

1770

STATE OF ALABAMA

BOOK 185 PAGE 205

SHELBY COUNTY

Personally came and appeared before me, L. E. Shaw  
Justice Of The Peace

a ~~Notary Public~~ in and for said County in said State, Mr. Robert Bearden, who being first duly sworn to speak the truth deposes and saith as follows:

My name is Robert Bearden and I am 59 years of age. I was born and raised in the Salem Community at a house about one-half mile from the Salem School house, which was built about the year 1904 on the lot described in deed from T. A. Bearden and wife, Lizzie Bearden, to T. A. Bearden, J. L. McGaughy and J. T. McGaughy as Trustees of the Salem School Community, which is recorded in Deed Book 50 page 61 of the Office of the Judge of Probate, Shelby County, Alabama. I have lived in Shelby County all my life time and presently live at Aldrich, Shelby County, Alabama.

I attended school in the school house situated on the lot described in deed referred to above for approximately ten years and know from my own personal knowledge that about the year 1925, the school building on this lot was abandoned for the use as a school. The school children who had been attending school in that school building began traveling by school bus to Montevallo, Alabama, to attend school, as the schools of Shelby County were consolidated about the year, 1925. I remember the time the school sessions were discontinued at the Salem School House because my son, Sidney Bearden, and my brother, Monroe Bearden, were attending Salem School at that time and I remember that Mrs. Gertrude Kirkley of Montevallo, Alabama, was the teacher at the time the school sessions were discontinued.

I know from my own personal knowledge that since the building which was constructed on the lot described in the deed referred to above was abandoned for the use as a school, which was about the year 1925, and that the building was not used for educational, charitable or religious purposes of any kind or nature so long as the building remained on the lot. I know from my own personal knowledge that about the year 1936, the old school building was torn down by Floyd Bearden, the son of T. A. Bearden and wife, Lizzie Bearden, and I further know that a few years before the old school building was torn down that Luther Bearden and his family lived in the old school building as a dwelling for one winter, and that Redger "Jack" Butler and his family lived in the old school house as a dwelling for two winters.

I further depose and saith that after the school building was torn down and the lumber removed from the property, that up until about three years ago there were



