**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**Statement of: CYNTHIA BENNET FISHINGTON**

**Date of Birth: 10-9-47**

**Address: 23 Rockywall Drive, Sandy’s, Bermuda**

**Phone: (H) 234-0163 (W)**

**Occupation/Employer: RETIRED**

**This statement consists of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.**

**Dated the 22 day of January 2021.**

**Signed: CYNTHIA FISHINGTON**

**Signature witnessed by: CARLTON ADAMS**

**STATEMENT:**

I am the above named person and I live at the address given alone. My children are married and live elsewhere.

I am one of the children of George Darrell. My father owned land in Southampton Parish and it was a very large piece of land. My father was a pilot, he worked on the ferry. When he stopped working on the ferry, he came home and worked in the yard as a stone cutter. He also had gardens on his land. I remember that people used to steal from his gardens. I can remember from when I was a little girl how people went about stealing my father’s land. He would put povin stakes and people would take the stakes up. The people who were removing stakes put down by my father to work the boundaries of his land were Gayeous Powell the Parish vestry person and Wycliff Stovell. This happened more than once and on one occasion they pushed my father away and he pushed them back. My brothers Leroy and John both of whom have passed saw this happen and they related it back to my mother and I was next to my mother and I could hear it all. I have remembered from that time until the present it is of great importance to me.

My father was not allowed to pay tax on all of his land, they only allowed him to pay tax on a part of it. Whoever it was that was in charge of collecting taxes is who I am speaking of; this is something that my mother and father told me about.

I know that my father wanted to give E.T. Richards the lawyer, the deeds to his property to hold because people used to come to our house to search.My father found two of them in the house. They said they were lost and he took them up to Turtle Hill. When they were there they pulled a gun on him and he got away. My father decided after that to give the Deeds to the lawyer E.T. Richards to hold so that they would be safe. My mother did not want the Deeds to the land to be given to Mr. Richards but my father trusted him and gave him the Deeds to hold anyway. Mr. Richards was married to my father’s cousin and so my father trusted him.

Years later when the Hamilton Hotel burned down E.T. Richards told my father that the Deeds burnt in the fire. After that he told Gayous Powell and other people that there were no Deeds. Later on when I was an adult, I asked my father to divide the land and give each of his children a portion of it. My father did not respond to that.

There was a building on my father’s land where Heron Bay School is located. That building was used as a school for black children. This was before my fathers time. That building was donated by our family, it was on our land. There is no Proof of Permission of how the rest of the land was acquired by the Government to build Heron Bay School. That property was ours, that being my father’s property.

 **Signed: CYNTHIA FISHINGTON**

**The forgone statement was recorded by the undersigned at the Dame Lois Brown Evans Building on Court Street, Hamilton on the 22nd of January 2021 from Cynthia Bennet Fishington who is visually impared. The statement was read over to Mrs. Fishington in the presence of her daughter Judy Teart. Mrs. Fishington signed the document which was witnessed by Judy Teart.**

**Signed: CARLTON ADAMS**