

1802

STATE OF ALABAMA

SHELBY COUNTY BOOK 178 PAGE 128

Before me, John L. Jones, the undersigned authority in and for
Cook County in the State of Illinois, personally appeared Mary Lee R.
Washam, who, after being by me first duly sworn to speak the truth, deposes and
says:

My name is Mary Lee R. Washam. I am 57 years of age and am a daughter M.R.R.W.
of John William Ratchford and Rose Ella Ratchford. I have been familiar with the
following described property all of my life. Said property being described as
follows:

PARCEL A Township 22, Range 1 West,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, except one acre on
which Hopewell Church is located, and which is described in
detail in Deed Book 13 Page 45 in the Probate Office of Shelby
County, Alabama, and except right of way of the L & N Railroad.

Affiant further says that L. T. Phillips and his wife, F. J. Phillips were the
grandparents of affiant. Affiant further says that it has been called to her
attention that L. T. Phillips and his wife, F. J. Phillips made a right of way
deed to Anniston and Atlantic Railroad Company in the year 1890 across SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 17 and while affiant cannot remember that far back, she says
it is common knowledge in her family that the said L. T. Phillips and his wife,
F. J. Phillips were in possession of all the above land designated as Parcel A
at the time said deed was made, and even earlier. Affiant further says that the
said L. T. Phillips and his wife, F. J. Phillips owned and occupied said land
until they sold it to A. R. Wells on September 18, 1905, as shown by deed recorded
in Deed Book 27 Page 478 in said Probate Office. The said A. R. Wells, who was
affiant's uncle, owned and was in possession of said land and paid taxes on it
each and every year until he sold it to J. R. Phillips in January 1912, as shown
by deed recorded in Deed Book 49 Page 83 in said Probate Office. It has been
called to affiant's attention that the deed was made to R. J. Phillips; however,
affiant says that she knows of her own knowledge that was a typographical error
and that her said Uncle's name was J. R. Phillips, his full name being John R.
Phillips. The said J. R. Phillips owned said land and paid taxes on it each and
every year during his ownership and either occupied or rented said property out
to tenants until he sold ^{a portion of} it to Rose Ella Ratchford in December 1920 as shown by
deed recorded in Deed Book 70 Page 70 in said Probate Office. Affiant further
says she is informed that the deed was made out and signed in the name R. J. Phillips,
but she is convinced that it was only done for the purpose of making her Uncle's
name consistent with the way it was conveyed to him, because his name was actually

J. R. Phillips. Affiant further says she is further informed that said deed was made to Lila Rosa Ratchford, who is one and the same person as R. E. Ratchford, Rosella Ratchford and Rose Ella Ratchford. This is my mother and her correct name is Rose Ella Ratchford. Affiant further says she was born on the land lying immediately west of the above described land. Affiant further says that the said Rose Ella Ratchford went into immediately possession of said land at the time she purchased it and she and my father lived on it, reared their children on it, cultivated portions of it and obtained firewood and building timber from portions each and every year until the year 1944 when the said John William Ratchford *M.L.R. IV* died. After which, the said Rose Ella Ratchford either herself or through her ^{or heirs} agents, or tenants/occupied said land by the same methods mentioned above each and every year and have been assessing the same and claiming to own it until this present day. Affiant further says that she is informed that the SW $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{2}$ of said Section 17 was sold for taxes in the year 1923 when it was assessed to J. R. Phillips and that said Tax Sale was cancelled by the State for the reason that the taxes had been paid by J. D. Straiton and B. H. Holcombe. Affiant says that she knows of her own knowledge that her mother, Rose Ella Ratchford, owned said land in the year 1922 and assessed and paid taxes on it during the time she did own it and she knows that neither J. D. Straiton nor B. H. Holcombe ever owned any interest in said land and they never made any claim to the same.

Affiant further says that it has been called to her attention that J. M. Leonard and others made a deed to Dugles Phillips on February 18, 1898, as shown by deed recorded in Deed Book 22 Page 68 in said Probate Office, which said deed conveyed the following described land:

PARCEL B

SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 18, Township 22, Range 1 West, Shelby County, Alabama.

