

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HISTORIC LOSSES OF
LAND IN BERMUDA

IN THE MATTER OF a Commission of Inquiry established by the Commission of
Inquiry Act 1935 and appointed by the Premier of Bermuda

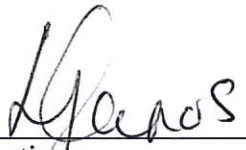
EXHIBITS
(pages 1-26)

EUGENE MCNEIL STOVELL

I, Eugene M. Stovell, set my signature }
this 27th day of October, 2020 }



Witnessed by:


Investigator

EUGENE MCNEIL STOVELL

1948 - present

[Maternal Line]

|

Verna Isabelle STOVELL

1930 - present

|

Enid Olga STOVELL

1904 - 1984

born in Tucker's Town

|

Samuel Ferguson STOVELL (born Smith)

1875 - 1952

born in Tucker's Town

|

Caroline SMITH

1840 - 1893

born, died & buried in Tucker's Town¹

|

JOSIAH SMITH

c. 1810 - 1876

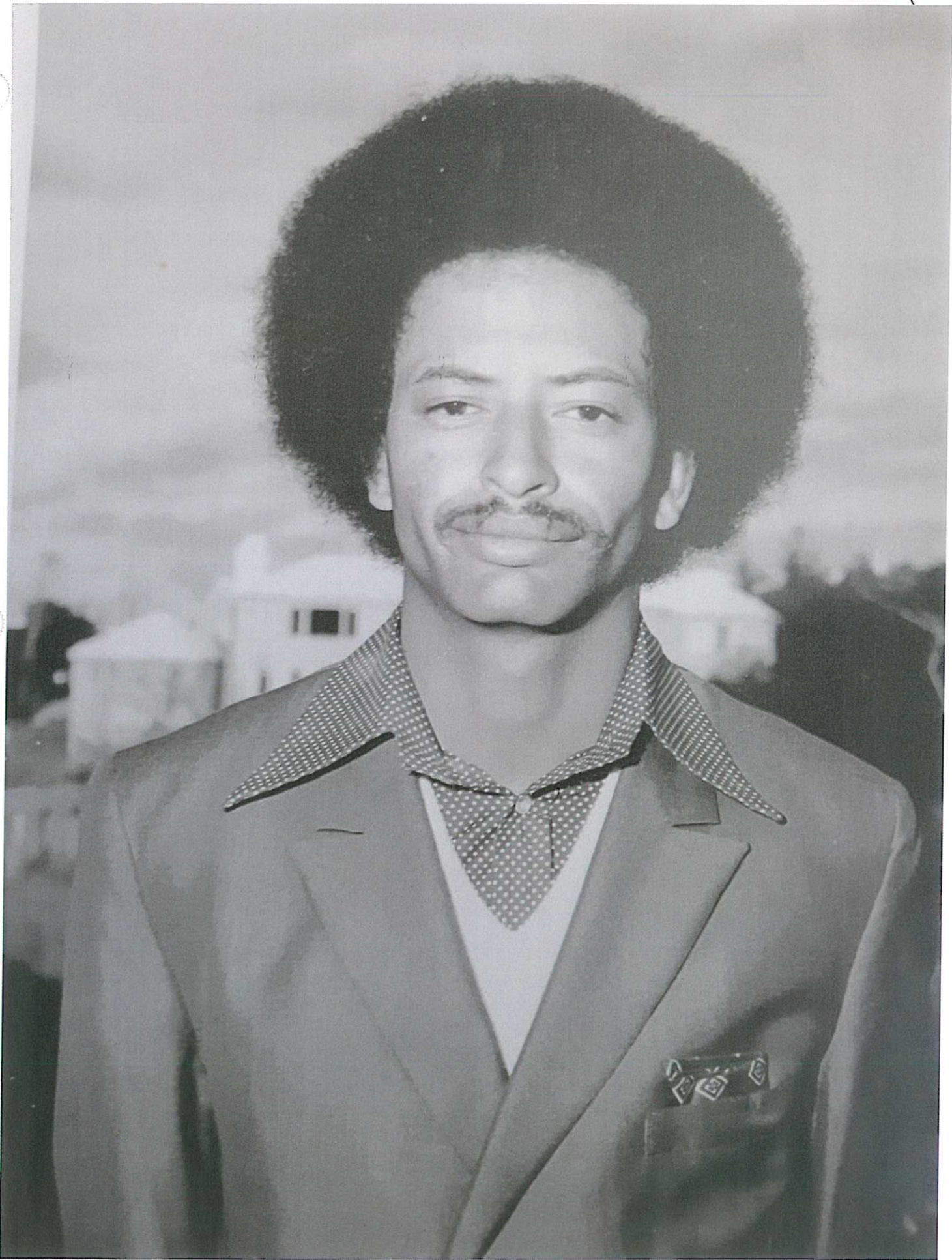
died & buried in Tucker's Town²

¹ 19CCR, page 1267; Register General Death Record #10171 (1893; Caroline Hinson)

² Newspaper article and records of Pride of India G.U.O.O.F. who attended funeral in 1876.











