**A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**INTO HISTORIC LAND LOSS**

**IN BERMUDA**

**COMMISSIONER:**

**JUSTICE JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**LOCATION: UNKNOWN**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020**

**MORNING SESSION AT 10:04 AM**

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 0:01: Counsel we are ready to begin with this matter. You may proceed

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 0:08: Very well. This morning we have two (2) witnesses. Mrs. Joanne Bernice Adams and Mr. Dwayne Disney Talbot.

I would ask that both persons are sworn. Mrs. Adams will lead off first. But I would ask that both persons are sworn, thank you.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 0:46: I should say to the two witnesses at this time, Mr. & Mrs. Adams when you speak you may take off your mask

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 0:56: Mrs. Adams and Mr. Talbot are cousins.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 1:06: Would you kindly swear Mrs. Adams

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 1:40: I, Joanne Bernice Adams Swear by Almighty God that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 1:52: Make sure that the gentleman is sworn in as well.

**DWAYNE TALBOT** 2:03: I, Dwayne Disney Talbot, Swear by Almighty God, that the evidence I shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 2:23: Thank you Mrs. Adams and Mr. Talbot.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 2:24: May I just ask for a moment, Madam Chair

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 2:28: Yes.

**DWAYNE TALBOT** 3:00: Excuse me Madam Chair, may I have some water?

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 3:50: Mrs. Joanne Bernice Adams, on the 6th of June of this year, you along with your cousin, Mr. Dwayne Disney Talbot made a claim to the Commission of inquiry. Is that correct?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 4:14: That is correct.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 4:19 And you made a claim as a descendant of Mr. John Samuel Talbot. Is that correct?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 4:27: That is correct.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 4:31: John Samuel Talbot. He was a resident of where Madam?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 4:37: Tucker’s Town

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 4:41:And in respect, what is the relation between yourself and Mr. John Samuel Talbot?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 4:50: He was my great-great grandfather.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 5:00: Do you know Mr. Dwayne Disney Talbot Who is he to you?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 5:01: Yes I do. He's my cousin, his mother and my father were first cousins.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 5:13: Now in respect of the reason that you're here today. Do you know why you are here today? Please state why you are here today

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 5:26: I'm here today to give evidence to show that John Samuel Talbot was not adequately compensated for this land, and that the whole process of the force expropriation was unjust.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 5:43 Thank you. In that regard you had given a statement to the Commission of Inquiry setting that out.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 5:51: Yes I have.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 5:53: And you also indicate in that statement, which don't rely on two documents which compass your presentation by yourself and your cousin, Mr. Talbot?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 6:06: Yes, and the exhibits

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 6:09: As well as seventeen (17) exhibits, which you wish to rely on?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 6:12: Yes,

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 6:13: I take them one at a time. Now, the statement you gave is dated the 25th of November 2020. If you see that statement, the original statement, you'd recognize it certainly.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 6:34: Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 6:35: You actually have that statement there? I have meant to ask you to let me have a look at it.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 6:34: I do

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:04: What is that there Madam?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 9:07: This is my statement of witness

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:10: And that's the statement that you had signed

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 9:13: Yes, it is.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:14: And you see your signature there?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 9:16: Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:18: I submit it as exhibit. JBA1 - Madam Chair JBA1

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 9:27**:** JBA1 Statement dated the 6th of June, 2020?

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:38: 25th November 2020, Madam Chair

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 9:51**:** Thank you, so entered.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 9:54: Now this is Mrs. Adams you also prepared a document upon which yourself and Mr. Talbot wish to rely on Submission to the Commission of Inquiry, Land Loss? That's correct. It is dated November 20 2020.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 10:19:Yes, it is. And there's a one dated November 26, 2020. I have one, dated November 20, 2020. Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 10:32: One updated dated November 26

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 10:34: November 26.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 10:38: One dated November 20. We would ask Madam Chair that it be exhibited, as Exhibit JBA2

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 11:02: Counsel is that the joint submission? And it's dated November 20, 2020

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 11:08: That is so Madam

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 11:11: And 2020. That is. Thank you. So entered.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 11:18: You also Mrs. Adams have document submission to The Commission of Inquiry Land Loss dated November 26, 2020.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 11:29: Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 11:31: You basically updated what was just Exhibit 2.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 11:36: Yes, sir.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 11:38: That document which I updated of Exhibit 2 to be submitted as Exhibit JBA3

