**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HISTORIC LAND LOSSES IN BERMUDA**

**CHAIRMAN**

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**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**LOCATION: WILLOWBANK RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE, SOMERSET**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

**TIME: AFTERNOON SESSION (d)**

(Continuation from Morning Session (c))

**Commission Counsel** 00:03: Thank you, if it please you, Madam Chair, it's a continuation of the matter, Claim number 025, the what is known as the Pattie Moore Case. It’s a continuation of a claim regarding the concerns with the will and estate of their grandfather, Thomas Henry Smith. The, in summary, the will of Mr. Smith left his daughter with an inheritance of only a hundred pounds while nephews and other unborn relatives were left estate. On the last occasion, the Commission had issued adverse notices to the persons who had been designated by virtue of the will, which is an Exhibit, to benefit from the, what is apparent with the Testator’s wishes. The family, on the last occasion, had concerns and questioned the signature. On the last occasion, adverse notices had been issued to Vivian Thomas Wilson. They were also issued on the last occasion to daughters. We will follow up in that regard. Importantly, I'll just indicate, Madam Chairman, that even though the persons to whom the adverse notices had been issued are not here presently, our rules do require us, if in fact the Commissioners intend to or do come to an adverse decision, a finding, we're required by our rules to serve the parties notice of the decision, the final decision that may be made, and allow them a period, I think the rules say five days, for them to respond. So, there are safeguards in place even in the absence of the person to whom an adverse notice is issued, if they're not here, because the, our rules require us to set out to them any finding that may be made and at that time, they'll be permitted to respond before a final decision is made and a, that finding forms part of the report which will be sent to the Honorable Premier and published.

**Madam Chair** 02:15: Certainly, but Counsel, so that I understand correctly...

**Commission Counsel** 02:18: I'm not sure if your microphone is on.

**Madam Chair** 02:23: So that I understand correctly, Counsel, an effort was made to serve the adverse notices?

**Commission Counsel** 02:30: As far as I understand.

**Madam Chair** 02:33: And uh...

**Commission Counsel** 02:35: I cannot speak to the results of it at this time but I was just out of an abundance of caution indicating that even though the persons to whom the order had been made for them to be issued, even though they may not be in attendance, I'm just indicating that there are safeguards nonetheless in terms of the rules of the Commission of Inquiry to ensure that before an adverse finding is made, that the persons would also then be formally notified and given an opportunity to respond in writing to the finding.

**Madam Chair** 03:10: In the circumstances then, we may proceed. Very well, I'll leave it in your hands, Counsel.

**Commission Counsel** 03:16: We may proceed. I crave your indulgence. I'm just seeking to ascertain before we start the number of Exhibits and a number we had arrived at. I just asked you to crave your indulgence. I'm advised that we had had three Exhibits prior to this. Thank you.

**Madam Chair** 04:05: And may I have the last one, please?

**Commission Counsel** 04:11: I'm ascertaining that, I crave your indulgence.

**Madam Chair** 04:12: Thank you. Do you have the last one?

**Wayne Perinchief** 04:13: Yeah.

**Madam Chair** 04:13: Could you give it to me please? Cover notes show, Counsel, that it was PM 3. Could that be correct?

**Commission Counsel** 04:52: No, it is, but I'm just seeking to ascertain, just to get what 1, 2 and 3 were, I'm just trying to get that list but I am aware that it is PM 3. I just crave indulgence a moment.

**Madam Chair** 05:13: Thank you.

**Commission Counsel** 05:21; So, Madam Exhibit 1, PM 1 was a March 30, 2008 letter. Mr. Vivian Thomas Wilson was on March 30, 2008 letter, Mr. Vivian Thomas. PM 2 was the will of Thomas Henry Smith. PM 2 was a will of Thomas Henry Smith.

**Madam Chair** 05:50: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 05:50: And Exhibit PM 3 was the witness statement of Pattiee Moore, PM 3. I just also indicate that Commissioner Binns is on Zoom and she is listening at this time. And also Mr. Stovell, Commissioner Stovell, he had recused himself from this matter.

**Madam Chair** 05:52: Very well.

**Commission Counsel** 06:45: Go ahead and have the next witness sworn in the matter, Madam Chair. The witness is Juanita Joanna Patrice Jones. I'd like to ask if the witness wishes to affirm and ask the witness to stand and raise her right hand and to proceed. This, I.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:06: I.

