

THE STEPHENSON BEACH EVIDENTIAL JOURNAL

This Evidential Journal has been prepared to preserve a chronological record of the Stephenson family long-standing connection to Sugar Loaf Beach, also widely known as Bob Marley Beach, BullBay, Jamaica. It brings together personal recollections, historical records, official documents, maps, photographs, correspondence, legal papers and other supporting evidence collected over many years.

Its purpose is to present an accurate account of the events as I experienced them and to preserve the evidence that supports those events. This is not intended to be a legal submission or a finished book. Rather, it is a living evidential journal that records the continuing efforts to protect my family's heritage, preserve an important site of Rastafarian cultural history and seek lawful recognition of our long-standing connection with the land

As legal proceedings and investigations continue, further documents and developments may be added to this journal. It is therefore intended to remain an evolving record of events rather than a final account. It is my hope that this journal will not only assist those seeking to understand my family's circumstances but also serve as a resource for others facing similar struggles to preserve their heritage, protect their communities and pursue justice through lawful means

The intention is simple: to preserve the truth of my actions and the history surrounding them, supported by evidence rather than memory alone

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1992

The beginning of my connection with the beach, finding my father there, discovering its beauty and significance, and my early desire to protect it and keep it within the family.

Chapter 2 — The Beach, Our Family and Its History

Some history of the beach, my family's connection to the land and the importance of the area to the Rastafarian community and others who lived and worshipped there.

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2023–2026

The unexpected changes following the lifting of the injunction, the continuing legal uncertainty, further developments and where matters stand today.

PART ONE: FINDING MY FATHER THE BEACH AND MY INTENTIONS

1992

After growing up knowing very little about my father, I eventually found him living on a beautiful natural beach then known as Sugar Loaf Mountain or Beach Road. The beach was already known and used by local people, including the Revivalist Church, long before my father arrived.

Recognising its beauty and potential, he began clearing a route down from the main road. With the help of others, including my brother, that rough track gradually became the road that made the beach far more accessible. This opened the way for the beach to become a place where members of the Rastafarian community later came to settle after leaving Pinnacle.

The first tabernacle was established there, and the beach became an important place of Rastafarian worship and community life before later becoming widely known to the public as Bob Marley Beach. This wider cultural history forms part of the background to my family's long connection with the area.

That reunion is a story in itself, but from the moment I arrived, I felt there was something extraordinary about the place. Its black sand, natural beauty and spiritual atmosphere left a lasting impression on me.

After speaking with my father and learning that he did not own the land, my thoughts instinctively turned to the future. I remember saying to myself, "I have to do something and make sure this amazingly beautiful black sand beach stays in the family."

From that moment, I began to imagine what the beach could become. I saw not only its beauty, but also its potential. Naturally, thoughts of preservation, protection and sensitive development came to mind, always with the hope that its unique character and spirit could be safeguarded for future generations.

The pace of life was very different than from what it is today, and my father was not really concerned about the land. Even then, I was worried but was not in a position to do anything at the time.

I only had enough finances to help here and there, so I was in no position to start anything, even if I wanted to. Still I was able to make some changes and the first was for the beach to be known as Gabby Beach as from the main Road (now a highway) there were no signs directing anyone to it.

However, through a misunderstanding by those I entrusted to create and display the early sign, Bob Marley was placed at the forefront of the beach's identity and, over time, that name became widely recognised by the public

Fig 1: - This photograph shows the original wall sign at the entrance to the beach Painted in 1993 before it was removed during the construction of the new Highway. Although my intention was for our beach land to be known as Gabby Beach in honour of my father, the Bob Marley name became the one the public recognised. This photograph captures an important stage in that history and reflects both the cultural significance of the beach and my family's long-standing connection to it.



Fig 2 - This sketch was drawn by Norman Stephenson in 1993, one year after reuniting with his father at Sugar Loaf Mountain. Significantly, the sketch refers to the area as Gabby Beach, named in honour of his father, Gladstone "Bongo Gabby" Stephenson, and not Bob Marley Beach. It is a record of some of my earliest ideas for the future of the beach, including a Tabernacle, small shops and visitor facilities. It demonstrates that my intentions from the beginning were centred on preservation, heritage and creating something of lasting value for the family and wider community



PART TWO: BEGINNING THE SEARCH FOR THE TITLE

2007 2015

Before he passed, in 2007 my father verbally encouraged me to take responsibility for the land so that I could continue pursuing the ideas I had shared with him and began the process of obtaining the legal title. The concerns I had carried quietly for many years gradually turned into action.

From 2008 onwards, through the Land Administration and Management Programme (L.A.M.P.) I began the process of obtaining the Title for our land by paying taxes whenever I could, often in small amounts and according to my means, they were the organisation that help people obtain their title.

During my enquiries through LAMP, I was advised that one of the first matters to establish was whether Mr Leslie Wright, the registered owner, was still alive. At the same time, as instructed, I hired a surveyor I continued gathering the documents required for my application, including surveys, maps and property tax records."

This led me into a lengthy period of investigation with my having to return to the LAMP office many times over the years to correct mistakes and errors as I was not able to travel back as regular since losing my father

Fig 3 - LESLEY WRIGHT BUSINESS ADDRESS



Fig 4. MR DIXON DECLARATION

STATUTORY DECLARATION

IN THE MATTER of APPLICATION Number

Plan bearing Examination No 327319
Under the Registered of Titles
Law Cap. 409

AND

**IN THE MATTER of VOLUNTARY
Declaration Law Cap. 409**

I Derrick St. A. Dixon do solemnly declare as Follows

1. That I reside and have my true place of abode at **47 Marlie Gardens; Old Harbour, P.O Box 177** in the Parish of St Catherine and that I am a Commissioned Land Surveyor at the age of Seventy (70) years old and upwards.

That on the 16th of December, 2015 I checked on the ground the boundaries and physical objects shown on the approved plan and represented by Survey Dept. Examination No327319, R#44452 part of Bull Bay, St Andrew

2. That the marks on the earth indicated on the plan actually exist in the position shown there on and correctly represented.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of Voluntary Declaration Act.

TAKEN THE ACKNOWLEDGED by said)
Derrick St. A. Dixon at)

in the Parish of ST. CATHERINE
this 16 day of DECEMBER 2015)
before me:-

ROY B. RYAN, J.P.

ST. CATHERINE

JAMAICA

JUSTICE OF PEACE
for the Parish of:-

SIG. 1/18

Derrick St. A. Dixon
Derrick St. A. Dixon

Fig 5- EARLY SURVEY OF THE LAND (2008)

This photograph records one of the early surveys undertaken as part of my efforts to establish the boundaries of the land connected to my father's occupation at Sugar Loaf Mountain. The survey formed part of my attempt to follow the official procedures required to pursue legal title and understand the extent of the area that I believed my family had occupied for many years.

