

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON HISTORIC LAND LOSSES IN BERMUDA

COMMISSIONERS

JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER, JP OBE

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MS. MAXINE BINNS

MR. JONTHAN STARLING

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION OF MEETING: Warwick Camp - Dining Hall

DATE: 15 January 2021

TIME: 9:30 am

Madam Chair 00:00:

Yes. Have a seat everyone please. Good morning, everyone. We will just continue with our first matter this morning. And Counsel I'll have you begin. It's, I believe it's a Simpson matter?

Commission Counsel 00:06:

That is so Madam Chair and your Commissioners, good morning. The very first matter on the list today Madam Chair and Commissioners, is a matter submitted by Mr. Winfield Chuck Simpson. It is claim number zero one three (013). I'd ask respectfully that Mr. Simpson is sworn or affirmed depending on his conviction. If necessary, reliance will be sought from retired Superintendent Smith who had assisted in this matter, but only if so required but he is there to provide support, moral support.

Winfield Simpson 02:00:

Yes, my name is Winfield Chuck Simpson.

Attendant 02:05:

I swear by Almighty God.

Winfield Simpson 02:07:

I swear by the Almighty God.

Attendant 02:09:

that the evidence I shall give.

Winfield Simpson 02:11: That the evidence I shall give.

Attendant 02:13: Shall be the truth.

Winfield Simpson 02:14: Shall be the truth.

Attendant 02:15: The whole truth.

Winfield Simpson 02:16: The whole truth.

Attendant 02:17: and nothing but the truth.

Winfield Simpson 02:18: and nothing but the truth.

Attendant 02:19: Thank you.

Winfield Simpson 02:19: You're welcome.

Madam Chair 02:25: Counsel before we continue, I just wish to acknowledge that Miss. Binns is actually with us but she's on Zoom. She's actually on the line listening in so we have a full quorum this morning.

Commission Counsel 02:36: Okay.

Madam Chair 02:36: Thank you.

Commission Counsel 02:40: And just for clarification, Miss Binns is a Commissioner. Thank you, Madam. Good morning sir.

Madam Chair 02:42: Yes, Miss Binns is indeed one of our Commissioners.

Winfield Simpson 03:28: Good morning.

Commission Counsel 03:29: You may remove your mask if you wish.

Winfield Simpson 03:31: Thank you.

Commission Counsel 03:35: Your name is Winfield Chuck Simpson?

Winfield Simpson 03:40: That's correct.

Commission Counsel 03:40: Would you just spell your Christian name for me?

Winfield Simpson 03:43: W-I- N-F-I-E-L-D. C-H-U-C-K.

Commission Counsel 03:52: Thank you so very much sir. Now on the fifth of March 2020, you submitted a claim to the Commission of Inquiry. Is that correct?

Winfield Simpson 03:53: You're welcome. Yes.

Commission Counsel 04:05: And in respect of that claim that you submitted, you wish to share with the Commission your story and knowledge regarding that St. George's, Tucker's Town land expropriation. Is that correct?

Winfield Simpson 04:22: Yes, that is correct. My response to the Premier, David Burt's advertisement in the newspaper 2020, March the 2nd.

Commission Counsel 04:33: Thank you very much, sir. And that document that you submitted to the Commission of Inquiry that I make reference to, you have that original document there?

Winfield Simpson 04:43: I do.

Commission Counsel 04:46: That document how many pages is it?

Winfield Simpson 04:48: In total, eight to nine pages, including this one.

Commission Counsel 05:12: Okay. Let's just deal with it one at a time. I'm just referring to that. It's eight pages and you have signed that document?

Winfield Simpson 05:22: Well, the one that I have in front of me isn't actually signed but, I had signed the documents.

Commission Counsel 05:23: The signed copy. Could you just check? Um crave your indulgence. You had shown me the original this morning and you had a signature on it. You just check your documents there. Crave your indulgence.

Winfield Simpson 07:07: Um, I don't see any signed documents sir.

Commission Counsel 07:08: We were looking at it this morning. I just wanted to rely on the original.

Winfield Simpson 07:08: I don't know which of the copies we actually were looking at with my signature. But I don't seem to have it right in front of me.

Commission Counsel 07:14: That's fine. That's fine. What I just asked you to do is document it dated March 5, 2020. You could just, If you have a pen, you could just sign it. I'm just going to let you sign the copy I'm giving to you. So, you could sign this copy.

Winfield Simpson 07:26: Okay.

