**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 (e)**

**Continuation of Afternoon Session (d)**

**Commission Counsel** 00:01: 101. I'd ask, Madam Chair, that, that is tendered admitted as Exhibit JJ 5. It is an extract from a book written by Nellie, N-E-L-L-I-E, Eileen, E-I-L-E-E-N Wilson in a book titled ‘Southampton Wilson Kinfolk’. It is taken from chapter 11 and it is pages 94 to 101, an extract.

**Madam Chair** 00:45: So, I have Counsel here, there is an extract from this ‘Southampton Wilson Kinfolk’ by Nellie Eileen Wilson, pages 94 to 101. Entered as Exhibit JJ 5.

**Commission Counsel** 01:01: That's chapter 11, Madam Chair.

**Madam Chair** 01:04: Yes?

**Commission Counsel** 01:04: Chapter 11.

**Madam Chair** 01:07: Chapter 11. Thank you.

**Commission Counsel** 01:12: Yes, I had asked the question which led to your reference to JJ 5, Miss Jones, in respect of the relevance of Johannah Bassett? Could you please read for us.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 01:28: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 01:28: From JJ 5.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 01:31: Francis Bassett who married Rowling was born in

1820 to Joannah Bassett,

**Commission Counsel** 01:40: Just a moment, madam. Yes, please, please start again for me, I'm sorry.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 02:00: Sure. Francis Bassett who married Rowling…

**Commission Counsel** 02:04: So where are you reading from? Could I, could I ask you to start.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 02:09: You'd want me to start from the very beginning?

**Commission Counsel** 02:10: Yes. Please I'm going to ask you to read start. I'm sorry.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 02:11: Sure, I'm sorry, sure. Okay. No worries, no worries.The Southampton Wilson Kinfolk, written by Nellie Eileen Wilson, the daughter of Granville and Lillian Wilson. In 1983, the Wilson Kinfolk, the office ‘patrili’…I don't know how to say that, but anyway,,help me out, me out,

**Commission Counsel** 02:27: I'm sorry. Patrilineal.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 02:33: Patrilineal, whatever family with the largest single family of the Adventists in Bermuda, with more than 300 SDAs, which is Seventh Day Adventists. Adventism began to surround them in a very interesting way. My great, great grandmother, known to all as Mar Fannie was an elderly ex-slave. Ma Fannie and in brackets (her name is Frances Bassett) and her only child, William Thomas Bassett, lived in, lived at Sinky Bay, Southampton East. British Emancipation occurred in 1834. American Emancipation in 1865. Following Emancipation in America, many black Bermudians emigrated to the United States, some never to be heard from again. Among these, some kinfolk say was William. Others merely say that he went to sea. He left behind a child, a female child Benoni, whom Ma Fannie adopted. This child became more of a daughter to William's mother than a granddaughter. Benoni had two sons, Thomas and Granville, and a daughter, Ellen. She lived, she later married Archibald Jones to whom she bore three other daughters, Kathleen, Anita and Alexandria. Thomas, the oldest of Benoni's sons, left home so that he could live his life without parental intervention. Down in the city, while enjoying the good life, he heard about a strange group of people who, who were holding some meetings. They called themselves Seventh Day Adventists and went to church on, went to church on Satdee, which is Saturday, but you know how Bermudians talk. Went to church on Satdee instead of Sunday.

**Commission Counsel** 02:37: Could I ask you uh, just to pronounce that word for me please, say it again, Saturday, Satdee?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 02:49: Satdee, That’s how they said it, Satdee. And my mom still says it like that, Satdee and Sunday. This was the news that Thomas carried home to his mother. Out of curiosity, she decided to go and see for herself what her son was talking about. At that time, Benoni lived at Cobb's Hill within easy walking distance of the City of Hamilton. She went to the meeting and later carried the news to Ma Fannie at Sinky Bay. All of this must have occurred around 1901 for my father, Granville was often heard to remark that his family learned of the Adventist message when he was a boy of 14. He was born in 1887.

