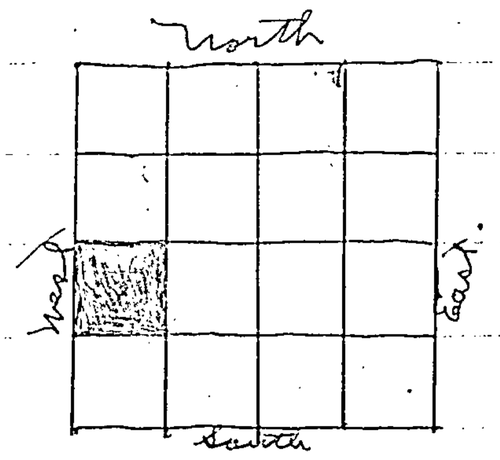
No. 688 - Know all Men By These Presents:
That whereas, By virtue of the acts of Congress of the United States, and of the General assembly of Alabama, referred to in the act of the General Assembly of Alabama, approved February 10th, 1876, entitled "An act to execute the power of disposal of the lands granted by an act of Congress entitled 'an act granting public lands, in alternate sections, to the State of Alabama, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said State,' approved June 3d, 1856, which power of disposal is conferred upon the Legislature of Alabama by said act of Congress", and by virtue of what was done prior to February 19th 1876, by or under, or in pursuance of the legislation of Congress and the legislation of the State of Alabama the said State had become completely vested with the title to the lands embraced by said acts of Congress, for the uses and purposes shown in said acts of Congress; and whereas, The said State, prior to February 10th, 1876, and more than six months prior to the duly decreed bankruptcy of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Company, had acquired a valid lien in good faith, upon all of said lands to which the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Company ever had any right or title, either legal or equitable, by a conveyance executed by that Company to the State of Alabama, to secure an indebtedness of

that company to said State greater than the value of the interest of that company in or to said lands, no part of which indebtedness has ever been paid to said State; And whereas, By a deed, executed and bearing date the 8th day of February 1877, the said lands were conveyed by the Governor of said State of Alabama, in pursuance of an act of the General assembly of Alabama, approved February 23rd, 1876, entitled "An act to ratify and confirm the settlement of the existing indebtedness of this State, as proposed in the report of the Commissioners appointed under the act approved 14th December, 1874, and which was communicated to the General assembly by the message of the Governor of 24th of January, 1876 and to carry said settlement into effect by the issuance of new bonds of this State at a reduced rate of interest, in adjustment of a portion of said indebtedness, and the surrender of certain securities held by the State in discharge of another portion of said indebtedness", to John A. Billups and John Swann, as Trustees, for the purposes in the said deed specified; and whereas, the said John A. Billups and John Swann have become invested with power and authority to dispose of, sell and convey the said lands in accordance with the provisions of said deed, and of said last mentioned act of February 23d, 1876; And Whereas Elias Bishop in his name in the County of Shelby and State of Alabama, ~~on~~ January 28-1880, became the purchaser from the said Billups and Swann, Trustees as aforesaid, of a part of said lands, as hereinafter described, lying in the County of Shelby, and State of Alabama, and containing, according to the original survey of said lands, (40) Forty Acres, more or less (minerals reserved), at and for the price of Sixty Dollars but no conveyance of said land was made to the said Elias Bishop; And Whereas, The said Elias Bishop has paid to the said John A. Billups and John Swann, as such trustees aforesaid, the sum of Sixty Dollars, in cash, and executed ~~none~~ notes for the sum of ~~none~~ Dollars, each, and due respectively _____ and each bearing interest from _____ the balance, due and unpaid on said purchase of said land hereinafter described.

But it is distinctly understood and agreed that the said Trustees reserve to themselves, either for their own benefit or for sale to others, the exclusive right to the iron, coal and other minerals contained in or upon said lands, with all necessary privileges for mining on said lands, and also the right of way for rail and tramways for mining purposes through any portion of said lands herein conveyed.

Now, Therefore, in consideration of the premises, we, the said John A. Billups and John Swann as such Trustees, and by virtue of the power vested in us as such Trustees as aforesaid, by the said deed of conveyance of the 8th February, 1877, and by said act of February 23d 1876, have granted, bargained and sold, and do, by these presents, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Elias Bishop all the estate, right, title and interest of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad Company, as well as of the State of Alabama, vested in us as such Trustees, or which we can convey in and unto the said lands above described to wit:



The North West quarter of the South West quarter (NW¼ of SW¼) in Section Thirty-one, Township Nineteen, Range Two West and lying in the County of Shelby, State of Alabama, and containing according to the original survey of said lands, Forty acres, more or less (minerals reserved,) To Have and To Hold the said lands hereinbefore particularly mentioned and described, unto the said Elias Bishop heirs and assigns forever.

Witness our hands and seals, this _____

John Swann (L.S.)
John A. Billups (L.S.)

State of Tennessee } I J. T. Hill Com. for Alabama hereby certify
County of Hamilton } that John Swann whose names are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are ~~known~~ personally known to me, severally each for himself, acknowledged before me on this day, that, being informed of the contents of the foregoing conveyance, they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand, this 1st day of March 1880.

J. T. Hill Seal Com. of Deeds.

J. H. Hill, Com. of Deeds for Alabama.

State of Alabama, } I, W. F. Johnston a Notary Public of said County
County of Pickens } hereby certify that John A. Billups whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is personally known to me, acknowledged before me on this day, that being informed of the contents of the foregoing conveyance, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.
Given under my hand, this 6th day of March 1880.

W. F. Johnston Notary Public.

The State of Alabama, } Office of the Judge Probate Court.
Shelby County. } I hereby certify that the within deed was filed in this office for record on the 23 day of January A. D. 1917 at 9 30 o'clock A. M. and duly recorded in Book 61 of Deeds Page 9 to 12 and examined.

G. W. Meaver, Judge of Probate.