This was one of several surveys and investigations that I commissioned over the years. The process was often difficult and at times confusing, but I remained committed to preserving the beach and securing my family's interests through lawful means.



Fig 6 - SURVEY DOC

Notice two changes that had to be corrected by Mr Dixon

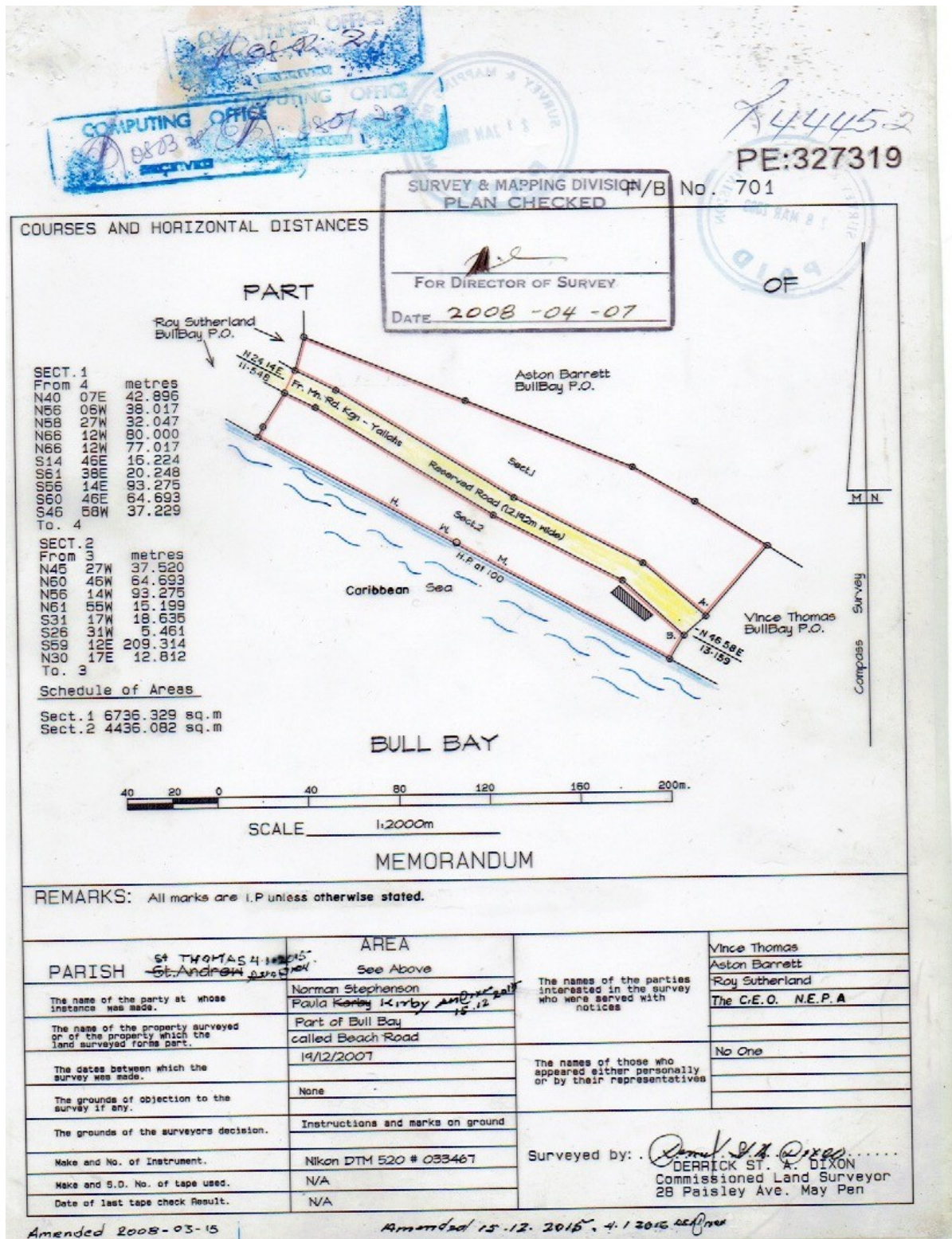


Fig 7

One of the most significant documents obtained during this period was the official land map supplied through L.A.M.P. This map helped me understand the legal description of the land, the boundaries involved and the relationship between the wider parcel and the smaller section of approximately 2.7 acres that I believed my family had occupied and cared for over many decades