Frances Bassett, who married a Rowling was born in 1820 to Johannah Bassett, a descendant of a slave master, Robert Bassett (Bob Basset) and she was a relative of Jack Wilson. She made her home in a tiny stone cottage near the cliff side between Sinky Bay and Cross Bay. This portion of Bassett property was included in a large estate that lay on the southern border of the Gibbs Hill Lighthouse property and included Bob Lake, near St. Ann's Anglican Church, Christian Bay below the Reefs and Boat Bay, Sinky Bay and Cross Bay. The South Shore Road which divided the property runs parallel to the beaches. A Tribe Road also runs through the property ending at Cross Bay and is supposed to remain forever a path to that beach.

This vast estate was left to the slave descendants of Bob Bassett who, many male descendants, slave and free, also became known as Bob Bassett. The descendants, however, apparently had misplaced the title deeds, at least no one knew what happened to them. One story is that the proper heir of the property immigrated to America and did not return to claim his land. Ma Fannie, who some folks say took over the land from her mother (or grandfather) for several decades paid the taxes on the Sinky Bay and Cross Bay portion of the property. Granville lived with her from his early teen years and when she became too old to work, he assumed the responsibility of paying the taxes and also for her care.

Though a loyal Sabbath observer, Ma Fannie died on April 2nd or April 2, 1905 without the benefit of baptism. Yet by 1983, the Sinky Bay matriarch had produced six generations of Adventists. Seven generations of Adventists which included Ma Fannie had all grown up in the area of Southampton East. Her son's generation has not been included in the seven. As far as it is known, Thomas, who bought the Adventism to his family, never did embrace that gospel, the gospel. Ellen received the baptism rite on July 4, 1908. Benoni, Granville and Ellen's husband, Josiah A. Wilson, united with the church in 1913. The Southampton Wilson kinfolk became the backbone of the Southampton Company officially organized between 1914 and 1915.

The tall heavyset, ruddy complexioned woman was a Sabbath observer before she united with the church. We suspect, however...

**Commission Counsel** 09:50: Sorry, could I just ask you just to read the, so we'd follow, reading just the name that appears before you start reading ‘the tall heavyset’.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 09:59: Benoni Todd Rowling Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 10:02: Thank you. You may continue.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 10:05: The tall heavyset ruddy complexioned woman was a Sabbath observer before she united with the church. We suspect, however, that it was she who invited Evangelist J.A. Morrow to hold tent meetings at the Port Royal around 1905, 1906. When Benoni Jones joined, when Benoni Jones did join the church in 1913, the Hamilton church clerk recorded that she had been observing the Sabbath for many years. She had also been a faithful tithe payer, although her tithe was at times not more than six pennies for the month.

**Commission Counsel** 10:57: The other extract takes you to page 98 and it refers to, but what would you like to draw attention to?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 11:08: Granville Wilson.

**Commission Counsel** 11:09: Please go ahead.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 11:11: Page 98.

**Commission Counsel** 11:12: Thank you.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 11:14: Granville Wilson. Many Wilsons contributed to the development of the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Bermuda and Granville Wilson made an outstanding contribution. Better known during his early years as Tremier, Granville Trimingham Wilson was born in 1887. Though an intelligent youth, Granville had not learned to read very well in elementary school. There is a noteworthy story in connection with this which needs to be told here.

Granville's teachers failed to explain to his satisfaction how vowels had different functions and how, in carrying out those various functions, they sometimes produced different sounds. While many others learned by rote, by rote, young Granville demanded explanations. This was sometimes taken to mean that he did not have the ability to understand. The opposite was true and because he did not understand, he refused to accept that ‘blouse’ did not rhyme with ‘house’ and he became totally confused when dealing with the tenses and such words as ‘read’ which had the identical spelling, but a different sound when using the past version, the present tense. So, he chose not to read, and no amount of whipping would make him change his mind.

From his baptism, however, he decided to teach himself to read, to read. His Bible became his textbook. He bought a dictionary and whenever he came across a word which he did not understand, he would look it up. With the same stubbornness with which he had once refused to learn to read, he now tackled that job of study and reading the Bible. He also purchased and read publications by various religious writers and memorized vast portions of Scripture. Reading and memorizing poetry also became a favourite pastime. Within a very short time, he became so fluent with the Scriptures, that he assumed the leadership role in the newly formed Southampton Company. He was ordained as a local elder and at one period was the head elder of the Southampton Church. For more than 65 years, he actively served his Lord as a lay preacher. A portion of this, a portion of this time was spent travelling over hills on the island of Jamaica, West Indies, proclaiming the gospel of Christ incident... Let me start over. A portion of this time was spent travelling over the hills on the island of Jamaica, West in the West Indies, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus. Incidentally, when the family went to Jamaica in 1950, they carried many barrels of clothing to give to those in need of it. The news soon spread and people came from miles away to get the free garments.

