

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HISTORIC LOSSES OF LAND IN BERMUDA

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: CAROL ANNE ELIZABETH CLARKE

Date of Birth: 28 December 1958

Address: 100 North Shore Road, Pembroke HM 14

Phone: (H) 232-2385 (W) 232-2385

Occupation/Employer: Semi-Retired Community Worker

This statement consists of \_\_\_\_\_ pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 23rd day of November, 2020.

Signed: Carol Clarke

Signature witnessed by: Helen Jones

STATEMENT:

1. My name Carol Ann Elizabeth Clarke and I am the eldest child of Randal Bradford and Dr. Faith Burgess-Clarke, on whose behalf I am making this presentation to the Commission. *(See my full biography at Exhibit 1)*
2. This statement is tendered with the greatest humility in respect of the late Agatha Charlotte Eve Richardson Burgess (my grandmother - maternal) - a legacy in herself, a woman who was well respected in this community no matter where she went. *(See her biography, Exhibit 2)*. She canvassed alone the length and breadth of Hamilton Parish - years before my birth - and through her efforts Hilton Hill and Walter N. H. Robinson were elected to the House of Parliament in the 1950s.
3. She was the daughter of Rev. Austin and Eva Susan Isabella Bascome Richardson *(see Exhibits 3 & 4)* - a STRONG CHRISTIAN UNIT who were blessed beyond measure and vested in their daughter a vast amount of freehold property as part of her legacy and assets at an early age. *(See Exhibit 5 - Voluntary Conveyance, 1924)*

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4. Unfortunately - Agatha was ridiculed by having most of her land acquired by compulsory purchase under the acts of government statutes, namely The Public Works Department Act, 1930 and The Acquisition of Land Act, 1941. (*See Exhibit 6, dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 1956*) This compulsory conveyance states that she was paid 1,000 pounds cash with a transfer of .150 acres of roadside property to the east. (*See Exhibit 7, January 31, 1956*)
5. Moreover, see *at Exhibits 8-11*, correspondence between Agatha Burgess and the Government of Bermuda concerning a request and granting of a right-of-way by foot. This has been blocked for a length of time by fencing, etc - and in actual fact the Francis Patton lower school is built on the property boundary and right through the right of way itself. (*See 1992 plan at Exhibit 17*). The last time this matter was raised was in 2009. This is another point to ponder, as Government does not seem interested.
6. Mrs. Burgess' daughter, Dr. Faith Burgess-Clarke and her sister Vivian Elizabeth Caines were again targeted as owners by another Government Minister, the late the Hon. Gloria McPhee in 1973, who silently swindled them out of some of the property by asking to place a side walk eastward from the roadside boundary some 4-5 feet in, on property of the equity holders, without payment or any type of consideration. The only statement they made was: "Think about the children!" We also need to be compensated for this act of partiality. (*See Exhibits 12, 13a, 13b & 13c - witness to produce at the hearing as she did not have time to provide copies to the investigator, due to short notice of the hearing*)
7. Getting back to the real premise, 1,000 pounds paid to Agatha was not enough, considering the fact that property that was compulsorily purchased from the Trimingham family for a roadway in Paget was paid

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at 4,000 pounds per acre, which was greater than Agatha or her brother, Mr. Whitfield Richardson, were compensated. (*See Exhibits 6, 14 & 15; also see Exhibit 16 - conveyance of the Government to Whitfield Richardson - which the witness will bring to the hearing as she was not able to provide a copy to the investigator, due to short notice*). I believe this was discriminative manipulation.

8. Please be advised this property is a Bascome legacy which (according to family history) was purchased by Daniel and Charlotte Mallory Bascome (my great great great grandparents) from their purported slave owner, Englesbe Seon, around the time of emancipation. (*See Bascome Family Tree at Exhibit 18*) I believe that the new school should have, at least, been named after the original Bascome family whose descendants gave up their land for the school, instead of being named after a white Bermudian, Frances Patton.
9. Please review all relevant documents attached to this witness statement and listed on the next page. If any further documentation is needed, I will be happy to try and provide it.
10. Agatha's favourite saying was: "Cast your bread upon the waters and it will return after many a day!" (*See Exhibit 19, my handwritten letter to the Commission of Inquiry*)
11. And as Richard Rothstein has written in the book *Summary of The Color of Law*: "Residential segregation is entrenched and exacerbates serious political, social and economic problems."

(Witness Initials)

CAEC

(Investigator Initials)

AP

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Biography of Carol Anne Elizabeth Clarke

Exhibit 2: Biography of Agatha Charlotte Eve Richardson Burgess

Exhibit 3: Biography of Reverend Austin Richardson

Exhibit 4: Eva Susan Isabella Bascome Richardson

Exhibit 5: Voluntary Conveyance to Agatha Charlotte Eve Richardson by her parents dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 1924.

Exhibit 6: Conveyance between the Government of Bermuda and Agatha Charlotte Eve Burgess, 5<sup>th</sup> May 1956 with attached plan

Exhibit 7: Newspaper article (Royal Gazette) January 31 1956. *'Exorbitant' Price For School Field Site Is Criticised In Assembly.*

Exhibits 8 - 11: Correspondence with Bermuda Government regarding Mrs. Burgess request and granting of a right-of-way.

Exhibits 12, 13a, 13b & 13c: to be provided by the Witness

Exhibit 14: Newspaper article (Royal Gazette) June 30, 1956. *Land for new road too costly Assemblymen say.*

Exhibit 15: Newspaper article (Royal Gazette) February 23, 1957. *Work on new road already begun - Land deal approved.*

Exhibit 16: *To be produced by Witness* - Conveyance of Mr. Whitfield Richardson to the Bermuda Government, 23 April 1956.

Exhibit 17: 1992 Plan of Land in Hamilton Parish showing right-of-way by foot.

Exhibit 18: Various documents (10 pages) illustrating Bascome Family Tree.

Exhibit 19: Carol Clarke's original handwritten letters to the Commission of Inquiry, dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 & 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

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