & Plenty
of it. I talked more to Allen to day than I have
since we fell out up there, does she ever
say any thing about that, you remember I guess
Honey It seems two weeks since I saw you
I hope you come down to day to see me I am
so lonesome when I can't see you, Oh! how
could I do with out you. I can't and will not
only while I am behind bars. If some son

CLUMSY LABORER.

You clumsy dirt slinger, you lazy, stupid fellow,
You would knock your brains out were they not so mellow.
The way you use your shovel, and your blunt pick,
But proves that you are the greenest kind of Mick.
Go dig yourself a grave, and jump into it too,
It's the wisest thing that such a fool can do

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of a bitch beats my time, I am killing
him before he gets very damn far. I did
not steal you for to loose you again. I want
you so bad I could eat you, Sweetness
You said If we come free what you are
going to do with me, you only think, so
If you do I'll be surprised. I'll explain
later I say this much. I am too near dried
up + most too Weak + We had four drunks
last nite, Lurty Chick + Chas. Harman
+ Joe Barton, + Baker upstairs. See the
Wind is whistling thru these Screens
It seems like Winter, + feels like it too
see this is a cold natured place anyway
+ after ten or eleven at nite It gets cold
in here. Well It is going on one a.m.
strong + as I have no news I'll ring off
hoping to see you sometime to-day +
as you know wishing you the best of luck
as you very well know I want a fuck
Before so long. If It is Miss Laura, I dearly
love that name. + when I went to school
I hated it. you know why, but don't tell it
But Oh! Honey Dear I could almost kiss
the paper where It is wrote on "Now"
From a true + loving friend
Lots of Love + kisses
+ still more XXXX R. C.
XXXXX

Excuse
Please Paper

POWDER PUFF POLLY

A trooper faces powder,
But he has naught on you;
You have enough upon your face
To kill a troop or two.

PRINTED IN U. S. A

11:P.M. Mon. nite, as you will see I am anxious to write to my sweet love, Honey I am out of paper but I can write on this, & it is exceptiall all will be O.K. Thanks sweetness for the dear sweet letter I was not looking for a letter from my darling to-day but Oh! she is so thoughtful & kind. You know dear it means a lot to me to get a message from my darling sweet love, when I can't see you. Honey I feel so sorry for you to have to come down to court in the morn. but I can't help you a bit with out Rob. & Ruth want to put that whiskey on you & if they do & sweetness has to serve time for their damn ignorance it will be too damn bad for them. Honey I guess you will be insulted a bit about the letter I sent you this eve. but darling I just could not help it. If I have had the wrong thoughts mons you please forgive me for. I realy don't believe my sweetness would do me that way. I hated it after I wrote it to you sweet love, knowing if you were not guilty of such it would hurt your feelings. and my dear is just like me if I think someone is doing me a wrong it makes me sore. So darling sweet love if I am wrong, please dont bawl me out for such, for you know I am jealous & I can't help it for I dearly love you. If you were to two time me I would then be one "Yes I dare you", Thanks a lot for the pillow case, an excuse is better than none Ha! ha! got me, thats the reason I sent that shirt to you so I could hide the letter in it, & could truthfully

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tell Geo It was a shirt, I kept my shirt here as It will do yet for Lucs & Thurs. See I don't wear a shirt here only on Visiting hrs. as you would be to wash all the time If I would wear them all the time. Honey dear you keep that pillow case up then I sent you this eve, It is too nice for me down here any way. They have locked up two colored men from Baltimore they were some white playing for a dance & one Brained the other in the head & they took both up. Well sweetness I have been thinking all day about Friday & what our verdict is going to be, God knows I hope we both will come free, Oh! Sweet Love If It goes against you & me doing as you have told me to do, I don't know what will become of me, I am almost crazy now without something more to worry me. I'll never get over it & I am so afraid my darling will loose confidence in me & discard me & that would be killing to me. Honey won't you please let me bear the blame this time, If I get 5 yrs. when I get free again I will then know I did for Sweet Love all I could I am so sorry It has happened, I sometimes feel like hanging my self & then I think may be we both will come clear. So I am going to wait untill after trial any way, & I am making no one any promises of my future If my Only Sweet heart I ever loved has to serve a term on account of my ignorance It is worring me terrible here of late, If It was me & me alone I would not care so much, but Oh! It is my sweet heart also. Oh! She is so sweet & Dear to me Now Honey dear If It would be I was to take this on my self I would have I mo served already, & I would gladly serve all of five yrs.