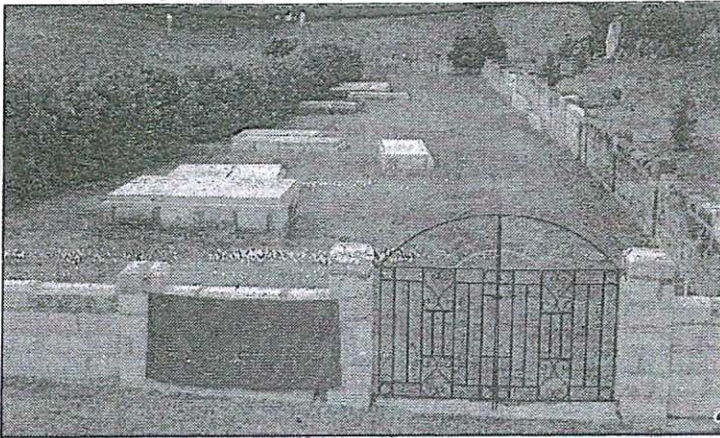
This photograph, taken in about 1989, clearly shows a tombstone visible above ground, with grass growing from it.



Old reminder: Another photograph, also taken in about 1989, clearly shows the outline of a grave, with part of the headstone visible above ground and grass growing from it.



DIED, at Tucker's Town, on the 21st instant, **MR. JOSIAH SMITH**, Queen's Pilot, aged 65 years; leaving a widow, 10 children and 27 grandchildren to mourn their loss. The deceased met with a serious injury by a fall on the evening of the tornado, when his brother, Mr. Daniel Smith, lost his wife, children, house, &c. His funeral was most numerously attended, and being a member of the Grand United Order of Odd-Fellows, Lodges 899 and 1026 were present and closed the burial service, which was performed by the Revd. Mr. Fisher, W. M., when the ancient Odd-Fellows retired.—(Com.)



Left: A view of the restored graveyard; right: (left to right) Rev. Peter Tink, Peter Parker, Ilene Talbot and Henry "Dee" Trott, a Marsden member.

■ Photos by Perry Johnson

Tucker's Town graveyard restored

By Meredith Ebbin

MORE than 200 people gathered at Castle Harbour golf course on Sunday for a service to commemorate the restoration of a historic graveyard.

The graveyard, which was in use between 1861 and 1923, was the burial ground for families who lived at Tucker's Town before they were uprooted by the government in order to create an exclusive enclave for wealthy North Americans.

The graveyard served two Tucker's Town Methodist churches, St. Phillips AME and Marsden Memorial, but fell into disuse after

the more than 350 people were moved out.

In the years since, the stone wall enclosing the graveyard had crumbled, the tops of the graves had collapsed and the whole area had become overgrown with vegetation.

Marsden minister Rev. Peter Tink said the graveyard was a "real mess."

He said he discovered it when he was playing golf and found himself "staring in an open grave."

For the last two years, Marsden Church and Bermuda Properties, which owns the Castle Harbour property, have been working on the restoration of the graveyard.

The overgrowth was cleared away, the

stone wall was rebuilt and the tops of the graves were replaced.

All the work was paid for by Bermuda Properties, which will also maintain the graveyard.

Peter Parker, general manager for Bermuda Properties, said: "Although we inherited it in the state it was, we wanted to put it right."

Rev. Tink presided over Sunday's service, where a cedar tree was planted and a plaque unveiled by 96-year-old Ilene Talbot, who was born in Tucker's Town and is the oldest member of Marsden Methodist Church.

The plaque said in part: "In memory of

the Tucker's Town Methodists who faithfully toiled in the service of the Lord and in the light of His love."

Others attending the service who were also born in Tucker's Town were Roy Talbot and Ross Talbot, the two surviving members of the Talbot Brothers musical group, their sisters Queenie Simmons and Merle Tucker, and Cecil Smith.

Deputy premier Jerome Dill and Opposition Leader Jennifer Smith also attended the service.

Earlier this year, Canadian historian Duncan McDowall, who is writing a book

▼ See page 54

Tucker's Town graveyard restored

▼ From page 53

about the history of tourism in Bermuda, shed new light on the whole Tucker's Town episode in a series of public lectures.