**Commission Counsel** 07:06: Just state your name.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:06: Juanita Joanna Patrice Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 07:07: Do solemnly and sincerely.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:07: Do solemnly and sincerely.

**Commission Counsel** 07:08: And truly declare and affirm.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:09: And truly declare and affirm.

**Commission Counsel** 07:10: That the evidence I shall give.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:12: That the evidence I shall give.

**Commission Counsel** 07:14: Shall be the truth.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:16: Shall be the truth.

**Commission Counsel** 07:18: The whole truth.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:20: The whole truth.

**Commission Counsel** 07:23: And nothing but the truth.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:25: And nothing but the truth.

**Commission Counsel** 07:28:Thank you very much, madam. Now, on the 29th of January, 2020, 2021, sorry, the 29th of January, 2021 You give, you signed a statement with regards to the reason that you're here today, correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 07:53: That's correct.

**Commission Counsel** 07:57: And if you see your signature on that statement, you'd recognize it?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 08:01: Yes, indeed.

**Commission Counsel** 08:04: In fact, I would say that this statement says 2020, but that...

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 08:08: It should be 2021.

**Commission Counsel** 08:09: Thank you. I'm going to show you the original of that statement. You could identify your signature if it appears on any or, all of the four pages of the document, five pages, and I'm going to ask you after identifying your signature, you could just amend the date which is 2020, change to 2021. I ask you to initial it after so doing please. Is that the statement that you gave to the Commission of Inquiry and you signed on the 29th of January, 2021, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 08:59: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 09:00: It consists of five pages.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 09:02: Yes, it does.

**Commission Counsel** 09:03: My application, Madam Chair, is that a statement dated the 29th that was signed, I'm sorry, that was signed on the 29th of January, 2021 by Juanita Joanna Patrice Jones and witnessed by Mr. Carlton Adams, my application is that statement be tendered and admitted as Exhibit. JJ 1.

**Madam Chair** 09:43: JJ 1?

**Commission Counsel** 09:45: 1.

**Madam Chair** 09:45: So entered as Exhibit 1, uh, JJ 1. Counsel, this is a statement consisting of five pages.

**Commission Counsel** 10:02: And as indicated earlier, Madam Chair, the witness has initialed the date, the year that appears on the original is 2020. She has initialed it to reflect…

**Madam Chair** 10:14: She has initialed it 2021.

**Commission Counsel** 10:15: And changed it. I ask that the witness be permitted to read her statement, Madam Chair.

**Madam Chair:** 10:16: Yes.

**Commission Counsel**: 10:17: I'd like her to read the statement. Yes, please go ahead, madam.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 10:28: I, 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, the Wilsons, Simmons' and Smiths, most of whom lived in Southampton. We are descendants from a man called Robert Bassett. He lived in Somerset and he had a relationship with a woman called Johannah Bassett. From that relationship, Johannah had a daughter whom we refer to as Ma Fannie? Can I just add something? Her, her correct name was Francis Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 10:34: Okay. What you could do, let us just read the statement as is and then we'll fill it in when we're finished.

**Juanita J. P. Jones** 10:37 Ma Fannie had one son. His name was William and he had one daughter and her name was Brnonie. William was lost at sea and Ma Fannie raised his daughter as his 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, Robert Bassett's property was included in a large estate between Gibbs Hill Lighthouse, Christian 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 Fannie 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 Fannie died, Granville applied for possession of the property through squatter’s rights. He had taken advice from his wife, Lillian Wilson. She was the businessperson in the family. Granville got possession and he shared with his brother and sister, he shared with his sister Aileen Wilson, and his brother, Thomas Smith, my grand, my great grandfather and my mother's grandfather. All this, the application for possession took place around 1930. My great grandfather's property was where, was where what is called Cross Bay. The next piece of the property going towards the Reefs Hotel was Allan's piece and the other piece next to, that was next, was the piece of property, that piece of property was Granville’s. All three pieces of the property stretched from the water's edge up the hill and beyond South Shore Road that passed right through, and the South Shore Road 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 16th of May,1952 and it describes the location of the property as being next to that of Aileen 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 whom were family members. Two names that are involved in the transactions are Vivian and Granville Wilson, the 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 Granville took advantage of my great grandfather to get his land and when he died Vivian went up to the Gibbs Hill and gave Thomas's only daughter, Louise, 100 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 and they were, 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 to me by my mother, Thomas's granddaughter. I have also relied on a book written by Nelly 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 the signature is his. I cannot imagine him, I cannot imagine him forming those letters as clearly as those in his signature. He could not read or write. Everything he owned was left to Vivian Wilson and his daughters. I cannot comprehend my grandfather, my great grandfather, leaving everything to Vivian and his daughters and nothing to his own daughter whom he doted over. She was, she had been the apple of his eye. And my signature, Juanita Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 17:34: Thank you. The witness is being shown Exhibit PM 2. And now, madam, that’s Exhibit PM 2 which purports to be the will, the last will and testament of Thomas Henry Smith. Have you seen that copy before, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 18:32: Yes, I have.