Affiant further says that the grantee in said deed was her Uncle and that Dugles Phillips was one and the same person as Douglas Phillips and H. L. D. Phillips. Affiant further says that the said Douglas Phillips owned and occupied either personally or through tenants the land above described as Parcel B during all the time he owned it until he sold it to William Ratchford and Rosella Ratchford, on December 2, 1908, affiant's parents, as shown by deed recorded in Deed Book 29 Page 342 in said Probate Office. Affiant further says the wife of H. L. D. Phillips was named Lela Phillips and she is one and the same person as Lila Phillips and Lelar Phillips.

Affiant further says that William Ratchford and Rose Ella Ratchford went into immediate possession of the property at the time they purchased it and lived on it and cultivated parts of it and obtained firewood and building timber from parts of it, reared their children on it and actually occupied it in person or through their agents or heirs each and every year until the year 1944, when the said John ^{MRWN} William Ratchford died. After which time, the said Rose Ella Ratchford or her agents or heirs have been in possession of said property, assessing and claiming to own it each and every year until the present date. Affiant further says that J. W. V. Ratchford William Ratchford, John W. Ratchford and J. W. Ratchford are one and the same person.

Affiant further says she has never known or heard of Samuel M. Pickler and she knows that since she can remember he has never been in possession of SW $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 18, nor to her knowledge he has never made any claim to it whatsoever.

There has been called to affiant's attention that there is a mortgage recorded from J. W. V. Ratchford and R. E. Ratchford to H. L. D. Phillips which was made in January, 1903. Affiant further says her mother and father were living on the property as early as 1903 and it is possible they began purchasing ^R the same and made a mortgage on that date, although the deed was not made until the year 1908, as mentioned above. ^{MLV.}

Affiant further says that said property described in Parcels A and B above was assessed to J. W. and Rose Ella Ratchford Estate, L. E. Ratchford, Administrator, for the year 1951 and the same sold for nonpayment of the taxes and was bought in by J. H. Davis. Affiant further says she, in the name Mary Washam, redeemed from said Tax Sale in October 1952 and that she was acting for and on behalf of the heirs of J. W. and Rose Ella Ratchford, deceased. Affiant further says she claims no interest in said property by virtue of said Tax Sale, but only claims an interest as a heir of J. W. and Rose Ella Ratchford and as a devisee under the Will of Rose Ella Ratchford.

Mary Lee R. Washam
Mary Lee R. Washam

State of Illinois

Cook COUNTY

Subscribed to and subscribed to by Mary Lee R. Washam before me this the 4th day of October, 1955.

My Commission expires: OCT. 5, 1956

(SEAL)