The residents, who were mainly farmers and fishermen, were forced to sell their land so that Tucker's Town could become the exclusive enclave it now is.

The two churches were also moved out, Marsden to its current location on South Shore, Smith's Parish, and St. Phillips AME Church to Devil's Hole.

Dr. McDowall described the move as one in which the "interests of a politically powerless people" were overruled by a "powerful commercial elite."

But he also said it also brought prosperity to all of Bermuda because it laid the groundwork for the development of modern tourism.

This week Craig Tucker, a member of the Marsden Church committee that worked with Bermuda Properties on the restoration, said the church is now trying to find out who is buried in the graveyard.



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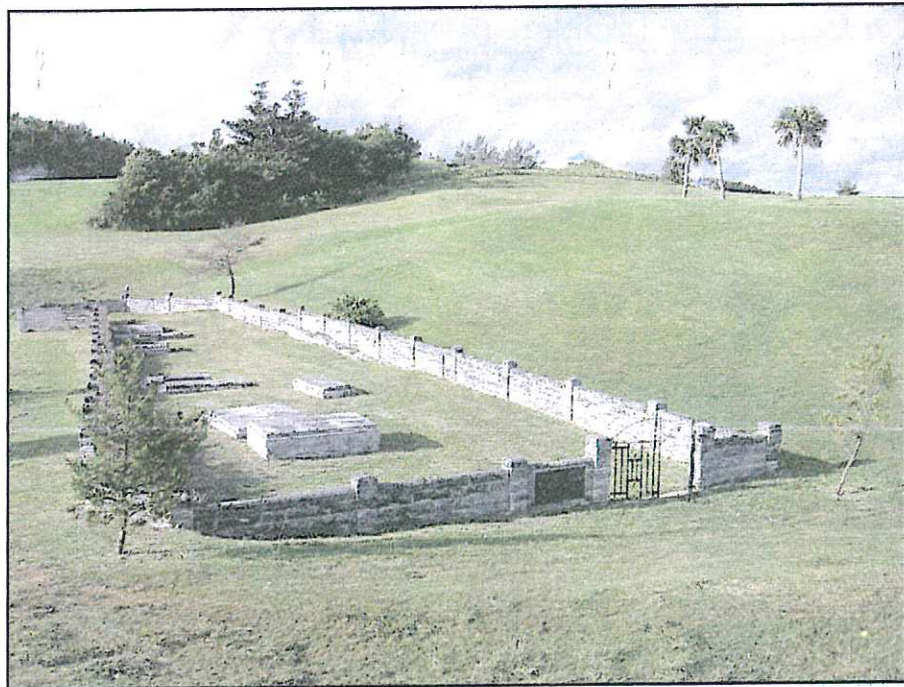
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Handwritten notes in purple ink, including the name "L. S. Johnson" and other illegible scribbles.

OLD TUCKER'S TOWN GRAVEYARD



MEMORIAL SERVICE

2:00pm

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2011

ORDER OF SERVICE

Old Fashion Dressed Ushers: The St. James Stage Group

GREETING

Rev. Joseph Whalen, Jr.
Pastor, Marsden First United Methodist Church

SOLO SELECTION

Ms. Toni Robinson

PRAYER

Mr. Thomas Smith
The Great-Great-Grandson of
Dinah Smith

WELCOME

Mr. Brian Young
Managing Director, Rosewood Tucker's Point
Golf Beach & Tennis Club

SPECIAL REPORT

Dr. Ed Harris
Director of the Maritime Museum

SCRIPTURE

Mr. Denny Richardson
Vice-chairman, Tucker's Town Historical Society

SOLO SELECTION

Ms. Toni Robinson

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Joseph F. Whalen, Jr.

LAYING OF THE WREATH

Mrs. Helen Wainwright
Oldest Descendant of Tucker's Town


What do these stones mean to you?


Updated: Oct 08, 2011 08:25 AM

2 Comments

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One

The ancient Biblical story of the Memorial Stones as found in the Book of Joshua 4:6 was brought to vivid present-day reality on Sunday at the memorial service at the old Tucker's Town graveyard by the Rev Joseph F. Whalen, Jr, pastor of Marsden First United Church.

Dramatically pointing towards the neatly manicured graveyard, Rev Whalen expounded on his text, 'What Do These Stones Mean to You?' As Joshua

Restoration work at graveyard upsets custodian group

ROYAL GAZETTE ARTICLE - COPIED FROM WEBSITE

Source: <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20121017/NEWS/710179935>

Derek Dechabert

Published Oct 17, 2012 at 8:00 am (Updated Oct 16, 2012 at 11:20 pm)



Inspecting: Keith Dubois, Denny Richardson and E Mcneal Stovell stand in the Tucker's Town Methodist Community Graveyard which has been undergoing restoration work. ((Photo by Glenn Tucker))

The Tucker's Town Historical Society (TTHS) are looking for answers after claiming they were left out of the loop in discussions between the Marsden First United Methodist Church and Dr Edward Harris of the National Museum of Bermuda to restore a sacred cemetery.