**Commission Counsel** 18:33: And where have you seen that before?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 18:35: This was taken from the Archives, the Bermuda Government Archives.

**Commission Counsel** 18:42: And did you have anything, or play any part in retrieving it from the Archives, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 18:47: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 18:48: What part did you play, if any?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 18:50: My cousin and I went to the Archives to get a copy of his will.

**Commission Counsel** 18:54: Thank you. Now, you mentioned what is exhibited, projected now on the screen. I'm not sure if you can see the screen to your right. In your statement which is Exhibit JJ 1, you had indicated that "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." Now, is this the document that you're referring to, on a signature you’re making reference to, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:53: That is the document.

**Commission Counsel** 19:54: And you're saying the words that appear there, Thomas Smith, that is what you’re questioning, that signature?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 20:07: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 20:13: Thank you. And your grandfather was, to say the least, a little older than you. How would you speak to his signature, being his granddaughter? Is there anyone else who caused you to arrive at that opinion or is that an opinion you arrived at on your own?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 20:37: No, that is not an opinion I arrived on my own. From what I understand. my mother who's present, she knows, knew him better than anybody and she says that is not his handwriting.

**Commission Counsel** 20:51: What is your mother's name?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 20:53: Lydia Aileen Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 20:56: Now I'm just going to show you also Exhibit PM 1. You're being shown Exhibit PM 1 which purports to be a letter written to Vivian Thomas Wilson and it was signed by, could you just assist me, it is signed by Lydia Jones?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:05: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 22:06: Winnifred Jones.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:08: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 22:10: Dorothy White and Edith Darrell.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:13: Correct.

**Commission Counsel** 22:14: And your mother's name is?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:16: Lydia Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 22:17: And she's seated?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:19: Right behind you.

**Commission Counsel** 22:20: Thank you. The other persons named? Can you just identify who they are, please?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:27: They are all the children of Louise. Those are my mother's sisters Dorothy White, Edith Darrell and Winnifred Jones, my mother's sisters.

**Commission Counsel** 22:36: And the letter actually which is PM 1 is actually, it is signed by the daughters of Louise Simmons. Is that correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:47: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 22:50: Thank you. You have seen that document before, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:53: Yes, I have.

**Commission Counsel** 22:54: Where have you seen a document before?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:57: The letter?

**Commission Counsel** 22:58: Yes, the letter.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:59: The letter was written with us, the family. We did it. The family wrote that letter.

**Commission Counsel** 23:07: Did you play any part in the writing of the letter?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 23:09: Yes, I did.

**Commission Counsel** 23:10: What part did you play, if any?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 23:11: But, drafting it.

**Commission Counsel** 23:12: And in respect of the persons, the daughters of Louise Simmons signing it, were you present for that exercise?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 23:24: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 23:26: Did you witness all persons signing?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 23:29: I witnessed my mom, I think it was my Aunt Edie and Winnifred. I think Pattiee had gotten Aunt Dorothy's signature.

**Commission Counsel** 23:34: Okay. Thank you.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 23:54: I just want, can I just add one thing about the will?

**Commission Counsel** 23:56: Please let me, just before you say it, let me just return to it and project it on the screen so the Commissioners can see it before you speak. You are making reference to Exhibit PM 2.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 24:28: Uh umm.

**Commission Counsel** 24:28: It's now projected on the screen. You may go ahead, madam. What would you wish to say?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 24:32: Okay, I just want to point out here where it says in the will that...