Lillian Endsworth,Wentworth Wilson. Lillian Wentworth was baptized in October 1918. She was married to Granville in November of the, of the same year. They interested the aging Rebecca Wentworth in the Adventist doctrines and her home became a vehicle for the, for the propagation of the gospel at Somerset Bridge, Southampton West, and the surrounding countryside. Lillian Wentworth Wilson had an insatiable desire for Christian education and her primary occupation became the salvation and the education of her children.

In 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had four children. Six others came later. The Adventist Church did not believe in the christening of babies or in the practice of having godparents for guardians, perhaps because of a non- scriptural concept that godparents stand in the place of God to accept the sins of the children until the child comes to the age of accountability when he or she becomes spiritually responsible for himself or herself.

**Commission Counsel** 16:28: We can pause there. Is there any other part of the document on the final page of the extract on page 101? ‘The Wilsons Share Their Land’, is that something you would wish to highlight or any other part?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 16:46: I want to read this part here of…

**Commission Counsel** 16:54: Sure, go ahead.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 16:56: The Wilsons Share Their Land.

**Commission Counsel** 16:59: Thank you.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 17:00: After Ma Fannie's demise in 1905, Granville Wilson continued to pay taxes and to work the land. Josiah, grandpa's brother-in-law, also farmed a portion of the property. Around 1930, Granville, taking the advice of his wife who was really the businessperson in the family, applied for possession. He had lived on the land as well as paying land taxes for many, for more than 21 years after he had reached his 21st birthday. Having attained the age of 42 years or more, he could apply for possession through squatter’s rights. Ma Fannie could not have willed or given this land to her heirs because it had not been hers to give. She had never actually had possession of it, though she had paid the taxes. When making out the application for possession, Granville shared with his brother Thomas and his sister Ellen the portions for which he was claiming. Each then shared his or her portion with a younger sister.

This property has been mentioned here for two reasons. First, because it became a well-known Adventist locality. Second, because it was a direct result of the sale of Grenville’s portion of the Sinky Bay estate and his willingness to share with others that led to the purchase of Sandringham, later known as the Bermuda Institute located at Middle Road, Southampton.

**Commission Counsel** 18:46: Thank you. Now, is there a particular reason why you wish to highlight the fact that Ma Fannie was paying taxes and that it was assumed thereafter by another family member. What is the relevance of that?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:09: Well, if she paid taxes, she must have or her mother must have owned the property and she continued paying the taxes on it.

**Commission Counsel** 19:16: Are you of the opinion that taxes would not be, payment on taxes would not be accepted if she was not the one, is that your view?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:24: That's my view. Yes, yes, it is.

**Commission Counsel** 19:30: Thank you. Now go ahead.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:31: And I also wanted to point out, um my mom has always told us...

**Commission Counsel** 19:38: Just for the record.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:38: My mother, Lydia, Aileen Jones, has always told us that Papa, she called him Papa, that Papa couldn't read nor write. And it's also said by Granville's own daughter, Nellie Wilson, that her own father had an issue with reading and writing or reading.

**Commission Counsel** 19:41: Thank you. And just remind us, those forgetful ones of us. Nellie's father…

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 19:49: Is Granville Wilson, Granville Trimingham Wilson.

**Commission Counsel** 20:13: Thank you very much. Now, in terms of the research that you have been doing and you continue to do, you said for some 23 years, if I'm not mistaken, have you ever, well, did you start making a family tree to reflect the descendants of Johannah Bassett?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 20:35: Yes, I did.

**Commission Counsel** 20:37: And if you see that document illustration that you have done you'd recognize it?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 20:44: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 20:58: Based on the research that you have done and the notes that you have made, is that the document which you wish to place reliance on to reflect descendants of Johannah Bassett?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 21:13: That is correct. This is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 21:15: I wish, Madam Chair to ask that the document which is projected on the screen and which your witness has a copy of in her hand, it is titled ‘Descendants of Johannah Bassett’. Before I make my application, Miss Jones.

