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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	712	Press ~~Mis.~~
406-408		
Dated	16th March	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department;
16th March 1869.

Read the following papers :—

No. 406. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Recommending that the Court of Wards may be authorized to assume management of Bhavaniembapuram Estate, in Tanjore District. } (Here enter 17th March 1868, No. 1,919.)

No. 407. Proceedings of the Court of Wards.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Tanjore, requesting orders with regard to Court of Wards assuming management of Bhavaniembapuram Estate. } (Here enter 10th March 1869.)

No. 408. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1869, No. 712.

Miscellaneous.

1. The first of the foregoing Proceedings though dated 17th March 1868, only reached the Government Office on the 6th instant, the original copy having miscarried.

2. Under the circumstances represented by the Court of Wards, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council approves and sanctions their proposal to take the Estate of Bhavaniembapuram under their management, under Regulation V. of 1804.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Court of Wards.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of [1869] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE COURT OF WARDS.

Dated March, 16th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 16th March 1869, No. 712.

MARCH.

Nos. 403-408.

Elavenieshpuram Estate in Tanjore District.—Proposal of the Court of Wards to take it under their management, sanctioned.

Inclosure referred to Board's Proceedings 1st March
1868 No. 1919.

(A true Copy and Extract)

H. Wood
Asst. Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

No. 1,919.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF WARDS, dated 17th March 1868.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Combaconum, 17th February 1868, No. 39 :—

1. I have the honour to report, for the information and orders of the Court of Wards, the circumstances connected with the undermentioned Minors' Estate under private guardianship.

2. In the Shrotrium village of Bharaniambapuram, in the Pattukottai talook, there were two brothers, named Periatambi Odayan and Rangasawmy Odayan, in undivided possession of a landed estate consisting, as shown in the enclosed statement, of 465 acres of land, partly Ryotwar and partly Shotrium, paying in the aggregate a revenue of Rupees 804-12-6 to Government, and yielding to the owners a net income of about Rupees 4,000 per mensem.

3. Both the brothers abovenamed have deceased, the elder, Periatambi, who died about eleven years ago, leaving a widow and a minor son now aged twelve, and the younger, Rungasawmy, who died about five years ago, also leaving a widow and a minor son about seven years of age. These two minors, named respectively Nallappa Odayan and Karuppu Odayan, are thus the present heirs to the estate.

4. The two brothers abovenamed had four half-brothers, sons of their father by another wife. All these, however, pre-deceased them, and none of them has left any male issue. One of these has left two widows, and the other three each a widow. There are, besides, two widowed daughters-in-law, who were wives of the deceased sons of two of these brothers, and the mother of Periatambi and Rungasawmi is also still alive. Thus, besides the two minor heirs and their respective mothers, there are eight females who, as members of an undivided family, have apparently a claim on the estate for maintenance.

5. Periatambi and Rungasawmi were successively the managing members of the family and estate during their respective life-time, and it is alleged on the side of Rungasawmi's widow, Ponnayi, that since the death of her husband and up to last year, the management of the estate was conducted by herself through an agent who was her nephew, and that during the harvest of last year, Puvvayi, widow of Periatambi Odayan, interfered, and has ever since taken the management into her own hands. This statement, however, is denied by Puvvayi, who asserts that she has been managing the estate ever since the death of her husband's younger brother Rungasawmi.

6. This being the case, Ponnayi, the mother of the younger minor, Viramma Ayi, the grandmother of both the minors, as also the elder minor Nallappa Odayan himself, have represented to me that Puvvayi has been wasting the property under the evil advice and misdirection of one Muttutorai Servaigaran, and requested that the estate may be taken under the management of the Court of Wards.

7. Puvvayi denies the above statement, and asserts that the estate is safe under her own management under the general supervision of the aforesaid Muttutorai Servaigaran, who, from the days of the minor's grandfather, has taken much interest in, and done much for, the well-being of the family, and that the interference of the Court of Wards is unnecessary. She adds that two powerful men, named Avadai Servagaran and Muttusawmi Servagaran, (the former of whom is a notorious character in that part of the district,) have gained over Ponnayi, and enticed her as also her own son away from her house.

