

1 Statement of: Joey Samples (JS)

2 Ref: Isaac Dawkins

3 Officer: Asst. Chief Bill Shiflett (BS)

4

5 BS: My name is Bill Shiflett, Floyd County Police Department - 'day's date is uh, 13th  
6 day of October of 2000 - time is approximately 5:11 PM - state your name for the record please.

7 JS: Joey Samples.

8 BS: Will you speak up for me a little bit more Joey.

9 JS: Joey Samples.

10 BS: And where do you live Joey?

11 JS: 101 Wooten Drive.

12 BS: And your telephone number.

13 JS: It's 295-4586.

14 BS: Okay, um, Joey if you would - if - if you'll start from the beginning uh, and take  
15 me back when you was in the Floyd County Jail and you was in the uh, same cell block as a - a  
16 gentlemen by the name of Mark Free - are you familiar with Mark?

17 JS: Yes sir.

18 BS: Okay, uh, would you just in your own words, tell me the conversation that you had  
19 with Joey and about approximately what date -- not Joey, but Mark -- uh, about what date it was  
20 and - and what time of the night it was, just in your own words just tell me the whole story.

21 JS: Okay, we's in - in the Floyd County Jail, I don't remember the date I know it was  
22 back in February - and uh, Mark came into the jail and when he came into the jail he unpacked all

3 his things and came to me, said he wanted to talk to me -- and I asked him I said, you want talk  
24 now - he said, no not he wanted talk later - and I said okay I said just come talk to me later when  
25 everything died down everything -- so I guess about a hour after lock down he came down I was  
26 down in my bed dozing off and woke me up and said he wanted to talk - I said okay so we went  
27 to the steps sat down and talk - then he said something been bothering him he can't sleep and  
28 everything - so I said what's been bothering you and he said you promise you won't tell and I said  
29 no I won't, I won't tell you know - he said we went to school together so he trust me - I said well  
30 go ahead tell me what you gotta tell me and then uh, he said uh, the murder of Isaac Dawkins was  
31 bothering him - I said why did this - why is it bothering you did you do it - and then he said, well I  
32 can't tell you if I did it or if I didn't do it - I said well if it's bothering you I said you must a did it  
33 - then he said, no I'm not saying that - I said, well if you didn't do it I said you must know  
34 something about it - then he said yeah - I said, so what you know about it and then uh, he said,  
35 well I know what happened, I know who killed him - and then so he got to telling me that uh, him  
36 and Joey - got to telling me about he was - Joey was upset about the girlfriend 'bout Isaac - it was  
37 Joey's girlfriend but he said Isaac took her so that made him upset and so they had uh, said  
38 some'em about killing some dogs and then he said uh, the reason why he want to come to the  
39 police because the police knew that he was a sharp shooter in the military so that he didn't uh,  
40 they know that he could shoot on the move or being still - so I said, well uh, if you didn't do it  
41 why don't you go to the police and tell the police about it - he said, well I'm not saying that I  
42 didn't do it and I'm not saying that I did do it - I said, well if it's bothering you I said you gotta  
43 do something -- and then uh, he just kept talking about how him and Joey they - they -- it was  
44 some kind a plan they had came up with a plan but he wouldn't really go into it - he just saying he

45 is not gonna tell me if he did it or didn't do it 'cause he's not gonna incriminate his self -- but I  
46 kept asking him did you do it - and then he'll say I'm not gonna tell you - but then he - he was  
47 talking about having some other girl that was talking too much - they's talking about having her  
48 knocked off and killed.

49 BS: When you talking 'bout this girl, did they - did they mention a name?

50 JS: Yeah they mentioned the name Brianne - I 'member that name.

51 BS: Alright, what - what exact words did - did he use about harming her - was it --

52 JS: Well I asked him I said, well who - I said is they anybody out there that's talking  
53 they kinda know that you did it -- and then uh, he said well there's this girl name Brianne she just  
54 keep talking a lot and he said, we fixing to have to do something about her talking - and I said oh,  
55 okay -- and then when I asked him questions like - like that question I ask him did she know ya'll  
56 did it - then he wouldn't say like I didn't do it he'd say somebody out there have a hint that we  
57 did it -- but then all the time he still told me well I didn't do it - I - I'm not gonna tell you if I did  
58 it or didn't do it you know ss- but he did tell me they had something to do with it - that they had a  
59 good alibi for that night.

