

EXHIBIT "B."

Affidavit of Walter Ward.

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
County of Lincoln:

Walter Ward being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is Walter Ward. I am 36 years of age, am married and have a wife living at Elaine, Arkansas. Prior to this trouble at Elaine I lived on Dr. Cruse's place. I am now confined in the State Penitentiary on the State Farm, at Cummins, Arkansas, on a plea of guilty for murder in the second degree for the killing of Clinton Lee, for which I was not guilty. I was arrested on Friday after the trouble started, kept at Elaine until Monday when I was taken to jail at Helena. A short time after I had been in jail they told me that I had to testify against Frank Moore, Frank Hicks and these other men. I told them I didn't know anything against these men. They told me that I did and that I had to tell it. I refused to tell a lie on these men and they sent me back to jail, later they took me out in another — where they stripped me and whipped me with a rubber strap that had lead or copper placed in it that cut me. Every lick he would hit me would cut the blood out. I do not know how many licks I was hit, but I do know that they nearly killed me. I was also put in an electric chair, stripped naked and the current turned on to shock and frighten me. They also put up my nose some kind of strangling drugs to further torture and frighten me. So the third time they took me out I agreed to testify to anything they wanted me to say. They had it all written out what they said others had testified to and told me that I knew it and that I had to tell it. So in order to save further punishment I agreed to testify and did testify as I was reported in the record in the case against Frank Moore and others. What I said in that case was absolutely untrue. I testified that they had guns at their meeting when I joined it, which was untrue. If anybody had guns I didn't see them. I testified that Paul Hall came to my house and woke me up and that I was to go over to Frank Moore's house, that I went by and got Ed Hicks, that I got a gun after I got over there from Frank Moore, a 32 Smith & Wesson; that Frank Moore lined us up two deep and marched us away; that all of the negroes had guns; that we went on across the field and up to where there was some white folks at the house and some of us went across the railroad and that Frank Hicks made two shots in the dirt road, shot up toward Dr. Richardson's house, the McCoy house, north, all of which was absolutely false.

I now state the truth to be that I was not at Frank Moore's house and that we didn't gang up there, a great crowd of us, and that we didn't march away and that we didn't all have guns, and that Frank Hicks didn't fire any shots up the road to my knowledge and that I know nothing about any of the matters as to which I

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testified. I testified as I did only because I was beaten and tortured and compelled to do so. Nobody knows except the men who tortured me, and myself and the others there in jail with me how badly I was treated. A great many other- suffered a like fate. They would take the men out and whip them, we could hear the licks and when the men would come back they would be bleeding all over. I was also indicted for the killing of Clinton Lee, and was told that if I did not plead guilty I would be sent to the electric chair and in order to save myself further torture and to save my life I plead guilty to murder in the second degree, and was sentenced to 21 years in the penitentiary. I was not guilty. I did not fire a single shot in all the trouble that occurred down there. All I knew was that the negroes were trying to keep out of the way of the white people, as we had been told the white folks were going to kill all the negroes. I still have the scars on me now where they beat me to prove that I am telling the truth about being whipped.

(Signed)

WALTER WARD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of May, 1921.

[SEAL.]

(Signed)

J. H. ALBRIGHT,

Notary Public.

My com. exp. April 25, 1925.

EXHIBIT "B" (2nd Page).

Affidavit of George Green.

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
County of Lincoln:

George Green being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is George Green. I am now 22 years of age, and am confined in the State Penitentiary on a convict farm at Cummins, Arkansas. I am the same George Green who testified for the State in the case of the State of Arkansas vs. Frank Hicks, who was tried on November 3, 1919, in the Phillips Circuit Court, on a charge of murder in the first degree for having killed Clinton Lee. On that trial I testified that Frank Hicks was at the lodge meeting on Thursday night before this trouble came up on the following Tuesday and had his gun there. I also testified that everybody I saw had guns there. I further more testified that on Wednesday I took my shot gun and went over to Frank Moore's house a little before day light and that there were about thirty people there sitting around, all of them had guns, and that about 10 or 11 o'clock there were about seventy-five there and we all left including the defendant, Frank Hicks, and marched away with Frank Moore in command to go over towards the place where we heard shooting; and that when we crossed the railroad and had gotten in the public road Frank Hicks fired two shots, and that when he went to shoot the second time I threw up my hands, and says, "Boys don't shoot;" that he shot straight up the road towards McCoy's house, which was north;

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that he shot in the direction of some automobiles, and that after that I went home.

