

= Lena Rivers (1910 film) =

Lena Rivers is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film follows a young woman who leaves home to search for employment and becoming married to a wealthy man , but the marriage is kept secret . The husband is arrested by mistake and by the time he is freed , his wife and child depart and he believes them dead . The young woman entrusts her baby , Lena , to her mother before her death . At age 16 , Lena goes to the city is visited by her father , but the relationship is only known when he sees a picture of her mother in her locket . The film was an adaptation of Mary Jane Holmes ' 1856 novel Lena Rivers and was released on August 12 , 1910 . It had a wide national release and received positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from August 13 , 1910 . It states : " At the opening of the play , Granny Nichols ' only daughter is leaving the farm to go to the city in search of employment . We next find her in the city , married to a wealthy man who has forbidden her to make their marriage public as he is afraid his family will object . One day , after a year of happy married life , the husband leaves his wife and baby daughter to go downtown on business . Through a case of mistaken identity , he is arrested , and before he can prove his innocence , to the satisfaction of the police , his wife - believing him to have deserted her - takes her baby and returns to her mother . The husband , upon regaining his freedom and returning home , finds only a note from his wife saying that he will never see her or the baby again . He mourns his loved ones as dead , thinking that his wife left him contemplating the death of herself and her child . The mother and child return to the farm and there , with her dying breath , the mother entrusts baby Lena to the care of Granny Nichols . Here , on the farm , Lena grows to womanhood never knowing her father 's name . When Lena is 16 her Uncle John decides to take his mother to live with him in the city . Granny refuses to leave without Lena , so she also moves to Uncle John 's home . In the meantime , Lena 's father is a frequent visitor to the home of Uncle John , whom he little thinks is any relation to his dead wife . Here he meets Lena , and spying a locket containing the picture of her mother , which she wears around her neck , recognizes her as his daughter . Not only this but lucky Lena is enabled to marry the man she loves . "

= = Cast = =

Violet Heming
Anna Rosemond
Frank H. Crane

= = Production = =

The story for the production is an adaptation of Mary Jane Holmes ' 1856 novel Lena Rivers . The novel was very popular and reprinted numerous times by 1900 . According to The Atlanta Constitution , the theater stage productions had recently been adapted for the old work in June 1910 . Though newspapers records show the appearance of a stage adaptation by winter 1906 . The writer of the adapted scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The Thanhouser Company adaptation is the first film adaptation of the book .

The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but at least two possible candidates exist . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . Though the roles of the leading players are

unknown , it is likely that numerous other character roles and persons appeared in the film . Bowers states that most of the credits are fragmentary for 1910 Thanhouser productions . The cast includes both leading ladies of the company , Anna Rosemond and Violet Heming . The other known credit , Frank H. Crane was a leading male actor of the company . Bowers states that most of the credits are fragmentary for 1910 Thanhouser productions .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on August 12 , 1910 . The film had a wide national release , with theater advertisements appearing in Pennsylvania , Minnesota , Washington D. C. , Washington state , and North Carolina . Some advertisements were ambiguous in whether or not the picture of the play was being performed , as one Bell Theatre advertisement shows .

The one reel format was very restrictive in terms of allowing complex plots to be told while still being showing action in the production . The release of St. Elmo in March 22 , 1910 was the first adaptation and second film to be released by the Thanhouser Company . The film was reviewed by critics to be too reliant on the use of inter @-@ titles to tell the story . The company 's adaptation of The Winter 's Tale would require foreknowledge of the plot to understand the film , but some theaters employed aids to inform the audience of such productions By the adaptation of Uncle Tom 's Cabin the coherency in the story was praised by critics , but this story was both popular and well @-@ known subject . The Moving Picture World review provides specific insight to the Thanhouser adaptation 's ability to convey the story to audiences : " To those who have read Lena Rivers with pleasure the picture will be more than ordinarily entertaining . To those who have not read the story the film presents a narrative not without its interest in offering a quarter hour 's diversion well worthwhile . " The New York Dramatic Mirror would commend the picture for its acting and also confirm the adaptations coherency , " The well @-@ known novel is adapted for a film story with considerable success in this picture . The story is clear and not too complicated , although the film covers all the essential points of the written story . "