The Old Tucker's Town graveyard is on the Tucker's Point golf course and holds the remains of past residents of the area.

Work is being done at the site to remove the false sarcophagi and to extend a portion of the eastern wall under the supervision of Dr Harris and overseas archeologists which begun Monday.

The Tucker's Town Historical Society are the active custodians of the interest of the descendants of Tucker's Town that have been moved out of the residence in 1923, and believe that they should have been included in an meetings.

"We represent the people that lived here before, therefore we should have been in any discussions that were held in regards to the cemetery," said TTHS chairman Denny Richardson.

"They have a back hoe at the site and that is much different from a mattock or shovel.

"When did they make up their minds to actually this procedure because they had previously said that they would sit down with us to discuss anything that they would be doing and it was joint responsibility by both parties to be together in any decision.

"This hasn't happened and we are now trying to get to the bottom of this."

Pastor Joseph Whalen, of the Marsden First United Methodist Church, however, insists that the church nor the trustees owe anything to the TTHS and agreed to work being done on the graveyard with the Rosewood Tucker's Point (RTP) and Dr Harris.

During a memorial service held on October 1st of last year, Dr Harris made a presentation on the ground-penetrating x-ray of the cemetery and the immediate area that will been carried out, while greetings were made by managing director of RTP, Brian Young.

"They're not responsible for the graveyard, they have an interest in it but that's it," said Mr Whalen.

"The graveyard is in the custodianship of the Marsden First United Methodist Church, and because it is on the golf course at Tucker's

Point we have been negotiating with them about doing work.

"It's not like their society is responsible for the actual site or anything of that nature.

"We have been working with Dr Harris and talking to him and individuals in regards to Tucker's Point to come to an agreement that some work should be done to restore the site.

"You can't bring everyone into the loop so to speak because they aren't the principle players in determining what happens.

"Information should be given out in due time and that was going to be done to bring everyone up to speed, and this will still be done.

"The trustees of Marsden agreed to having the following work done by RTP for protection and preservation of the old graveyard including the late false sarcophagi being removed, the eastern wall of the cemetery being extended to include the probable graves noted in the Ground Penetrating Report, as well as the cemetery being protected by using monofilament netting supported by several tall palm trees.

"Dr Harris has been a friend of the project to protect and preserve the Old Tucker's Town Grave Yard.

"The church and RTP are profoundly grateful for his work on behalf of the interests of the broader community, which has historical ties to the graveyard."

Dr Harris added: "With the agreement of the parties and paid for by Rosewood, in August last year, we conducted a ground penetrating radar survey of the cemetery and areas surrounding it to ascertain if there are any possible graves outside the present boundary walls of the cemetery.

"A survey was also conducted within the cemetery and a number of possible graves were apparent in the graphs recorded by the radar equipment.

"As a result of that survey, some possible graves were located to the northeast of the cemetery, but no possible graves, or any other cuttings were found in other adjacent areas.

“At a meeting with Reverend Joseph Whalen and Rosewood it was agreed, at their expense, that Rosewood would extend the boundary wall of the cemetery to include those possible or probable grave sites.”

OTHER PHOTOS POSTED ON RG WEBSITE:



A golf ball sits inside Tucker's Town Methodist Community Graveyard which is undergoing restoration work. ((Photo by Glenn Tucker))



Denny Richardson stands next to stones that were taken out of the Tucker's Town Methodist Community Graveyard during restoration work.

((Photo by Glenn Tucker))

OVER -



Inspecting: Keith Dubois, Denny Richardson and E Mcneal Stovell stand in the Tuckers Town Methodist Community Graveyard which has been undergoing restoration work. ((Photo by Glenn Tucker))

March 15 2017

Decades-old photographs add to Tucker's Town graves controversy



(Photo courtesy of Tucker's Town Historical Society)

This photograph, taken in about 1989 by Tucker's Town Historical Society member Eugene Stovell, shows the cemetery at Tucker's Point Golf Club, with tombstones clearly visible above the ground.



(Photo courtesy of Tucker's Town Historical Society)

Old reminder: Another photograph, also taken in about 1989, clearly shows the outline of a grave, with part of the headstone visible above ground and grass growing from it.

By Sam Strangeways

Bermuda's top archaeologist is being urged to explain why he thought historic tombstones at Tucker's Point Golf Club were modern constructions, by the descendants of some of those buried there.

