

HENRY WESTON, Esquire, Deputy Registrar for the County of *Montreal*.

Voluntary examination of Henry Weston, Esq., Deputy Registrar for the County of Montreal

I am the Deputy Registrar for the County of *Montreal*. I assumed the said office at the same time with *George H. Ryland*, Esquire, the present Registrar.

The said Registrar has since his appointment resided in *Quebec*, where his family has since been living. Mr. *Ryland* occasionally visits *Montreal*. The management of this office is entrusted to me exclusively. I employ three clerks generally. We sometimes have had four.

Q. No. 1. Will you please state in what situation you found the office at the time of entering upon the duties of Deputy Registrar thereof?

There was a number of Deeds not transcribed (upwards of two thousand five hundred) that had never been numbered, filed, indexed or minuted; and there was no possible means of ascertaining correctly when they were deposited for registration. The only guide being pencil marks on the envelopes, or wrappers bound round the several bundles; and the verbal assertion of the clerks in the office that a certain number were lodged on or before the 1st November, 1844, (the period when the delay granted by the Legislature for enregistering old deeds expired,) and that the remainder were lodged subsequently. The registers, minute books and indexes, were without any verification, either of the Registrar or any of his Deputies, and there was no book or index to estates.

H. W.

Q. No. 2. I see that when you assumed the duties of the office, you did not continue to number the Deeds presented for registration, according to the number of the last Deed registered by your predecessor Mr. *Dowling*, but that you commenced a new series of numbers. Will you be good enough to give me the reason which induced you to adopt that proceeding?

We could not continue the numbering the documents commenced by Mr. *Dowling*, inasmuch as it could not be ascertained what number the last of enregistered Deeds would

arrive at, the separate Deeds not bearing any number; and the only marks being in pencil, as I before stated, either on the paper wrappers bound around the Deeds, or on one or two of a batch. We therefore commenced with new numbers, adding Mr. *Ryland's* initials thereto, in order to prevent confusion by having numbers identical with Mr. *Dowling's*.

H. W.

Q. No. 3. Was the Minute Book of the Deeds presented during Mr. *Dowling's* occupation of the office completed when you succeeded him, or was it made up subsequently to his death, and by whom was it so made up?

The Minute Books were not completed until after the demise of Mr. *Dowling*. They were made up by Mr. *Middleton*.

H. W.

Q. No. 4. If, as you state, the Deeds deposited in the office, and which remained unregistered at the time of Mr. *Dowling's* death, were neither numbered nor accompanied with a note of the precise time at which each had been presented for registration, could the Minute Book be made up correctly?

In my opinion it could not be.

H. W.

Q. No. 5. From what you know personally respecting the manner in which the Deeds left unregistered, at the time of the death of Mr. *Dowling*, have been registered, do you believe that the said deeds have been entered, either in the minute books or registers, in the order in which they have been presented for registration?

It is impossible for me to decide this point. The presumption is that they have not been.

H. W.

Q. No. 6. Do you, with the knowledge of the irregular and incorrect manner in which the minute books and registers have been made up by Mr. *Dowling* and his deputy, grant certificates that the deeds so irregularly registered, have been duly registered according to law?

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