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Ashes Management & Consulting

P.O. Box 67, Flatt's, Smith's Parish Bermuda FL-BX

5th June 2020

Dear Justice Wade-Miller

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES RICHARDSON (DECEASED)

THE JAMES RICHARDSON TRUST

The Testator of this Estate, The Late James Richardson died in or around 1876. He was a slave who worked as an ocean navigator.

Upon his retirement in or around 1872 he settled the above named James Richardson Trust. He was permitted to buy his way out of slavery and purchase land.

The parcel of land that he purchased is that land that is bordered on the east by Stovell Lane in Paget opposite the entrance to The Coral Beach Club; to the south by the high water mark of south shore; to the west by Harvey Road; and to the north by Ord Road.

It was a term of the trust that the property to what is now South Shore Road to the north of said road, was to be left for 'Poor People' to build temporary homes until they saved sufficient funds to afford to purchase lots of land north of the allotted land. That land in where we now see the farm land used for commercial farming.

The land to the west of Coral Beach, including the 2 cottages to the immediate west of Coral Beach gate belongs to the James Richardson Trust. There is a sign stating that the Bermuda Audubon Society owns the land but they do not and have stated so.

The Trustees over the years have sold multiple parcels of land between the north side of the gardens and Ord Road. Those funds are held by the trustees in the name of the James Richardson Trust.

It was contended that upon his death in 1876 that his family predeceased him. This was by our research incorrect. His wife passed 13 years after him in or around 1889 and 7 of his 9 children survived him. To our knowledge they were all illiterate. In fact James Ruchardson himself made his mark by his hand making an 'X' as the testator.

In or around 1926-27 one of his daughters brought an action against the Trustees and the Court said that the provision of land for free temporary housing was unworkable and ordered that the parcel of land was to be conveyed to the Plaintiff. She passed away before this was done and there has been no effort to convey the property to her descendants.

It was also a term of the trust that portions of the proceeds of sale were to be paid to Paget Parish Church and Paget Glebe School. This was never done until Mr. Kirk Kitson or a company controlled by him purchased that parcel now known as "Honey Hill" which is north of South Shore Road between the white pillars just east of Harvey Road. In fact, about 40 yards up that drive, sits the ruin of the old slave house of Mr. James Ruchardson.

Upon that sale, a cheque in the sum of \$500,000 BDA was paid to Paget Parish Church, known as St. Paul's in Paget. This was confirmed during our research by Lady Lloyd the widow of the Late Deputy Governor, Sir Peter Lloyd who I knew well. I noticed that she was picking up the same books in the archive that I had just replaced and I realised that we were following the same evidential trail.

A few days in the temperature controlled records room revealed that every year since 1872 the land tax has been paid by the James Richardson Trust.

We met with one now Late Mr. Durham Stevens who was oncr the Collector of taxes for 'Poor People'. A few detailed and pointed questions later, a sudden

bout of dementia kicked in and we had to leave his residence. We were never afforded another meeting with him prior to his death.

The Late James Richardson's family tree is proven by anecdotal evidence and can be seen through the flow of unusual names through the generations. We were told that the Paget Parish archives were damaged by a fire so that the births, marriages and deaths cannot be followed from that source.

We also traced one of James Richardson's daughters, one now Late Ruth Ann Stovell. It is believed that her great grandchildren are known to me.

Unfortunately, funding was not available to continue the in depth research although I remained in touch with my then client the now Late Mr. Dilton Lightbourne.

Mr. Lightbourne had collected his file as his niece wanted control of the case but to my surprise, the case proceeded no further sadly.

The file should be in the possession of his widow Mrs. Lightbourne.

I will be more than willing to further assist in this matter.

G. RICK WOOLRIDGE Jr.

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