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 12:04: So the document dated the 26th of November, 2020, which updates the exhibit one, it's now entered as Exhibit JBA3.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 12:17: Thank you Madam Chair. Now, Mrs. Adams, you also prepared a third document which comprises of 17 Exhibits upon which you wish to rely?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 12:44: Yes Counsel

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 12:50 It just has a picture of Tuckers Town dated back, on the cover page is that correct?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 12:55: Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 12:58: I would ask Madam Chair that this document, be Exhibit JBA4

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 13:13: Is it going to be for 8 thru 17, just because you say they're 17 documents

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 13:21: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am going to for each exhibit

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 13.27: Which she speaks to each one you will number it

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 13:30: I will use it, but I will use another either letter or Roman numeral two identify.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 13:37: So the document comprising of 17 Exhibits is entered as Exhibit JBA4

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 4:13: Thank you. Now Mrs. Adams in respect of your witness statement which is Exhibit JBA1, could I ask you to read for us what you have as Paragraph 4 - your witness statement.

It's dated 25th November, 2020. It is a witness statement which is JBA1

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 15:03: Paragraph 4 our claim is that our ancestor, John Samuel Talbot was not adequately compensated. And that the whole process of expropriation was unjust

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 15:13: Now, can I take you to Exhibit JBA2, which is a document you indicated that JBA2 and JBA3 three which I indicate that is a Submission to the Commission of Inquiry Land Loss dated November 20 2020, and you also indicated JBA3, document with is document with the same title was dated November 26 2020. Do you recall saying that?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 15:57: Yes

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 15:58: I was going to ask you to take us through JBA3, which is not the one day to November 26 2020 and when you are finished, you could tell us what's the difference between the document dated November 26, and the one dated November 20, 2020. Take us through the one that is November 26.

And I will intersperse with questions which you may go ahead.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 16:34: This submission is hereby presented to the Commission of Inquiry established on 31st October 2019 by the Premier, The Honorable E. David Burke J P, MP, and directed to inquire about historic losses of citizens property in Bermuda, in keeping with the mandate of the House of Assembly as expressed in this Resolution of 4th July 2014. This presentation will give evidence that has been discovered thus far by us Joanne Bernice Adams and Dwayne Talbot in regards to John Samuel Talbot. We hereby claim that he was not adequately compensated. The whole process of the forced expropriation was unjust. Who was he? Who was this John Samuel Talbot? He was a husband, a son, a brother an uncle, a father, a grandfather, a farmer, and upstanding member of the Tucker's Town community who served as a trustee for the school. He was a free black man. He was our great grandfather. John Samuel Tobin was born on November 11th 1860, Exhibit 1.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 18:02: This document that you referred to as Exhibit 1, is a Methodist Baptismal entry.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 18:24: Yes it is.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 19:13: Now, what do you have there Madam?

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 19:19: This is the Methodist Baptism taken from a book of baptism and births and deaths

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 19:33: That's fine. And that document exhibit as proof on the birthdate of John Samuel Talbot.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 19:44: Yes.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 19:46: Well, Madam Chair I would accept this document which is labeled Exhibit 1, that it is tendered and admitted as Exhibit JBA4a

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 20:11: JBA4a entered

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 20:15: You may want to continue Madam

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 20:21: He was born to James and Joanna Talbot nee Darrell - Exhibit 2

And he had 12 brothers and sisters. And Exhibit 2, shows the Methodist Groom Marriage of James Talbot to Joanna Darrell on March 8, 1849.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 20:50: I would ask that that document which is labeled as Exhibit 2, which is a Methodist Groom Marriage and I admit it as Exhibit JBA4e

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 21:19: So, we have it as JBA2 has she actually spoken to it yet?