60 BS: Tell me about the alibi - what - did he say anything about that - did he say -- just  
61 tell me, if you can remember in detail wording what he said about alibi - you know mention any  
62 other names or anything like that.

63 JS: Uh, he was telling me Joey did it - owns a - a car lot or something like that - some  
64 kind a Watkins Auto Sale - has something to do with it -- and he said they could a said that they  
65 was doing something for him - and he said but he got - he said for his self, he said he have a sweet  
66 alibi on the night that it happened.

57 BS: He said he had a sweet alibi - did he tell you what that alibi was?

68 JS: He wouldn't go into details with it.

69 BS: Alright he - did he - so he told you about Joey Watkins, is that the name he said,  
70 Joey Watkins?

71 JS: Um-hum, Joey.

72 BS: And he also talked about the car lot.

73 JS: Car lot, yeah he told me about a car lot.

74 BS: Okay, um, tell me more about the dog uh, what brought up the dog - (inaudible)

75 JS: He was telling me (inaudible) - he said uh, well uh, - how did he say it -- he said  
76 they had - they had got into it or something and the first thing they ever done to him was kill the  
77 dog, something.

78 BS: Isaac Dawkins' dog, is that --

79 JS: Um-hum.

80 BS; did he tell you it was Isaac's dog they killed?

81 JS: He said they killed - 'cause it was Isaac they were talking about the girlfriend and  
82 everything - he said they killed - he said that Isaac wouldn't fight 'em or something, so they killed  
83 the dog.

84 BS: Did he say how they killed it or where they killed it at or --

85 JS: I don't know they says -- I 'member that's what I kept -- I 'member some about he  
86 said some'em about they had found some shells from where he- they would shoot -- something  
87 like that, I couldn't - it's been a while, I couldn't - it - I had forgot about the whole thing.

88 BS: Um-hum.

9 JS: But I know they kept talking 'bout some shells - police found some shells  
90 something like that and they didn't know if they hand prints -- I don't know, some kind a crazy  
91 stuff.

92 BS: Did -- did Mark ever say anything about the plan to kill Isaac uh, or how it was  
93 done - did he ever say how many shots were fired or where the killing took place at - at all?

94 JS: Trying to think - I 'member him saying - trying to think what he had said -- uh, it  
95 was something about -- you know what I can't even remember but I - I know something was said  
96 about the shooting 'cause I asked him about - I was telling him, I said somebody had to be pretty  
97 accurate to hit him like that from behind and uh, he had commented about - he had said something  
98 about it and I couldn't remember -- that's what - that's what end up to the message about the dog  
99 and the shells 'cause he had some'em about a shooting and I said well somebody had to be pretty  
100 accurate to shoot that man and I said so the police can look at your back ground and he was  
101 telling me he know 'cause he was in the service - he - in the service he was a sharp shooter and I  
102 said well uh, somebody had to be pretty good to hit that man from behind and kill him like that --  
103 'cause he was telling me something about that night how - what in the world, what did he say --

104 BS: Just take ye time uh, just - just kinda relax and --

105 JS: I'm trying - let's see -- no what it was, I said -- I said well whoever killed him  
106 could a been in the car with him - and he said, no they wouldn't in the car with him - I said well  
107 how you know they wouldn't in the car with him -- he said, 'cause I know -- I said, no I said - the  
108 way they was talking about the boy getting shot I said the police - I said uh, some people said that  
109 they heard somebody already been out there shooting that night before and I said, so they either  
110 had to -- I said it could a been a accident or somebody could a jumped in the car intending to rob

11 him or shoot - he said nah it - he said, wouldn't nobody in the car with him and wouldn't nobody  
112 shooting that night -- he said, uh, they could a used it as a alibi for somebody shooting in the air  
113 making it seem like people shooting at night, he said but wouldn't nobody in the car with Isaac --  
114 I said how you know wouldn't nobody in the car uh, I said you must a been the one that shot him  
115 -- he said, I just know for sure wouldn't nobody in the car with him - he said, he was shot from  
116 behind -- I said so you're sure -- I said so what you telling me is that couldn't nobody jumped in  
117 the car and uh, been in the back seat and shot him and then the car went into the ditch or  
118 whatever it went - the guy -- he said, no he said wouldn't nobody in the car with him -- I said,  
119 okay -- and then he felt that I was asking too many questions - he dropped it -- said I'll talk to  
120 you tomorrow.