Commission Counsel 07:26: I'm just going to ask you to sign it and return it to me. Thank you. Madam Chair the document that reference has been made to where Mr. Simpson submitted a claim to the Commission of Inquiry dated March 5, 2020, which he has signed and which he acknowledges is his own. He made reference to the document comprising eight pages. And just out of abundance of caution I'm going to ask him to identify the eight pages that he is referring to. Just as abundance of caution. Could you number the pages that you refer to, one through eight? And initial each page with a number. Just take your time. No need to rush. We just want to ensure you have the record straight.

Winfield Simpson 07:44: You're welcome.

Commission Counsel 12:02: You have now located the original?

Winfield Simpson 12:04: Uh, Yes. Yes, yes.

Commission Counsel 12:09: Okay. You could just return, return. I think he has now located the original. It was just with him all this time. It's just an oversight it appears. So, I was not crazy Madam Chair. Not this time.

Madam Chair 12:24: What can I say.

Winfield Simpson 12:30: Sorry about that.

Commission Counsel 12:32: Thank you.

Madam Chair 12:40: So we're going to enter this um Counsel?

Commission Counsel 12:43: Yes, Madam Chair. I'm just ensuring that we have numbered the 8 pages that the witness refers to and that he had initialed it. But I'd ask that the document dated March 5, 2020, which has a Commission of Inquiry stamp on it of zero one three claim (013), that it be tendered admitted as exhibit WCS 1.

Madam Chair 13:32: So Mr. Simpson's uh eight-page document dated the 5th March 2020, uh is hereby and with the COI stamp is hereby entered as exhibit one and the COI stamp is zero, thirteen (013).

Commission Counsel 13:50: That's correct Madam Chair.

Madam Chair 13:53: CS1.

Commission Counsel 13:54: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Simpson.

Winfield Simpson 13:58: Your welcome.

Commission Counsel 14:00: Now, in respect of this claim you submitted sir, on whose behalf are you submitting the claim sir?

Winfield Simpson 14:08: On behalf of my mother.

Commission Counsel 14:10: Her name is?

Winfield Simpson 14:11: Her name is Ainsley Cecily Simpson.

Commission Counsel 14:14: I'm just going to ask you to repeat the first name. Repeat the Christian name for us?

Winfield Simpson 14:19: Ainsley Cecily. She's known as Cecily.

Commission Counsel 14:23: You spell the first name.

Winfield Simpson 14:24: C-E-C-I-L-Y.

Commission Counsel 14:29: And before that you said ins..

Winfield Simpson 14:30: Ainsley. A-I--N-S-L- E-Y.

Commission Counsel 14:32: Thank you.

Winfield Simpson 14:34: There's a couple of ways of spelling that first name. Ainsley, that's the way I spell it.

Commission Counsel 14:38: Okay. You may take us through the document by reading the first paragraph.

Winfield Simpson 14:43: Sure. Starting from this is my story and knowledge?

Commission Counsel 14:46: Please.

Winfield Simpson 14:47: This is my story and knowledge regarding the St. George, Tucker's Town land expropriation, date March the 5th 2020. On behalf of my mother Cecily Simpson deceased which I, her son Chuck assisted with her pursuit for justice and correction as it relates to her grandmother, the late Ainsely Eldie Manders rights to her heritage of property, and deeds we know and respect as the Estate of Josiah Smith St. George, Tuckers Town, Bermuda. Ainsley Eldie Manders was ordered by the Commissioners of the BDC Limited, Bermuda Development Company, Act number two, 1920, to hand over all deeds and documents relating to the Estate of Josiah Smith of St. George, Tucker's Town as well as inform them of any other person or persons who may have such deeds and documents before January the 1st 1923. This is a copy of the document that she received from the Bermuda Company.

Commission Counsel 16:06: And the document that you have there showing us what? What does It say? What is that document?

Winfield Simpson 16:13: This is a document that she received from the Commissioners appointed under the Bermuda Development Company Act Number two, 1920.

Commission Counsel 16:21: Okay, and where did you obtain that document?

Winfield Simpson 16:24: This end document I inherited from my mother. And it was, my mother inherited from her mother. And her mother got it from her mother which was Ainsley Eldie Manders.

Commission Counsel 16:37: Now, when you say inherited from your mother, exactly what do you mean? How did you get it?

Winfield Simpson 16:44: I'm sorry. What I mean by that is that it came through that lineage to me.

Commission Counsel 16:50: And when your mother gave it to you, did she give her any? How did, how did she give it to you?

