

Transcript of Letter

Date Not Recorded (c1832)

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty

The Memorial of Eliza Donahoo

Widow on behalf of her Grand Children Thomas Berresford Stammers aged thirteen years and John Jay Stammers aged eleven years orphan children of the late Lieutenant Arthur Stammers formerly of the Eight Hussars.

Humbly Herewith

That the late Lieutenant Stammers after thirty years hard service with a broken constitution and exhausted state of health caused by his long service in the Army (a long time of it in India) with his wife and family (including an infant daughter with the above named orphans) in 1828 emigrated to Van Dieman's Land under the auspices and sanction of Your Majesty's Home Government with the usual documents to His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Colonel Arthur authorising him to receive a maximum grant of land under the Customary Rules and Regulations.

That only two months after his arrival in the colony and before he could make the necessary Application and Arrangement (from his ill state of health) to take possession of his Grant of Land his only hope and recourse for the future support of himself and family he departed this life and his disconsolate widow and helpless family were left destitute of assistance in a foreign land save what your memorialist and husband could afford.

That in May 1829 the deceased's widow (daughter of memorialist) applied to Lieutenant Governor Arthur for leave to locate the Grant of Land sanctioned to her deceased husband and received for answer "That her husband not having made any statement of his means to cultivate the land no definitive answer could be given, but upon her satisfactorily stating her capacity to fulfill the regulations her claim should be referred to the Land Board". Since that period neither she or any part of her family has obtained the said land or received any satisfactory decision or account of it.

That the widow remaining in a helpless state and unable to prosecute what your memorialist most humbly submits her lawful claim (the said Grant having been so sanctioned by Your Majesty's Government) and the only means that would have enabled the deceased if he had lived to rear and educate his infant family in that station of life which they expect from their father's former rank and station, in 1831 availed herself of an offer of marriage which was ultimately consummated by an arrangement that your memorialist and husband should take the sole charge of and educate the said two orphans until they attain the age of twenty one; for the performance of which your memorialist was and still is bound.

That in 1831 your memorialist's husband died leaving the whole care and charge of the said two orphans with her own family upon your memorialist who not being possessed of competent means to discharge the heavy trust imposed on her in the manner she wishes, towards the two orphans now most humbly presumes to pray Your Majesty's most gracious and humane consideration to the anxious and distressed state of mind the daily encounters in endeavouring to discharge the

important trust and duty of rearing and educating the said two orphans who have no other asylum or retreat than your memorialist's fostering care and protection.

That your memorialist most humbly submits to Your Majesty's consideration that had the deceased taken possession of his land the orphans by law would have been entitled to their shares of his estate and that it is the intention of Your Majesty's Government that such benefits so granted especially for hard services should devolve to the possession of heirs (as the said two orphans).

Your memorialist therefore most humbly prays Your Majesty will be pleased to bestow your merciful beneficence and kindness upon the two orphans by granting to your memorialist (to hold in trust for them) the Grant of Land to which the deceased was entitled to enable your memorialist to discharge her trust in the rearing educating and securing a foundation for them and their future welfare. Your memorialist hereby pledging herself to acquiesce and conform to such regulations and restrictions in this respect as Your Majesty may please to direct.

And as is duty bound

Your memorialist

Will ever pray

Signed

Eliza Donahoo

To The King's Most
Excellent Majesty

The Memorial of Eliza Donahoo
Widow on behalf of her Grand Children
Thomas Berresford Stammers aged
thirteen Years and John Jay
Stammers aged eleven Years Orphan
Children of the late Lieutenant
Arthur Stammers formerly of the
Eighth Hussars——

Humbly Sheweth

That the late Lieutenant
Stammers after thirty Years hard Service,
with a broken Constitution and an
exhausted state of health caused by his
long service in the Army (a long time
of

of it in India) with his Wife and family (including an infant daughter with the above named Orphans) in 1828 emigrated to Van Diemen's Land under the Auspices and Sanction of Your Majesty's Home Government with the usual Documents to His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Colonel Arthur authorising him to receive a Maximum Grant of Land under the Customary Rules and Regulations.

That only two Months after his arrival in the Colony, and before he could make the necessary Application and Arrangement (from his ill state of health) to take possession of his Grant of Land his only hope and recourse for the future support

of himself and family he departed this life and his disconsolate Widow and helpless family were left destitute of assistance in a foreign Land save what Your memorialist and Husband could afford

That in May 1829 the deceased's Widow (daughter of memorialist) applied to Lieutenant Governor Arthur for leave to locate the Grant of Land sanctioned to her deceased Husband and received for answer "That her Husband not having made any Statement of his Means to Cultivate the Land no definitive answer could be given; but upon her satisfactorily stating her Capacity to fulfil the regulations her Claim should be referred to the Land Board" Since
That

that period neither she or any part of her family has obtained the said Land or received any satisfactory decision or account of it.

That the Widow remaining in a helpless state and unable to prosecute what Your memorialist most humbly submits her lawful Claim (the said Grant having been so sanctioned by Your Majesty's Government) and the only means that would have enabled the deceased if he had lived to rear and educate his infant family in that station of life which they expect from their Father's former Rank and Station, in 1831 availed herself of an offer of Marriage which was ultimately consummated by an arrangement
 That

That Your memorialist and Husband
 should take the sole charge of and educate
 the said two Orphans until they attain
 the age of twenty one; for the performance
 of which Your memorialist was and
 still is bound.

That in 1831 Your memorialist's
 Husband died leaving the whole Care and
 Charge of the said two Orphans with
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endeavouring to discharge the important
trust and duty of rearing and educating
the said two Orphans who have no other
Asylum or retreat than Your ⁱⁿ ⁱⁿ ⁱⁿ
memorialist's fostering Care and protection.

That Your memorialist
most humbly submits to Your ⁱⁿ ⁱⁿ
Majesty's Consideration that had
the deceased taken possession of his
Land the Orphans by Law would
have been entitled to their Shares of
his Estate and that it is the intention
of Your Majesty's Government that
such Benefits so granted especially
for hard services should devolve to the
possession of heirs (as the said two
Orphans)

Your memorialist therefore
most humbly prays Your
Majesty will be pleased to bestow
Your Merciful beneficence and
Kindness upon the two Orphans
by granting to Your memorialist
(to hold in trust for them) the
Grant of Land to which the
deceased was entitled, to
enable Your memorialist to
discharge her trust in the
rearing educating and securing
a foundation for them and
their future welfare: Your
memorialist hereby pledging
herself to acquiesce and conform
to such regulations and
restrictions in this respect
as

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as Your Majesty may please
to direct

And as in duty bound
Your memorialist
will ever pray &c

(Signed) Eliza Donahoo

1882.3.
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