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 21:28: She just did just prior to it in her evidence

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 21:31: Because the last one I have is JBA4a which is the Methodist Baptism Certificate.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 21:42: Now she is going on to speak of the Marriage Certificate was then entered in the Methodist Groom Marriage which has been taken from her Registry.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 22:20: That's JPA4b

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 22:24: Thank you Madam Chair

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 23:31: John Samuel Talbot wedded Rosalie Winifred Smith of Exhibit 3, also of Tuckers Town, St. Georges on June 14, 1900.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 23:45: You may proceed and will come to that after just proceed with the presentation.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 23:50: They had six children all born In Tucker's Town, Almira, Dorcas, Helen and Amy and two stillbirths. Let the record show that Dwayne Disney Talbot is the grandson of Helen Talbot, by way of his mother, Edith Claretta Talbot Usher, Helen's daughter and Joanne Bernice Adams nee Davis is the granddaughter of Amy Bernice Talbot Davis, by way of her father Eric Melvin Davis, Amy's son, Exhibit 5. James Talbot, the father of John Samuel Talbot and husband of Joanna Talbot originally purchased 103 or more acres and 11 lots of property in Tucker's Town in 1862, from the heirs of Benjamin Dickinson, Harvey. Our great grandfather, John Samuel Talbot was willed two (2) lots of land in Tucker's Town. In 1896, he received seven (7) acres of land from his father James Talbot and his mother, Joanna Tobit, left him 7.5 acres on the water side, indicated as Lot 10, originally colored brown on the map that accompanied her Will. John Samuel Talbot, therefore acquired a total of 14.5 acres of land in Tucker's Town from his parents. In 1921, John Samuel Talbot, was awarded 1000 pounds for his two pieces of property. However, records indicate that instead of receiving compensation for the full seven (7) acres his father bequeath to him, he was only compensated for five(5) acres for which he received 400 pounds. As noted in the Royal Gazette on February 24 1921, John received 600 pounds for his seven point acre waterside life. And I would just like to say there is the documentation Exhibit 9 where he received $1,000 it clearly states $1,000. And then how we found out the difference is because in a court case, the witness for the Bermuda Development Company used John's example of having received 400 pounds for five (5) acres, and that five acres would really should have been the seven (7) that he would have gotten from his father. So therefore, the balance would have been 600 pounds for the 7.5 acres that he received from his mother.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 26:45: The following evidence will exemplify the inequity inequality, prejudicial, and ad hoc manner in which awards were arbitrarily meted out. And how they Bermuda Development Company systematically removed hundreds of Bermudians from their homes, obliterating their health, welfare and livelihood. Ad hoc manner of making awards. Gosling always represented the company, i.e. from The Bermuda Development Company. Sometimes he offered straight cash, sometimes cash and land and a home elsewhere. The outcomes varied. In some cases Gosling fattened his offer and an out-of-court settlement was reached. In others, the jury improved the company's offer. This supports our theory, there was no rhyme nor reason as to how awards were determined and or issued. It was fully at the discretion of S Gordon Gosling when he visited with people, as he also served as witness for Bermuda Development Company, he had a major impact on swaying the jury, because he had all the information on what others had been offered and subsequently what they accepted.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 28:02: Conflict in use of Tucker's Town Community Land And we present this because there are so many differences depending on different people's perspectives of what Tucker's Town land was actually like, based on their views and observations. By 1900, Tucker's Town was a tightly knit isolated community. A few whites remained, but it was fundamentally a black society. There were two churches, a general store, a school, a cricket pitch, a post office and a cemetery behind the church. Boats were still being built. pigs were slaughtered, potatoes graded, vegetables were dispatched by cart to Hamilton for sale. The rhythms of life were woven through these activities, children were given the rudiments of education. This is the Tucker's Town that our great grandfather knew and was a part of. This is where he was born, his parents and their parents before them. This is where he wed Ma Talbot and she birthed his four (4) daughters of which two were our grandparents. In 1907, when The Honorable F. Godwin Gosling brought property on the point or the main, as it was called, in the day, Tucker's Town was sparsely inhabited. Less than a third of the land