Winfield Simpson 16:57: Well, she didn't just give it to me. She showed it to me.

Commission Counsel 17:01: Right.

Winfield Simpson 17:02: And a mum, I was I had never seen it before. And as we started off about me not seeing it before,

Commission Counsel 17:10: Speak into the microphones, it's too far.

Winfield Simpson 17:12: As a result of me not seeing it before, I was quite a mum, amazed. You know this was really something, that that familiar, familiarized me with um the situation of Tucker's Town and how it involves our family, us. I had come up always hearing about Tucker's Town and Bermuda. Everybody's saying, you know this myth or whatever about Tucker's Town and it being owned by a lot of people of color. Black people and it being stolen, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

Commission Counsel 17:47: Let's go slowly. The document you have referred to which we are going to take you to now, which you inherited from your mother. Your mother now alive or..?

Winfield Simpson 18:00: No, she is deceased. She died in 2008.

Commission Counsel 18:02: Okay. Now, the document you refer to, this document. Is that what led you to write your claim to the Commission of Inquiry or something else?

Winfield Simpson 18:12: Absolutely.

Commission Counsel 18:13: It is what caused you to write your claim? Okay. Now the document that you refer to, you have the actual one that was handed to you by your mother?

Winfield Simpson 18:15: Yes sir. The original copy I don't have it with me. I have a copy of it with me.

Commission Counsel 18:28: Where is the original?

Winfield Simpson 18:29: It's in safe-keeping. Hopefully. Well, no it is. Sorry.

Commission Counsel 18:30: Safe-keeping. Did your mother hand you anything else at the same time that you were handed?

Winfield Simpson 18:40: Uh, it was with the Bible and amum, I ended up with all of my well, to answer that question, no, it was just that.

Commission Counsel 18:53: But the Bible you refer to..

Winfield Simpson 18:55: The Bible. Everything is here that I own. She showed it to me. It was all right there.

Commission Counsel 18:59: Okay.

Winfield Simpson 19:00: So there were other things in the Bible like the uh, crest that related to her father. He was a um a Friendly Society Force Fellow and they had a crest a shepherd you know so it seemed like this was a picture of Queen Victoria when she uh, not Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth the second I think when she first came to Bermuda in 52. It was stuff like that.

Commission Counsel 19:24: Okay, let's go back a bit now. So, the document you refer to the document that was handed to you by your mother

that was handed down, is it dated? The copy that you have here.

Winfield Simpson 19:36:

It's dated the 18th of December. It's a dandy which is my mother's birthday. but it's amazing, 1922.

Commission Counsel 19:45:

Thank you. And the letter is addressed to whom?

Winfield Simpson 19:48:

It's addressed to Mrs. Ainsley Manders of Somerset.

Commission Counsel 20:07:

Okay, and can you see that document, it is signed by and by whom?

Winfield Simpson 20:10:

By the Secretary to the Commission and that would, I think that's A.B. Smith.

Commission Counsel 20:13:

Okay.

Winfield Simpson 20:13:

And that would have been Mr. Peter Smith's um, father?

Commission Counsel 20:14:

Okay.

Winfield Simpson 20:14:

That's important that I make mention of that.

Commission Counsel 20:16:

I'm just before we, just before we go the that. The, I'm going to ask Madam Chair to document the copy that is being referred to now by the witness, that it is tendered as an exhibit. However, I am going to ask that Mr. Simpson at another date return with the original so that the Chairman can see the original and certify that it is a true copy. Well that a copy is a true copy of the original. But I'd ask that the document, the copy is tendered admitted as exhibit, WCS2.

Madam Chair 20:50:

And how do you characterize it please Counsel? How do you?

Commission Counsel 21:03:

It is uh, the witness makes reference to a letter to his mother, Mrs. Ainslie Meadows, Manders from the Secretary to the Commission. dated.

Madam Chair 21:27:

How do you spell the last name Ainslie? Manders.

Commission Counsel 21:32: Manders.

Madam Chair 21:36: From?

Commission Counsel 21:37: From the Secretary to the Commission that's the Bermuda Development under the Bermuda Development Act, dated December 18, 1922.

Jonathan Starling 21:48: Counsel, I believe that was Bermuda Development Company, not Act.

Commission Counsel 22:01: Thank you very much. WCS.

Madam Chair 22:01: It is so entered Counsel as W S So enter as WCS 2? Yes?