Tucker's Town Historical Society has uncovered photographs from the late 1980s which it says disprove Edward Harris's theory that the headstones were "false" structures, put in place in the early 1990s.

Society members, along with a historical researcher, say Dr Harris failed to give Ombudsman Arlene Brock a proper explanation as to how he reached his conclusion when she investigated the October 2012 destruction of the tombstones.

The society is calling on him to review the photos and answer questions about why he recommended to cemetery custodian Marsden First United Methodist Church and Rosewood Tucker's Point that they raze the tombstones.

And it wants Marsden pastor Joseph Whalen, church trustees and Tucker's Point management to publicly address the desecration of the headstones, in light of the new evidence.

Society president Keith DuBois, whose great grandfather Pilot James Samuel


Harvey is buried at Tucker's Point, told *The Royal Gazette*: "The photographs were taken in about 1989 by society member Eugene Stovell.

"The one of the full cemetery clearly shows that the graves were above ground. The others show the stones with grass growing out of the graves and you can see why the workmen had to repair the graves.

"They [Dr Harris and Marsden] were saying that the graves weren't above ground at all. So they made a big mistake. This is definitive proof."

The graves at Marsden Methodist Memorial Cemetery are the final resting place of an unknown number of mostly black residents who lived at Tucker's Town from the early 19th century, around the time of Emancipation, onwards.

Continued on Page 8



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THE 1921 BERMUDA CENSUS REPORT ²²

BERMUDA TRULY was in some ways 'another world' back in 1921. There was plenty of open space with lots of gardens in every parish throughout Bermuda.

These gardens were in various sizes and at that time agriculture was at the foundation of Bermuda's economy, with New York City being one of our biggest customers. There was little crime and one could leave the house open without the fear of someone stealing your property. Plus, the population was one-third the size it is today.

Depending on what side of the fence one lived on, there are those who thought those were the 'good old days'. But were they really good days for the larger portion of the Bermudian population of all ethnic groups?

In 1924, a Mr. Walter B. Hayward published a book called "Bermuda, Past and Present". In chapter 7 of this book one will find some excerpts from the 1921 report of the Bermuda Census. The census puts the population of Bermuda at 20,127 with the divisions as follows:
 White males: 3282
 White females: 3724
 Black males: 6347
 Black females: 6774

The population of black citizens to that of whites was nearly two to one. Also in the same chapter 7, Mr. Hayward goes on to write: "The tenacity with which the older Bermudian oligarchy families have retained their wealth and

holdings, and that of the absence of thrift on the part of the working class, are factors which have operated to concentrate property in the hands of a comparatively few individuals, and notwithstanding the small fortune necessary to enable a man to qualify as a voter."

Mr. Hayward further points out that in 1918 there were only 1,408 voters who were qualified to vote in Bermuda general elections. **Out of a population of some 20,127 people, only 1,408 men had the right to vote — 934 of those were white men while the other 474 voters were black men!**

Even though women owned property back in the 1920s, they were not allowed to vote and did not get the vote until May 15, 1944. This was followed by the election to Parliament of the first ever woman: Mrs. Hilda Aitkin. The type of government that ruled Bermuda from 1620 to 1968 was a minority elitist's mercantile government, a minority, because they were elected to power by a small group of electors of only 1,408 out of a population of 20,127 people. Elitists because most of the men who went to Parliament were most white rich men; A mercantile because most of those men were large land barons, owning most of the stores in Hamilton and throughout Bermuda, and imported most all the goods that were needed by the people of Ber-



By EUGENE STOVELL

muda to live on.

There has been a closer examination of the 1921 Census Report to show the eligibility of people by age that would have been able to vote in an election today in the year 2003 or if Universal Adult Suffrage had been implemented back then.

It must be understood that the 1921 Census does not count each person by their age but in groups between the ages of 20 and 30 and from 30 to 50 and so on. But since the 18-year-olds were included within the 13 to 20-year group, it is not known the actual number of 18-year-olds included in the 1921 Report, so they left out this count.

Here is a breakdown by race, sex and age groupings of the 1921 Census to show how adults would actually qualify to vote in today's elections, or if Universal Adult Suffrage had been in effect then:

White males:	
478.....	20-30
825.....	30-50
560.....	50-70

112.....	70-80
28.....	80-90
Total.....	2,012
Black males:	
944.....	20-30
1,495.....	30-50
726.....	50-70
132.....	70-80
20.....	80-90
2.....	90-plus
Total.....	3,319
White females:	
566.....	20-30
1,005.....	30-50
654.....	50-70
165.....	70-80
53.....	80-90
3.....	90-plus
Total.....	2,446
Black females:	
1,083.....	20-30
1,490.....	30-50
753.....	50-70
162.....	70-80
4.....	90-plus
Total.....	3,546
The total number of all adult males both	

Continued on page 12

SAY, WHAT...?

