

Submission from Cathy Stovell – granddaughter of Wycliffe Stovell (deceased)
1 Purvis Estate Road, Warwick WK06

Thursday 29 April 2021

In reading through the submissions made to the Commission on Enquiry into Historic Land Losses In Bermuda Case #39 Teart-Darrell, I would like the record to show that allegations made against my grandfather, surveyor Wycliffe Stovell who is now deceased, have no supporting evidence and I submit they cannot be assumed to be factually correct.

In the submission I read [ref: COI 3February 2021 Morning (c)] there are allegations which appear to be based on people's feelings and what they have been told, as opposed to hard facts. Where boundaries haven't been in keeping with what land owners thought, the assumption, from what I've read, appears to be that my grandfather purposefully misled or stole for the Government, land that belonged to others.

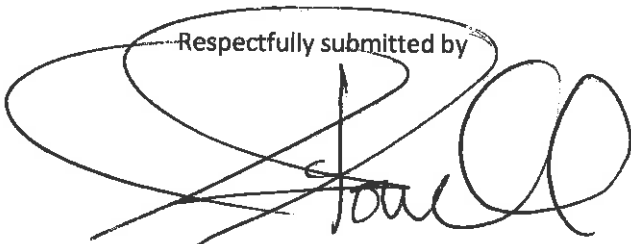
I knew my grandfather well and even lived with he and his wife for several months when I was a teenager. He was meticulous and very bright. He was also an educated man of principle. I remember him working behind the scenes on civil rights for Blacks in the community. He was a founding member of the Bermuda Industrial Union and an active member of the Progressive Labour Party. He was a God fearing man, a member of St Paul's AME Church and the Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

My grandfather was not wealthy. I remember him living in a studio apt above the Spot restaurant on Burnaby Street with his wife Eva in the 1960s. Not only did they live there, he also used it as his office for architectural and surveying business. It was cluttered and even as a youngster I marvelled at how they managed to live in such a tiny place.

Mentioning these facts is relevant as I contend it was simply not in my grandfather's character to be swindling people, especially Black people. Furthermore when swindlers do their swindling, they do so to be compensated. It is my contention that if my grandfather is guilty of the accusations made against him, he would have had to have profited financially. He and his wife did eventually move to a modest home on Angle Street sometime in the 1970s but had he been doing the antics alleged, he would have lived a more 'up-market' lifestyle

In some of the transcripts people appear to be alleging he was in cahoots with ET Richards. This makes no sense at all to me. My grandfather was a staunch Progressive Labour Party man and I would say, would most definitely not have been liaising with Mr Richards for nefarious reasons.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Stovell', written over a circular scribble.

Cathy Stovell