**Commission Counsel** 24:38: You’re on page 1?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 24:39: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 24:39: Okay. Yes. And could you just direct us to the paragraph because we’re not seeing where you’re pointing further down.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 24:49: That area right there.

**Commission Counsel** 24:50: So it is, where it says third, under the heading?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 24:52: Under ‘my parcel of land’? Right there?

**Commission Counsel** 24:54: Okay. I think beside it there is a word ‘Third’, yes?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 25:00: Yes, I just want to point out um, in speaking with my mother, where it says that it was...

**Commission Counsel** 25:10: Sorry, let me just read. What I'm going to ask you, read the part first.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 25:13: Okay.

**Commission Counsel** 25:14: And then make the comments afte,r please.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 25:16: My parcel of land at Cross Bay in Southampton Parish aforesaid…

**Commission Counsel** 25:20: Not too fast.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 25:21: Together with all other real estate, to which I may be entitled at the time of my death. I devise unto the said Vivian Thomas Wilson and his heirs, to the use of the said Vivian Thomas Wilson, during his life and subject there, thereto to the use in equal shares of such two of the daughters of the said, William Vivian Thomas Wilson, who shall first attain the age of 21 years or, if only one such daughter shall attain the age of 21 years, then to the use of the daughter, her heirs and assigns forever. I just want to say at that point, in talking with my mom, the granddaughter of Thomas Wilson.

**Commission Counsel** 26:13: And just for completeness, for the record remind us of your mother's name.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 26:18: My mother's name is Lydia Aileen Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 26:20: Yes.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 26:21: She is the granddaughter of Thomas Henry Smith.

**Commission Counsel** 26:24: Yes. And speaking to her, you're saying?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 26:26: In speaking to my Mom, she says, “After we went over the will of her grandfather she said there is no way that her grandfather would have willed everything to his nephew Vivian, and his daughters. There's no way. Not the way he felt about his own daughter, Louise, and her mother,

**Commission Counsel** 26:51: Her mother. Thank you. Before we go on, and I know you're in here speaking on behalf of your mother and I'm sure she's grateful for you doing so, what is the sentiment? What is the feeling of your mother in relation to this claim that is being made and this accusation that is being made which has been placed squarely at the feet of Vivian Thomas Wilson and his daughters whose names I am going to share with you shortly, in terms of what was done to your grandfather. What is the sentiment? Um, What exactly is the feeling of your mother?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 27:42: My mother, Lydia Aileen Jones, who’s sitting right behind you, has always told us that Vivian Wilson has stolen all of her grandfather's land from her mother. We've always been told that.

**Commission Counsel** 28:00: And Vivian Thomas Wilson, do you know where he is now?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 28:05: He has, he is deceased.

**Commission Counsel** 28:06: Okay. And his, the the land, the land that reference is being made to. My parcel of land at Cross Bay in Southampton Parish. Do you know who lives there now?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 28:26: I don't know who lives there. Um I, I'm just assuming that the hotel owns the property. I don't know who lives there now.

**Commission Counsel** 28:35: And that hotel is.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 28:37: The former Sonesta Beach Hotel.

**Commission Counsel** 28:40: Thank you. Crave your... Crave your indulgence. Madam Chair, we are just doing some, reviewing the notes but, the other name to whom an adverse notice had been issued is Wendy Wilson Butterfield.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 29:56: May I continue speaking on my Mom's behalf?

**Commission Counsel** 29:58: Yes. Just hold it one minute. I'm just trying to ensure that we capture this.

**Madam Chair** 30:05: It has been issued?

**Commission Counsel** 30:06: No. I've just been updated. It has not been, Madam, But the…

**Madam Chair** 30:10: Wendy Wilson Butterfield?

**Commission Counsel** 30:12: I crave your indulgence. I'm going to ask you, is it Miss or Mrs. Jones? Miss, Miss Jones, if you wish, I've asked you the question if there's anything that you think may be necessary to say and you see your mother signaling you or you need any information from her, I'm sure the Commissioners will permit you to go to her if there's anything that, additional that she would wish you to say. So, feel free. You could just indicate at any time, if necessary. But you may continue. I had asked you about the feeling with regards to your mother.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 31:29: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 31:29: You are here representing her today. Please continue.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 31:34: My mother, who's sitting here today, can remember going to the cellar, the very damp cellar of Vivian's house, to feed her grandfather, Thomas Henry Smith, soup for dinner which she done several times a week to feed her grandfather soup. And Vivi Wilson, the only thing that he had to sleep on was a damp wet mattress was an old mattress that he had to sleep on in the, in the bottom of a cellar and that's where my mother had to go feed, to take food to her grandfather, to the cellar of this man's house.