**Madam Chair** 21:38: The one on the screen speaks to generation two.

**Commission Counsel** 21:42: Pardon me?

**Madam Chair** 21:46: The one on this screen speaks to generation two.

**Commission Counsel** 21:49: No, it speaks to generation one through to six. I think the screen will be adjusted. You're just seeing a part of it. It is being adjusted it was being magnified to allow you…

**Madam Chair** 22:00: Okay, it was too high.

**Commission Counsel** 22:07: Before I make my application.

**Madam Chair** 22:09: Go ahead, please.

**Commission Counsel** 22:10: Miss Jones, I recognize that the document that you have shared with us, which I'm about to make an application to have tendered as an Exhibit. You have spelled the name J-o-a-n-n-a. However, the extract you that had shown us earlier which was taken from the Archives, and it is the entry, Joanna is spelled J-O-H-A-N-N-A-H. So, the question is which spelling are you relying on? Are you relying on both?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 22:59: Well, the spelling with the JOANNA actually comes from Nellie Wilson's Southampton Kinfolk. That's, that's how she spelled it and I just wrote it like that. It comes out of this book.

**Commission Counsel** 23:12: Okay. Thank you. The document one page, Madam Chair, Types of Descendants of Johannah Bassett, and ask that this tendered as Exhibit JJ 6. But I ask you to make a note that there is a variance in terms of the spelling of the Christian name Joanna. In this Exhibit JJ 6 it's spelled, J-O-A-N-N-A. In Exhibit JJ 4 it's spelt J-O-H-A-N-N-A-H.

**Madam Chair** 24:13: Can you spell the second one for me, the first…

**Commission Counsel** 24:17: The one that is being presented now is J-O-A-N-N-A.

**Madam Chair** 24:21: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 24:22: And the one that appears on Exhibit JJ 4 it is spelled J-O-H-A-N-N-A-H.

**Madam Chair** 24:39: Very well. The document speaks to descendants of Joanna Bassett, generation one to whatever, to six.

**Wayne Perinchief** 24:52: Six.

**Madam Chair** 24:53: Generation one to six, which shows Joanna,, is that the JJ 4? The spelling in J-o-a-n-n-a?

**Commission Counsel** 25:07: JJ 4. JJ 4.

**Wayne Perinchief** 25:11: JJ 4.

**Madam Chair** 25:12: J 4.

**Wayne Perinchief** 25:13: With the spelling is J-O-H-O-N-N-A-H.

**Madam Chair** 25:18: Okay, and that's JJ 4

**Wayne Perinchief** 25:20: That's JJ4.

**Madam Chair** 25:22: JJ4 It's entered as Exhibit 6?

**Commission Counsel** 25:34: That is so, Madam Chair.

**Madam Chair** 25:35: As JJ 6.

**Commission Counsel** 25:40: Could you just take us through this document madam, JJ 6 where the descendants of Johannah Bassett…

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 25:45: Sure. Johannah Bassett actually was a direct descendant of Robert Bassett. She had one daughter. Her daughter's name is Joanna Bassett. I'm sorry. Joanna Bassett is the direct descendant of Robert Bassett and she had a daughter named Frances Bassett. Frances had a son named William. William had a daughter named Benoni. Benoni's first son was Thomas Henry Smith, my great grandfather. Thomas Smith had one daughter, Louise Simmons, and Louise Louise's oldest daughter is my mother, Lydia Aileen Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 26:44: The document, which is JJ 6, you have included some dates of birth and deeds that the persons passed on. Is that correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 26:54: Correct.

**Commission Counsel** 26:56: Same document, at the top of the document, you have in brackets beside Frances Bassett Rowling, Ma Fannie. It means that, you’re indicating that's Ma Fannie that you mentioned earlier

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 27:11: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 27:14: Thank you. Now, you also did a search. I want to show you a document in respect of another search that was carried out by you. Let me be careful so I don't massacre anyone else's name. It's Ahnentafel Report A-H-N-E-N-T-A-F-E-L Report. This document refers to a search you conducted on the first of February, 2021? Is that correct madam? This document Madam Chair, Ahnentafel Report which was searched on the 1st of February, 2021, I ask that this be tendered and admitted as Exhibit JJ 7.

