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AFFIDAVIT OF IRA R. LAWSON.

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS :
 : ss.
 County of Berkshire :

ROBERT VALENTINE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he resides at New Lebanon, New York. That on the 2nd day of September, 1895, and on the 18th day of February, 1891, and at all times between said dates, he, the said Robert Valentine and Benjamin Gates, were Trustees for the Society for Shakers of Mt. Lebanon, and that during and at said times there was no other Trustees for this said Society. That he is acquainted with the customs and practices of said Society, and with its manner of transacting business, and especially with the practices observed by it in the purchase, sale and transfers of real estate. That the approbation of the Ministry and Elders, to any and all purchases, sales or transfers of real estate is always obtained prior to such purchase, sales or transfers of real estate, the Ministry and Elders of said Society are consulted by the said Trustees, and the approval of the said Ministry and Elders is requested. If the prospective purchase or sale meets with the approval of said Ministry and Elders, they verbally signify their approbation and the purchase, sale or transfer of real estate in question is then consummated by the Trustees. The said approbation is and always has been given verbally, in no set form of words, and in the most informal manner. No special meeting is held by the Ministry and Elders, nor are any resolutions of any nature whatsoever, passed by the said Ministry or Elders, prior to signifying their said approbation. The matter is discussed with the Members of the Ministry and Elders individually, and their approbation is given in the course of said discussion with the Trustees. No records are kept of the purchases and sales or transfers of real estate made by the Trustees, nor is any record kept of the proceeds realized

from such sales.

On September 2, 1885, there was conveyed to deponent and said Benjamin Gates, as such Trustees, the premises known as No. 236 West Sixteenth Street, in the City of New York, State of New York. This purchase was made with the approbation of the Ministry and Elders of the said Society, and said approbation was obtained verbally as above set forth and pursuant to the said custom of said Society. On February 18th 1891, deponent and said Benjamin Gates, sold the said premises to one Jennie Mitchell, the sale being made by deponent and Gates as Trustees for said Society. That prior to making said sale, the approbation of the Ministry and Elders of the said Society to which said proceeds belonged on such sale. No record was kept by said Society of said sale, but deponent states that such sale was not made until the expressed verbal approbation of the said Ministry and Elders was obtained.

The practice heretofore set forth prevails in said Society today and has prevailed at all times hereinabove mentioned in the purchase, sale or transfer of any real property by said Society.

That at the time of the purchase of the above mentioned premises by the Trustees of said Society, neither of said Trustees was a member of the Society of Friends or of more than one Society of Shakers, nor were either of said Trustees members of the Society of Friends, or more than one Society of Shakers at the time of said sale of said real property to said Jennie Mitchell. That the said Society was not at any time of the times hereinbefore mentioned beneficially interested in real or personal property, the clear or net annual income of which exceeded \$25,000 or equalled said sum.

That at the time of the said sale of said real estate to said Jennie Mitchell, the Ministry of said Society consisted of Daniel Boler, Giles B. Avery, Harriet Bullard and Ann

Taylor, while Calver Reed was the only Elder.

Of these, Daniel Boler died about nine years ago. Giles B. Avery died in the year 1890. Ann Taylor died in about the year 1898 and Calver Reed died about four or five years ago.

The present Ministry is composed of Joseph Holden at present in Shirley, Massachusetts; Ira R. Lawson, who resides at West Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Harriet Bullard who resides at New Lebanon, New York, and Augusta Stone, who resides at New Lebanon, New York.

The elders at present are Timothy D. Rayson, who resides at New Lebanon, New York; Julia A. Scott, who resides at New Lebanon, and Amelia J. Calver, who resides at New Lebanon, New York.

The duties of the various members of the Ministry and Elders, at all times hereinbefore mentioned were alike, there being no strict sub-division of powers or duties among the various members, but all being consulted on any important matter. The present Trustees are Levi Shaw, who resides at New Lebanon, New York, and Timothy D. Rayson, the Elder above named.

Deponent again states that prior to the conveyance of the afore mentioned real property to said Jennie Mitchell the express verbal approbation of each of the members of the then Ministry and Elders, Daniel Boler, Giles B. Avery, Harriet Bullard, Ann Taylor and Calver Reed, was obtained to the said conveyance by the said Trustees, Robert Valentine and Benjamin Gates. The said premises had previously been purchased with property belonging to the said Society, and the proceeds of the said sale were paid to the said Society.

That heretofore and in or about the year 1897, said Society sold certain real estate to one Whitney, in October

Mountain, Berkshire Hills, Massachusetts, and said sale was made by the Trustees for said Society with only the verbal approbation of the Ministry and Elders of the said Society to said transaction.

Sworn to before me this :
day of 190 :

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION.

This is to certify that we, Joseph Holden, Ira R. Lawson, Harriet Bullard and Augusta Stone, composing the Ministry of the Society of Shakers of Mount Lebanon, and we, Timothy D. Rayson, Julia A. Svott and Anelia J. Calver, the Elders of the Society of Shakers of Mount Lebanon, have consented and given our approbation, and we do hereby consent and give our approbation to the execution by Levi Shaw and Timothy D. Rayson, trustees for the Society of Shakers of Mount Lebanon, of a quit claim deed of premises known as No. 236 West Sixteenth Street, Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, to one James F. Crossen and we hereby ratify, confirm and give our approbation to the conveyance of the said premises to one Jennie Mitchell, heretofore and on the 18th. day of February, 1891, executed by Benjamin Gates and Robert Valentine, trustees for the Society of Shakers of Mount Lebanon, the deed of which is recorded in Register's Office of N. Y. in Liber 1, Section 3, C. P. 392.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this day of 1905.

In the presence of:

(L.S.)
(L.S.)
(L.S.)
(L.S.)
(L.S.)
(L.S.)
(L.S.)