Commission Counsel 22:18: Yes. Thank you. Before we go back to the first exhibit, Mr. Simpson, can you just read a document which you? Well, you can read from the copy you don't need to read from the, either one from the copy you have or from the, what's projected on the screen.

Winfield Simpson 22:37: Okay. This document I...

Commission Counsel 22:43: I'm just going to ask you to read everything on the paper.

Winfield Simpson 22:48: Everything from this?

Commission Counsel 22:48: Yes, please, the exhibit.

Winfield Simpson 22:52: From the Commissioners, Now but first of all, Hamilton Bermuda.

Commission Counsel 22:55: Thank you.

Winfield Simpson 22:55: December the 18th 1922. From the Commissioners appointed under the Bermuda Development Company Act, (No. 2) 1920, to Mrs. Ainsley Manders of Somerset. Madam:-" I am instructed by the above mentioned

Commissioners to request you to submit to them on or before the first of January 1923, all deeds and documents of title relating to the premises at Tucker's Town, St George's Parish known as "The Estate of Josiah Smith", to be acquired by the Bermuda Development Company Limited and assessed by a jury on the 15th instant. Full stop. If there are any other deeds or documents, not in your possession and relating to the same please state their nature and in whose possession they are. Full stop, I'm sorry. The above-mentioned deeds etc., will be retained by the Commissioners for inspection by the Company. And until the vesting order is drawn up and signed by the Commissioners. I am yours truly, I believe it's A.B. Smith. Secretary of Commission".

Commission Counsel 24:26:

Thank you, sir.

Winfield Simpson 24:27:

Your welcome.

Commission Counsel 24:27:

Now having obtained this document, why did it lead you to write this claim to the Commission?

Winfield Simpson 24:36:

Well, what it done after reading this document from my mother I had brought it to my Mama's attention. This is serious business here and I brought it to her attention. and amum we need to investigate this.

Commission Counsel 24:56:

Okay, thank you. Now, let us go back to the first document, what we described as WCS 1. Just a moment. Now, what was your mother's mother's name?

Winfield Simpson 25:47:

Thalia Durham.

Commission Counsel 25:48:

Now I'm going to ask you to spell that for us if you can.

Winfield Simpson 25:53:

I spell it, T-H-A-L-I-A, Thalia. Durham, D-U-R-H-A-M.

Commission Counsel 25:58:

Thank you. Now, I'm going to take you to the second paragraph of the document.

Winfield Simpson 26:19:

On the second paragraph with Josiah Smith?

Commission Counsel 26:20:

Yes. Could you just take us here?

Winfield Simpson 26:21:

Okay. Would you like for me to read that?

Commission Counsel 26:22:

I'd appreciate that. Okay.

Winfield Simpson 26:30:

Okay. Second paragraph of the document. Josiah Smith would have been my mother's great, great grandfather, and is buried at the grave site on the TPC golf course driving range in Tucker's Town. Also buried on this gravesite, are the wife and children of Josiah Smith's brother, Daniel Smith, who lost their lives, if my dates are correct, between December 17th and 18th 1875. from the tornado recorded by the Royal Gazette newspaper of that period. This tornado lifted out the residence house of Daniel Smith blowing and throwing the house, his wife and children between Mid-Ocean Club Beach, the natural arches, and a TT Bay or Wharf. TT referring to Tucker's Town, on December the 18th Incidentally my mother's birthday.(again). These bodies were found, all dead besides Daniel's wife. She was found alive pregnant and died after giving birth to a dead child. To think this incident was bad and sad enough for Daniel, it was also recorded by the newspaper that Daniel was robbed of whatever monies and belongings he had left as he was walking one day. This I believe is what persuaded Josiah to change the Executor of his will, from his brother Daniel to his daughter, Rosanne Smith Lambert. Ainslie Eldie Manders' mother, and of course this is how she, Ainslie, obtained all the deeds and documents of her grandfather Josiah Smith's Estate etc.

Commission Counsel 28:29:

Okay, just pause here a minute. Now this information that you are, that you have shared with us, was this handed down to you by somebody or some oral history? How did you obtain this information?

Winfield Simpson 28:39:

This, this information I got in the discussions with my mom talking about you know.

Commission Counsel 28:47:

Okay, you may continue.