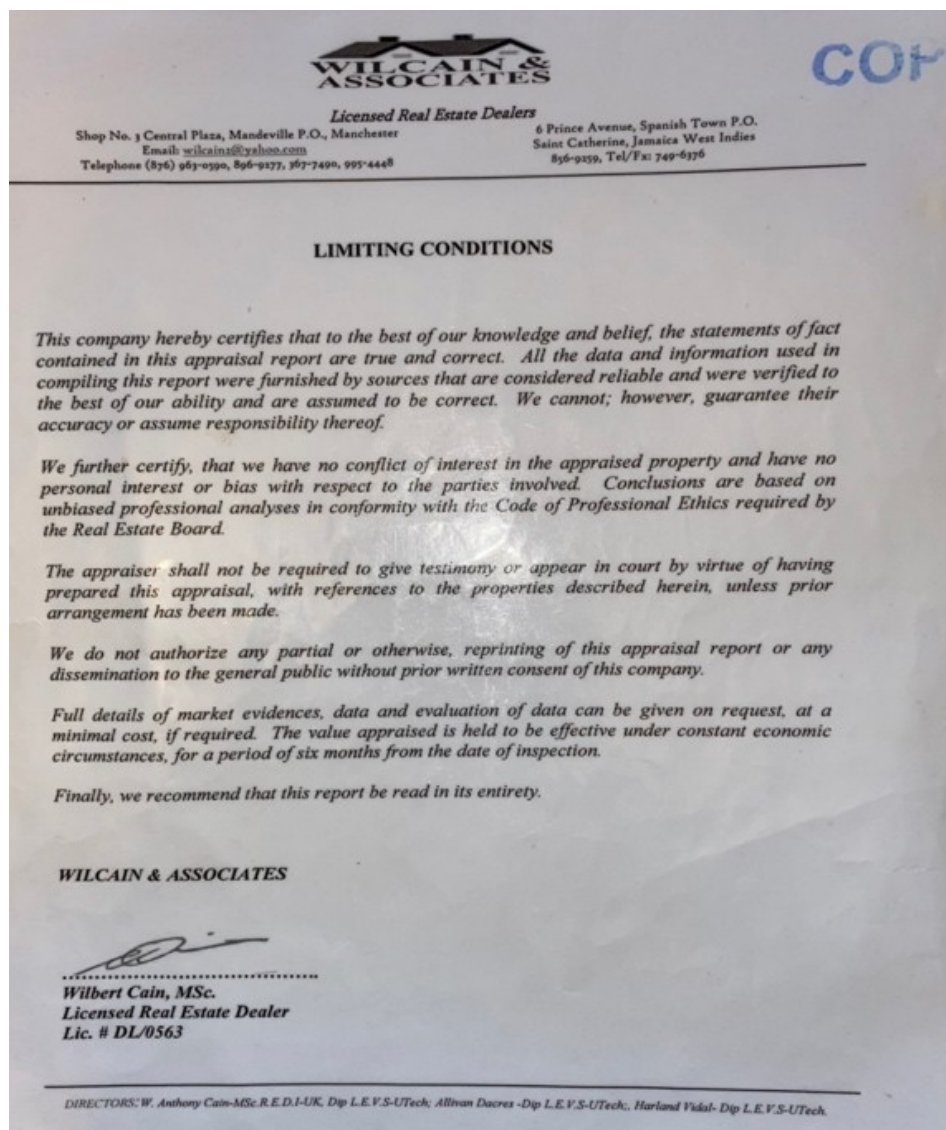
2015

We, (my previous partner accompanied me) began searching for information concerning Mr Wright. We located his place of business that was now a furniture shop in Kingston. He was no longer trading and had moved on but we were told that he lived in the district of Stoney Hill, but no one knew whether he was still alive. We then went there and checked the registry of the district and found he was no longer alive.

At this stage, my efforts remained entirely within the official systems available to me. I was paying taxes, obtaining surveys and seeking legal advice. My objective was not confrontation but regularisation: to secure lawful recognition of my family's long-standing connection to the beach.

The documents I gathered during this period would later become extremely important. They included maps, tax documents, surveys, statutory declarations and correspondence with government agencies.

Fig 8 - More receipts of payments made in 2015



WILCAIN & ASSOCIATES

Land Part of Sugar Loaf Mountain, known as Bob Marley Beach, Bull Bay, St. Thomas

COPY



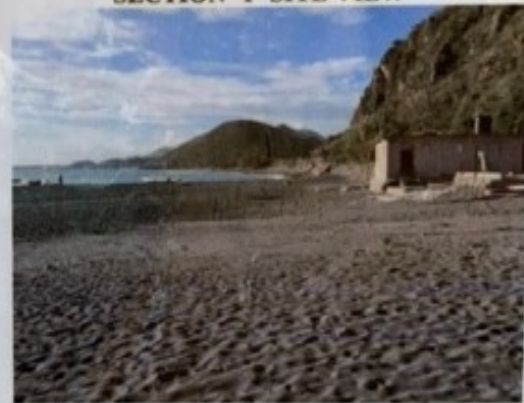
SECTION '2' SITE VIEW



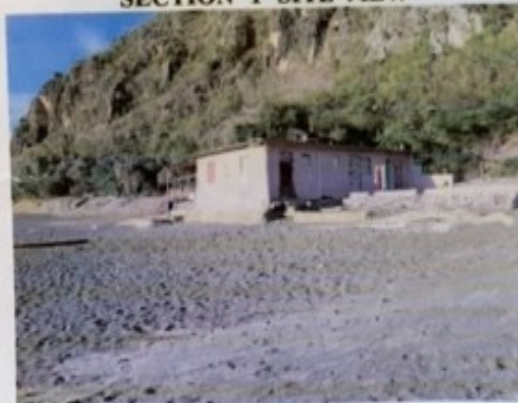
SECTION '1' SITE VIEW



SECTION '1' SITE VIEW



SIDE VIEW



SECTION '2' FRONT & SIDE VIEWS



SECTION '2' FRONT & SIDE VIEWS

CENTRAL LAND SURVEY LIMITED

No. _____ 16. 12 2015

Received from Norman Stephenson and Paula Kirby
 the sum of Fifteen Thousand r Dollars
Cents for Final Payment to
Statutory Declaration for PE 327319 R 44452
Pt of Bull Bay called Beach Road
 \$ 15,000/-
 WITH THANKS Per [Signature]

CENTRAL LAND SURVEY LIMITED

No. _____ 15 12 2015

Received from Norman Stephenson, Paula Kirby
 the sum of Two Thousand Dollars
Cents for Statutory Declaration
of PE 327319 R 44452
Pt of Bull Bay called Beach Road
 \$ 10,000/- Bal \$ 15,000
 WITH THANKS Per [Signature]

No. _____ 21 12 2015

Received from Mr. Norman Stephenson
One Hundred pounds Sterling Dollars
cents for Final payment on
Appraisal Land part of Sugar Loaf,
Bull Bay, St. Thomas
 \$ £ 100.00
 WITH THANKS Per [Signature]
 WILCAIN & ASSOCIATES
 Licensed Real Estate Dealers
 Shop #3 Central Plaza, Mandeville
 Tel: (876) 963-0590 Cel: (876) 3677490
 ALLIAN DARECS

As my enquiries continued, I obtained further official records relating to the ownership and taxation of the land. My lawyer later explained that, in Jamaica, it is possible for more than one person or entity to pay property tax on the same parcel of land.

Even so, I was concerned when I discovered that property records connected to the same valuation number (21301001006) identified **The Woof Group Limited** in relation to Sugar Loaf Mountain, Bull Bay.

What I found difficult to understand was that my own tax receipts appeared to relate to the same valuation number and covered many of the same years, with similar payment amounts, including payments connected to the 132 acres.

Although there may be a legitimate explanation for this, it raised questions that I could not answer and which later became part of the evidence in this journal.

Fig 9 - TAX RECORDS RELATING TO SAME VALUATION NUMBER 21301001006



Tax Administration
Working together to serve you EVEN better

Property Tax Certificate of Payment

Valuation #: 213 01 001 006

Owner: Leticia Wright

Address: Sugar Loaf Mountain

Paid by: NORMAN MICHAEL STEPHANSEN

Details of Tax Outstanding

Years	Tax due	Penalty	Interest	Total
12/13	4000	400		4400
13/14	10000	1000		11000
14/15	10000	1000		11000
15/16	10000			10000
				\$36000

St. Ann's Bay Date:



Property Information

Valuation No. 21301001006

Strata Lot No.