121 BS: He's wanting to talk about it yet he felt you's asking too many questions.

22 JS: Questions, um-hum.

123 BS: 'Kay, did uh, so the implication you got uh, when he's talking about nobody's in  
124 the car with him - it's um, more or less like he knew.

125 JS: Yeah, he knew what -- I know for sure that he know what happened, he know the  
126 whole thing - because he would - he would wanna go into it but then he'll catch his self going in  
127 too deep - like talking about Joey and everything like the car lot and everything -- see when we -  
128 that's how I found out about the car lot and 'bout the dog 'cause I's going on with him into a  
129 conversation -- and that's how I end up finding out about the dog 'cause Moser like how you  
130 know about the dog and everything - I said well this his words to me, telling me.

131 BS: You told who that?

132 JS: Moser.

133 BS: You told Moser about the dog.

134 JS: Dog, yeah.

135 BS: Okay.

136 JS: 'Cause you know, he didn't expect for me to know you know.

137 BS: So you've talked to Jim Moser before, is that correct?

138 JS: Yes sir.

139 BS: At the Rome Police - I mean at the - at the jail?

140 JS: Right.

141 BS: Okay, did you tell him this story also?

142 JS: Um-hum, told him the story also.

143 BS: Okay, um, do you believe in your heart that uh, Mark Free had some'em do with  
144 the - with the murder of Isaac Dawkins?

145 JS: Yeah I know for sure that he had something to do with it - I couldn't say that --  
146 that he did it but I know you could look at - you could look at somebody and they can look at  
147 you and you can tell that they did it 'cause the next 30 or 45 days I was up there he wasn't  
148 resting, every time the doors popped he jumping up -- then when he brought the -- the bulletin  
149 sheet in there he went off the -- he went crazy, he thought --

150 BS: What is a bulletin sheet, I don't understand.

151 JS: It got Daw-- ain't they a reward for him?

152 BS: Uh-huh.

153 JS: And then see he was only in there like a day before they brought this sheet in there  
154 so he thought well oh they catching on to me -- that's what he told me, he said they -- they fixing

JS start messing with me.

156 BS: Okay, wait just a second now - let me - let me back up, alright who brought the  
157 bulletin in - you talking about uh, where's it's got Isaac Dawkins' picture on it --  
158 JS: Picture on it, right --  
159 BS: where the - the reward money.  
160 JS: reward and everything -- the Sheriff.  
161 BS: The Sheriff brought it in?  
162 JS: One of them deputies - one them deputies brought it in.  
163 BS: Alright, did they put it up some where?  
164 JS: Yeah, they put it on the wall.  
165 BS: Put it on the wall.  
56 JS: Told and us if we know about it give him a call.  
167 BS: Okay.  
168 JS: and tell one --  
169 BS: And so when that was put up, how did you say that -- that Mark --  
170 JS: That's when he came -- he came to me and said he wanted to talk.  
171 BS: That's after -- that's when he came to you.  
172 JS: And say he wanted to talk.  
173 BS: Okay, --  
174 JS: See the bulletin -- the thing on the wall start it all - he say he couldn't sleep - so he  
175 thought that they was coming - catching on to him - see what I'm saying --  
176 BS: Okay.



17 JS: said he wanted somebody talk to get it -- but then he quit - he started talking to me  
178 then he got - he said I'm knowing too much, I'm asking too many questions and he said --  
179 BS: So after that bulletin put up, you said he couldn't sleep and --  
180 JS: Couldn't sleep and wanted somebody to talk to.  
181 BS: And he said that they gone be co-- that they gone be coming after me - is that his  
182 words?  
183 JS: Yeah, he said, they gone be coming after me they think I - he said, they'll think I  
184 had something to do with it -- I said, well did you have some'em do with it and he said I'm not  
185 gonna tell you if I did if I didn't -- then that's when we start falling into all about the details -  
186 'cause he was shaken up about the bulletin -- that trip me out 'cause I say what - I say you know  
187 what you all scared about that for if you didn't do it you know -- and so I decided to go to  
188 Detective Jim Moser just 'cause of the fact that I don't believe in nobody life being taken just  
189 for--  
190 BS: So the reason you went to Detective Jim Moser is just the fact that - it wouldn't  
191 for any reward, it wouldn't for any money - is just is you felt the right thing to do, is that what  
192 you're saying.  
193 JS: It was - yeah, I don't want no - I told him I didn't want no reward, I didn't want  
194 no money - I told him I'm just giving him this information to help him out and get out of it - I  
195 don't want nothing do with it.  
196 BS: Okay, um, can - can you think of anything else that I failed to ask that Stanley -  
197 you know Stanley Sutton talked to you just a few minutes ago too - that anything that - that he  
198 wanted you to relate - can you think of anything else this - in this conversation that you had with

9 Mark that I would need to know?

200 JS: Ummm, that's about it - he just say he wanted to get out a jail um, 'cause as long  
201 as he's in jail he couldn't get all this stuff off a him - and he say he just wanted to get outta jail so  
202 him and Joey could get this thing straightened out.