A VERY humorous and revealing story is told about a group of white people who were fed up with African Americans, so they joined together and wished themselves away.

They passed through a deep dark tunnel and emerged in sort of a twilight zone where there is an America without black people. At first, these white people breathed a sigh of relief. At last, they said, no more crime, violence and welfare. All of the blacks have gone!

Then suddenly reality set in. The New America is not America at all — only a barren land. There are very few crops that have flourished because

the nation was built on a slave-supported system.

There are no cities with tall skyscrapers because Alexander Mils, a black man, invented the elevator, and without it one finds great difficulty reaching higher floors.

There are few if any cars because Richard Spikes, a black man, invented the automatic gear shift, Joseph Gambol, also black, invented the Super Charge System for internal combustion engines, and Garret Morgan, a black man, invented the traffic signal.

Furthermore, one could not use the rapid transit system because its procurer was the electric trolley, which was invented by another black man, Albert R.

Robinson.

Even if there were streets on which cars and a rapid transit system could operate, they were cluttered with paper because an African American, Charles Brooks, invented the street sweeper.

There were few, if any, newspapers, magazines and books because John Love invented the pencil sharpener, William Purveys invented the fountain pen, Lee Barrage invented the typewriting machine and W. A. Love invented the advanced printing press. They were all, you guessed it, black.

The above article was submitted by a reader who found it on the Internet.

BIU President Burgess concerned about violence

Election Budget ²³

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

Pastor Gordon Jones of Midland Heights Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Pastor Joseph King of Gospel Tabernacle in Shelly Bay and other Hamilton Parish residents. Brother Burgess said the group began by all putting their experiences together and looking at themselves to see if what they were doing was for the right reasons.

"We had to ask ourselves if we were alienating the youth by our actions and attitudes," said Derrick. "We are now trying to get the youth to come to our meetings — not so that we can talk to them, but so that they can talk to us because we need to bridge the gap between

the youth and the older members of the community."

Brother Burgess said that he knew Brother Josh personally and that he had extended sympathy to the family.

"Josh was like family to everyone in Hamilton Parish, added Brother Derrick. "He was 'Uncle' to many and he had probably had more nieces and nephews than anyone else in Bermuda. He was well-mannered and hard working. He was a miss from the moment the breath left his body."

Brother Derrick said that he hoped that the Police would use all of the forensic science and technology available to them in their investigation so that they could speedily bring justice in this case.

"I am appealing to all of the people of

Hamilton Parish in particular and, Bermuda in general, to come together and assist the Police in their investigation," said Burgess. Neither the Government nor the Police are responsible for everything that goes wrong in the community. We all must come together and stamp out this violence."



cess that is recognized by every one that matters except Her Majesty's Disloyal Opposition. Their current judgment of the PLP performance is surpassed only by their idiotic analysis of the PLP success in the last general election. We illustrate this perverse view with a quote from their Budget Response:

"The new United Bermuda Party understands that in the last election, many people voted with their hearts, and their hearts told them that the colour of Bermuda's government was important. They were hopeful that life in Bermuda would improve just because a black political party finally controlled the government."

Maybe now all Bermuda will understand (BIU President) Brother Derrick's comment about people who "share the all too common belief that people of African descent are illiterate and chained in darkness".

Obviously the leadership of the United Bermuda Party still shares that view!

Solution to Wordwizard

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STOVELL

Continued from page 5
black and white between the ages of 20 to 90-plus years was 5,331. the total number of all adult females both black and white between the ages of 20 to 90-plus years was 5,992, making a total of 11,323 out of a population count of 20,127 - leaving out all 18-year-olds!

TO BE CONTINUED

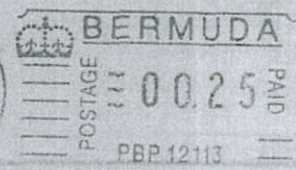


Harry Hardhat

says:

Occupational Safety and Health standards MUST NOT BE compromised by Employers or Employees!

Bermuda Library
Queen Street
Hamilton



The 1921 Bermuda Census Report — Cont. ^{24.}

ONE HAD to be a property owner in order to vote in any general election before 1968 or, if married to a woman who owned property, the husband may use his wife's property in order to become eligible to vote. One also had to be 21 years of age to vote. To run for Parliament, one must not own property assessed less than £240 and not less than £60 in order to qualify to vote.

It must be understood that it was the government of the day who assessed the value of one's land. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the degree of manipulations that were taking place in that process. It was said that people owned land, and the government assessed it so low that it made the owner ineligible to vote. It would appear that some landowners never voted over the years because of this.