DUMBELL

A wooden dumbell has you beat
When all is said and done,
The dumbell has two wooden heads
While you have only one.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.

Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Month of Oct. 25 1932

Name Robert Craig Date committed

Male X Female Age 25 Race White Single Yes Married Divorced

Place of Birth Paloo if Foreign Born Time in U. S. years months

Physical condition Fair is person a drunkard? or drug victim?

Can read? Yes write? X Occupation Painter Offence Committed Attempted Extortion Black Mail

City Ordinance State Held for Grand Jury

Held for trial Sentence 3 years months

Fine Costs Time in jail Held for penitentiary

Held as insane Held for other authorities

Behavior Date discharged

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Height 5-8 Weight 125# color of eyes Blue Color of hair Dark

Teeth marks Bad Hand marks also on left arm

Arm marks Face marks Scar Center Forhead at edge of Hair

Shoulder marks Back marks

Thigh marks Knee marks

Calf of leg marks Foot marks

Fingers off Mole marks

Neck marks Breast marks

Left arm marks Right arm marks

Left leg marks Right leg marks

Fine after prisoner at jail; Amount to State $ Amount to City $

Court

Deputy and Jailor

Sheriff.

Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Month of _____ 19_____

Name _____ Date committed _____

Male _____ Female _____ Age _____ Race _____ Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____

Place of birth _____ if Foreign born _____ Time in U. S. _____ years _____ months

Place of residence _____

Can read _____ write _____ Occupation _____ Offence Committed _____

City Ordinance _____ State _____ Held for Grand Jury _____

Held for trial _____ Sentence _____ years _____ months

Fine _____ Costs _____ Time in jail _____ Held for penitentiary _____

Held as insane _____ Held for other authorities _____

Behavior _____ Date discharged _____

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Height _____ Weight _____ Color of eyes _____ Color of hair _____

Teeth marks _____ Hand marks _____

Arm marks _____ Face marks _____

Shoulder marks _____ Back marks _____

Head marks _____ Size shoes _____

Calf or leg marks _____ Foot marks _____

Fingers off _____ Mole marks _____

Neck marks _____ Breast marks _____

Left arm marks _____ Right arm marks _____

Left leg marks _____ Right leg marks _____

Fine after prisoner at jail: Amount to State $ _____ Amount to City $ _____

_____ Deputy and Jailor

_____ Sheriff

Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Month of Jan 13 — 1933

Name Laura Lam Date committed

Male ..... Female ✓ Age 43 Race White Single ..... Married no Divorced .....

Place of Birth Palos Va. if Foreign Born ..... Time in U. S. ..... years ..... months

Physical condition Good is person a drunkard? ..... or drug victim? 250.00

Can read? yes write? yes Occupation House wife Offence Committed Extortion Black Mail.

City Ordinance ..... State ..... Held for Grand Jury .....

Held for trial ..... Sentence 3 years ..... months .....

Fine ..... Costs ..... Time in jail ..... Held for penitentiary .....

Held as insane ..... Held for other authorities .....

Behavior ..... Date discharged .....

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Height 5' 5" Weight 194 # color of eyes Brown Color of hair Dark Brown

Teeth marks Bad Hand marks .....

Arm marks ..... Face marks .....

Shoulder marks ..... Back marks .....

Thigh marks ..... Knee marks .....

Calf of leg marks ..... Foot marks .....

Fingers off ..... Mole marks .....

Neck marks ..... Breast marks .....

Left arm marks ..... Right arm marks .....

Left leg marks ..... Right leg marks .....

Fine after prisoner at jail; Amount to State $ ..... Amount to City $ .....

..... Deputy and Jailor

Court

..... Sheriff.

Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Month of ..... 19 ..

Name ..... Date committed .....

Male ..... Female ..... Age ..... Race ..... Single ..... Married ..... Divorced .....

Place of Birth ..... If Foreign Born ..... Time in U. S. ..... years ..... months

Physical condition ..... Is person a veteran? ..... Occupation .....

Cause of Arrest .....

Cause of Imprisonment .....

Cost of Prosecution ..... State ..... Held for Grand Jury .....

Held for trial ..... Sentence ..... years ..... months

Fine ..... Costs ..... Time in jail ..... Held for penitentiary .....

