

STATE OF MAINE.

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CUMBERLAND, SS.

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On this 15th day of December, 1919, personally appeared before me the within named LOUISE REBER, at the office of Robert Hale, in Portland in said County, and being first sworn according to law, before me, then gave the following deposition, which was written by Fred L. Hayden, a disinterest person, in my presence and under my direction. Said deposition was taken at the request of ANNE ARCHBOLD SAUNDERSON to be in perpetual remembrance of the matters herein testified to. ARMAR DAYROLLS SAUNDERSON was duly notified to attend by notice of the within ddpcsition served on him in hand, but did not attend.

Robert Hale

Justice of the Peace.

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LOUISE REBER, having been duly sworn by the Magistrate to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, in answer to interrogatories propounded by Leon V. Walker, Esq., testified as follows:

Q What is your name?

A Louise Reber.

Q Where do you live, where is your residence?

A What you mean?

Q Where are you living now?

A At Falmouth Foreside.

Q You were living in the family of Mrs. --

A Mrs. Saunderson.

Q Mrs. Anne Saunderson?

A Yes.

Q What is your nationality?

A Swiss.

Q Where was your home before you went to live with Mrs. Saunderson?

A Geneva.

Q How long have you been in Mrs. Saunderson's service?

A Four years and nine and a half months, about-- yes, four years and nine months.

Q Do you intend to remain in her service?

A No, I am going away the 27th of December.

Q Where are you going?

A To Geneva, to my home.

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Q Do you expect to be gone sometime?

A Well, yes, sir. About I suppose for three months anyway.

Q Do you now expect to be in the United States in April or May of 1920?

A I don't know what I find the situation I might come back in that time.

Q Is your mother ill in Switzerland?

A Well, she has been very ill, and it is very much reason that I want to go home and see her.

Q Where were the Saundersons living at the time you entered their household?

A At Foxlease Park, Lyndhurst, in England.

Q Of what did the Saunderson family consist at that time?

A Mr. and Mrs. Saunderson and the four children. I am sorry that I can't speak, it is so long a time--

Q You speak English very well. What other employees were there then?

A O, well, it was Ellen, the first chambermaid, and two second chambermaids. Well, you mean from the beginning?

Q Let me ask you another question instead to save time. Was Mlle. Fannie Berg in the household at that time?

A Yes. She was there when I came, and ^{she} was there before me about a year, you see. She came about in 1913, I think.

Q Was Eva Bennett employed by Mrs saunderson at the time?

A Yes.

Q What did Eva Bennett have to do in the Saunderson family?

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A Well, she was their governess.

Q What did you do?

A Governess too.

Q What did you notice in regard to the relations between Mlle. Berg and Mr. Saunderson?

A I remarked nearly at one it was something together you see between them, but I can't express exactly, but you understand what I mean.

Q What made you think that there was some special relation between them?

A O, the way they look at each other, and when nobody was there the way they-- well, anybody can tell; how they look together, the way they speak, you see, make me think that, but I believe that there was something between them.

Q Did you know of any trips that Miss Berg made to town with Mr. Saunderson?

A O, yes. Yes. She used to go to Southampton to have a singing class.

Q How often did she go there?

A Well, I can't remember exactly. I thought it was twice in the week, but I am not quite sure; it is once or twice.

Q When she went to this singing class?

A Yes.

Q Did Mr. Saunderson go with her?

A Yes, he used to go with her, pick her up, you see and took her to town.

Q Took her up where?

- A In the road. On the road. You see they used to have a certain place where he would wait for her, you see; he pick her up and they go together to Southampton, and she told me there, she went once to his home and saw something-- docks, when he had his home there, on the docks, and she went there.
- Q When you speak of a home on the docks, what was the occasion of Mr. Saunderson having a home on the docks?
- A Well, he was officer there, and he have a home there; got to sleep there, you see.
- Q He was an officer in the Naval Reserves at that time, was he?
- A Yes. But he didn't always take her, you see, in the road. Sometimes she went by train, and she phoned to him when she was in Southampton, and if he could come to her, if she could come to see him or if he could meet her in other places, you see.
- Q Did he bring her back from Southampton in his automobile?
- A Yes. Yes. She told me so. Not always, but many times.
- Q Do you remember anything about Mlle. Berg's leaving the family in 1916?
- A Yes. But before she went to Geneva in 1915; didn't I tell you that?
- Q What happened in 1915?
- A Well, in 1915, I believe-- yes, it was the summer she went to Geneva, and Mr. Saunderson gave her an envelope. I didn't see what was in the envelope, but she told me he gave her a ten pound note; ten pound; yes; and she said, "If I want more he was going to give it to me".