8. The curious feature of the case is that her own child comes forward to complain against Puvvayi. The latter's explanation on this point is simply that the boy has been enticed away by the other side, by presents of sweetmeats and a horse which they have given him to ride.

9. In a case like this, it is very difficult to arrive at the truth; but from the inquiry which I have had made into this case, it is sufficiently clear that the present position of the family, as well as of the estate, is not satisfactory. Whatever may be the real facts of the case, there can be no doubt that the mothers and natural guardians of the minor heirs are both young and ignorant widows, and severally under the influence of two powerful parties; who, as is only too often the case, study their own interests, rather than those of the minors.

10. The moveable property of the family, including jewels and chattles, as also cattle and sheep, now actually forthcoming is not worth much, the estimated value of the whole being only about Rupees 850. The house property consists of three small thatched huts of the estimated value of Rupees 400, besides a tile-roofed choultry, worth about Rupees 300, in which a charitable or rather religious service of feeding twelve Brahmins once in a fortnight is performed from the proceeds of a small landed endowment intended for that purpose.

11. With regard to the debts and dues of the family; so far as can now be ascertained, debts to the extent of Rupees 4,000 are due to the estate, those due by the estate being Rupees 1,300. The sum last mentioned is the amount of three bonds, two for Rupees 3,400 executed by Puvvayi last year to one Rakkappa Chetty, and one for Rupees 900, executed by Ponnayi at a later date to Muttusawmi Servagaran, referred to in paragraph 7. It indeed seems doubtful whether these bonds which, of course, are admitted by the respective executants, were executed for debts actually due, or consideration actually received; but however that may be, the very existence of such debts of an apparently recent origin, shows a state of things quite inconsistent with the supposition that the interests of the minors are safe in the hands of their natural guardians.

12. I beg, therefore, to solicit the sanction of the Court of Wards, to take the estate under my management as their Agent. Should this proposal meet with their approval, I will, after further and detailed inquiry into the condition of the estate, submit, for the sanction of the Court, a plan for the management of the estate, and the education of the minors, as also for the entertainment of the necessary establishment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing the extent, description, and annual value of the landed property of the minors, Nallappa Odayan and Karuppu Odayan, residing in Bavaniambalpuram, in Pattukottai talook.

1. In this letter the Collector of Tanjore recommends that the Court of Wards should assume charge of the estate of Bhavaniambapuram, which belongs to minor proprietors, and has hitherto been under the management of their relatives.

	Acres.
Ryotwari	172·88
Shrotrium	210·47
Durkhast land	81·96
	465·31

2. The estate comprises an area of Acres 465·31 part of which is Ryotwari and part Shrotrium, as shown in the margin. The annual income is Rupees 4,072, and the assessment payable to Government Rupees 805.

3. The minors are two cousins. One of them, named Nallappa Odayan, is twelve years old, and the other, named Karuppu Odayan, is seven years old. Their mothers are both living, and besides them there are eight relatives, all females who have a claim to maintenance.

4. The mothers of the minors quarrel for the management of the estate, but possession is at present held by Puvvayi, the mother of Karuppu Odayan. Both these ladies are young and ignorant, and each of them is under the influence of a powerful party which seeks to serve its own interests at the expense of the minors. The mother of Nallappa Odayan, and the grandmother of both the minors, complain that Puvvayi is squandering the common property, and beg that it may be taken charge of by the Court of Wards. The two boys themselves side with the complainants.

5. On inquiry the Collector finds that the estate is not properly managed, and that Puvvayi has just saddled the estate with debts to the amount of Rupees 4,300 in a single year, and can give no satisfactory account of her reason for incurring them.

6. Although the estate is but a small one, the Court consider that, under the peculiar circumstances of the family, it is desirable that the minors should be made their wards, and they accordingly recommend that they may be duly authorized to assume the management of the estate.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H Grote
Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Read Im. 703 & 712

W. 712

16th March 69

The first of the foregoing Proceedings, though dated 12th March 1868 only reached the post office on the 6th inst, the orginal copy having miscarried.

Under the circumstances represented by the Court of Wards, the Hble the Govr in Council approves and sanctions their proposal to take the estate of Bhavaniambapuram under their management under Reg. V of 1804

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16 Copies to Court Wards with an Extract
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