Owner Name THE WOOF GROUP LIMITED

Property Address SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN
BULL BAY P O

Value of Land \$18,000,000.00

Account Summary

Tax Year	Tax (\$)	Penalty (\$)	Interest (\$)	Total Due (\$)	Total Paid (\$)
2013-2014	10,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
2014-2015	10,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
2015-2016	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
2016-2017	10,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
2017-2018	128,600.00	0.00	0.00	128,600.00	141,460.00
2018-2019	128,600.00	12,860.00	0.00	141,460.00	141,460.00
2019-2020	128,600.00	0.00	0.00	128,600.00	128,600.00
Grand Totals:				441,660.00	454,520.00

Part 3 THE FINAL STAGE OF THE APPLICATION 2018-19

After many years of gathering evidence, obtaining surveys, paying property taxes and working through the requirements of the Land Administration and Management Programme (L.A.M.P.S), I genuinely believed I was approaching the final stage of obtaining the title.

We were now in a position to find a lawyer to see us through that one final requirement before the papers could be passed to their lawyers for completion. We approached two companies

Terje Associates Nunes and Scholefield.Deleo & co

Shantel Francis Attorney at law Francis Thomas Campbell &Whonder Attorneys at law

Terje Associates contacted Lamps and were told that the boundaries of the 2.7 acres I was claiming needed to be verified to ensure they were accurate. I was baffled as to why this was not raised before but I had no choice but to survey the land again. This now meant that before we could even use the lawyers we had to arrange another survey which I had to do at late notice

Following this advice, several more surveying companies was recommended, and we chose Kharie Blackwood, at Newsome, McCook Associates I decided to go with them rather than go back to Mr Dixon and others who I had incurred problems with and whose earlier work had already required amendments causing long delays.

My intention was simply to obtain an independent verification of the existing boundary. The independent legal advice given at the time, help explain why certain steps were taken and why progress stalled.

On 7 June 2019, I wrote to Newsome, McCook Associate explaining the situation and that my objective was to verify only the 2.7 acres that formed the basis of my family's claim. I made them aware of the administrative errors that resulted in my being charged property tax on approximately 132 acres instead of the much smaller area I was seeking to acquire. We arranged a date for the survey.

At the same time, I hired lawyer Kirsty Blackwood, (No Relation to surveyor Kharie) to help with acquiring the title. She Immediately advised me to go and pay for the 132 acre which I was a bit reluctant to do seeing I knew it was not right. She said that the important thing was to protect the 2.7 acres and that later on, I could claim it back.

I went and paid it which brought the outstanding tax payments fully up to date as it was an important step towards securing the family's interest in the land and pursuing legal ownership through the proper channels. It later became clear that charging me this much was an error on their part.

Fig 10 Lawyers approached concerning the survey

Shantel Francis

Attorney-at-Law Francis Thomas Campbell & Whonder Attorneys-at-Law
phone: (876)665-3942 m: (876) 301-9408 a: 22B Old Hope Rd, Kingston 6
Email: shantelfrancis.law@gmail.com

1. The letters from vince and grantely are in the incorrect format- They need to be a statutory declaration. These are identical to written oaths and as such, it should be witnessed by Justice of the Peace (lawyer) and dated. It should look like the surveyor's statutory declaration we have.
2. We must do a physical search, the property you have been paying taxes for is a registered property in someone else's name. On IMAP there is no valuation number for your property so it is a case where we have to send our bearer to the titles office to do a search and to identify your property, that way the valuation number can be obtained. (This means you will need to go to the National Land Agency and verify that our land is not part of Volume 1037 & Folio 141)
3. You will need another statutory declaration from the person making the application. (Must be from Norman Stephenson) that he is the true owner of the property to be registered
4. For proof of death if you cannot obtain a copy of the death certificate, we can prepare two affidavits in proof of death. The declarants of these 2 affidavits must be people who attended your father's funeral and witness him being buried.

Our legal fee to make the application is \$270,000.00 JA (£1,500) , to do everything from start end. If you wish to proceed please let me know and I will send you a copy of the firm's retainer agreement. It will cost \$11,000 JA (£64) to put advert in newspaper declaring the land application

Recommendation for Surveyors:

Allen Llewelyn & Assocs
Suite 4A 30 Red Hills Rd Kgn 10
876-906-5131

Hopeton Chambers & Associates Suite 3, 22 Windsor Avenue Kingston 10
Chambers, Hopeton C.
Telephone 876-906-5381

Terjé Sherman (Mrs.)

Associate | Nunes, Scholefield, DeLeon & Co.

Attorneys-at-Law, Notaries Public & Trade Mark Agents

6A Holborn Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.

Tel: 876 960-9008/9 | Fax: 876 968-9692/9

Website: www.nsdco.com | Email: tbudram@nsdco.com

Our questions in Black and Mrs Shermans in Blue

Though we appreciate you reaching us to assist you with this matter, I can advise that going through LAMP maybe the most economical and efficient route (even though it has taken so long thus far). LAMP was an initiative set up by the Government to bring unregistered lands in the rural areas under registration i.e. to get a title for lands. By virtue of the initiative a lot of the costs, transfer taxes and evidentiary requirements are waived when going through LAMP as opposed to submitting an application through the assistance of an Attorney. With this said, I can give some recommendations on the points below.

Property Tax Cert - We have this up to 2016 but stopped paying tax when we realised that we were paying tax for 132 Acres although our land is only 2.7 acres –

Most likely the property tax roll still contains all the lands in the initial subdivision of the area. Until your portion is taken off (either by way of a title) or evidentiary proof that the portion belongs to your grandfather, it is unlikely that the land valuation department will assess the property taxes for the 2.7 acres separately.

Proof of Ownership - We do not have this as Gladstone Stephenson lived a very simple country life and didn't keep any paperwork. He also passed away over 10 years ago. We were asked to get a death certificate for my grandad (Gladstone) to prove he had died but after going to the RGD and trying to get a copy they couldn't find records of his death. We then went to the funeral home to get burial slip but they have closed down sometime in the last 10 years. We were told it may need to go to an Adjudicator but we are not sure what this means.

ask the representative of LAMP if you can submit an 'Affidavit in Proof of Death' to satisfy this requirement. Essentially the affidavit would be from someone who attended the funeral and can speak to the fact the Gladstone is deceased and saw the body being buried. (Oneil & I more person who attended)

Survey Diagram or plan of land (we have Survey Declaration also) - We have a survey that was amended in 2015. It shows our land and where the boundaries are. We were told by LAMPS that the survey was incomplete and that we need to get a surveyor to come and verify if our land is part of the larger 132 Acres or not. After this I assume they will divide the land so our 2.7 acres can have its own title (volume and folio number)

I can recommend a Surveyor we use for many of our clients and matters. Please see his contact details below. You can advise him that I recommended you to him.