Held as insane ..... Held for other authorities .....

Behavior ..... Date discharged .....

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Height ..... Weight ..... Color of eyes ..... Color of hair .....

Teeth marks ..... Hand marks .....

Arm marks ..... Face marks .....

Shoulder marks ..... Back marks .....

Thigh marks ..... Knee marks .....

Leg marks ..... Foot marks .....

Fingers off ..... Mole marks .....

Neck marks ..... Breast marks .....

Left arm marks ..... Right arm marks .....

Left leg marks ..... Right leg marks .....

Fine after imprisoner at jail; Amount to State $ ..... Amount to City $ .....

..... Deputy and Jailor

..... Sheriff.

Whereupon, the said Robert Craig and Laura Lam, by counsel, moved the Court to set aside said verdict and grant them a new trial because the verdict is contrary to the law and the evidence and because of the introduction of improper evidence and because of the refusal of the Court to give the instruction asked by the defendants, and the failure of the Court to sustain the motion to direct a verdict in favor of the defendants at the conclusion of the evidence for the commonwealth, and for failure to sustain the demurrer to the indictment and because the Court allowed to be introduced into the evidence a letter written by Robert Craig, addressed to Mrs. Laura Lam, which letter, the evidence showed, was not received by Mrs. Laura Lam; whereupon, the Court overruled said objections, and the accused, by counsel, excepted thereto; and it being inquired of the prisoners if anything they knew or had to say why the Court should not pronounce sentence on them, and nothing being offered or alleged which the Court considered sufficient to delay sentence, it is therefore considered by the Court, etc.,

Memorandum: the Hala Kopeth Cheik and Yanta Lam.

Yesterday the Comte de Sos called with Heights and Ethel Lam, whom the Comte is convinced is concerned in the introduction of the Yanta Lam and because of the importance of the Comte's wishes and because of the relationship between the Comte and the Lams, we decided to see if we could be of some assistance to them. And nothing pained officers more than announce assistance on them. Since the Comte completely ignored the fact that the Comte's wishes were not considered by the Comte, etc., etc.

Comte to give the instructions asked by the defendants.

Then the Lam's advocate, Mr. Ernest Hamilton, the Comte's representative, the Lam's advocate and because of the introduction of the Yanta Lam and because of the relationship between the Comte and the Lams, we decided to see if we could be of some assistance to them. Since the Comte completely ignored the fact that the Comte's wishes were not considered by the Comte, etc., etc.

Commonwealth of Virginia,
Rockingham County, To-Wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 27 day of October, 1932, Laura Lam, principal and M. C. Kirkpatrick surety, who justified to his sufficiency, came before me, Shelley L. Decker Bail Commissioner, of the said County of Rockingham,
(J. P. or Bail Commissioner)
and acknowledged themselves to be indebted to the Commonwealth of Virginia each in the sum of One Thousand Dollars, ($1,000.00), to be levied of their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements, for the use of the Commonwealth of Virginia rendered, and they each severally waved their homestead exemption to their recognizance; yet upon this condition:

That if the said Laura Lam shall personally appear before the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, at the Courthouse of said County, on the 1st day of the Dec. 1932 Term thereof, being the 19 day of Dec. 1932, 19....., and at such other time or times to which the proceedings may be continued or further heard, and before any court or judge hereafter having or holding any proceedings in connection with the said charge, and then and there answer the Commonwealth of Virginia concerning a certain felony whereof the said Laura Lam stands charged, and be bound under said recognizance until the charge is finally disposed of or until it is declared void by order of a competent court, then the above recognizance shall be null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my signature this 27th day of Oct., 1932.

Shelley L. Decker
(J. P. or BAIL COMMISSIONER)

Dana Lam
$1000
To Dec-Term
1932
Circuit Court

COMMONWEALTH

V. CHARGE TO THE JURY

ROBERT CRAIG

If you find the accused, Robert Craig and Laura Lam, or either of them, not guilty, you will say so and no more.

If you find them guilty, or either of them, of attempted extortion, as charged in the indictment, then you will say so and fix their punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for a period of not less than one nor more than five years, or, in your discretion, by confinement in jail for a period not exceeding twelve months.