**Commission Counsel** 32:26: Thank you.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 32:26: She believes that he took advantage of her grandfather because granddad used to, grandpa used to drink a lot. And that's her, you know, belief, that that's how they took advantage of him because during his drinking stupors.

**Commission Counsel** 32:48: Now also before going any further, I know some evidence was given on the last occasion by Miss Pattie Moore who is your cousin, correct? And the evidence was given when a question had been posed to her with respect to Exhibit PM 1 which is a letter, the letter signed by the daughters of Louise Simmons. Now can you recall whether well, speak on behalf of yourself that you did mention that you drafted a letter, you witnessed at least two of the signatures. Can you speak to what was the reaction, if any, from Vivian Thomas Wilson or any of his daughters when that letter had been delivered?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 33:44: Okay. During the delivery of the letter, I wasn't present with Pattie. Pattie was present. Pattie, I believe it was Pattie and my Aunt Edie, the youngest sister of the of my mom, my mom's sibling, Edith Darrell. Edith, Darrell and Pattie delivered the letter, so I wasn't present.

**Commission Counsel** 34:01: Okay. Do you know the name of the other daughter of Vivian Thomas Wilson?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 34:09: The other daughter, no. I only know of Wendy. I don't know the other daughters.

**Commission Counsel** 34:16: Thank you. Now, you had indicated at the very start of reading the Exhibit, your own statement, I'm sorry, which is PT 1. JJ 1, I'm sorry, that you refer to Ma Fannie. What is Ma Fannie's real name?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 34:47: Francis Bassett is her real name.

**Commission Counsel** 34:50: Could you spell Francis?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 34:52: F-R-A-N-C-I-S, Francis Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 34:58: And could you spell the surname for us.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 35:08: B-A-S-S-E-T-T.

**Commission Counsel** 35:09: B-A-S-S-E-T-T.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 35:10: That’s correct.

**Commission Counsel** 35:11: Thank you. Now in relation to the evidence that you are giving here today, do you have any documents upon which you wish to place reliance in respect of the research that you said that you had carried out?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 35:32: Yes, I do have some documents.

**Commission Counsel** 35:35: And the documents that you wish to place reliance on. Can you say where you obtained those documents? But as we go through each, you could just indicate.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 35:44: Yes, I will.

**Commission Counsel** 36:00: I'm going to show you a document and just ask you to identify for us as to what it is, and then I'll follow from there. Now, what is that document that is being shown to you?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 36:17: This is the birth registry of Robert Bassett, the slave owner.

**Commission Counsel** 36:23: Just a moment. I just wish to enlarge it on the screen as it is being projected so the Commissioners can follow whilst I ask questions about it. And could you just remind me what is that?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 36:46: This is the birth registry of Robert Bassett. He was a slave owner who lived in Sandys, Bermuda.

**Commission Counsel** 36:54: And where did you obtain this document?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 36:58: From the, My Heritage site on the um, computer.

**Commission Counsel** 37:09: In your statement, which is Exhibit JJ 1, you had indicated Robert Bassett had left a vast estate for his slave descendants. From my research, Robert Bassett's property was included in a large estate between Gibbs Hill, Gibbs Hill Lighthouse and you had gone on. But the importance of you doing a search in relation to Robert Bassett, why is that? Can you share with us?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 37:41: Well, like I said, I had started doing research on my family, 23 years ago I started, and then I just continued, I was just doing it just to make some corrections on the article that another family member had started and then just started from there. And I just kept going on and on and I started to see a whole lot of things that were kind of hidden over the years and talking to other, the older generation and getting information from them and it just, just went from there. And then I came after talking to a cousin Miss Scott, Lois Scott, who lives right up, just up by there by Henry VIII, just down by the Henry VIII Restaurant, she shared with me a book that was written by Nellie Wilson, that's Granville's daughter, and in the book it has a lot of information of the slave master whose name was Robert Bassett,and that's when I started to research who this gentleman was, Robert Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 38:48: Okay, so I'm just going to take you to that book, I know that you have organized your presentation a particular way, but please bear with me if I take you outside of it a little.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 39:00: Sure, sure. No worries.