**Madam Chair** 28:35: Thank you. Are going to find the years, Ahnentafel Report…

**Wayne Perinchief** 28:49: You're supposed to know.

**Madam Chair** 28:51: A-H-N-E-N-T-A-F-E-L Report and it has a date upper right corner 01/02/21. Yes? Entered as JJ 7.

**Commission Counsel** 29:08: Could you read that document for us, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 29:10: One Generation. It's Frances Bassett Rowling. Frances Bassett Rowling was born 1820 in Bermuda. She was the first child of Johannah Bassett (1786). Her biological father is unknown. When she was 61 years old, her mother, Johannah Bassett, died on the 23rd of October, 1881. She died in Bermuda. Generation Two. Joanna Bassett was born in 1786 on the 23rd of October, 1881. She died in Bermuda when she was 95 years old.

**Commission Counsel** 29:58: Thank you. Now in respect to the research that you conducted, you wish to place reliance on at Heads of Voluntary Conveyance, taken from the Voluntary Conveyance Number 5 Book, is that correct, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 30:37: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 30:41: This Voluntary Conveyance Number 5 Book, where did you, the extract from it, where did you obtain that?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 30:48: The Land Evaluation Office in Hamilton Bermuda.

**Commission Counsel** 30:53: And what exactly were you searching for when you went there, when you got this document?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 30:57: I wanted to get the conveyance from my great, great grandfather, Thomas Henry Smith, conveyed the property that he gave my mom and dad, a piece of his property for their wedding gift. And I wanted to get a copy of that.

**Commission Counsel** 31:12: Thank you. What do you have there, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 32:02: A copy of the voluntary conveyance. This is the Volume Number 5 that I found, where I found my, the conveyance of the property to, from Thomas Smith to Lydia Aileen Jones.

**Commission Counsel** 32:16: And how many pages does that document consist of, the one you wish to place reliance on?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 32:21: Three.

**Commission Counsel** 32:23 I' d like to ask that that document consisting of three pages, Madam Chair, the first page has the words Voluntary Conveyances Number five. I'd ask that it be tendered, admitted as Exhibit JJ.

**Madam Chair** 32:45: Eight?

**Commission Counsel** 32:47: Eight. Thank you.

**Madam Chair** 32:48: Right. I have it marked as a voluntary conveyance first page uh, number 5, uh. It consists of 3 pages, entered as JJ, Exhibit JJ 8.

**Commission Counsel** 32:48: Could I just ask you to read the document for us please.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 33:15: Voluntary Conveyance Volume Number 5. Head of Voluntary Conveyance dated the 22nd of September, 1951. Grantor: Thomas Smith, Grantee: Lydia Aileen Jones. Voluntary Conveyance: All that certain land, all that certain lot of land situated in Southampton Parish, delineated and coloured pink on the plan annexed to the conveyance and bounded northerly, easterly and southerly by land theretofore held with the land now being described, remaining in the possession of the said Thomas Smith and then measuring respectively 75 feet, 74 feet and 75 feet and westerly by land formerly of Allen Wilson and now of Josiah Alexander Rubin Wilson. Berkeley Merit Wilson, Ledrew Nathaniel Wilson and then measuring 74 feet or how otherwise the said lot of land may be bounded, may measure or ought to be described, together with the …

**Commission Counsel** 34:48: Appurtenances.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 34:49: Appurtenances thereto belonging and especially together with the rights, rights of way particularly mentioned in the conveyance. As stated, granted fee simple in possession, grace. Dated 25th September, 1951.

**Commission Counsel** 35:08: Thank you. Now there's another document based on your research that you wish to place reliance on. This is titled, Heads of Mortgage, dated 25th. April, 1950. That's correct, madam? And this document consists of how many pages?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 35:41: Four.

**Commission Counsel** 35:47: Madam Chair, a document consisting of four pages, it is titled Heads of Mortgage, date 25th April, 1950. The application is that it is tendered and admitted as Exhibit JJ 9.

**Madam Chair** 36:22: The document designated as Heads of Mortgage consisting of four pages, dated the 25th of April, 1950 is entered as Exhibit JJ 9.

**Commission Counsel** 36:35: Thank you. Now, could you share with us the purpose. of, you directed us to this document, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 36:44: I wanted to show how the land was taken from my grandfather, my great grandfather, Thomas Smith. My grandfather, as I said before, could not read or write and every time I look at, look through the documents and I see how the land was just being siphoned from him, and Vivi Wilson, the cousins, the nephews, everybody is involved in the land and every year, a piece of it is going away, every year.

