

## STATEMENT TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HISTORIC LOSSES OF LAND IN BERMUDA

**Craig Darren Tucker**  
**DOB: 26<sup>th</sup> July 1959**  
**10 Morgan Hill, Sandys, MA 06**

I am a Graduate of Babson College, Boston, with a BA in Business Administration. I am currently a retired Vice President of HSBC, with 30 years of service.

**My family roots are in Tucker's Town.** My ancestors are the Talbots. The Talbot Brothers had a set of twins who were buried in the Old Marsden Cemetery in Tucker's Town. My great grandmother was Mamie Lambert. She married my great grandfather Osmond Talbot. They lived in a house in Tucker's Town called "Atlanta By the Sea".

Numerous ancestors from Tucker's Town are associated with Marsden members: The Talbot Families; the Burgess Family; the Richardson and Steede Families; the Smith Family; the Musson Family; the Trott Family.

I have been a life-long member of Marsden Memorial Methodist Church. I served as the Chairman of the Trustee Board of Marsden Memorial Methodist Church for over fourteen years and was a key player in its transition to the United Methodist Church in 2001 (hence the name change to Marsden First United Methodist Church).

I was the trustee chairman when the Ground Penetrating Survey and subsequent alterations to the cemetery were done.

**The members of Marsden are proud of our church's historical roots.**

The history of Marsden Memorial Methodist Church really begins in Tucker's Town and many members of this congregation are the direct descendants of families who lived and worshipped there. There was a school, a general store, a cricket pitch, a post office, a cemetery and, not far away, a Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The majority of the people who lived in Tucker's Town were moved to Smith's Parish –but they continued to worship at the Tucker's Town church until 1923. In the meantime, negotiations were made for the location of a new church. On May 12, 1923, an agreement was made and signed between the Bermuda Development Company Ltd. and the Methodist Trustee Body No.2 for the present site of the church. The Bermuda Development Company handed over £1,950 cash for the purchase of the old church. Construction began immediately on the new church, and within four and a half months a new building (the present church) was completed under contractors. The laying of the cornerstone occurred on October 7, 1923. The edifice was named Marsden Memorial Methodist Church in memory of the second assigned Methodist missionary to Bermuda, the Rev. Joshua Marsden.

**Addressing the question of ownership**, the former Ombudsman, Ms. Arlene Brock, ruled out the suggestion that the Bermuda Development Company or Rosewood Tucker's Point could lay claim of ownership.

Her conclusion is as follows:

*In my opinion, there can be no doubt that Marsden First United Church is the natural inheritor of the Methodist Cemetery in Tucker's Town.*

*However as a site of unique national significance, and also given the fact that descendants are not limited to the Marsden congregation, it is my considered opinion that inheritance does not connote exclusive decision rights regarding the 1920 Methodist Cemetery.*

We acknowledge the early neglect of the graveyard for many years. This probably resulted from the fact that no one, from the generation who were displaced, wanted to talk about what happened in Tuckers Town. This was perhaps the condition of "historical amnesia" that Dr. Lister spoke about in her submission to the Commission (the suppression of the trauma and painful memories of individuals who lost their homes).

I was the trustee chairman when the Ground Penetrating Survey and subsequent alterations to the cemetery were done. **The trustees serving during the time in question:**

- Craig Tucker (Vice President HSBC)
- Charles Burgess (Taxi Driver)
- Roland Darrell (Construction)
- Delroy Duncan (Partner, Trott & Duncan)
- Delwin Riley (Senior Cable Splicer, BTC)
- Henry Trott (Retired Construction)
- Gil Tucker (Office Managing Partner of Ernest & Young)
- Rodney Tucker (Organist for 68 years of Wesley Methodist Church and Marsden)
- Rose Marie Yarrum (Retired Registered Nurse)

Please note that a number of these trustees have ancestors who lived in Tucker's Town.

#### **Addressing Statements Presented to the Commission of Inquiry:**

##### **1. Correcting Adverse Statements:**

- a. The Graves were **NOT destroyed**
- b. The Graves were **NOT dug up**
- c. **NO Bodies were Removed** from Graves
  
- d. The Trustee of Marsden consented to the removal of the Concrete Slabs, as they were not part of the original graves.
  - i. The Trustees agreed with the recommendation given to it by Dr. Ed Harris, following the Ground Penetrating Survey.

- ii. The Trustees asked for and were given verbal assurances that nothing of the original structure of the graves would be violated.
- e. The Church agreed that the eastern wall be extended to include graves outside the boundary.
- f. The Church did not participate in any way in the work done at the cemetery.
  - i. The church did not know when the work began.
  - ii. No representative of the church was consulted or on site.
  - iii. No one from the church participated in overseeing the work.
  - iv. The church has no knowledge as to who did the work, nor of the terms of agreement between Rosewood Tucker's Point and whoever the contractor was.

**2. Statements in which there is agreement:**

- a. The Trustees of Marsden are in agreement with efforts to determine the actual scope of the cemetery. The fact that graves were found outside of the eastern wall suggest that there is probability of other graves in the area.
- b. The Trustees join with the renewed calls for the redirection of the driving range.
- c. Moving forward, the Trustees support efforts for inclusion of all stakeholders in restoring and protecting the cemetery. Healing the community and Honoring the legacy of the old Tucker's Town Community is an important outcome that we aspire to.

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**DATE:**

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<sup>1</sup> A Grave Error, Arlene Brock. P.53