**Commission Counsel** 39:01: But in terms of JJ 1, you had indicated that we are descended from a man called Robert Bassett. So, what you are going to online personal is you're showing the lineage. That's correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 39:13: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 39:19: I'm sorry, Madam Chair, my apologies. I’m going to ask that the, what is projected on the screen, the witness has a photocopy of it. It is a search and a search extract. She had done a family search in the name Robert Bassett. I'd ask that this document which is a printed version of, It is a screenshot of the search that was being conducted, I'd ask that this be tendered and admitted as Exhibit JJ 2. So just for recollection, Madam Chair, it is an, a screenshot of a search that was being conducted online on a heritage, you said heritage.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 40:30: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 40:31: Heritage.

**Madam Chair** 40:31: So, should I call it Family Search in the name of Robert Bassett?

**Commission Counsel** 40:38: Correct. It was on a heritage website.

**Madam Chair** 40:41: Exhibit

**Commission Counsel** 40:42: JJ 2.

**Madam Chair** 40:43: Exhibit JJ 2. So entered.

**Commission Counsel** 40:47: Thank you. Now I'm going to show you another extract, it's another screenshot. It is in relation to a search, a family search which you had conducted. I'm just going to ask you to have a look at the document, identify it for us and explain to us exactly what it is, madam. Now, what do you have there, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:11: I wanted to find out some more information on Mr. Robert Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 42:16: Yes.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:16: I went to the Family Search,

**Commission Counsel** 42:19: Which is a name of a website.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:21: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 42:24: Search engine.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:24: Yes. And it says here that…

**Commission Counsel** 42:29: You typed in the name Robert Bassett.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:30: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 42:31: And, go ahead, continue.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 42:33: Says here, because I wanted to cross reference with the information that I was getting. I wanted to check many sites to make sure that it was all consistent.

**Commission Counsel** 42:42: Okay. Before you go any further to tell us what this contained. Madam Chair, in respect of the document, the witness indicates that she went on online and went to a website, search engine family, the name of it is Family Search. And she typed in Robert Bassett,which appears on the document. My application is I have this, this screenshot which is a screenshot taken and a copy printed of what the screenshot was, that it is tendered and admitted as Exhibit JJ 3.

**Madam Chair** 43:33: So may I say screenshot of the Family Search, entitled Robert Bassett, entered as JJ 3?

**Commission Counsel** 43:43: Correct.

**Madam Chair** 43:44: I see a date there 12th September, 1821. Would that help to make it?

**Commission Counsel** 43:50: That helps, Madam Chair.

**Madam Chair** 43:51: Okay. I'll include the date and that's entered as Exhibit 3.

**Commission Counsel** 43:55: It's not the date that she took the picture, but the date that for the, it gives her information on the person around that time.

**Madam Chair** 44:03: Right. But I don't have the date when the picture was taken, do I?

**Commission Counsel** 44:09: No, we don't. We have as they put up the page.

**Madam Chair** 44:16: At the top of the page where I see Robert Bassett I see the date, the 12th of September, 1821, formerly a member of the House of Assembly?

**Commission Counsel** 44:24: Yes, but there's no indication on this screenshot of the date it was done. However, the witness is indicating that she, in fact, had done it herself.

**Madam Chair** 44:35: Okay,

**Commission Counsel** 44:35: Just not when. Thank you.

**Madam Chair** 44:38: I think it's identified here. Thank you.

**Commission Counsel** 44:53: Could you go ahead and read the document miss?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 44:58: Robert Bassett, 12 September, 1821, was formerly a member of the House of Assembly and died in Somerset, Sandys Parish, Bermuda, British West Indies.

**Commission Counsel** 45:16: Thank you. Now having obtained this information, you conducted other searches trying to research the lineage of the family descendants of Robert Bassett. That's correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 45:49: Yes, that's correct.

**Commission Counsel** 46:08: Another document is being shown to you that you supplied to us, madam. It is an extract. What do you have there, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 46:24: This is the death record of Johannah Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 46:28: And Johannah Bassett to your knowledge, who is she?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 46:32: She is the direct, direct descendant of Robert Bassett and the great, great, great grandmother of Thomas Smith.