Mr. Hayward does point out in his book (Bermuda, Past and Present) on page 206 that "each of the nine parishes returns four members to the House of Assembly without regard to the size of their respective constituencies, and while this system of distribution is contrary to the recognized principal that a small number of voters shall not have the same Parliamentary representation as that of a larger number of voters, the people of Bermuda seemed to have been resigned to these facts without protest.

"It has always been said that the Bermuda Parliament operates on the same ideals as that of the Westminster Parli-

mentary system, but has that been true? We have not been truly following the Westminster system — after all the British did implement Universal Adult Suffrage to its citizens back in 1867 with women receiving equal franchise with men in 1928. Bermuda did not introduce Universal Adult Suffrage to its citizens until 1968, a whole 101 years later."

If what Mr. Hayward has said in the above quote is true, that uneven electoral districts were contrary to the recognized principles that are followed by other democratic countries, then what kind of government was in charge of Bermuda back in the 1920s and by what ideals had they been following? It would appear definitely not the Westminster system of government. It must be pointed out that race has always dominated politics in Bermuda since the first Parliament sat in 1620.

When blacks first became eligible to vote in Bermuda's elections is not known, but may have started just after emancipation August 1, 1834. No blacks had been successful in winning a seat in Parliament until Mr. William Henry Thomas Joell, a candidate for the parish of Pembroke, became the first man of colour to enter Parliament in 1882 and won his seat with 90-plus votes and remained in Parliament until his death in 1886.

Taking over Mr. Joell's seat after his death was Mr. John Henry Thomas Jackson (from 1886 to 1904). By the time the 1921 cen-



By EUGENE STOVELL

sus had been completed, there were two black Parliamentarians in the House. They were Dr. John William Cann (1912-1925) who was a candidate from Sandys Parish, and Mr. Hilton Gray Hill (1918-1928), a candidate for the Parish of Pembroke.

The 1921 census did point out that the black citizens of Bermuda outnumbered white adults two to one, but none of this was reflected in Parliament where there were 34 white Parliamentarians against the only two blacks in a then 36-seat Parliament.

Owning large tracts of land in every parish gave most of the political power to just 934 white landowners as to that of 474 black landowners by 1921. While the number of black landowners had risen in the voter registry from 293 in 1882 to 730 in 1928, they had only managed to elect four men to Parliament over a 46-year period with Dr. J. W. Cann and Mr. H. G. Hill being there for a period of eight years.

Because of the race factor in Bermuda politics at the time, this made the two men a minority political body that was representing a larger majority of the population of Bermudians of

whom 2% had the right to vote. This also brings into question the whole issue of citizenship. Did this mean that the 1,408 eligible voters could be looked upon as Bermuda's only citizens?

Even though the voter registry had risen to 1,807 by 1928, the state of Bermuda politics remained the same as white voter count moved up to 1,077 while black voters moved up to 730. This meant that black Parliamentarians were seemingly forever locked in a position of stalemate against a large white political block that they were never able to be successful.

Even the then President of the United States recognized the undemocratic style of the Bermuda Government and the fact that the electoral system of Bermuda was faulted — so much so that in his writings in the National Geographic magazine of January 1922, William H. Taft said: "We must realize, in calling Bermuda a popular government, that it is a government of land holders and not of manhood electors". No doubt he was making reference to the fact that the then government of Bermuda was not legitimized by popular democratic elections through Universal Adult Suffrage.

President Taft no doubt recognized that Bermuda was being governed by whites over a black majority population, but he lent support to what he perceived as its style of efficiency, thus pushing aside his concern for democratic principles.

There are those among us today who

would like to take Bermuda back to those good old days. But if you were to ask those same people and those who governed Bermuda back then if they would like to change places with those poor blue-collar workers who paid most of their hard-earned taxes to a government that did not represent them, you would be laughed right off the scene, and dragged away to spend the rest of your life in a lunatic asylum!

That should give an indication that those who had the power to do so did not hesitate to use that power to acquire whatever they wanted from those who had no power to stop them. The excuse that the oligarchy used that "those were just the times" does not cut it. They knew they were wrong, and they knew at that time through the power they had that they were well protected and among the untouchables. They could come down hard on anyone who was brave enough to stand up against them.

It should not be so hard to understand the above and how easy it was to deprive, not just the people of Tucker's Town of their property, but of the losses of other Bermudians over the years that never had a chance against those who selfishly had dictatorial control through a minority elitist's mercantile government.

Just ask yourself, would I allow those who would take us back to the good old days so that we can experience the above trappings? The biggest question we must now ask ourselves is: Are we still afraid today?

