

There are two dead-end lanes leading westward from Dunscombe Road between the South Shore Road and the main entrance to Faraways.

The higher of these lanes leaves Dunscombe Road between Grace Louise Taylor's and Lemuel Henry Tucker's houses and ends at the boundary line of Southlands estate, in front of a house that used to belong to a Mrs Trott, now deceased (and now belongs to her former war, **Peggy**). The lower of these two lanes is used as a common right-of-way for several properties, including the house (58 Dunscombe Road) currently owned by my brother and his wife (**Vance Patrick Talbot** and **Catarina Talbot**, born Furtado), which sits in front of and below the Trott house and against the eastern boundary of Southlands, and is accessed via either of the two lanes.

My brother and his wife bought this house from our grandmother, Jessie Rosalie Crockwell (born Tucker) after the death of our grandfather, **Gerald Rudolf Crockwell** (1905-1992). Our grandparent's did not buy this property directly from our grandmother's father, but from someone else who had bought or otherwise received it from Lemuel Norman Tucker. There was no house on the land at the time of purchase, and I gather that my grandparents built it immediately after the Second World War.

During the Second World War, the United States armed forces requested short-term or long-term leases for various tracts of land around Bermuda. The largest, of course, were leased for ninety-nine years and became (ultimately) the US NAS Bermuda, NAS Bermuda Annex, and NOF at Tudor's Hill. Many smaller properties were leased only briefly, for a few months or years. Although the basic agreement was between the national (ie, UK) Government and the US Government, the local Government of Bermuda took responsibility for paying for all the leased land as part of its contribution to the war effort, although it did not complete making payments 'til some years after the war ended.

The larger bases were composed from various properties purchased compulsorily by the Government of Bermuda, then leased to the US Government. Most of the smaller properties evidently remained in the ownership of their pre-war owners, and were instead presumably leased by the Government of Bermuda and sub-leased to the US Government. When the war ended these leases were presumably not renewed, the US armed forces withdrew from properties such as the Riddell's Bay Golf Course and the Ferry Reach hotel that was to become the Bio Station, and the owners of those properties resumed possession and use of them.

One of these smaller US bases used temporarily was of course the US Navy Anti-Aircraft Training Centre in Warwick, for which the Southlands estate was leased or rented (for \$750 a month; the actual owner at the time was evidently named "**Torry**"). The eastern part of the gun battery area, however, was actually on property belonging to Lemuel Norman Tucker, as I have laid out above. He died on the 26th of October, 1945. That parcel of land was not listed in his will, and after the US Navy withdrew it was treated like common property (I might add that some of the lanes shared by several properties in the area, including the two lanes from which my grandparents' house is accessible, may also not have seen a change of ownership from Lemuel Norman Tucker, but I have not looked into that).

When Southlands was purchased in the 1980s by the owners of "**Willowbank**" for a retirement community, then was marked for the development of a **Ritz** resort hotel (as I recollect), the Ritz developers also bought the small cliff-top hotels to the east (**Flamingo Beach**, **Banana Beach Club**, and what I think was called the **Golden Hind** at that time...previously owned by the **Astwood** family) and wanted to link the properties. We subsequently learnt that they had checked the land registration records and had found that the land on the waterside of the South Shore Road was still in my great-grandfather's possession when he died in 1945, and by some method they managed to acquire the land, which had been used communally since the war by the residents of Dunscombe Road, most of who were related or otherwise closely connected to the family of Lemuel Norman Tucker. The first we knew of this was when a "private property" sign appeared about 1990, dangling from a chain strung across the entryway from the South Shore Road that ran along the western side of the munitions bunkers. This was very upsetting for us as we had always used that land freely. We had played there. Ridden our bikes around the gun positions. Climbed down the cliffs (no longer possible due to the receding that has since taken place). The Ritz project collapsed with the 1990s recession so we thought no more of it and continued using that land, though it and the neighbouring properties it joined-up later became the site for the planned **Jumeirah** resort, in 2007. The Bermuda Government granted the developers a Special Development Order, enabling them to avoid the usual procedure of obtaining planning approval. Most of my family and friends, among others, petitioned against this and of course the resort was not built. After widespread protests at the planned destruction of one of the last natural spaces remaining in the central parishes, the Bermuda Government acquired the Southlands and the connected properties from the developers in exchange for the former US Naval Air Station Annex.

The Bermuda Government promised it would be designate Southlands and the connected properties as public parkland. While this has been true for most of the land, the eastern part of the Anti-Aircraft Training Centre...the part owned by Lemuel Norman Tucker...has been bulldozed and over-built with the current housing estate. Even the forested berm that had contained the magazine bunkers was levelled, denying the descendants of Lemuel Norman Tucker the use of that