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Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL  
02/15/1977 11:27:34 AM FILED/CERT

STATE OF ALABAMA )

SHELBY COUNTY )

Before me, the undersigned authority, in and for said County and State, personally appeared OSCAR LEE DERAMUS, who, being known to me and being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

My name is Oscar Lee Deramus. I am 74 years of age. I have been familiar with the occupation, use and possession of the hereinafter described property for a period in excess of 50 years, to-wit:

5 acres in a square in SouthEast corner of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 4, Township 22, Range 2 West, 5 acres, in Shelby County, Alabama.

I came to Shelby County in 1925 and at that time, Emma and Will Drake were living on the above property. In 1939 the property sold for its taxes to E. L. M. Wallace. E. L. M. Wallace never moved onto the property. In fact, Will and Emma Drake continued to live on the same continuously. Later in 1939 E. L. M. Wallace made a deed to Will Drake and wife, Emma Drake. There was a house located on the above property at that time as I previously stated, and Will Drake and Emma Drake were actually living in the house on the above described property when they got the deed from E. L. M. Wallace. Emma and Will Drake continued to live on the property first above described, occupying the house on the property, farming and gardening portions of the property, and claiming the same against the entire world. This continued uninterrupted up until the time of Will Drake's death a year or two after they got the deed in 1939. After Will Drake died, his widow, Emma Drake, continued to live on the first above described property, farming portions of the same and living in the house located on the same continuously, uninterrupted, for each and every year up until about 2 or 3 years ago when Emma Drake became ill and had to move to Birmingham with her daughter. From the time she moved out of the house situated on the property, it has been occupied continuously and exclusively by persons renting from Emma Drake. There have never been any disputes whatsoever, concerning the occupation, ownership, use or possession of said property, and since 1939 no other person, firm or corporation has been in possession of said property or any part thereof, with the exception of Will Drake and Emma Drake. A portion of the first above described property was conveyed to Dorothy Merritte in May, 1976 by deed recorded in Deed Book 298, page 851.



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Will Drake died without leaving a last will and testament, and on May 3, 1976 his only heirs were: Emma Drake, his widow; Jessie Prince, Millie Scott, Willie Drake, Leroy Drake, and also, Geneva Drake King, L. C. Drake and Lucille Drake Kirkland, who were children of Cooper Drake, who died intestate.

DOROTHY S. DERRITTE

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 12 day of February, 1977.

Nancy K. Farmer  
Notary Public

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
SHELBY COUNTY )

Before me, the undersigned authority, in and for said County and State, personally appeared DOROTHY MERRITTE, who, being known to me and being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

I am the grantee in that certain deed from heirs of Will Drake to Dorothy Merritt dated May 3, 1976 recorded in Deed Book 298, page 851 in Probate Records of Shelby County, Alabama. In said deed my name is listed as Dorothy "Merritt"; the "e" was inadvertently left off my last name; however, I am one and the same person as the Dorothy "Merritt" named as said grantee in said deed, and said property does not lie in the city limits of any municipality.

Dorothy Merritt

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 15th day of February, 1977.

Lance Brasher  
Notary Public

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
SHELBY COUNTY )  
NOTARIAL PUBLIC FILED

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Thomas C. Brasher, Jr.  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Rec. 300  
Ind. 1.00  
\$4.00