I now state and swear positive, that the testimony was false from beginning to end, and that I testified as I did because I was compelled to do so. I furthermore state that I was not at Hoop Spur on the night the trouble started, and that the first I knew about it was the next day when I heard that the white folks were down in that country to kill out all us negroes, and that I did nothing except to keep out of the way. I was arrested on Saturday after the trouble started on Tuesday, was taken to Helena, placed in jail and kept in close confinement until court met. Shortly after I was taken to Helena I was taken out of jail and into a room where three men examined me. I do not know who these men were, but they told me I had to testify against Frank Hicks. They would ask me questions, and I told them I didn't know anything about the matter and they would curse me, abuse me, telling me I did know, that I had to tell it, and that if I didn't tell they would kill me. I was not whipped, but a great many of the negroes there in jail with me were whipped. They would take a man out of the jail and into an adjoining room and we could hear the licks as they whipped him, and when they would bring the man back blood would be running from him. A great many men were taken out and whipped and would be brought back in such a condition that they were unable to walk. They would be dragged back to the cell door and dumped into the cell and left for the other prisoners to take care of them. Knowing how these negroes had been treated and knowing that if I did not do what they told me to do that I would be punished as they were, and in order to avoid such punishment I finally agreed to testify to anything that they wanted me to say. So they told me what I had to say just as I testified to it in the trial, and when I was called as a witness I did what they told me to do. At the same time I was indicted for the murder of Clinton Lee, and they told me that if I would testify against Frank Hicks and then plead guilty, that they would get the court to make it light on me. I later plead guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary. What I testified to against Frank Hicks was untrue. He did not fire the shots that killed Clinton Lee or anybody else at any time that I was with him. I was not guilty of having anything to do with the killing of Clinton Lee or anybody else, and I only testified as I did because I was compelled to.

(Signed)

GEORGE GREEN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of May, 1921.

[SEAL.]

(Signed)

J. H. ALBRIGHT,
Notary Public.

My Commission Expires April 25, 1925.

Endorsed: Filed Sept. 21, 1921. Sid. B. Redding, Clerk.

EXHIBIT "C."

Affidavit of John Jefferson.

STATE OF ARKANSAS,
County of Lincoln:

John Jefferson being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is John Jefferson. I am 30 years of age, and am now confined in the State Penitentiary, on the State Farm at Cummins, Arkansas, on a sentence to a plea of guilty for murder in the second degree for the killing of Clinton Lee. I first refused to plead guilty, because I was not guilty. I had nothing to do with the killing of Clinton Lee, and know nothing about who killed him. I was taken back to jail and told that if I didn't plead guilty that I would be sent to the electric chair, so they took me back to court again and I plead guilty and they gave me five years. I plead guilty to save my own life. I had lived at Elaine three years prior to this trouble there. I joined the union on Friday night before the trouble on Tuesday night. This was the only meeting I ever attended. I saw no guns at that meeting and I had no gun myself. I was arrested on Friday following out in the field picking cotton. They took me to Elaine and kept me there until Monday when they took me to Helena and put me in jail with a large number of other negroes. While I was in jail they took a great many negroes out of the jail and whipped them. I could hear the licks and when they came back bleeding and unable to walk and all whipped to pieces, some of them were so badly beaten up that they had to crawl for several days, being unable to walk, and they would also punish them by putting strangling drugs to their noses to punish them. I heard they had an electric chair in jail but didn't see it. They took me out of jail three times and talked to me about my testimony, told me that I had to testify against Frank Hicks and Frank Moore and these other men, and that if I didn't testify against them they would do me like they did the others, beat me up. On the other trial I testified against Frank Hicks, and also Frank Moore, Ed Hicks, J. E. Knox, Ed Coleman and Paul Hall. In those cases I testified that I saw Frank Hicks fire two shots up the road toward some white gentlemen, about a quarter of a mile away, and that Frank Hicks said that he would a got that guy if it hadn't been for that horse. I didn't see Frank Hicks fire any shots at all and I didn't hear him make any such remarks. The only reason that I testified the way I did in those cases was that I was afraid that I would be beaten up if I did not do so. Before I agreed to testify as I did they took me out of jail and into a room and talked to me three times before my testimony. They told me that I had to say it, and that if I didn't do it they would beat me up as they did the others and send me to the electric chair in my own case.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this — day of May, 1921.

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Notary Public.

My Commission Expires — —, —.

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Endorsed: Filed Sept. 21, 1921. Sid. B. Redding, Clerk.