- Q How long was Mlle. Berg away on that visit to Geneva?
- A I am not sure. I am not quite sure. I believe it must be-- I don't know it was one month or two. I think it is two months. I am not sure. I forget.
- Q Do you know whether she had any illness while she was in Geneva?
- A Yes, she told me when she come back she had-- I don't know-- abortion-- she went to the doctor-- I can't tell. What we say in French-- avortement.
- Q What did you say in English? You say it very well.
- THE MAGISTRATE: The English word is abortion.
- A Abortion, yes. She used to say to me, "If you only know everything, or if you only know you would understand why I love him so much", and I say, "Well, if you can't say something worth saying may be it would make your life better, or say nothing it would be maybe better, but I don't like it when you talk like that", and I know she have a friend there called Jack in Geneva, and she went to Paris with him.
- Q That I don't think is material. We want to get at just the part that relates to Mr. Saunderson.

A I used to think it was for Mr. Saunderson, but I am not sure, because she used to talk so much about that other friend too, but the way she speak to me, "Why you only know I love him" make me think it may be for Mr. Saunderson, but I can't say because I don't know.

Q Do you remember Mrs. Saunderson coming to the United States?

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A Yes. In 1916 Mrs. Saunderson went to America because her father died.

Q Did you remain at Foxlease Park during that time?

A Yes. And the children asked Mrs. Saunderson before she went to ask Mlle. Berg to come for Christmas and New Year's.

Q That was then after--

A Before Mrs. Saunderson went, and Mrs. Saunderson asked her to come for a few days, and she stayed there three weeks, about.

Q This was after Miss Berg had left the employment of Mrs. Saunderson?

A Yes.

Q During that Christmas visit that she made to Foxlease Park were you at Foxlease Park?

A Yes.

Q Will you state what you saw in regard to the conduct of Miss Berg and Mr. Saunderson during that period?

A Well, I saw them, Mlle. Berg, the evening she used anyway to have all the time dinner alone with Mr. Saunderson, and after that they went to the library and drank and talked and smoked, and about nine-- I don't know about the time, nine or ten, she come up and she used to come to my bath room in a night dress. Then we could get from the bath room on to Mr. Saunderson's stairs, you see, and I saw her coming up to go into Mr. Saunderson's stairs, and I say, "O, well, I don't believe you have to go to those stairs". "O, she says, "you

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come and see. You come and look", and I heard her closing the door from Mr. Saunderson's room.

Q You heard her closing what?

A Mlle. Berg closing the door from Mr. Saunderson's room, you see.

Q You mean the door that led into Mr. Saunderson's room?

A Yes, bed room. Mr. Saunderson's bed room, you see, she went in in the room, and I heard, because every door have a special noise, you see, and I know the noise when Mr. Saunderson's room or Mrs. Saunderson's room, and I heard it was Mr. Saunderson's room.

Q How was Miss Berg dressed when she went there to Mr. Saunderson's?

A In her night dress.

Q How many times did you know of this occurring? How many times do you know of this occurring while Mrs. Saunderson was in the United States at that time?

A What you mean, how many times?

Q How many times did you know of Miss Berg going to Mr. Saunderson's room in that way?

A Well, I am not quite sure, but I know it as possibly as maybe three or four times, but I can't say for sure, for sure because-- I believe it is three or four times. Mr. Saunderson was went in his bed room before Mlle. Berg went there. When she went there Mr. Saunderson was already in the bed room.

Q Do you know when she came out?

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A I remarked ^{once} once she came out/it was about between three and four in the morning, and many other times she came late, but I didn't look at the time; I didn't notice the time, but that once; the once I noticed because it was nearly daylight, you see, and it must be it was between three and four in the morning.

Q Did Mlle. Berg seem to try to cover up what she was doing from the other servants?

A No. she used to talk too much about Mr. Saunderson to us, and Mr. Saunderson that, and so the domestics all talked about it the coachman and the chauffeur and gardener and maids, parlor maid and laundry maid, and every one, everybody.

Q Other than these occasions when you saw her go to Mr. Saunderson's room, did you learn of any relations that occurred between her, between Miss Berg and Mr. Saunderson?

A You mean if she tell these things?

Q Did you learn in any way about it?

A You mean by other people?

Q By her or in any way?

A Why, she told me. She told me she had relations; yes.

Q She told you ^{that} she had sexual relations with Mr. Saunderson?

A Yes, she told me that the day after; yes.

Q Did she tell you about that more than once?

A O, she told me about Bar Harbor, and she told me-- yes; yes, she told me many times, I believe; yes, many times she told me.

Q Did you ever receive any letters from her?

A O, yes, she write many times, but very often; but once in

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one of the letters she write to me she sent one for Mr. Saunderson, and she say to me, "Give that to Lydia", and in my letter she sent one for Mr. Saunderson, but she say, "Give that to Lydia and tell Lydia she gave it to her Daddy, but be careful nobody see or tell any one", and I sent it back to her. I say, "Lydia is a child and I don't want to spoil Lydia's thought", and she write back and she said, "Well, there was nothing in that letter anyway". "You could really do what I asked you," she said.

Q Have you with you the letter?

A Yes. Of course I have many letters that would be useful, but they are not here.

Q I will ask a question to cover. Where are these letters that you received from Miss Berg?

A They are in my trunk at Foxlease, but Mrs. Saunderson say she sent my trunk to my home now. I suppose they are at my home in Geneva.

(Letter and envelope marked Deponent's 1 and 2, respectively, and attached hereto.)