We the jury find Robert Craig and Laura Lamb guilty and fix their punishment at confinement in the Penitentiary for a period of three years

Commonwealth of Virginia:

To the Sheriff of Rockingham County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon John Logan, W. O. Early + Chas. Williams

to appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, at the Court House thereof, at ~~10~~ 9:30 *o'clock, a. m., on the* 2d *day of* January 1933

to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth before the GRAND JURY Laura Lam + Robert Craig

who stands charged with and indicted for a felony misdemeanor.

And this they *shall not omit under penalty of* £100. *And have then and there this Writ.*

Witness, J. ROBERT SWITZER, *Clerk of our said Court, at the Court House, the* 27th *day of* Dec. 19 32, *and in the* 157th *year of the Commonwealth.*

J. Robert Switzer, *Clerk*

P. & L. PRESS, HARRISONBURG, VA

Com

v

Laura Lam v

Robert Craig

1932

Jan. 2

Executed Dec 30 1931 by delivering a true Copy of the within Summons to John Roger Chrisley

and Otto Williams

in person.

L. L. Newman Sheriff

By D. Berry D.S.

In the Name of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

To the Sheriff of Rockingham County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon Chas. A. Williams, John R. Logan, W. C. Early, Ed. Hughes, Charlie See, & R. F. Martin

to appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, at the Court House thereof, at ~~10~~ 9:30 *o'clock, a. m., on the* 13th *day of* Jan. 19 33,

to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against Laura Lam & Robert Craig

who stands charged with and indicted for a felony ~~*misdemeanor.*~~

And this they *shall not omit under penalty of* £100. *And have then and there this Writ.*

Witness, J. ROBERT SWITZER, *Clerk of our said Court, at the Court House, the* 6th *day of* Jan. 19 33, *and in the* 157th *year of the Commonwealth.*

J. Robert Switzer, Clerk

P & L. PRESS, HARRISONBURG, VA

Executed Jan, IIth 1933 by delivering a true copy of the within summon to Chas A.Williams, John R.Logan, W.C.Earley, Ed Hughes, Chas See, and B.F.Martin each in person.

A.G. Newman Deputy for C.R.Fawley, S.R.C.

Com.

v. Laura Lam & Robert Craig

1933 Jan. 13

Arrest Warrant

Commonwealth of Virginia,
Rockingham County, } To-Wit:

To F. L. Dovel, Chief of Police, City of Harrisonburg ~~or Constable of said County~~:

Whereas, Chas. A. Williams of the said ~~County~~ City, has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, R. S. Dwyer a Justice of the said ~~County~~ City, that Laura Lam and Robert Craig of the said ~~County~~ City, on the 25th day of October, 19 32, in the said ~~County~~ City, did unlawfully and feloniously attempt to extort from him, the said Chas. A. Williams, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, by means of a threatening letter, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia

These are therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to command you forthwith to apprehend and bring before me, or some other Justice of the said ~~County~~ City, the body of the said Laura Lam and Robert Craig to answer the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law. And you are required to summon J. R. Logan, W. E. Earley, Frank Newman and Dan Shifflett, E. E. Keiser, R. E. Bayless, Winchester Va. F. L. Dovel to appear and give evidence in behalf of the Commonwealth, on the examination touching the said offence.

Given under my hand and seal this 26 day of October, in the year 19 32.

R. S. Dwyer J. P. (Seal)

Service Press—170

JUDGMENT

Laura Lam
and
Robt Craig

Upon the examination of the within charge, I find ~~the accused~~ that there is Proble Cause of the accused being guilty and Hold them for the next Grand Jury

R. S. Dwyer JP
Oct 26/32

Fine - - - - - -	$.....
Clerk's Fee - - - - -	$ 1.25
Justice's Fee - - - - -	$ 3.00
Arrest - - - - - -	$ 2.00
Summoning Witness - -	$.....
Witness Attendance and Mileage	$.....
Commonwealth's Attorney -	$.....
Jail Fees - - - - - -	$.....
Total - - - - -	$.....

R. S. Dwyer
Justice of the Peace

Commonwealth
vs. } Arrest Warrant

Laura Lam and
Robt Craig

Executed the within warrant by arresting and delivering the body of

before

a justice of Rockingham County, and by summoning the within named witnesses in person this.....day of.....193....