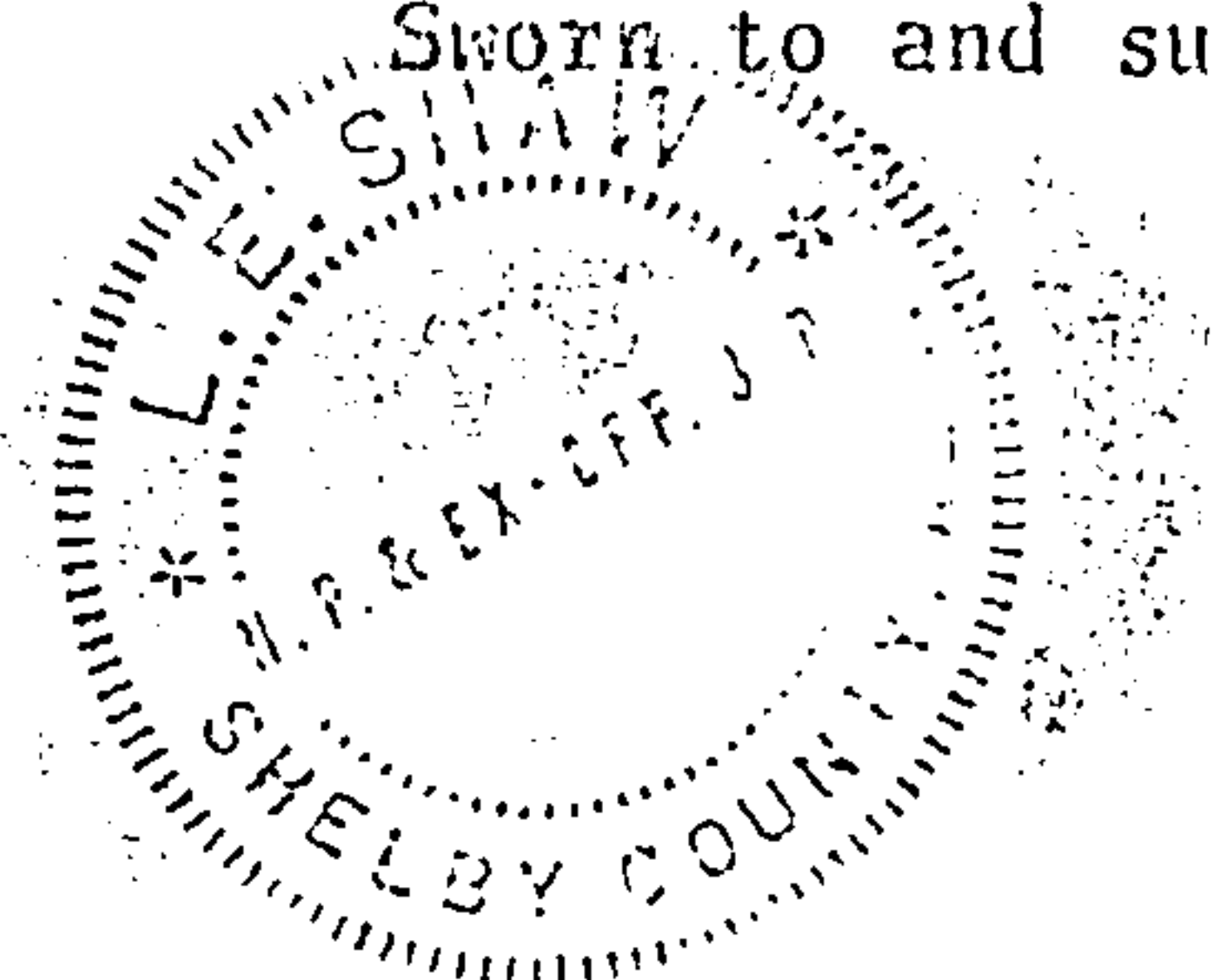
no other structures or buildings of any kind or nature built on the lot where the old school building once existed; that about three years ago some parties began building a concrete block Church on the lot. I further depose and saith that prior to the time these parties began building the concrete block Church on the lot that Floyd Bearden had maintained a fence around the lot since shortly after the old school building was torn down which was around the year 1936, that about three years ago some people went on the premises and removed the fences and began building the concrete block Church.

I know from my own personal knowledge that every year sometime in the months of May or June, Memorial Services <sup>were held</sup> for the people buried in the Salem Graveyard, which is located across the road from where the old school building once stood, and that these Memorial Services have never been held on the lot where the old school building once stood, but instead, were conducted across the road from the Cemetery and about 50 yards North of the old school-building lot and for years the Services were conducted under a big white oak tree which stood at that point. I have personal knowledge of where the Memorial Services were held since the year 1925 when the school sessions were discontinued at the Salem School House for the reason that I attended the Memorial Services for 21 straight years, but have not attended the past few years since they have started the construction of the Church on the lot referred to above.

I know from my own personal knowledge that since the year 1925, there has been no educational, charitable or religious uses made of the lot described in the deed referred to above up until about three years ago when certain parties began building a concrete block Church on the lot.

Robert Bearden  
Robert Bearden.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 28 day of February, 1957.



L. E. Shaw  
Notary Public.  
Justice of the Peace

State of Alabama, Shelby County  
I, L. C. Walker, Judge of Probate hereby certify that the within Deed was filed in this office for record the 1  
day of March 1957 at 8 o'clock A.M., and recorded in Deed Record 185 Page 205 & examined 1  
26-37 and the Mortgage Tax of \$ 1.25 Deed Tax of \$ 1.00 has been paid.  
L. C. Walker Judge of Probate