

At the Request of the Petitioner Mr. Dato William Hart of the Inner Temple
Esquire having lately been a Voyage to the Island of Barbados with his
Excellency Ralph Gray Esq: now Governour of the said Island of
which I was Deputy Secretary and Secretary to his said Excellency
but was obliged to Returne ~~for~~ ^{to} England for my health doe certifie
that it was generally reported and believed that the Petitioner and
his Father had been peaceably possessed of a certaine Estate or
Plantation in the said Island comonly called or knowne by the name
of Plantation Delarouze for thirty Odd Yeares which Plantation
had been leased for some yeares past by the Petitioner to Mr. Hester
Gascoigne Widow who is yett in possession of the same and that the
Petitioner by his Attorney hath contracted with the said Gascoigne
for sale of the said Plantation for 2500 and Covenants were signed
by the said Attorneys for that purpose and Deeds pursuant thereto
were in England drawne and executed by the Petitioner and Sarah
his wife and remitted to Barbados but it happening that upon
the arrivall of the Deeds or some short time before Mr. Richard
Bowles his Maj: Escheator in the said Island summoned the said
Gascoigne to shew Title to the Estate or Plantation she then occupied
alleging it to be in the King being originally purchased by one
D. Delarouze a French Man But his Excellency the Governour
upon petition of the said Pet: Attorney did order a Noli prosequi
for a certaine time untill notice might be given to the Petitioner
in England to sett forth his Title upon which the Petitioner
gave orders to search for Letters of Denization to the said
De la Rouze and Confirmation for the said Estate by Francis Lord
Willoughby formerly Governour of the said Island which being
found upon Record and produced his Excellency the now Governour
being informed thereof was fully satisfied therewith and the
said Escheator desisted from further prosecution But to the
time of my departure from Barbados the Bargaine of the said
Plantation or Estate was obstructed by means of the said
pretended Title in the King and its much questioned if the said
Gascoigne would proceed in the said Purchase And I doe know
that the said Escheator have been very troublesome to several
Gentlemen and Inhabitants in that Island in his Enquiries.

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as hee pretended into the Titles of their Estates for the King wh
upon the Issue have been found very frivolous and vexatious
Majestyes Subjects there witness my hand this 12th day of
August 1699

a true Copy Edward Southwell

W^m Hare his deposition
concerning plant Lachry

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