**Commission Counsel** 37:26: And when you say ‘going away’...

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 37:30: Or, taken away or stolen. That's how I look at it anyway, that it was stolen.

**Commission Counsel** 37:37: And you speak on behalf of all members of your family that you're representing?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 37:41: Yes, I do. All of the sisters of...all of the daughters of Louise, including my mother, have said that the property was stolen.

**Commission Counsel** 37:55: You are not of the view that Thomas Smith would have sold the land?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 38:07: No.

**Commission Counsel** 38:08: Why not?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 38:09: No, he wouldn't have. If he would have sold it, then why didn't he give it to his own daughter? Why didn't he sell it to one of his granddaughters?

**Commission Counsel** 38:21: So that's why you have used the rather strong adjectives to describe what you say, other than pass from him to other people.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 38:31: Absolutely. He had, he had his own daughter that he could have given land to. He had his five granddaughters that he could have given the land to, or sold it to. Why wouldn't he do that? It was no friction between his grandchildren from Louise. It was no friction between them and their grandfather. Why would he do that? That's why all the sisters have signed the letter.

**Commission Counsel** 39:03: Exhibit PM 1.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 39:06: That is correct. The letter that went to Vivi Wilson, that was dated March 30, I think, 2008?

**Commission Counsel** 39:17: J PM 1. Before you read the document, I must ask you this question. You have used a number of adjectives. One of them was ‘steal’. You used two other words, ‘taken away’, I think you may have said. Can you prove it?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 39:43: Without a shadow of a doubt, no I could not. But it's obvious to me that my grandfather did not sell that, it's obvious the way. If he, if he was the one who was orchestrating this or if he's the one who was selling his property, why isn't he, where is his signature? Where is his signature in all of these documents? Why is it always Berkeley Wilson or Vivi Wilson or Granville Wilson? What happened to Thomas Wilson, Thomas Smith? It's his property.

**Commission Counsel** 40:19: Well, 101 Law School, never ask a question you don't want an answer to. But I got my answer.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 40:36: I mean, that's to me that's just common sense. I mean, what happened to Thomas? Why isn't he the one doing this? Why is all the Wilsons doing it? Did they actually take advantage of my grandfather because he was drinking? That would have been a prime opportunity, right? At least that's the way I see it and the rest of the family.

**Commission Counsel** 41:05: So, this document, this document that you refer to as the JJ 9 Heads of Mortgage? Where did you obtain this document, madam?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 41:16: From the Land Valuation Mortgages, Volume Number 44.

**Commission Counsel** 41:23: I'm just going to, I'm sorry, I'm just going to ask you to slowly repeat that for me.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 41:27: From the Land Valuation Office in Hamilton, Bermuda.

**Commission Counsel** 41:30: Just a minute, just a minute. Could you just turn the document for me, please. I crave your indulgence. I crave your indulgence. Let me just take you back. This Heads of Mortgage document, Exhibit. JJ 9 dated the 25th of April, 1950. Where did you obtain this document? It is ...

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 44:14: From the Land Evaluation Office in Hamilton, Bermuda. And it came out of Mortgage Document Volume Number 44.

**Commission Counsel** 44:29: I’d just ask, Madam Chair, that the, this page that is projected now, which has red colour Mortgages Number 44, that this page, single page be tendered as Exhibit JJ 9a.

**Madam Chair** 44:55: JJ 9a?

**Commission Counsel** 44:57: Correct, Madam. It goes with JJ 9, but, this is just a cover.

**Madam Chair** 45:04: Very well. I've noted that the mortgage document Number 44 is tendered and entered as JJ 9a.

**Commission Counsel** 45:17: Well, it properly would be the, t's just a cover page. Could you read the document for me please, madam, what is Exhibit 9. JJ 9. From the..

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 45:23: You want me to start here?

**Madam Chair** 45:30: Cover page.

**Commission Counsel** 45:32: Yes, please.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 45:34: The first one is dated the 2nd of November, 1954.

**Commission Counsel** 45:40: Just a minute. Let us start with the one, the 25th of April, 1950. You have that one there?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 46:03: Yes.