Winfield Simpson 28:51:

Daniel then relocated after losing his wife and children from the St. George TC incident to the town of St. George

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where I believe he served new seats. Therefore, as far as the graveyard in Tucker's Town located at TPC golf course is concerned, the people or persons buried there are the wife and children of Daniel Smith, Josiah Smith's brother and Josiah Smith himself. I don't believe this to be the gravesite of black slaves or AME Church members as some people have been directed to believe. The church and grave site, I believe of these persons were located at the junction where TT South Road, meets Paynter's Road. That property today, to my knowledge is the home of one of Bermuda's Ex Beauty Queens, Miss Vivienne Hollis' twin sister. I was told during my research that in the 1970s that area was excavated and the rubble was dumped at our airport. Among the rubble were the bones of the people buried there as well as the small church that existed on the property before it was excavated.

I was made to understand from the Thanksgiving dinners gatherings, my grandmother, Thalia Durham would hold every year in commemoration to her grandmother, Roseanne Smith Lambert, and her great grandfather, Josiah Smith, that her mother Ainslie Eldie Manders couldn't even visit the gravesite of her grandfather, or go on the property, which should have been her heritage. She died unfortunately in her 40s brokenhearted, perhaps as a result to this misfortune and conflict of interest among her Smith, Lambert, Talbot etcetera famous families from Tucker's Town.

Commission Counsel 31:00:

So just pause here a minute. Now, Mr. Simpson, the main reason you brought this claim as is referenced in what is known now as WCS 2, what is a main concern if any do you have as it relates to your family?

Winfield Simpson 31:21:

In all honesty, the concern is about the truth, where as it relates to the of Tucker's Town and as it relates to my family who I am, who I'm a descendant of etc. It's it's it's really and of course if there's amum reason for justice to be served then it also will, will amum, hopefully get that as the result that Ainsley had to give up whatever deeds or whatever proof that she had of the that relates us to Josiah Smith and, his property and, his estates to the Commissioners for the Bermuda Development Company.

So, there you are looking for justice, I suppose Um and and, and at the same time, I guess you look for a settlement. Since so many years or whatever has gone by and a resolve to the myth, or the myths that seem to relate to um the Tucker's Town um community in St. George's.

Commission Counsel 32:35:

Now, did you ever or have you ever located the actual plot where this property was situated?

Winfield Simpson 32:45:

I was made to understand in my research, that Tucker's Town is divided into basically three parishes. Those parishes being, St. George, Hamilton and Smiths. The difference with the three parishes is that Smith and Hamilton seemed to be more fertile. Whereas in St. George's was more full-on, if I could, more rocky.

It wasn't as fertile as the other two parishes. And amum, as a result of that St. George's remain being the Crown's Land where I think amum the Smith's and Hamilton might not have been considered any longer as the Crowns Land because different people have bought into a lot of the families of Bermuda etc. So, with that effect, this is my knowledge as it relates to Tucker's Town it being among all three of those parishes. So, if in fact the St. George's part was the Crowns, considered the Crown's Land of property, then how did it become Josiah Smith's. In my opinion it had to become Josiah Smith's as a token of appreciation thats about or whatever from the Crown, in order for it to become the Estate of Josiah Smith.

Commission Counsel 34:13:

So, what I'm asking you, have you in your research been able to determine where exactly the Estate of Josiah Smith was situated?

Winfield Simpson 34:25:

Well, I would say because of what I just shared with you it covered the all and the full of St. George's or Tucker's Town. I would say. However, amum, it might have been more property involved too. But we're talking about St. George's of Tucker's Town. So, I would say that it covered all of St. George's of Tucker's Town. I can't be specific as far as acreage is concerned or anything like that however, I had those questions asked to me at another time and a mum I came up with a figure and and that's a figure that

was like circulating all through, all through the community, the air. Um, and a mum just what I sort a felt like an estimate like around 500 acres or something like that. But I might have picked that up from some of the research that I was doing. It's, I just can't you know say directly how I got to that figure. It might have been 500 acres or more-or-less or, something like that.

Commission Counsel 35:40:

So I'm just going to asked you to take us to page two of what is WCS?

Winfield Simpson 35:45:

Page 12?

Commission Counsel 35:46:

No page 2 of what is WCS1. It is a, the fifth paragraph, which begins with the words my interview discussion.

Winfield Simpson 36:00:

Yes.

Commission Counsel 36:01:

Could you just read that paragraph for me.

Winfield Simpson 36:04:

I sure can. My interview discussion with them is what created the opportunity for me to discuss my family connections to this property and Tucker's Town. This to me made them curious. So, we talked about the TT transition, etc. It was Mr. Parker that done the talking, questioning me, finding out what I knew about the land losses and swaps etc.

Commission Counsel 36:31:

Just pause there a minute. Just please tell us who was, who is Mr. Parker. Who is he?