A Of course she put Loulette instead of Louise, but I don't think it is nothing.

Q This letter which I show you, dated April 16th, 1919. marked

Deponent's Exhibit 1, addressed to Chere Loulette, is a letter which you received from Miss Berg?

A Yes.

Q You need not read it. This letter was sent to you while you were at Foxlease Park?

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A Foxlease, yes.

Q In any of these letters did Miss Berg admit that she had had improper relations with Mr. Saunderson?

A No, but she said many times she love him, you see, and she use another name; she didn't use his name, you see; she use d-- I forget the name she used.

Q Did she express regret to you ever that she had?

A Yes.

Q What?

A I tell her many times she ought not to do those things. I say, "But it is very bad, and you ought not to do those things and you will have to go away and try to forget", and she said, "I can't. I can't. I regret very much, but it is too late. I can't." And so I suppose after I talk so much with her like that she decide to go away, and after that she decided she would like to stay again, but Mrs. Saunderson didn't want her to.

Q She gave notice that she was going away?

A Yes, to Mrs. Saunderson, and after that she wanted to stay, and Mrs. Saunderson said, "No. Now you said you wanted to go. Now you have to go".

Q Do you know of any letters having been sent to Mr. Saunderson by Mlle. Berg?

A Yes, she told me she had write very often to him, but--

Q Did you see any letters other than the one that was enclosed in the letter to you?

A I can't remember. I can't remember .

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Q Do you know whether Mr. Saunderson ever made any gifts to Mlle. Berg?

A Yes, sir. Yes, sir. He sent her when she was at Lady Lope's, I don't know if he sent-- when she was either at Lady Lope's, but it was at this time when she worked for Lady Lope. In between she went to a nursing home, so I don't know if it is when she was in the nursing home or when she was still with Lady Lopes.

Q What did he send her then?

A A muff and a hot water bottle.

Q At the time he sent these was she ill?

A Well, it is what I can't remember. I don't remember that it was at Lady Lopes' or in the nurses' home or where she was, because she told me those things after when she came to visit Mrs. Saunderson, you see.

Q What was Mr. Saunderson doing? Did he have any occupation during the time you were in the family?

A First he went to the Red Cross, in 1914, and after that--

Q 1914?

A Yes, and in 1915 he went to the Navy first in Southampton, and after

that at Portsmouth, and I don't know what time he went to Newbury, to the armoured cars, tanks, at Newbury.

Q What were the relations between Mr. and Mrs. Saunderson while you were in the family?

A Well, they were very cold, and I only saw Mr. Saunderson kiss Mrs. Saunderson once in all the time.

Q Were they much together?

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A No, very little. Very Little. When he come home he used to go to the cook and give orders for his supper, you see, what he like, and after that he go to his bath room and take his bath and go out in the farm and if he have a chance to see Mrs. Saunderson or the children he say something and went off, you see. Sometimes to his mother. Sometime bring friends and play tennis, and if he had a chance to see--

Q If he happened to meet Mrs. Saunderson and the children?

A Yes.

Q He spoke to them?

A Yes.

Q Did he go out of his way at all to see them or find them?

A O, no, no. What I mean, he didn't trouble to go and find them, you see.

Q Now what was his attitude towards his children?

A Well, he was nice when he was with them, but I was very astonished when Moira was ill; she was very, very ill; he came only two or three times to see her; she was very, very-- we thought she was going to die, and he come only two or three times, only a few minutes really. And he never take care about her education.

Q Never took care of the children's lessons?

A No, Mrs. Saunderson used to look after everything.

Q After he was at Portsmouth in the Naval Reserves, did he come home very often?

A No, he came every-- O, no, not very often; sometime he come every other day and after that he used to stay sometime, O,

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I believe a week, without coming; always less and less. He come always less and less. I can't say exactly, but he didn't come often at all at the end, you see.

Q I am going to put this question right into the record. Your native language is French?

A Is French, yes.

Q Whether or not you have had some difficulty in answering the questions which I have asked you, in English?

A If I did? Yes, I did.

Q Did Mrs. Saunderson appear to know of the relations which her husband was having with Miss Berg?

A Well, I was very astonished and I always thought she ought to know, because every one was talking about it, but she told me she never know; never; never; until Bar Harbor, until we go to Bar Harbor.

Q By going to Bar Harbor you mean when you went to Bar Harbor this summer?

A Yes, sir; so she told me one day-- Mrs. Saunderson told me she--

Q She told you. You mean--

A Mrs. Saunderson told me she couldn't arrange everthing with her husband, she was going to have a divorce, and so she said, "It is terrible because of the children. I don't know what to do".

Q Did she say then that she had not known of those actions of her husband until about that time?

A I am going to say-- I say, "Well, what you mean?", and she said, "Well, because my husband wanted the children". I said

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"But I can't understand. I could have--

Q Just a moment. The question I asked you was whether at that time that she told you that she had not known anything about her husband's relations with other women?

A Yes, sir; at that time; yes, sir.

Louise Reber.

Rec'd March 12, 1920 at 9h. 11m. A.M., and entered by,
George R. Hadlock, Reg'r.