

STATE OF ALABAMA

SHELBY COUNTY

Personally came and appeared before me, S.A. Lokey, a notary public for State of Alabama at Large, J. Loflin Gould, who after being first by me duly sworn according to law to speak the truth deposes and says:

I am 72 years of age and I have lived near the following described land all of my life and have been well acquainted with the land, its owners and occupants.

Said land is described as follows:

The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and one acre in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 1 West, said one acre being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the South boundary of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter 30 feet West of the Southeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; run thence in a northerly direction parallel with the West boundary of said Section 105 feet; run thence westerly and parallel with the South boundary of said Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter 420 feet; run thence South and parallel with the West boundary of said Section 105 feet to the South boundary of said Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter; run thence Easterly along said South boundary 420 feet to point of beginning.

When I first remember the above described land, one W.S. Gould, my cousin lived in the house situated on the acre above described as situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 1 West. On this acre, he had a house, a barn, garden and a well. Most of the acre was surrounded by a fence and was enclosed in the curtilage of the home and the said W.S. Gould cultivated parts of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 1 West. The said W.S. Gould continued to live on and cultivate above described lands and in every way use it as a farm and homestead along with other lands until 1903 when he sold and conveyed to George F. Gould, his brother. The said George F. Gould moved on said property and cultivated it for about three years when he sold it to Rufus Lester. Rufus Lester rented the land to one Dock Beard who cultivated it for one year. Said property stayed vacant for several years. About the year 1912, Walter Lester, as executor of the Rufus Lester estate sold and conveyed said property with other property to S.M. Sykes and

Sykes moved in said house, living there and cultivating above described lands along with other lands and used it in every way as a farm and homestead until about the year 1919, when the said Sykes sold and conveyed above said land to William Polk and Harry Gordon. Sykes then moved off said property and no one has lived on it since nor has anyone cultivated it. The only actual visable possession that has been exercised since 1919 was the cutting of timber on one or two different occasions and affiant has not kept up with the ownership since it belonged to Sykes until his son, H.M. Gould purchased it from the Columbiana Savings Bank in 1943. Soon after my son, the said H.M. Gould bought this land in March of 1943, he put it under fence and has since kept it under fence and pastured it, and the said H.M. Gould kept the fence in state of repairs and has cut some timber from said land and is now in possession.

I have lived in the same neighborhood all of my life and have never heard the title of H.M. Gould nor those through whom he holds questioned or disputed during all this time and I know that no person has been in possession of any part of said land since my son has owned it claiming adverse to him.

The possession of H.M. Gould and those through whom he holds as above stated, has been actual, exclusive, open, notorious, peaceful, quite, adverse, hostile and under color of title and claim of ownership.

H. M. Gould

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 30th day of January, 1953.

S. A. Loken
Notary Public