Recommendation for Surveyor

Kharie M. Blackwood

Commissioned Land Surveyor

At Newsome, McCook & Associates

Suite 5, 111/2 Swallowfield Road

Kingston 5

Office 1(876) 960-5802/4

Cell 1(876) 878-7752 or 1(876) 781-5389

Fig 11 - Updated tax payment

CHEQUES ACCEPTED AS CONDITIONAL
PAYMENT ONLY

ORIGINAL

PROPERTY TAXES

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
OFFICIAL RECEIPT

FORM: CAS - 09

12425354

011 - KINGSTON

TAX ADMINISTRATION JAMAICA
TAX TYPE: 213-01-001-006-8 / 0
TAX PAYER ID: LESLIE WRIGHT
NAME: SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN, BULL BAY P O
ADDRESS: SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN, BULL BAY P O
PAID BY: LESLIE WRIGHT
PARCEL SIZE: Sq.Meters 849840

COLLECTORATE / CODE: 10:47:47
RECEIPT NO.: 12425354
REFERENCE NO.: 0059154519
TRANS. NO.:

TAX YEAR	PRT TYPE	TAX PAID	PENALTY	INTEREST	AMOUNT PAID
2017 - 2018	PRT	\$128,800.00	\$12,880.00	\$0.00	\$141,680.00
2018 - 2019	PRT	\$64,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$64,300.00

Value \$18,000,000.00

TOTAL \$205,760.00

Two Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty and 00/100 Dollars

RECEIVED THE SUM OF : COUNTER DEBIT CARD

ORIGIN :
TYPE OF PAYMENT :
AGREEMENT CODE :

RECEIPT DATE : 2019-Jun-20
PAYMENT DATE : 2019-Jun-20
CASHIER - I.D. : K14

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHEQUES ACCEPTED AS CONDITIONAL
PAYMENT ONLY

ORIGINAL

PROPERTY TAXES

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
OFFICIAL RECEIPT

FORM: CAS - 09

12763496

011 - KINGSTON

TAX ADMINISTRATION JAMAICA
TAX TYPE: 213-01-001-006-8 / 0
TAX PAYER ID: LESLIE WRIGHT
NAME: SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN, BULL BAY P O
ADDRESS: SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN, BULL BAY P O
PAID BY: NORMAN STEPHENSON
PARCEL SIZE: Sq.Meters 849840

COLLECTORATE / CODE: 12:31:00
RECEIPT NO.: 12763496
REFERENCE NO.: 0069152590
TRANS. NO.:

TAX YEAR	PRT TYPE	TAX PAID	PENALTY	INTEREST	AMOUNT PAID
2018 - 2019	PRT	\$64,300.00	\$12,880.00	\$0.00	\$77,180.00
2019 - 2020	PRT	\$128,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128,600.00

Value \$18,000,000.00

TOTAL \$205,760.00

Two Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty and 00/100 Dollars

RECEIVED THE SUM OF : COUNTER DEBIT CARD

ORIGIN :
TYPE OF PAYMENT :
AGREEMENT CODE :

RECEIPT DATE : 2019-Jun-21
PAYMENT DATE : 2019-Jun-21
CASHIER - I.D. : K25

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At that stage, I believed this was simply a mistake that could be corrected before the title application proceeded. My understanding was that, once the boundary had been verified, the papers would be passed to L.A.M.P.'s lawyers to complete the title application. However, the survey did not proceed as expected.

What I expected to be the final administrative step instead became another source of delay. Rather than resolving the outstanding issues, the survey introduced further uncertainty into the process and prevented the application from moving forward as I had been led to expect.

The surveyors came to the beach, but the exercise quickly became problematic. They stated that there were not enough survey pegs to establish the boundaries with certainty. I showed them the three principal boundary markers that had always been recognised: one at the beginning of the land, one towards the middle and one near the boundary adjoining the Thomas family's land.

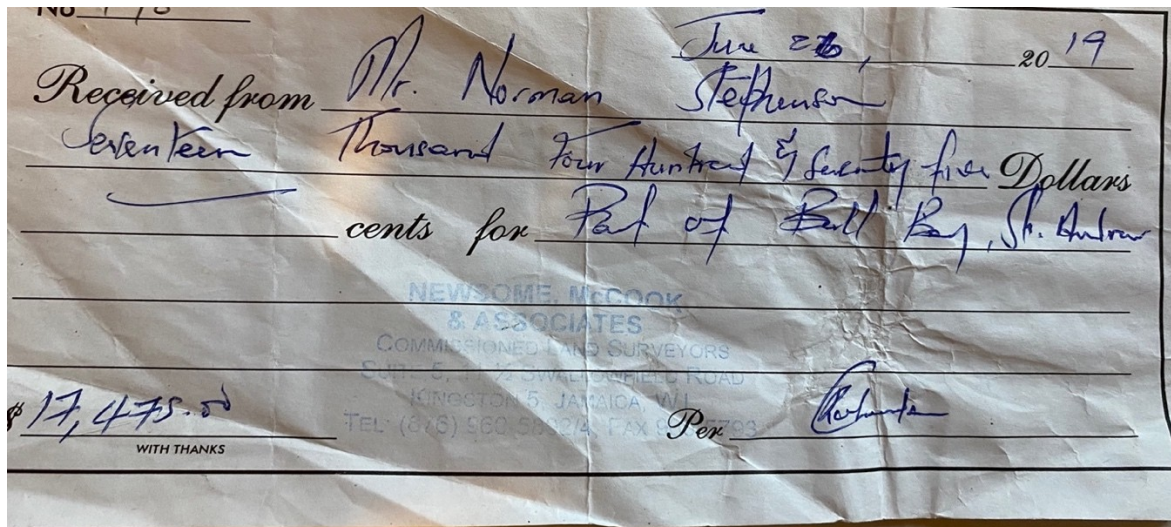
Despite this, the surveyors suggested that the entire 132-acre parcel would need to be surveyed. This came as a surprise because my claim had always related only to approximately 2.7 acres connected to my father's occupation of the beach. They further explained that surveying the full acreage would require measurements to be taken from the main road, which they considered impractical.

As a result, no useful survey was completed and the visit ended without resolving the matter, although I was still charged for their attendance. In my view, there was never any genuine uncertainty about the boundaries of the land occupied by my father.

He had long identified the limits of the area using rows of prickly olive plants, known locally in Jamaica as "Single Bible", which served as natural boundary markers for many years.

Looking back, this proved to be one of the major turning points in my efforts to secure legal title. Until then, I genuinely believed that I was approaching the successful completion of the L.A.M.P. process.