203 BS: So him and Joey could get it straightened out - did - what'd he mean by that do  
204 you think?

205 JS: He said 'cause they's on - he said they's only two people that the police was  
206 looking at and he said uh, they just had to get everything straight - he said he had his alibi straight  
207 but he didn't know about Joey.

208 BS: When he said he had his alibi straight, do you think that - that he got somebody to  
209 make up the alibi with him or uh, what did he mean by that do you think?

0 JS: He just said that his - his alibi is -- is uh, is down pat, they can't - you'll have to  
211 take a lot to really prove that he was here when he wasn't.

212 BS: He said that?

213 JS: He just ss-- kept telling me his alibi is - a fact that they can't prove that he was  
214 there -- he said, they can't prove I was there any way my alibi is down pat, I got a good alibi.

215 BS: But in his other breath he was telling you - I ain't gone tell you I didn't do it or  
216 that I - I did do it --

217 JS: Um-hum. But he was telling me - I'm not gone tell you if I did it or if I - you  
218 know, if I didn't, he said but if it come down to that I did it I got a good alibi -- said you have to  
219 really --

220 BS: Um-hum.

221 JS: And he said, long as he up in jail he couldn't do nothing, he can't get no lawyer or  
222 nothing - is what he said.

223 BS: Did Joey ever come up to see him or did Joey ever call him at the jail or did he  
224 ever call Joey that you know of?

225 JS: Um-um- he wouldn't talk to -- he told me he wouldn't talk to Joey from up there  
226 'cause they knew they probably had the phone tapped.

227 BS: Alright, do you uh, um, -- after Jim Moser came up and talked to you - did Mark  
228 speak with you any more after that or did he --

229 JS: I was moved.

230 BS: Oh you was moved?

231 JS: Um-hum.

232 BS: Okay, alright -- Joey is anything else that you'd like to say uh, before I turn the  
233 tape recorder off?

234 JS: That's about it, I mean I -- I can't remember everything I mean it was - it was a  
235 whole bunch that he said but right now I can't remember it.

236 BS: Well would you do me a favor, would you - if you do think about it some tonight  
237 which I hope you do -- if there's anything that - that you do remember - would you please just get  
238 a piece a paper and pencil and write it down for me and --

239 JS: Um-hum.

240 BS: and uh, let us know about it.

241 JS: Yeah ain't no problem.

242 BS: Okay, alright I'm on turn the tape recorder off at this time - and the time's

roximately 5:26 PM.

BS: Okay -- okay the tape recorder's back on, it's about 5:34 PM uh, Joey we just now talking again and um, I was uh, -- I was -- we's talking -- and you said that you had told Joey that -- about some crimes or about you being in jail -- can you just relate that story to me one more time please.

JS: Yeah, I was telling about I haven't never been in jail for no violent crime or anything that I had been in jail for little penny ante stuff like writing check - bad checks and stuff like that -- I was just telling you know I want get down on no - nobody killing nobody - I told him you know it just don't bother me - then he kept telling me, he said well I can trust you can't I - I said yeah you can trust me ain't gone say nothing -- I said, but I don't get down like that - you know, 'cause I wanted him to tell me, did you do it or did you not do it you know, for me to keep talking to you about it -- and then he felt I was asking too many questions -- but the whole time they think it's -- they think it's a game because they was talking about how they had met up plenty a times and they'll see Isaac and his friends out and they go to him but he wouldn't right 'em.

BS: Isaac wouldn't fight 'em?

JS: Isaac - Isaac wouldn't fight him, you know - see what I'm saying so they - then he got to talking about the dog - about they had killed the dog and then about - when he killed - only thing I remember - I remember him saying some'em about dog got killed and that they had found some shells - some gun shells, I couldn't remember he said -- it was some'em about they had found some shells he thought his fingerprints gone be on the shells -- it was something about that

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