

Correspondence
respecting
Mr. Felton.

myself applied to Mr. Felton for a free grant of land in Ascot; and after some conversation with him, we gathered from him that there was none in that township of which he could make a free grant, although we told him we were ready to perform the settling duties; but he told us that there were five Crown reserves in Ascot, which he was entitled to, and as we had squatted upon a Crown reserve in that township, he would take that one, as one of the five, and would sell it to us at a dollar an acre. The lot is the 14th lot in the 8th range. Eventually we agreed, and purchased the said lot from him at that price; and we have since paid the whole amount. We trusted entirely to him, and we never exacted a receipt. We were ready to perform the settling duties, and would not have made the purchase, if he had not told us that we could not get a free grant in Ascot. I think it was in the latter end of 1822 that we made this bargain. My father died about eight years ago, yet I find that his name and mine are both included in the letters patent of the 20th February 1830. I never got a location ticket. I am a British subject, born in Ireland. I served in the Irish militia 10 years.

Mr. George Wood, of the township of Ascot, called in; and being interrogated, answered:—I have known the Hon. William Bowman Felton about 15 years. In 1822 I applied to Mr. Felton for a free grant of land in Ascot, stating that I was able and willing to perform the settling duties. He told me there was no land in Ascot of which he could give a grant; but he stated that he would sell me some of his own. It occurred in this way: he told me if 14 persons could be got to go together he would give them a block of land upon the other side of the river. I then understood that he was a Government agent, and as such bound to make free grants on the performance of the settling duties, and he did not deny it: this might be about 1831. About two months after our interview, having in the meantime procured the consent of 14 persons, including myself, I returned to Mr. Felton, showed him a list of the persons, and requested the usual authority to go upon the land; he then informed me it was too late, for that the land had become his own property; and it resulted in his assuring me that there was no land of which he could make us a free grant in Ascot, but that if I wanted land, he would sell us some of his own. I cannot be positive as to the dates, but I am positive as to everything else. I think it was on the 15th October 1832, in consequence of his representations, that I consented to buy from him the west end of lot No. 8, in the 5th range of the township of Ascot, at the rate of 5s. an acre. He said he made it a rule, on selling of his land, to obtain a quarter down, and he insisted on my giving him a note for 20 dollars, which I did. I have since paid up the interest of the debt, and a little more. He consented it should remain upon interest, as he said he did not want the principal. To the best of my knowledge, I believe I have paid him 73 dollars on account of my purchase. For one payment that I have made, I have a receipt under his hand to the following effect, marked (E).

(E.)

Received from Mr. B. Martin the sum of three dollars in stock, to account for 11s. 3d. cash price, for Mr. Wood, in part payment of land.

Belvidere, 16 April 1830.

W. B. Felton.

I have never had any land transactions with Mr. Felton but that. I positively declare that I acquired the said lot by purchase as above stated. About the month of June 1834, I received a message from Mr. Felton, saying that he wanted me, and I accordingly called upon that gentleman; he told me he wanted me, and all the other settlers about the land, to settle with him, in order that he might sell his land to the Land Company. I said I had no money, but that I would give him my note, to which he consented; I accordingly gave him a note for a trifle less than 25 l. (exclusive of the sum which I have already stated I had then paid), which he said was the balance due to him on my said purchase. On that occasion I asked for a memorandum, and he gave me the document herewith produced, and marked (F.), to the following effect:—

(F.)

I engage to obtain the title to the west-end of lot No. 8, in the fifth range of Ascot, for and in the name of George Wood, upon his demanding the same.

William B. Felton.

I have never had any land transaction with him but that. I am positive that this memorandum was given to me in 1834, at which time I did not know that I was included in the letters patent of the 20th February 1830, by which the said land is patented to me; but I learnt it a day or two afterwards. I am a British subject, born in Ireland. I never got a location ticket. I served in the cavalry in Ireland about four months.

Mr. Barnaby Martin, farmer, of the township of Ascot, called in; and being interrogated, answered:—I have known the Hon. William Bowman Felton upwards of 13 years. Twelve or thirteen years ago I called upon Mr. Felton, and told him that I was ready and willing to perform the settling duties, and wanted a free grant of land. He told me there was none in that township to be freely granted, but that he had some to sell. I was then too poor to buy, and I let the matter run on for a couple of years, when I called upon him again, and after a conversation of similar import he offered to sell me lot No. 5, in the sixth range, which he stated to be his own property, at 11s. 3d. the acre. As I wanted a lot in Ascot, and believed that there was none to be had upon the mere performance of the settling duties, since he told me so, I consented to make the purchase, and it was effected as follows: I