**Commission Counsel** 46:46: And where was that information obtained, madam, what you're about to share with us, where did you get that? Take your time.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 47:23: This information on Johannah Bassett was taken out of the Bermuda Index.

**Commission Counsel** 47:28: Sorry, just a moment. Yes, madam, this was taken where, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 47:52: This document, death notice on Johannah Bassett, was taken from the Bermuda Index dated 1784 to 1914.

**Commission Counsel** 48:05: And how did you obtain that document, madam, that extract?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:08: This particular extract came from the Bermuda Archives.

**Commission Counsel** 48:16: How do you know that?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:18: Because I went and got it myself.

**Commission Counsel** 48:19: Good. That's what I'm asking.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:21: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 48:23: Forgive the delivery of the ball,adam.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:27: That's okay.

**Commission Counsel** 48:28: You just need to dispatch it to the boundarys.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:30: A, uh.

**Commission Counsel** 48:36: I'd ask that the, the extract from the Bermuda Index, it speaks to an entry regarding Johannah Bassett, J-O-H-A-N-N-A-H, Johannah Bassett the document, Miss Jones, it consists of how many pages?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 49:11: Of the index?

**Commission Counsel** 49:13: Yes,

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 49:13: I have two pages.

**Commission Counsel** 49:14: Two pages. The application, Madam Chair is that, that document is tendered and admitted as Exhibit JJ, JJ 4.

**Madam Chair** 49:35: Help me please, Counsel, I want to be, to ensure that I have it correct. I have here an extract from the Bermuda Index, two pages and uh, it has Johannah J-O-H-A-N-N-A-H Bassett.

**Commission Counsel** 49:55: It's an entry related to Johannah Bassett, but the, an entry relating to Johannah Bassett, but the actual index has a year on it. The year...

**Madam Chair** 50:05: 1884 to 1914?

**Commission Counsel** 50:09: Pardon. Could you just assist us?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 50:10: 1784 to 1914, 1784.

**Commission Counsel** 50:17: 1784.

**Madam Chair** 50:19: To 1914. Fine. So, I'll enter it as Exhibit JH, JJ 4

**Commission Counsel** 50:26: And the witness has indicated that she retrieved the document from the Archives, the Bermuda Archives herself.

**Madam Chair** 50:34: Yes, I'll make a note. Obtained from the Bermuda Archives. Very well. I've entered it, Counsel, as JJ 4.

**Commission Counsel** 50:57: Thank you. Did you ascertain Miss Jones any, the relation between Johannah Bassett and Robert Bassett?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 51:18: No I have not. I'm not sure if she is the actual daughter of her slave master. I have not ascertained that as yet.

**Commission Counsel** 51:25: But the relevance of the connection you have made with Johannah Bassett. What is the, what have you placed reliance on to make the connection with Johannah Bassett?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 51:30: Well, this particular document from Nellie Wilson.

**Commission Counsel** 51:49: Okay. I'lI come to that in a minute.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 51:51: Yeah.

**Commission Counsel** 52:11: You mentioned a document by Nellie Eileen Wilson.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:17: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 52:19: Who is Nelly Eileen Wilson?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:22: Nelly Eileen Wilson is the daughter of Granville Wilson.

**Commission Counsel** 52:28: And Granville Wilson...?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:30: Is the brother of Thomas Henry Smith, my great grandfather.

**Commission Counsel** 52:38: So, just to further understand Nellie Eileen Wilson, she's alive?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:48: No.

**Commission Counsel** 52:50: Nelly Eileen Wilson, she wrote a book?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:54: Yes. She was a schoolteacher.

**Commission Counsel** 52:57: She was a school teacher and she wrote a book, the extract of which reference is being made to, is a chapter named Southampton Wilson Kinfolk. Southampton Wilson, Kinfolk.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 53:16: That's the name of the book.

**Commission Counsel** 53:16: That's the name of the book, Southampton Wilson Kinfolk? You wish to place reliance on an extract from chapter 11 of that book?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 53:44: Correct.

**Commission Counsel** 53:57: Pages 94 to page…

END OF TRANSCRIPTION FEBRUARY 3 (AFTERNOON SESSION d) at 59:56