**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**Statement of: JUANITA JOANNA PATRIC JONES**

**Date of Birth: 20-3-1959**

**Address: 8 Riddles Bay Road, Warwick, Bermuda**

**Phone: (H) 238-2539 (W) 704-8477**

**Occupation/Employer: ADMINISTRATOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**This statement consists of 5 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 29 day of January 2021.**

**Signed: JUANITA JOANNA PATRIC JONES**

**Signature witnessed by: CARLTON ADAMS**

**STATEMENT:**

I am the above named person and I live at the address given with my mother Lydia Aileen Jones.

I have for the past 23 years been doing research into the background of my family, Wilsons, Simmons and Smiths’. Most of whom lived in Southampton. We are descended from a man called Robert Bassett. He lived in Somerset. He had a relationship with a woman called Joanna Bassett. From that relationship Joanna had a daughter whom we refer to as “Ma Fanny”. Ma Fanny had one son, his name was William and he had one daughter and he named her Benonie. William was lost at sea and Ma Fanny raised his daughter as her own. She was raised in Sinky Bay and Cross Bay, Southampton. That is where Robert Bassett’s descendants lived.

Robert Bassett had left a vast estate for his slave descendants. From my research Roberts Bassett’s property was included in a large estate between Gibbs Hill Lighthouse, Christan Bay below The Reefs, Boat Bay, Sinky Bay, and Cross Bay. Robert Bassett’s descendants misplaced the Title Deeds and no one knew what happened to them.

Ma Fanny for several decades paid the taxes on the Sinky Bay and Cross Bay portion of the property. Granville Wilson, her grandson who lived with her, took over paying the taxes when she got old. When Ma Fanny died Granville applied for possession of the property through squatters rights. He had taken advice from his wife Lillian Wilson, she was the business person in the family.

Granville got possession and he shared with his sister Ellen Wilson and his brother Thomas Smith, my great-grandfather and my mothers grandfather. All this, the application for possession took place around 1930. My great-grandfather's property was where what is called Cross Bay is. The next piece of property going towards the Reefs Hotel was Ellen’s piece of property and after that the next piece of property was Granville’s. All three pieces of property stretched from the waters edge, up the hill and beyond South Shore Road that passed right through the property.

My mother got married in October of 1950 and my great-grandfather Thomas Smith gave my mother Lydia Jones a portion of his land as a wedding gift. I have a copy of the Mortgage Document dated 6th of May, 1952 and it describes the location of the property as being next to that of Ellen Wilson which is the sister of Granville and Thomas.

Between 1947 and 1955 there were four sales of my great-grandfather’s property to various people some of whom were family members. Two names that are involved in these transactions are Vivian and Grandville Wilson, nephews of my great-grandfather Thomas Smith. I have copies of documents that show this.

My great-grandfather lived in the cellar of Vivian’s house. The conditions were deplorable and that was witnessed by his granddaughter, my mother Lydia Jones. We believe that Vivian and Grandville took advantage of my great-grandfather to get his land and when he died Vivian went up to Gibbs Hill and gave Thomas’s only daughter Louise, one hundred pounds.

Louise’s daughter, Edith Darrell was present and she said that her mother started crying and said “my daddy couldn’t have just left me this”. He showed Louise the Will, read it out and left her crying. He was one of the executors of Thomas's Will.

My great-grandfather Thomas and his brother were illiterate, they could neither read nor write in telling this account of what happened to my grandfather's land. I have relied on my research and information passed on to me by my mother, Thomas Smith’s granddaughter. I have also relied on a book written by Nellie Aileen Wilson which talks about the Southampton Wilson kinfolk. She was the daughter of Granville Wilson, Thomas’s brother.

I have a copy of my grandfather’s Will and I do not believe that signature is his. I cannot imagine him forming those letters as clearly as those in his signature, he could not read or write. Everything he owed was left to Vivian Wilson and his daughters. I cannot comprehend my great-grandfather leaving everything to Vivian and his daughters and nothing to his own daughter whom he doted over. She had been the apple of his eye.

 **Signed: JUANITA JOANNA PATRIC JONES**

**The forgone statement was recorded by the undersigned at the residence of the maker at Riddle’s Bay, Warwick on Friday, 29th of January. Read over and signed by the maker as correct.**

**Signature witnessed by: CARLTON ADAMS**