

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of: JERRY KEITH DUBOIS

Date of Birth: 28-8-55

Address: 18 HARVEY HILL ROAD, DEVONSHIRE

Phone: (H) (W) 777-5954

Occupation/Employer: RETIRED

This statement consists of 6 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 16 day, of OCT 2020.

Signed: K. DUBOIS

Signature witnessed by: CARLTON ADAMS

STATEMENT:

I am the above-named person and I live at the address given.

I am a founding member of the Tuckers Town Historical Society. The Society came about when I read an article written by Peter Smith (KD) about the acquisition of land in Tuckers Town (KD). Not satisfied with some of the details in the article I called Danny Richardson and we decided to start a research organization to research the Tucker's Town acquisition. We had our first meeting and we decided to call the organization the Tuckers Town Historical Society.

I started to do the research with Eugene Stovel and Aaron Tucker. Very soon we found that pertinent details and important documents were difficult to come by in govt. records. We are still trying to get to the bottom of this task.

My family have deep roots in Tuckers Town. They were very much involved in the community and they were very respected members. My great great (KD) grand-father Thomas Samuel Basden (KD) was not just an important member of the Tuckers Town community he was also involved in the greater Black Bermudian community. He was an excellent carpenter and also an early member of the Berkerley Society. He also raised funds to build the original Talbot School in Tuckers Town.

James Samuel Harvey, my great grandfather, was also a respected member of the old Tuckers Town community. He was also a Lay Reader of the original Marsden Memorial Methodist Church. I was baptized in the current church. I was very disappointed that the old church was sold to someone who had no regard for historical buildings and structures. I was very angry to see that the façade of the Church had been changed. You couldn't

(Witness Initials) K.DUBOIS

(Investigator Initials) CARLTON ADAMS

fathom how shocked I was when I came upon destruction of the Tuckers Town community cemetery.

This came about as a result of a telephone call I received from a taxi driver who will remain nameless. He said:

“That it looks like someone has dug up all the graves”

I asked him what he meant by that. “He said they had not only dug up all the graves, but they have removed the grave stones of the cemetery”

I asked him who he was and he said he couldn't tell me. I thanked him and hung up.

Immediately called Danny Richardson and told him what I had been told. Denny went silent. when he gained composure he said we need to go and take a look at this. I called Eugene Stovel and told him we would pick him up from the hospital where he worked. After Danny picked up me, we went straight down to the Tucker Town graveyard where many residents of the old Tuckers Town community were buried including my great grandfather James Samuel Harvey.

When we arrived I cannot explain how horrified I was when I saw the destruction. I was physically sick. The Tuckers Town Historical Society had met with the Marsden Church (KD) about x-raying the graveyard- previously Edward Harris was in attendance at that meeting and no one had called us meaning anyone from the Tuckers Town Historical Society, about the decision to tear up the graves.

I saw holes in the ground where previously there were graves. Even some of the perimeter walls has been knocked down (KD). All the grave stones were uprooted and placed on the side of the graveyard. The three of us, Denny Richardson, Eugene Stovel and I were silent. Extremely silent. totally speechless and upset at the sight of that destruction.

The graveyard did not just belong to the Marsdens Memorial Church, it also belonged to the descendents (KD) of the people that are buried there. My grandfather among them (KD).

As we left the scene and drove away. The three of us were sad and completely silent.

Subsequently, I signed a complaint which our Society made to the Police relating to the destruction of the Tuckers Town graveyard. We made the complaint July of 2014 two years after we had seen the destruction done. For a long time, we could not talk about it. Denny has family buried in the graveyard as does Eugene Stovel and myself.

It has been suggested that the graveyard is a lot bigger than the present area that is apparent. There are just under two hundred (KD) people buried in the graveyard when you account for the people that are unaccounted for that lived in the community.

There seems to be no respect for the Tuckers Town graveyard or the former residents who are buried there. The graveyard always seems to be in a state of disrepair. There is also the issue of Tuckers Point Golf Club turning the graveyard into a driving range. If that doesn't show disrespect I do not know what does.

I am willing to give this information in a Commission hearing.

KEITH DUBOIS

The forgone statement was recorded by the undersigned on 16th October 2020 at Sophia House, Hamilton. Read over and signed by the maker as correct.

CARLTON ADAMS

DO NOT COPY