Fig 12 - Newsome & McCook Third Surveyors



My efforts to secure legal title did not begin in the courts. Long before any legal dispute arose, I sought to follow the official procedures available to me. I gathered documents, paid taxes, attended government offices and pursued the process of adverse possession as it was explained to me. Although the process proved difficult and at times confusing, my intention throughout was to regularise my family's long-standing connection to the land through lawful means

Fig -13 Video Record of the Beach Development and preservation Efforts

The following video records some of the work undertaken by me between 2018 and 2019 to preserve and improve the beach before I discovered that Woof Group Limited appeared on the tax records associated with the land.

The footage shows maintenance work, environmental improvements and early development proposals that I hoped would protect the natural beauty of the area while providing modest facilities for visitors and the local community.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MKZ3KWuiZztGd-pMsXqud8DEqFw9dQmJ/view?usp=sharing>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vefNATp5PFMI6KBg8qUiqN2pmg0hQZHz/view?usp=drive_link

These videos are important as it demonstrates that my involvement with the beach long pre-dated the later legal disputes. It reflects my continuing commitment to preservation, sustainability and safeguarding a place that held deep personal and cultural significance for my family. Throughout this period, my intention remained focused on approximately 2.7 acres associated with my father's occupation and my family's long-standing presence on the beach. I was never seeking ownership of the entire Sugar Loaf Mountain property

PART 4 - THE 132-ACRE CONFUSION AND THE DISCOVERY OF WOOF WOOF GROUP 2020

The turning point came in March 2020. When I attempted to make further payments online, I entered my Evaluation Number and was shocked to discover that the records appeared to show another name connected to the property taxes. A company known as Woof Group Limited appeared on the records associated with the same land.

This discovery caused me immediate concern. For many years I had paid taxes in good faith and pursued legal title through official channels. I could not understand how another name had appeared in connection with the property and whether ownership of the land had changed without my knowledge.

I wrote to the relevant authorities seeking clarification and explaining that the receipts I held for taxes paid over many years appeared to conflict with the information now displayed online. In the email below, I asked how this situation had arisen to the best of my recollection, I never received a reply or satisfactory explanation to the question raised in the Email

"Greetings Madam/Sir,

With the tax on the property that I pay for due again this year, I typed my Evaluation number 21301001006-8 on the National Land Agency website and saw that a company by the name of Woof Woof Group Ltd was listed as being the payer.

There must be an error as the receipts I have confirming my payments were now in their name. Can you please let me know how this can be rectified and how I can continue to pay this tax?

Regards,

Norman Stephenson"

I sought guidance on how this situation had arisen and how I could continue paying taxes correctly while protecting my family's interests. The appearance of Woof Woof Group Limited on the records marked a major turning point in my journey.

What had begun as an effort to preserve family heritage and secure title through official procedures was now becoming a much larger question concerning ownership, transfer of land, acreage and competing claims.

I realised that I needed legal assistance to understand what had happened, how ownership had changed and whether the 2.7 acres occupied by my family formed part of any transaction involving the wider Sugar Loaf Mountain property.

The answers to these questions would shape the years that followed.

Whatever the answers may ultimately be, I know that I acted honestly, kept my records carefully and pursued my family's interests through the lawful processes available to me.

PART FIVE: LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS AND THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOWED

Concerned and uncertain about how ownership of the property had changed, I formally instructed Bailey Mitchell & Company in December 2020 to investigate a number of important questions relating to the ownership and history of the land.

These investigations marked a significant stage in my journey because, until then, my efforts had focused primarily on preservation, taxation and securing legal title through official channels.

The questions I asked were straightforward but profound:

- Who sold the lands belonging to Leslie Wright at Bob Marley Beach and Sugar Loaf Mountain?
- Who purchased those lands?
- Who were the individuals behind Woof Group Limited?
- How many acres had actually been transferred?
- Had the Leslie Wright lands been subdivided?
- Why were there references to both 132 acres and 210 acres?
- What happened to the 2.7 acres occupied and cared for by my family when the wider property was transferred?

These questions were not the actions of someone seeking conflict. They were the questions of a person who had discovered information that did not make sense and who was trying, through lawful means, to understand the truth.

The legal investigations became increasingly important because they revealed the complexity of the ownership history and raised concerns that required further examination. Official records, land registry information, tax records and survey documents all became part of the growing body of evidence that I assembled.

The evidence I had gathered over many years, including my tax records and receipts, became an important part of the legal proceedings. Together with maps, surveys, correspondence and other documents, it contributed to my legal team's confidence in seeking a summary judgment.

From my perspective, the questions surrounding the tax records, the ownership history of the land and the timing of various transactions remained insufficiently explained. Those unanswered questions continue to form part of the reason why I have preserved this evidence and recorded my experiences in this Journal.

As more information emerged, I became increasingly aware that the issues surrounding Stephenson Beach extended beyond my own family. Questions concerning ownership, access, preservation and development were becoming matters of wider public interest.

Nevertheless, my own purpose remained unchanged: to preserve my family's heritage, to protect the beach that had shaped so much of our lives and to seek clarity through lawful and peaceful means.

PART SIX: ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE (2020 2022)

Following the investigations into the ownership of the land and the discovery of information that I did not fully understand, my focus turned towards finding a practical and peaceful solution.

At this stage, I was represented by Bailey & Mitchell Lawyer Miss Brockley and between us we explore every reasonable avenue available to avoid unnecessary conflict. My objective remained unchanged. I wanted to preserve my family's connection to the beach while securing a fair and lawful resolution to the questions surrounding ownership.

During 2021 and 2022, discussions took place concerning the possibility of an alternative parcel of land being offered as a settlement. Although I was willing to consider this proposal, concerns quickly emerged regarding the suitability of the land being offered.

Reports reached me suggesting that parts of the proposed land were already occupied and that accepting it could potentially create further disputes with people who believed they had rights or interests there.

I made it clear that I did not wish my family to inherit another conflict or become responsible for removing people from land they considered their own. Another point was that it was not beach land as we had been led to believe that it was a similar land to ours, this was not the case.

At this point, I was also willing to explore the possibility of a financial settlement. This was not because I wished to abandon the beach. My first wish was always to protect the beach and all its beauty. But as the situation became increasingly uncertain, and it appeared that they had now purchased the land, I felt that some form of compensation also had to be considered.

If a fair and honourable settlement had been offered, I would have given it serious consideration, even if that position differed from the views of some who had supported the struggle throughout the years. This is not because I have forgotten the beach.

It is because, after so many years of fighting for it, I also have to think about the wellbeing of my family — particularly my auntie, who deserves better living conditions and greater security after everything she has endured.

I have spent many years fighting to protect our connection to this place. But I also have a responsibility to think about what kind of future can provide dignity, security and a better quality of life for those who remain there.

However, I remained concerned by what I regarded as inconsistencies in the handling of the matter. There were occasions when proposals appeared to be discussed but not followed through, odd behaviour by individuals representing Woof Woof Group Ltd and times when responses to correspondence were delayed or absent. This made it increasingly difficult to have confidence that a satisfactory resolution would be achieved.

