

STATE OF ALABAMA,
SHELBY COUNTY.

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared W. S. Stonecypher, who is known to me and who by me being first duly sworn does depose and say as follows:

I am 84 years of age and I have lived in Shelby County, Alabama for the past 52 years. I am well acquainted with the tract of land consisting of approximately 42 acres which lies west of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway No. 31 also known as the Birmingham-Montgomery Highway in Section 4, Township 22, Range 2 West, which tract is described as being the S 2/3 of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 and that part of the S 2/3 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 which lies West of said Highway all in said Section 4. This place of recent years has been known as the Buford place.

H. F. Buford purchased this land from Herman Chemell by warranty deed dated February 1, 1939 which deed appears of record in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama, in Deed Book 96 at Page 489. Immediately after purchasing this land Mr. Buford went into possession of said property and retained possession thereof until the time of his death. He continued to remain in possession thereof until his death in about June of 1947. During this period of time the possession of H. F. Buford was open, continuous, exclusive, adverse, peaceable, hostile and notorious. He farmed portions of this land each and every year while in possession thereof. Mr. Buford claimed to own this property against all the world and I never heard of his title being disputed by any one. Following the death of Mr. Buford the farm was rented by the Buford heirs to a Mr. Hester who continued to cultivate the land as a tenant of the heirs of H. F. Buford until L. C. Walker purchased this property at public sale on March 19, 1949. Record of this sale appears in Deed Book 138 at Page 129 in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama.

L. C. Walker sold this land on April 2, 1949, to Ted G. Bolton and Dollie B. Bolton. Record of this deed appears in Deed Book 137 at Page 201 in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama. Ted G. Bolton and Dollie B. Bolton moved on to this property immediately after purchasing same and they had possession of said property until they sold it to Mr. O. L. Jones in December of 1950. During the time Mr. and Mrs. Bolton lived on this property they had open, continuous, exclusive, adverse, peaceable, hostile and notorious possession.

of this land claiming to own same in fee simple. At no time have I heard the title of Mr. and Mrs. Bolton disputed by any one. During their possession they cultivated portions of it each and every year.

I also knew this land when it was in the possession of Herman Chemell. The deed whereby he obtained title appears of record in Deed Book 89 at Page 289 in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama. It is dated January 20, 1931. From the time Mr. Chemell purchased this land until he sold the same to H. F. Buford as aforesaid Herman Chemell lived on this land and cultivated portions of it each and every year. He, during this time, had open, continuous, exclusive, adverse, peaceable, hostile and notorious possession of this land claiming to own same in fee simple.

I have known this land for the past 40 years or more and never have I known of any negroes to have possession of this land or claim any interest in it. I do not know Yola Brown or Clara Lewis. I do know J. E. Todd and wife, Amanda Todd. They are negroes and live on the farm owned by A. A. Lauderdale. The Lauderdale farm is located on the east ^{side} of the Birmingham-Montgomery Highway and opposite the property which is the subject matter of this affidavit. Neither J. E. Todd nor Amanda Todd have ever had possession of the property described in this affidavit nor have I ever heard of them claiming any rights or interests therein.

W. S. Stonecypher
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Sworn to and Subscribed before me

on this the 14th day of December,

1951.

Ernest M. Fowler
Notary Public

Filed in the Office of the Probate Judge on the 17 day of Dec 19 51 at 8 o'clock A M.
and recorded in Deeds Book 150 Page 41 this 20 day of Dec 19 51.
Deed Tax Mortgage Tax has been paid.
L.C. Walker, Judge of Probate