**Commission Counsel** 46:04: Let's just start with that one earlier.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 46:08: The 25th of April, 1950. Mortgagor Berkeley Merritt Wilson, Mortgagor ?? Edmond Powell. Property: All that certain lot of land situated in Southampton Parish, in the islands of Bermuda delineated and coloured pink on the plan annexed to an indenture dated the 30th day of January, 1947, between Thomas Smith of the first part of the mortgagor, of the second part and Edmund Gosling Gray, of the third part and bounded northerly, by the land of Rose Frazier and there measuring 75 feet, easterly by other land theretofore held by the said Thomas Smith with the land now being described and there measuring 105 feet southerly, partly by the roadway, eight feet wide, coloured yellow on the said plan and partly by the lot of land conveyed by the said Thomas Smith to David Lincoln Wilson. And I see he's a nephew. And measuring southerly 78 feet and westerly by a lot of land conveyed by the said Thomas Smith to Reuben Josiah Wilson and there measuring 100 feet together with the cottage thereon erected at the appurtenances thereto belonging and respect, and especially together with the rights of way particularly expressed in the mortgage. One Thousand pounds.

**Commission Counsel** 47:58: Well, could you just read the words that appear before one thousand pounds? It says ‘some secured’.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:03: Some secured. Oh, they have a hole right through it. Okay, some secured 1000 pounds interest, interest 5%.

**Commission Counsel** 48:11: Per annum.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:14: Per annum. Sorry.

**Commission Counsel** 48:24: The second page of that document but, but Exhibit 9 as you have it consists of four pages, correct?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:41: It is four pages.

**Commission Counsel** 48:42: Well, you've read it first, will you.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:46: These, these two here. The last two go together, okay?

**Commission Counsel** 48:49: Which are last two? Could you just identify those two for me?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 48:52: The one dated October 30, 1951 and the one that in the righthand corner says page 407 Violet Wilson, his wife. These two go together.

**Commission Counsel** 49:10: I crave your indulgence. I must ask you to repeat that for us so that we can show and take copious notes. Exhibit JJ 9 consists of four pages.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 49:26: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 49:27: You just read from what I'll call for now page one which is as Heads of Mortgage, 25th April, 1950. The second page, what is that, the second page at the foot of the document. It says dated, 30th October 1951?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 49:45: Yes, and it continues to the next page.

**Commission Counsel** 49:48: Just a minute. And page three, at the top of the page it has, top right-hand corner, it has number 407?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 49:57: That is correct.

**Commission Counsel** 50:00: And the fourth page, at the top of the page.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 50:05: That's dated the 2nd of November, 1954.

**Commission Counsel** 50:09: Okay, thank you. So, can I just ask you to, in relation to page two, what you refer to as page two, which are the… I crave your ... Yes, please continue. On page two, you're saying.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 51:12: At the bottom of page two, that was the end of that part, the bottom part of that particular page, it gives the date of the 30th of October, 1951. The mortgagors are Berkeley Marriott Wilson and Nathaniel Ledrew Wilson. And they are the mortgagors and the mortgagees on the next page over...

**Commission Counsel** 51:39: Just before you, in relation to page two, what appears on page two of Exhibit JJ 9. The word, name Nathanial Ledrew Wilson, the writing there of that middle name, did you L-E-D part of it?

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 51:59: No, that was in the book that, I never touched that.

**Commission Counsel** 52:02: It appears to be somebody writing over a word.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:06: That was from the document. I mean that is how I got it?

**Commission Counsel** 52:12: That is how you got document.

**Juanita J.P. Jones** 52:13: That's how I got it yeah. That's in the volume.

**Commission Counsel** 52:13: I'm just making, drawing your attentions, Chairman and Commissioners, to what appears at the foot of the document is that they, as projected on the screen, the word, middle name in the name Nathaniel Wilson, L-e-d-r-e-w, it, to the naked eye, I am no handwriting expert or document examiner, but it appears that L-E-D has been written over and there appears to be no signature or initial but it has, I just note that at the, on this page one, the mortgagor there is listed as Berkeley Merritt Wilson on the first page, but on the second page, two names appear. It has the word ‘and’ then two names appear there. I just ask you to make a note of it because it may become relevant if at any time you wish to make any finding or to follow-up, madam.

**END OF TRANSCRIPTION FEBRUARY 3 (AFTERNOON SESSION e) at 53:28**