READ

2302/2

20 October, 1954.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

133

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 7th October in connection with the sale of land at Tucker's Town to Bermudians and non-residents of Bermuda.

Your Executive Committee is no doubt aware that the original intention of the undertaking at Tucker's Town had as its object the development of the tourist trade and hotel business in the Colony and especially in the Tucker's Town area. Purchasers of land in the Club area and immediately bordering on the Club golf course had to be members of the Club, and they covenanted to use their houses for residential purposes only.

To enable the project to get started, former residents of the Tucker's Town Area were forced to sell their properties and had to seek other homes in the Colony. There have recently been several sales of property in this area to Bermudians and it is doubtful whether this conforms to the original purpose for which the land was compulsorily acquired.

Your Executive Committee will appreciate that if there is any change of policy the persons who were forced to sell their properties may well have genuine grounds for complaint.

It is for these reasons that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council is seeking a clarification of the present position.

I am also to enquire whether as a matter of policy all persons to whom land within the Club's property is sold are required to be members of the Mid-Ocean Club.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

C. P. Raphael

Colonial Secretary.



The Resident Manager,
Mid-Ocean Club Ltd.,
Tucker's Town.

Captain Bob Trott Ends Visit To His Native Land On 72nd Birthday

26.

Bermuda-Born Ex-U.S. Soldier Has Had Type of Career Most Local Boys Can Only Read About

Returning to his home in New Jersey today, after what he called "a most delightful" six months vacation in the colony, will be Captain Bob Trott, retired United States Army officer, who was born in Tucker's Town in 1880, but has resided in the States for the past 60 years.

Captain Trott, whose 72nd birthday happens to be today, arrived here in July for his first visit in thirty years. He was accompanied by his American wife, and they have been guests of his sister, Mrs. Elvira Hayward of Mount Hill, Pembroke.

Since going to America at the early age of 15, Captain Trott has had the type of career that most Bermuda boys seem only able to read about. As a professional soldier for almost half a century for the United States of America, he has participated in most of the major military engagements undertaken by that country in the 20th century.

At the age of 17 he got the permission of his parents to enlist in the forces to participate in the Spanish-American War. That was in 1898, and he was sent to the Philippine Islands with the famous 24th United States Infantry Regiment.

"By the time we got there, things had only begun to warm up," the tall, very modest officer stated. At the end of the war he was sent back to the States arriving in the early part of 1902. He stayed out of the services until 1912 when he joined the New Jersey National Guard Cavalry.

That was an all white outfit, and what he called a special squadron, but the Bermudian's proficiency as an armorer broke down all barriers that might have been placed against him because of his racial origin.

Captain Trott said he preferred service with the cavalry because nothing could have been more thrilling than dashing about on horseback in those times. In 1916 he took part in the Mexican Border Service, and after that was again off on active duty during the first world war.

In 1917 he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and assigned

to an all Negro outfit. Two years later he was "justiced out" with the rank of first Lieutenant. He remained out of active service until 1932 when he was one of a committee of five chosen by the Adjutant General of the United States Army to organize a battalion which he later commanded.

The men who formed this group were all hand-picked. Twenty of them later became eligible for commissions and one now holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

In 1940, the hardest blow that had ever been struck the soldier came when he was told he had reached the age limit for active duty and had to retire from the army. "It was a hard thing to do, but I had no choice," he said. However, he continued to serve the army in a civilian capacity as an armorer, but on July 16th, 1951, he was told he was too old for the Civil Service and had to retire.

In 1905, Captain Trott was married to the former Edie E. Hall of Raleigh, North Carolina. They have no children, but adopted Mr. Robert E. Hayward of the Hayward and Hayward Ensemble when he resided in the States as a youth.

Captain Trott says he has a multitude of relatives here and he wouldn't mind "settling down in Bermuda, but his wife doesn't have any special liking for the place so he is going back to New Jersey.

He is the son of the late Benjamin Trott, who was a Queen's pilot, and the late Mrs. Trott. He has only one sister and a brother living and they are Mrs. Hayward and Mr. Josiah Trott of East Orange, N.J.

The Trott family formerly owned property where part of the Mid-Ocean Golf course is. Thirty years ago when an act of Parliament disposed of the property owners of their holdings in Tucker's Town, Captain Trott's father owned nine acres of land and a nine-room house.

"The government took it away from us and only paid us £400 for the lot", the Captain said.

When he visited the spot a few weeks ago he said he honestly felt sick. He considered his family had been raped. His father was an old man at the time and most of his sons were abroad.

Captain Trott feels that the people did not protest strongly enough against the government's action. If they had, the attention of outsiders would have been drawn on the issue and the people may have got a better deal.



CAPTAIN ROBERT TROTT.