Throughout these discussions, I remained open to negotiation. I did not reject compromise, nor did I refuse dialogue. My position was simply that any agreed settlement needed to be fair, properly documented, and capable of providing long-term security for my family. I also made it clear that we could not simply abandon the beach without certainty about our future. If an acceptable alternative property could not be provided, then a fair financial settlement would need to be considered. Until such conditions existed, we did not believe it was right for our family to surrender land that had been part of our lives for generations.

These negotiations revealed an important truth about my position throughout this journey. I was not refusing discussion, nor rejecting compromise. On the contrary, I explored alternatives, sought advice and considered proposals carefully. But I remained determined that any settlement must preserve dignity, fairness and the long-standing connection my family had with the beach.

However, over time, tensions surrounding the land increased. Communications became more urgent, pressures mounted and, by late 2022, it had become clear that discussions alone were unlikely to resolve the issues. What had begun as an attempt to reach a peaceful settlement would soon lead to court proceedings and a fight to protect my family's continued occupation of the beach

PART SEVEN: THE COURT ACTION, INJUNCTIONS AND THE FIGHT TO REMAIN ON THE BEACH (2022–2023)

By 2022, the dispute concerning Stephenson Beach had entered a new and more urgent stage. The questions that had once centred on tax records, ownership and legal title had now become matters requiring immediate legal protection.

Through the assistance of Devon Taylor, leader of JaBBEM, an organisation dedicated to fighting for Jamaicans' right to access their beaches and campaigning for the repeal of the outdated 1956 Beach Control Act, I received support at a critical stage in the dispute. JaBBEM maintains that only around 1% of Jamaica's beaches remain freely accessible to the public without people being challenged or turned away by private security.

Our beach had not been completely taken over by the private company because JaBBEM lawyer, Marcus Goffe, agreed to represent my family in the court proceedings. He generously offered his legal services on our behalf, and together we began exploring the legal options available to protect our interests in the land.

Initially, consideration was given to filing a caveat and continuing the process of adverse possession. However, events on the Reports reached me that members of my family living at the beach were under increasing pressure and feared for their future.

My Aunt Gladys, who remained at the property, became distressed after receiving notice from Woof Woof Group's lawyer, Donovan Jackson (deceased), that bulldozers were being sent to demolish our buildings. A demonstration was quickly organised by our lawyer together with the residents.

I was then surprised when Mark Golding, Leader of the Opposition, got wind of what was happening and came to support us. As a result, they had no choice but to leave our property without carrying out the threatened demolition.

The situation became increasingly serious when reports emerged that electricity had been disconnected, that water supplies could also be affected, and that police had visited the area. These developments created considerable fear and uncertainty among those living on the beach.

A Go Fund Me campaign was set up, which helped maintain the beach kitchen and enabled food to continue being prepared for visitors. In addition, Stephanie Marley made a generous personal donation and purchased a solar panel, which was delivered to the beach to provide an alternative source of electricity.

At this point, my attorney advised that urgent legal action was necessary. The priority was no longer simply filing a caveat or continuing administrative procedures. The priority became protecting the family's occupation of the land while the courts examined the wider questions concerning ownership and long-standing occupation

Court proceedings were therefore commenced and an injunction was obtained. Then, the dispute moved fully into the legal arena. The evidence I had gathered over many years now became critically important.

Tax receipts, surveys, official records, correspondence, witness statements, maps and historical documents all formed part of the material relied upon by the legal team.

Among the most significant issues were the questions surrounding the tax records, the appearance of Woof Group Limited in connection with the land and the circumstances surrounding the transfer and ownership of the wider property.

As the proceedings developed, confidence in the strength of the evidence grew. The documentation I had preserved over many years appeared to support the concerns that had been raised regarding ownership, taxation and the history of the land.

The evidence was considered sufficiently strong for my legal team to seek a summary judgment. At that stage, there was a genuine belief that the court might finally bring clarity to many of the questions that had remained unresolved for years.

For the first time since beginning my efforts to secure and preserve the land, it appeared that a final resolution might be within reach.

At the same time, the case had begun attracting wider public attention. Questions concerning access to the beach, the rights of long-standing occupants and the future of an area associated with both Rastafarian heritage and Bob Marley Beach were becoming matters of wider public interest.

Despite the growing publicity and legal complexity, my own objective remained unchanged. I was not seeking conflict or commercial gain. I was seeking to preserve an important part of my family's heritage, protect the beach that had shaped so much of our lives and secure recognition of a connection that stretched back through generations of Stephenson family history.

Although many challenges still lay ahead, I believed that the evidence would finally have an opportunity to be properly examined and that the courts would ultimately determine the issues fairly and lawfully.

Following the commencement of the court proceedings and the growing concerns surrounding the future of the beach, the dispute attracted increasing public attention

The concerns that had previously been raised within my family and by my legal representatives were now becoming matters of wider public discussion. News organisations and advocacy groups began reporting on the dispute, the proposed development of Bob Marley Beach, the potential impact on long-standing Rastafarian families and the wider issue of public access to Jamaica's beaches. JaBBEM issued the following press release expressing its concerns about the proposed development at Bob Marley Beach, the potential loss of public access and the impact on long-standing Rastafarian families living at the site



For Immediate Release

October 12, 2022

St Ann, Jamaica

Contact: Dr Marcus Goffe
Representative Attorney
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**Bob Marley Beach, favorite of the Reggae Icon, under imminent threat of Public
including the removal of longstanding Rastafari families in Bull Bay, St. Thomas**

The Jamaica Beach Birthright Environmental Movement (JaBBEM) is deeply concerned regarding the imminent threat of the public losing access to yet another community beach, destruction of livelihood and land dispossession of prominent Rastafari family members at Bob Marley Beach, St. Thomas.

The world renowned Bob Marley Beach is under imminent and clear threat of public beach and land displacement of Rastafari families living on the adjoining property for more than 50 years. JaBBEM understands that this act of beach access loss and land dispossession is to facilitate the construction of an exclusive hotel by The Woof Group Limited (**WGL**). The **WGL** has indicated its intention to demolish existing structures on the beach and adjoining lands to aid in the eviction of the families of the deceased Rastafarian elder Gladstone "Bongo Gabby" Stephenson, as early as October 14th, 2022 (preparatory works has begun). A **WGL** representative has directly communicated its intention to the sister of Bongo Gabby despite not serving a formal written legal court order. A message was also relayed to the family by members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) without the presentation of a legal eviction notice.