was arable and had little economic value. Sweet potatoes formed the principal crop and fishing the chief occupation. It appears that while there were decent folk among them in general, they were a degenerate bloods. The communal life left much to be desired inter-marriage for generations and undermine both health and morality. They were a law amongst themselves and the army of authority seem to lack power to control them. BE Talbot bought all the property for little more than a song. Talbot onions and potatoes and cash. The disrespect and contempt demonstrated by the writer in this discourse is prejudice, and more than likely represents the sentiment of much of the white population at that time toward the black population of the day. This land, which your petitioners desire to acquire, has been a little economic value to the colony and it's remained in a backward and undeveloped state for upwards of a century. Less than one third of it is arable. The remainder being chiefly rocky hills and sand dunes, it is very sparsely populated. There have been a few, far few inhabitants to the square mile than in any other part of the Colony. I would like to say that stands today in Tucker's Town there are far few residents per square mile than it is in any other part of Bermuda. The land is described by B E Talbot that stated in Royal Gazette February 11 1921. He speaks of its worth in vegetables from his property, which included his banana plantation, summer crops of melons, corn, etc., and lemons. He also sold wood and timber Comments attributed to the sale of the land however, regarding its value and assets were not considered during the purchase of the land. This allowed for the Bermuda Development Company to make lower price sales.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 31:29: The contours of the property are unsurpassed, delightful valleys, winding through coral hills from 20 to 25 feet in height, along the line of plan. Well wooded with cedars Oleanders, Bougainvillea and Hibiscus. Lending to the most fascinating color scheme to the home, the contours are inviting to the golf architect to construct unique and scientific cutting greens, consisting with the length demanded. In contrast to the previous statement, this rendering made by Charles Lear MacDonald in 1921 about Tucker's Town is one of ore and beauty. Design and Construction were not easy, but only in the valleys was the coral rock covered with a six inch layer of soil. The area had been used for growing onions, potatoes and Easter Lilies. Again, you see some of the crops that here were mentioned easterlies. Here, the resilience community of Tucker's Town utilized the land to grow different crops at different times. This is how they sustained themselves within their community. Some may like to hear a word of the inhabitants of this silicon retreat. With one or two exceptions, they are all of African descent, and kinder or more hospitable people are not to be found in their arms. When I first visited the place some 30 years ago, there were only two or three houses and an old wooden chapel in the valley. Now on the hillside, and in wooded places are to be seen the cottages of succeeding generations and a fine store, a fine stone Methodist Church, and a schoolhouse nearly finished. Only availing the assistance of persons kindly disclosed to the interest of education for the people of Tucker's Town are not unmindful of expanding. As a rule, the children like their parents are social and intelligence and strangers are kindly welcomed. To those who may have a shade of doubt or to the visitor from the States, I say let them visit this charming spot and his genial sons of the soil will guide them safely by and into the numerous caves and hollers of their ancestral domain.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 34:09: These same caves mentioned here are discussed in the February 24 1921 edition of the Royal Gazette in the case of Worshipful T.H.H. Outerbridge MCP, who puts the case forward as an asset. It is refuted by Mr. Gosling, Secretary of the Bermuda Development Company, who states that they're not safe and not capable for development. But as this shows, they obviously were safe, because they continuously took people. A century ago, however, a very different community called Tucker’s Town, along the shores and centered around pockets of rich arable land, platform unions farmed, fished, and built boats in humble but happy obscurity. Their peace was occasionally interrupted by carriage loads of tourists on day trips from Hamilton and picnickers from St. David’s Island, who came to gaze and wander at those natural arches. But in Tucker's Town, between 2020 and 2023, everything changed utterally. A community literally vanished, almost in the twinkling of an eye, old Tucker's Town lost everything, everything, but its name. As the saying goes, "Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder." And these various descriptions certainly illustrates a beautiful and bountiful Tucker's Town until those horrible days of the expropriation dislodged my ancestors.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 35:58: Mr. Talbot you wish to continue the presentation.

