

SHELBY COUNTY

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Marble L. Martin, who, being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

My name is Marble L. Martin and I am 71 years old and I reside in Calera, Shelby County, Alabama. During the last 60 years I have been intimately acquainted with the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 24, Range 13 East in Shelby County, Alabama. When I was one year old my parents moved to within one-quarter of a mile of the above described land to live and after that I lived and resided within one-quarter of a mile of the above described land for the next 54 years of my life. Since then I have never lived more than two miles away from said land.

I know that sometime prior to the year 1888 John Seale acquired title to and owned this land and that in the year 1888 the said John Seales conveyed this land to his son, George W. Seales, by warranty deed. When I first came to know this land the said George Seales owned it and was living on it and raising his family there. I know that said George W. Seale owned and was living on and was in the peaceable possession of the above described land at the time of his death which took place about 46 years ago. So far as I know George W. Seale died without a Will. I was well acquainted with him and all members of his family and I know that at his death George W. Seale left surviving him as his sole heirs at law and next of kin his widow, Doll Seale, and three sons, namely, Tom Seale, Lee Seale and George Seale, and one daughter, Nonnie Seale who married Frank Shaw. All of these next of kin are now dead. Nonnie Shaw had more than one child but the only one I know is named Bill Shaw and he lives somewhere in the vicinity of Sylacauga, Alabama, at the present time according to my information.

After the death of George Seale his widow and at least one child continued to reside on the above land as their homestead for several years and they later moved away from this land and the house burned. Later the George W. Seale heirs and next of kin failed to pay the tax on the above land and it was sold at tax sale and they never did redeem this land from the tax sale and they were not in possession of the land any more after the tax sale. This land wasn't worth very much with the house burned off of it and that is the main reason the Seale heirs did not redeem the land from the tax sale and continue to assess and pay taxes thereon. John W. Hawkins acquired title to this land through or as the result of the tax sale and he went into active possession of this land and this land was known as the John W. Hawkins land. John W. Hawkins conveyed this land to Nellie Hawkins Barksdale in 1947 and later that year she conveyed this land to J.F. Oates, Ellie H. Oates and Virginia Oates Watson, who quitclaimed the land to Vinnie Clark in 1949 and the day after she bought it Vinnie Clark conveyed this land to Olon Belcher Lumber Company, Incorporated. I know that since March 30, 1949, Olon Belcher Lumber Company, Incorporated, has been in the actual, active, peaceable, adverse, undisputed, exclusive, open, notorious and continuous possession of all of said N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12 openly claiming to own and owning the title thereto and there has been no dispute of their title. I know that since they have had this land in their possession Olon Belcher Lumber Company, Incorporated, have cut and removed some of the timber from this land and this took place 3 or 4 years ago..

I am also familiar with the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 24, Range 14 East, Shelby County, Alabama. I first came to know this land about 50 years ago and at that time it was owned by a man by the name of Alfred V. Holm who built a house on the land and lived on it several years. Later on Alfred V. Holms failed to pay the tax on this land and it sold at tax sale in 1921 and J.C. Scoggins bought the land in at said tax sale and the Probate Judge gave him a tax sale deed to this land in the year 1926. Scoggins owned this land for several years but I do not know what Scoggins did with the land. I never heard Scoggins title to this land to ever be disputed in any manner and I do know that he peaceably occupied and claimed title to this land for several years until he sold it but I do not know who he sold it to. Olon Belcher Lumber Company, Incorporated, bought this land and went into the actual possession of it in 1949 and since then they have owned this land and have been in the exclusive and adverse possession of it.

John W. Hawkins owned and was in the actual, adverse, undisputed, exclusive and continuous possession of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 24, Range 13 East, Shelby County, Alabama, from the time he bought it in 1938 until he conveyed it to Nellie Hawkins Barksdale in the year 1947.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of January, 1957.

State of Alabama, Shelby County

Notary Public

I, L. C. Walker, Judge of Probate hereby certify that the within and recorded in Book 187 Page 127 & examined 23 day of May 1957 and the Mortgage Fee of \$ 1.20 and the Deed Tax of \$ 1.20 has been paid.