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William Wordlow

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William Wordlow, being duly sworn on oath, states:

I am now in the custody of the keeper of the Arkansas State Penitentiary, under sentence of death, on the charge of murdering W. A. Adkins. I was taken in custody by white men on or about the 1st of October, last, and was held in custody until sometime in November following when I was sentenced. I was kept in close confinement in the jail at Helena, and was not told of the charges against me until after or about the time I was indicted. There were a great many negroes, more than a hundred in the same jail with me. I was not permitted to see my friends, talk with them, or do anything towards preparing any defense. While in custody there, I was frequently taken from the cell, blindfolded, whipped and tortured to make me tell things I did not know, and furnish false information, and testify against other of the negroes. They whipped and tortured all or nearly all of the negroes in the same manner and for the same purpose. They would usually have negroes, either other prisoners or trustees about the jail, to actually do the whipping and torturing, though some white men would be present. One of the negroes they thus used, was Kid Collins, and I think another one was named Dalzell. I did not learn and did not know any of the other names. All of the other negroes knew of this whipping and torturing and the ~~purpose~~ purpose of it, and most, if not all of them, were treated in the same way. They, the officers, would tell ~~me~~ that I knew things that I did not know, and that I had to tell it or they would kill me. To escape from the torture, I finally said what they wanted me to say. When they would take us before the grand jury, if we ~~would~~ ^{did} not testify as they wanted us to, we would be taken out and tortured again, and I have many of the scars still on my body, which can be seen by anybody who desires to see them. I was taken from the jail up into the court room to testify against Ed Ware, about

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the killing of W. A. Adkins, and other matters, and probably against one or two others. I was so bothered and so overcome that I cannot recollect with certainty. I know that I testified against Ware and that what I so testified, was not true, it was false, and I would have so testified, if I had not been forced to. All that I said against him or against any one else, was forced. I do not know of any negro who killed or advised or encouraged the killing of either Mr. Adkins, Mr. Lee, Mr. Tappan or any one else, and would not have voluntarily testified that I did. As I was taken to the court-room, I was given to understand that if I did not testify as they had directed, I would be killed.

Witness to mark:

J. R. Booker

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of
December 1919. J. R. Booker, Notary Public

Seal

My commission expires Jan. 31st 1923

Endorsed:

Filed Dec. 20 1919

A. G. Burke, Clerk.

Affidavit of Alf Banks

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Alf Banks, Jr. being first duly sworn, on his oath, says:

I am a negro. I was living in Phillips County, Arkansas, up to the 1st of October 1919, when I was arrested and thereafter kept in custody, until after I was sentenced to death, on a charge of murdering W. A. Adkins. I was then sent to the State Penitentiary for execution and am now in the custody of the keeper of the Penitentiary. I was never told of the charge against me, until I was indicted. I was put in the County jail at Helena and kept there in close confinement, with no opportunity to see or confer with anyone about my defense. A large number of negroes, a hundred or more were held in custody there with me during all that time. I was frequently whipped with great severity, and was also put into an electric chair and shocked, and strangling drugs would be put to my nose to make me tell things against others, that they had killed or shot at some of the white people and to force me to testify against them. I had not seen anything of the kind, and so told them, at first; but they kept on, and tortured me so that I finally told them falsely that what they wanted me to say was true and that I would testify to it. They would have me blindfolded when torturing me. Once, they took me up stairs, put a rope around my neck, having me blindfolded, pulled on the rope, and one of them said, "Don't knock the trick out yet, we can make him tell," or words to that effect. That feeling that they would kill him, he agreed to tell what they wanted him to. That they would go over it and tell him that he knew that was so, and that he had to tell it. During the trials, at one or two of them, they took me from the jail to the Court-room to testify against them; I think it was the trial of Joe Fox and Albert Giles, and I think also against one or two others. As they were taking me to the court room, they told me if I changed my testimony or did not testify ~~as~~ as I had said, when they took me back, they would skin me alive. I testified as I had told them in the

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same way they had made me tell, as near as I could. It was not true; it was false. This whipping and torturing was known generally among the negroes there in custody, and it was known what it was for, to make testify. I know that they so whipped and tortured a great many of them. But cannot say that they whipped them quite all. The used negroes they had in or about the jail to do most of the whipping, but some white men would be present. One of the Negroes who did part of the torturing was Kid Collins, who seemed to be a trustee about the jail. Many of the scars from this torturing are still upon my body. I would ~~have~~ never have testified falsely as I did if I had not been made to do it.

Witness to mark:
J. R. Booker

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 18th day of December
1919. Seal J. R. Booker, Notary Public

My commission expires Jan. 31st 1923.

Endorsed:

Filed December 20th 1919.

A. G. Barker, Clerk

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