**DWAYNE TALBOT** 36:02: Yes sure

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 36:03: Please go ahead.

**DWAYNE TALBOT** 36:04: I will be referring to the purchase price in comparison to the purchase of the property of John Samuel Talbot. As you see on December 9, 1920, a gentleman by the name of Benedict Priests was offered 2900 pounds for his four (4) acres, but he was awarded 4000 pounds. So just going off math based on this, John Talbot could have been awarded 12,500 pounds and that would be Exhibit 12

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 36:49: You are referring to the Royal Gazette Article dated December 9, 1920.

**DWAYNE TALBOT** 37:30: Yes, sir.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 37:36: Madam Chair, it is dated December 1920 in the Royal Gazette

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 38:36: the Royal Gazette. We have the new witness so are we starting over with the Exhibits?

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 38:42: That's why that's one moment.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 38:44: Okay. Just let me know.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 38:45: That is what I had done to allow Mrs. Adams to flow and also non-stop in each time. I was going to allow her to complete and in the end I would have ascertained the exhibits. Now Mr. Talbot has started, I just want to ensure that it flows because if I don't tender once he has relied on than I would then be going back to her to a no brainer Just ask for 10 seconds before I let him continue.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 39:19: Just let me know when you are ready.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 39:33: Madam Chair, I just asked Mr. Talbot to just go back to Mrs. Adams and let me tenure these documents so that we have a sequence and then we will return.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 39:47: So we're going to ask you Mr. Talbot, to pause; and we are going back to you Mrs. Adams so that you can have Exhibit numbers.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 40:00: Mrs. Adams, you're on Page 2 Exhibit JBA, and I had stopped you after you had given evidence in respect of the

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 40:22: the marriage

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 40:00: Correct when John Samuel Talbot wed Rosalie Winifred Smith;

The next item Mrs. Adams is the Will of James Samuel Talbot

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 41:25: No, the next item was Exhibit 4 which shows the lineage of Dwayne Disney Talbot to James and Joanna Talbot

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 41:32: That's the item Exhibit 4

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 41:36: We would ask that you speak directly in the mic so we can hear you, please

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 41:40: The next item that was listed Exhibit 4 shows the lineage of Dwayne Disney Talbot to James and Joanna Talbot

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 41:56: The document is labeled now Exhibit 4 and I would ask that the document be tendered admitted as Exhibit at JBA4c

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 42:28: So that is the one that shows the lineage between James Samuel Talbot and Joanna Talbot to John Talbot to Helen to Edith to Dwayne.

That's JBA4c? Okay. That is the question I was going to ask you.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 43:04: then Exhibit 2 on Page two, which shows my lineage where my father to my grandfather, my grandmother, to John Samuel Talbot and Exhibit 5 shows the lineage of myself Joanne nee Davis That's my name before I was married.

To my father, my grandmother, my great grandfather, John Samuel Talbot; and his parents James and Joanna Darrell. I am Talbot

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON**  43:54: and I will tender this Exhibit JBA4d, Madam Chairman

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 44:00:Exhibit JBA4d - very well

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 44:11: Thank you.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 44:13: Next one, Exhibit 6, shows the cottage and that indicates the sale of property to James Samuel Talbot in Tucker's Town.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 44:33: So documents been exhibited as JBA4e , 'e' as in egg

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 44:47: 'e' as an egg.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 44:49: Yes Madam Chair

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 44:55: The next document seven was a transcription of the Last Will and Testament of James Samuel Talbot and we will seek to get the original document

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 45:17: I enter this document to be marked at this time not as an exhibit. This is a transcription I have not given evidence but I think the microfilm had been used while this is a transcription of what was there, so I will not ask at this time but I will ask that this be marked at this time, Exhibit JBA4f.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 45:54: Exhibit JBA4f - Marked for identification

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 45:57: Yes Madam.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 46:16: Then the next exhibit, Exhibit 8 is the Will, and accompanying that of Joanna Talbot.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 46:32: Just remind us who that was

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 46:35: Joanna Talbot would have been my great-great grandmother, the wife of James Talbot, Mother of John Talbot

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 46:46: I would ask Madam Chair is tendered as an exhibit JPA4g.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 47:01: JPA4g, entered.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 47:06: The next document Exhibit 9. This shows the award of 1,000 pounds made out to John Talbot, with 12 1/2 acres with a wooden cottage by the BBC - Bermuda Development Company

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 47:32: So this document and entry from the Royal Gazette dated February 11, 1921. That's Exhibit is tendered and Exhibited JBA4h. I am going to ask that this document be read by the witness when we conclude this exercise.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 48:02: Exhibit 10. February 24 1921. Final paragraph shows where an entry from the Royal Gazette shows evidence where John Samuel Talbot receives 600 pounds.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 48:23: I will ask that this extract from the Royal Gazette on February 24. I would ask that this extract from the Royal Gazette dated February 24 1921. Tendered and Exhibited as JBA4i. I would ask that this Exhibit be read by the witness after we conclude this exercise.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 49:03: Exhibit 11 is an article out of the Bermuda Magazine dated 1996 the articles name is Trading Places.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 49:29: Enough to repeat the date of that Magazine Article,

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 49:33: Summer 1996.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 49:39: And that document how many pages Madam

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 49:42: three.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 49:46: That's going to be

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 49:48: Exhibit JBA4j accepted

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 50:08: Exhibit 12. So Exhibit 12 is a copy of the Royal Gazette December 9 1920.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 50:50: Now before we get to that, I'm just going to ask you to go back to what is JBA4h, which you have labeled, Exhibit 9. I was asked to have you to read it for the benefit of others.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 51:21: The reference is on this second little page right at the bottom. The case of John Samuel Talbot owner of two pieces of land aggregating about 12 ½ acres with a wooden cottage was then considered and a total award of 1,000 pounds was made. 8,000 pounds - that's the title for the acre. And there are two pages you'll see a larger copy that's easier to read in the back of it.

**JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 52:11: And so that's your Exhibit 9, and is dated February 11, 1921. Correct. Okay.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 52:24: I wanted to ask you not to answer when you are speaking to the Chair.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 52:26: Sorry, my apologies.

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 52:32: You may proceed. Okay.

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 52:38 You mean with Exhibit 10 to read that

**COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 52:42: Exhibit JBA4h which has the title of Juries Award of 8,200 pounds to J B Talbot, I am asking you to read the entire document from start to finish so we may have it for the record please. Thank You

**JOANNE BERNICE ADAMS** 53:03: On Friday, 2nd, at Tucker's Town a jury was drawn to assess the value of land earned by Messrs. BD and John Talbot The jury comprised James Hill, foreman, Howard Emmett, Dunscomb Smith, Frederick Collins Outerbridge, William Robert Lightbourne, Arthur Roberts Wilkinson, George Harrison Outerbridge and Francis Anthony Hollis. Great interest, excuse me. I am going to see if can get a larger copy of this.

Great interest has centered around the expropriation proceedings in connection with the property of B.D. Talbot, one of the largest landowners in Tucker's Town, and on the day on which the jury we're joined, Mr. Godwin Gosling made on behalf of the Bermuda Development Company. A final offer, which was rejected by Talbot, who preferred that the case should go before a jury. Mr. Gosling's offer was 10,000 pounds in cash six (6) acres of land in more or less the same district as that in which BD Talbot had lived. 1,200 pounds which with which to build a house. This rejected offer represented an aggregate of some 12 or 13,000 pounds. An early start in the case was made on Wednesday morning and the jury took from 10am to 1:30pm, in which to view the property comprising 74 acres with a stone house and shop. Two stone cottages and a stone barn, all in good condition situated thereon. An interval for lunch and recuperation after the morning strenuous inspections occurred, and at 2:55 pm the hearing was resumed. Mr. H.V. Smith representing Mr. B. D. Talbot and Mr. J.R. Conyers, The Bermuda Development Company. Talbot having been duly sworned, stated that he estimated the annual rental of his house at 30 pounds for the store at 30 pounds two cottages, at 36 pounds and barn of 12 or 14 pounds. He said that his annual income during the past five years from farming for export purposes, was 500 pounds. He rents part of his planting land for 60 pounds per annum. His grocery business he estimated to be worth 100 pounds per annum. His banana plantation at 100 pounds per annum. His summer crop of melons, corn etc. at 100 pounds per annum. Sale of wood and timber at 200 pounds per annum. In addition to which he uses himself firewood valued at three (can't make it out, must be three shillings per diem). The sale of lemons gives him an annual income from eight to 12 pounds, and his CV pitch is a large one. He was then cross examined by Mr. J. R. Conyers, who stated that according to Talbots figures, the property yield an annual income of 1,036 pounds. When asked if this was so, Talbot replied in the affirmative. Further cross examination revealed the fact that he was 62 years old and owed 300 pounds on mortgage. He knew the Walker property comprising 54 acres, but did not know if it had been sold to the company for 4500 pounds. Mr. Konya stated that 32 acres of Talbots property was situated on Castle Point, and that Talbot had only a right of footway to it. Some questions were asked by the jurors concerning Talbot’s estimated annual income of 500 pounds for farming. In reply to queries as to how many men he employed, he stated that he employed three (3) men regularly and sometimes as many as twenty (20). Mr. C.W.W Walker was then called as a witness on the company's behalf, and stated that his wife had owned 54 acres of land this house and cottage near Tucker's Town. This property had been sold to the Bermuda Development Company for 4,500 pounds, which he considered a good price. Seventeen (17) acres of the land was used for planting and the rest was made up of Trott's Pond, grazing and timber land.

END OF TRANSCRIPTION NOVEMBER 26, 2020 MORNING (a) AT 57:54