

STATE OF ALABAMA

TUSCUMBIA COUNTY

Personally appeared before me the undersigned authority for and in the said County and said State, Albert L. Gedd of 311 South Washington Street, Tuscumbia, Alabama, who being by me first duly sworn deposes and says that he is a resident of Tuscumbia, Alabama, and that on August 28, 1943, he with several other persons, namely, Simon White, Louise Johnson, Minnie M. Johnson, Inesta Handy and Alfonsa Merritt were seated in the front room of Inesta Handy's home located at the corner of South Commons Street Tuscumbia, Alabama. Affiants further aver that about 2:30 p.m. four officers came up to the house, namely, G. W. Goodwin, Chief of Police, Tuscumbia, Alabama, J. W. Patrick, a Mr. Meadows, chief of the Muscle Shoals city police force and Mr. Smith of the A.B.C. Board of Florence, Alabama. One of the officers stated as they came up, "What have you got there", to which Mrs. Handy replied, "Nothing". Then one of the officers found some whiskey and asked, "Who will claim the whiskey", Mrs. Handy replied, "It is in my house so it is mine". The officers continued searching, two of the officers went to the back of the house, I came through the house, Alfonsa Merritt had also come around to the back of the house, the officers were probing around outside in the yard, then Alfonsa asked Mrs Handy if she had a pick so these men could use it, she stated that she did not have a pick, then one of the officers asked Alfonsa, What did he say and Alfonsa repeated his statement. Officer Patrick then ordered Merritt to shut up. Mrs. Handy told Merritt to come into the house, as he started into the house Mr. Patrick approached him and slapped him and staggered him backward, as he came forward gaining his balance without anything further Mr. Patrick shot him in the stomach, and while he lay on the ground struck him twice with his gun then kicked him and told him he he guess he would shut up now. Mr. Patrick then left and said he was going to call Bruce Thompson Undertaking Company, but the Undertaker never came. He refused to allow us to pick Alfonsa up off the ground, he lay there about thirty-five (35) minutes.

Officer Meadows was standing at the back of the house where he could see the shooting, the other officers were not present. Alfonsa did not have a knife or any other weapon nor did he attempt to strike the officer or abuse or curse him in any way. While Alfonsa was on the ground he raised up and stated, "You all tell the truth, for I have done nothing nor said nothing to this man." Alfonsa died the next day about 8:00 p.m.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 6th day  
of November, 1943

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NOTARY PUBLIC