John L. Jones
Notary Public

STATE OF ALABAMA

SHELBY COUNTY

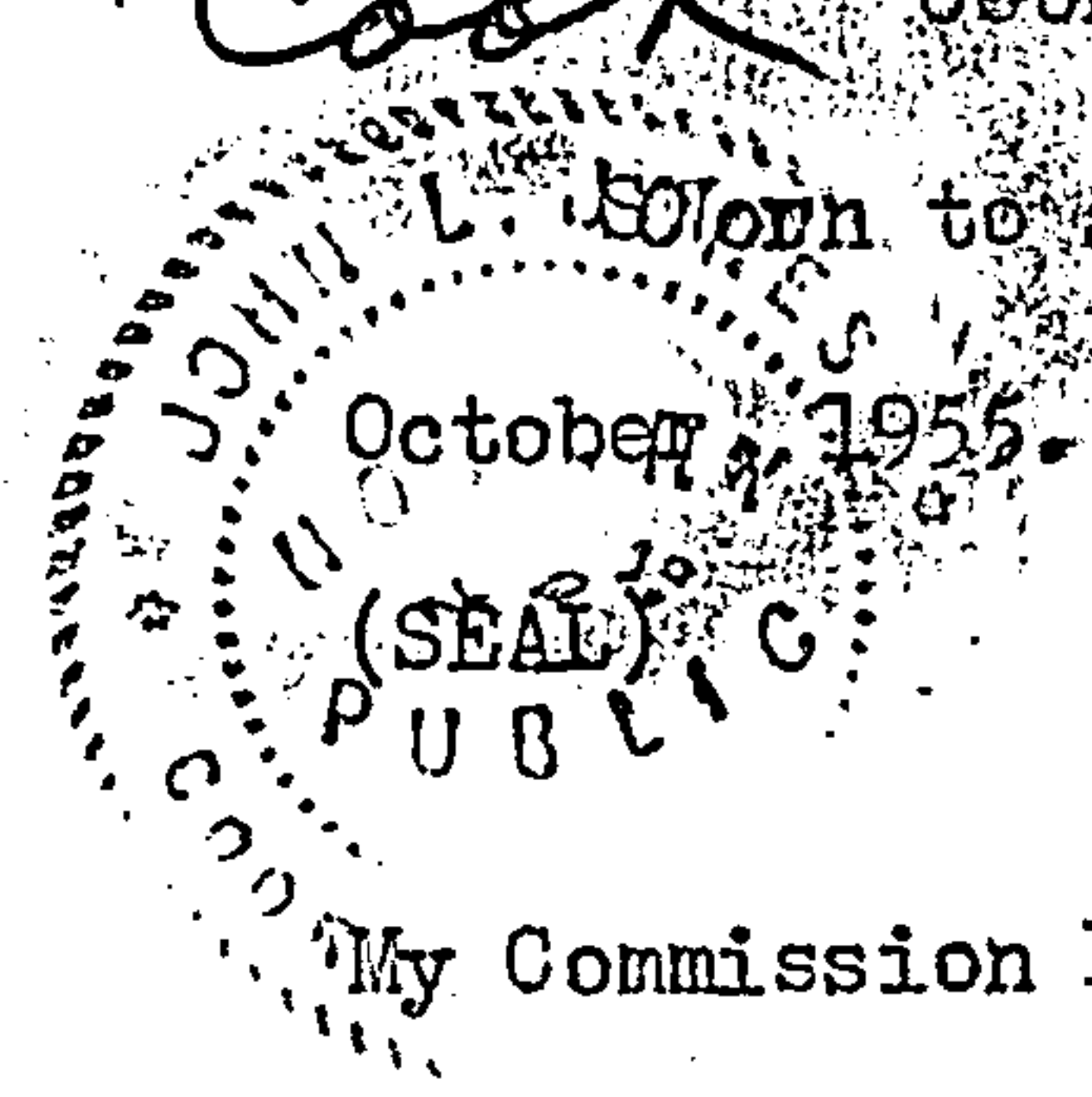
Before me, John L. Jones, the undersigned authority in and for Cook County, in the State of Illinois, personally appeared Elvie R. Shaw, who, after being by me first duly sworn to speak the truth, deposes and says:

My name is Elvie R. Shaw. I am 55 years of age and am a daughter of E. R. S. John William Ratchford and Rose Ella Ratchford and am a sister of Mary Lee R. Washam. I have read the foregoing affidavit of Mary Lee R. Washam and I can remember back to approximately the year 1905 and from that time up to the present time, I adopt said affidavit and certify that the same is true and correct.

Elvie R. Shaw
Elvie R. Shaw

STATE OF Illinois

Cook COUNTY



Sworn to and subscribed by Elvie R. Shaw before me this the 4th day of

John L. Jones
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: OCT. 5, 1956

STATE OF ALABAMA, SHELBY COUNTY
I, L. C. Walker, Judge of Probate, hereby certify that the within affidavit
was filed for record the 9 day of July 1956 at 1 o'clock P.M.
and recorded in Book 128 Page 128 and the mortgage tax of \$
Deed Tax of \$ has been paid.
Judge of Probate