Constable of Rockingham County

STATE OF VIRGINIA—COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, TO-WIT:

I, ..., a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Rockingham, State of Virginia, do hereby certify that..... and ..... as his suret....., have this day acknowledged themselves indebted to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the sum of..... Dollars ($.....) to be made and levied of their goods and chattels, upon this condition: That the said..... shall appear before the undersigned or the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, on the.....day of....., 193...., and not leave hence without leave of the said Court, to answer the charge in this warrant, or to await the action of the Grand Jury of the said County upon the within charge.

Given under my hand this, the.....day of....., 193.....

....., J. P.

A

The Court instructs the Jury that as a matter of law, the mere charge or indictment against the defendants does not justify any inference as to the guilt of the defendants and that the defendants in law, are presumed to be innocent of the offense charged in the indictment, and the burden is on the Commonwealth to prove the guilt of the defendants beyond any reasonable doubt, and that unless the jury believe that the evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt every fact essential to the conviction of the accused, they must find them not guilty.

1

The court instructs the jury that even if they believe from the evidence that Laura Law had a right of damages against Williams, yet the law does not permit her to compel settlement of such damages by means of threats of exposure.

B.

The court instructs the jury that if they believe from the evidence that Charles A. Williams had on the 15th day of June 1932 had improper relations with Laura Lam against her consent, then Laura Lam had a legal right to demand of the said Williams a settlement for such damages as they might agree upon and also had the right to demand payment of such damages and to advise Williams that unless settlement was made that suit would be instituted to recover the same. The jury are further told that Laura Lam did not have the right to threaten criminal prosecution as a means of forcing said Williams to pay her damages to any amount whatever, even though they may believe from the evidence that Williams had improper relations with her against her will.

C

The court instructs the jury that if they believe from all the evidence that Laura Lam had the letter in evidence written in good faith in an attempt to get from Williams a settlement of a claim for damages for an assault committed by Williams on her and against her consent and further believe from the evidence that the contents of said letter does not contain any actual threat to expose said Williams or to prosecute him criminally for such assault, then they cannot find her guilty as charged; and they are further told that if they believe from all the evidence that Craig merely wrote said letter at the request of Laura Lam honestly believing that she had the legal right to recover of Williams something by way of damages, and that Craig acted only as agent of Mrs. Lam in bringing about a meeting between Laura Lam and Williams, without intending in any way to share in the money collected as the result of such settlement, then they must find him not guilty

Com. v. Robert Craig and Laura Lam Ex 1.

Oct 23th 1931

Charlie Williams.
Sir,
you are requested
to Be in front of
the Waterman Public
School this eve. at
5:45 P.M. Sharp.
Now Williams I mean
for you to be there
at time stated above.
You remember
one Sat. morn. last
June, a lady came
to your apartment
to deliver some eggs
and you well know
the deed you did.
Now Mr, as an
interested party requests

2

you to be there at time specified. If not I will proceed further. Now I am willing to ~~compromise~~ or settle this without further trouble, for the sum of Two Hundred & fifty dollars ($250.00) Now William you be there alone at said hour & minute & this can be fixed up O.K. If not I'll tell Eve you and enter suit against you at once. Now this is a warning and expect to give you a chance. If you are not there I proceed at once. Now I have the goods on you & don't mean maybe

over

3

now I'll be there at that time and expect you to be there also. If not you take the blunt & what the hell happen to you. Now if you are there it every thing will be confidentionally be sure & have that sum with you as I will not wait on you for nothing and come by yourself. Warning

Signed

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:

In the Circuit Court of said County:

The grand jurors of the Commonwealth in and for the body of said County of Rockingham and now attending said Court at its December term, 1932, upon their oaths do present that Laura Lam and Robert Craig, on the 25th day of October, 1932, in said County, did unlawfully and feloniously accuse Charles A. Williams of a certain offense, and thereby attempted to extort from him by means of a threatening letter the sum of two hundred fifty dollars, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This indictment is found on the testimony of Charles A. Williams, John R. Logan, and W. C. Early, witnesses sworn in court and sent before the grand jury to give evidence.

Extortion

Commonwealth

v) Indictment

Jan 13

Laura Lam and Robert Craig

felony

December term, 1932

A True Bill:

J. B. Bradford

Foreman

Witnesses: Chas. A. Williams
John R. Logan
W. C. Early

D. W. Earman
Commonwealth's Attorney

We the jury find the accused Robert Craig guilty as charged in the indictment by confinement in the penitentiary for three years each.

J. B. Miller Jr. Foreman