This beach was renamed Bob Marley beach by Bongo Gabby to honor his friend Bob Marley's transition. Members of the Rastafari community established the Sugar Loaf Mountain settlement in the early 1960s, and have been using the space now renamed Bob Marley Beach to practice their Rastafari life. Bongo Gabby and Vince "Macka" Thomas are original members of this community and still reside on the beach. The Thomas family is also negatively impacted by the plan to construct a resort at Bob Marley Beach. Bongo Gabby was a mentor and close friend of Bob and Rita Marley and also spent time together on the beach.

The importance of access to beaches and rivers which constitute part of the Jamaican ecology cannot be understated, given the accelerated threat from the massive expansion of hotel construction.

* The Voice – Fight to protect access to Bob Marley Beach in Jamaica goes back to court (12 September 2024) * Bob Marley Beach News Updates (AFIDANCE)

* Jamaica Observer – Attorney: Leaving Bob Marley Beach dispute to the courts

* Jamaica Gleaner – Advocacy group bats for protected access to Bob Marley Beach, St Thomas (12 October 2022)

* Jamaica Star – Bob Marley Beach residents worried as eviction looms (14 October 2022)

PART EIGHT: REVERSAL, DELAYS AND THE PRESENT POSITION (2023–2026)

Just when a resolution appeared possible, events took an unexpected turn.

By this stage, I felt increasingly confident that the evidence assembled over many years would finally be examined in full and that the dispute would move towards a conclusion. My legal team shared that confidence and had applied for a summary judgment, believing that the evidence spoke strongly in support of our position.

However, before the main hearing could take place, a separate application concerning the injunction was brought before the court. The injunction that had protected our position for several years was ultimately lifted.

This came as a profound shock.

From my perspective, it appeared that we had reached a stage where many of the central questions concerning ownership, taxation and long-standing occupation were finally going to be addressed. Instead, the lifting of the injunction created a new set of legal difficulties and delayed progress on the wider issues that remained before the court.

Yet something unexpected also happened.

Despite the injunction being lifted, no forceful removal of the remaining occupants took place. The feared bulldozers has not arrived, as yet, and members of the Rastafarian community continue to live on the beach. The family connection to the land therefore remained, despite the continuing uncertainty surrounding ownership.

Further legal proceedings later took place in Morant Bay involving my Aunt Gladys. I was unable to travel from the United Kingdom to attend personally, but legal representation continued on our behalf.

During those proceedings, I understood the court to recognise the family's long-standing occupation of the land and encouraged the parties to explore a settlement. Following this, settlement figures were prepared and submitted on more than one occasion with the assistance of my attorney.

Despite these efforts, no agreement was reached and no meaningful response was ever received. Since that time, years have passed with very little progress. Communication has largely ceased. Questions remain unanswered. Matters that once appeared close to resolution have remained unresolved.

If a fair and honourable settlement were offered today, I would give it serious consideration, even if that position differs from the views of some who have supported the struggle throughout the years. This is not because I have forgotten the beach.

It is because I have spent many years fighting for it. The natural beauty is still there. The black sand, the sea and the memories remain as powerful as ever. But the atmosphere has changed.

The beach has now been thrown into the spotlight and, with increasing numbers of visitors, many people have unofficially created their own ways of making money from it. In my view, some of the spirituality and tranquillity that once made the beach so special have been diminished.

What was once, for me, a sacred place of family, Rastafarian heritage and natural beauty has become something far more complicated. Nevertheless, whatever the future may hold, nobody can take away the history, memories and sincere efforts recorded within this Evidential Journal.

My ambition was never to become involved in legal disputes or court proceedings. I simply wanted to help preserve a place of extraordinary natural beauty, cultural importance and historical significance for future generations.

Today, after many years of investigations, legal proceedings and continuing uncertainty, I find myself in a very different position from the one in which I began. One of the most difficult aspects of this journey has been the length of time involved and the uncertainty about when the case would return to court. During this period there have inevitably been times when I have had limited information about its progress. Nevertheless, I have continued to document my experience and preserve the evidence that has emerged over the years.

At the same time, I remain aware that JaBBEM continues its wider campaign concerning public beach access and the effects of the Beach Control Act 1956, including issues affecting Bob Marley Beach. These circumstances have left me with questions that remain unanswered.

Sadly, the beach no longer carries the same feeling that first inspired me. The atmosphere has changed, and for me it has become a place marked by tension, conflict and uncertainty rather than the peace and beauty I first experienced. Crime has increased, and even our family shop—once a way for us to earn a living—has come under the influence of people prepared to use violence over the smallest of matters. The pressures of daily survival have become so great that, at times, it seems many people have simply stopped caring.

The expectation at that time was that, if settlement could not be achieved, the outstanding issues would return before the court for determination. However, despite the passage of time, the application for summary judgment has still not been heard. As the years have passed, I have found it increasingly difficult to understand why matters that once appeared close to resolution remain unresolved.

My Thoughts at This Time

As this continues to be an unfolding story, my thoughts have changed considerably since I first began this journey.

When I first discovered this amazing and beautiful beach in 1992, my only desire was to help ensure that it remained as I found it. Of all the beaches in Jamaica, this one stood out because of its unspoilt natural beauty.

Its black sand, the sea, which many local people believed possessed healing qualities, the peaceful walks through nature, the opportunity to plant and grow your own food, the crocodile swamp and the remarkable history made it unlike anywhere else I had ever known.

I was told stories of the original Taíno inhabitants, whose footways and burial sites still remain in the area. I learned about enslaved Africans who passed through this coastline in shackles, the revivalist church that was based here, the legendary runaway slave Three Finger Jack, and how the area had once been used by pirates as a smuggling point. All of these stories, together with the beauty of the landscape itself, made it—and continue to make it—a truly special place, despite the many challenges and changes it has experienced in recent years.

I have often reflected on how much has changed since I first found my father at the beach in 1992. My original dream was never to sell the land. My intention was always to preserve it. It was a place of extraordinary natural beauty, spiritual significance and family history. Yet years of disputes, uncertainty and legal battles have inevitably changed the way I now view the situation.

I have also come to realise the enormous responsibility involved in protecting a place like Stephenson Beach from those who would destroy it. If there were a way to restore it to the place I first fell in love with in 1992, and ensure that it remained protected for future generations, I would embrace that opportunity without hesitation.

Selling would always be my last option. Perhaps that would require the resources of a multimillionaire, but if I were ever in that position, preserving its beauty is exactly what I would do. What was once, for me, a sacred place of family, Rastafarian heritage and natural beauty has become something far more complicated.

Despite everything that has happened, I still hope that one day Stephenson Beach—Bob Marley Beach—will once again be appreciated and protected for its natural beauty, its cultural heritage, and its importance to the people whose lives have been intertwined with it for generations.