Winfield Simpson 36:36:

Oh, Mr. Parker was the gentleman that represented the Bermuda Development Company that I worked with when I was employed by them at the Marriott Hotel.

Commission Counsel 36:45:

At the Marriott Hotel.

Winfield Simpson 36:46:

At Tucker's Point.

Commission Counsel 36:48:

Okay, thank you, you may continue, where you're reading.

Winfield Simpson 36:53:

It was Mr. Parker that done the talking questioning me finding out what I knew about the land losses and swaps, etc. I had told him, I was the great, great, great grandson of Josiah Smith who is buried at the gravesite to their golf course and how he obtained, obtained the property, being Queen Victoria's personal pilot and admiral of her ships. I remember him asking me how much acres of land it was. I told him, I wasn't sure. But I believe it to be a lot, perhaps 500 acres or more. I knew all of the parish of St. George, Tucker's Town which was the crossland that became The Estate of Josiah Smith. Mr. Parker shared with me that there were clauses to the transaction, where this land that was being expropriated by the development company to provide jobs for the unfortunate families of Tucker's Town. Meaning, they would always be allowed employment by the hotels, etc. operating the property. This is the reason I believe BPL, Bermuda Properties Limited, kept me on employed after Marriott closed its doors operating.

Commission Counsel 38:19:

You have...Go ahead sir.

Winfield Simpson 38:21:

Did you want me to continue?

Commission Counsel 38:23:

Just before you do. The last line you read makes reference to BPL, you were employed by BPL at some point in time?

Winfield Simpson 38:34:

Yeah well. Yeah. BPL, apparently you know, they're in charge of the golf courses and all of that. Marriott was just for the hotel and Marriott closed down.

Commission Counsel 38:36:

Okay. Excuse me a moment. Now, do you have any information that had been handed down to you specifically in respect to the discovery of the gravesite? Might I just direct you to the said document you're referring to, the on page two? The

Winfield Simpson 39:37:

When you say handed down to me. Can you explain what you mean with that statement?

Commission Counsel 39:43:

Well, let me just rephrase. They, when I say handed down I mean just like the Bible and the documents contained therein. You had been told certain things by your mother oral history.

Winfield Simpson 39:57:

Yes.

Commission Counsel 39:57:

That's what I mean when I say, things handed down. Things that you had been told. Forgive me. I'm just asking you to take us to page two of WCS1 which is the first exhibit. I'm on page two, the penultimate paragraph. I just ask you to direct us to that. Start reading at, a kind and gentleman which speaks us, speaks to the discovery of a gravesite. Please proceed.

Winfield Simpson 40:24:

Yes, a kind gentleman by the name of Ed Trim to go to the castle Harbour, Marriott property and develop a Tucker's Point Club, residential and tourist concept. And I along with Peter Parker, Kathy Frith and Mark Orchard, to my knowledge, were the first four Bermudians hired. This was a five phase development plan which included redesigning the golf course, and the residential concepts, which involved a hotel for tourists and fractional ownership for investors. Harden Capital were the first developers but had a falling out and did not last long as developers. The project had two major setbacks. The 2001 Twin Towers incident, as well as the 2003 hurricane that devastated Bermuda, claiming four lives. I think it was after the hurricane when Gary Pugh, the first property developer for Tuckers Point, for TPC at the time and Roger Woolridge, and these names may be a little wrong but I got close to it, golf course developer, discovered the gravesite. It was me who told them who was buried there and as a result led to the protection and restoration of this gravesite. Thanks to Mr. Trim not the Marsden Church Congregation and Members.

Commission Counsel 42:04:

I just pause there, but not at the risk of causing a descension in the camp. You're, excuse me, you're saying that you're the person who actually had been instrumental in indicating to persons that a gravesite had been among the fairway, the driving path.

Winfield Simpson 42:30: Sure, there might have been more others but I'm, I'm making myself inclusive by that statement. Because we all work together and as we work together. For instance, when Gary Pugh came to Bermuda I'm the guy that picked him up in my taxi from the airport, gave him the orientation of where he'll be living at Tucker's Town, where we were and also responsible for getting him around Bermuda, bringing it bringing things to his attention that he needed to know. And um, I've done that with just about everybody that came into Bermuda, Tucker's Town.

Commission Counsel 43:09: So, how did you know where the gravesite was located?

Winfield Simpson 43:13: Oh I knew where the gravesites were located long prior before that. Uh just, just if you want to use the term being pokey and checking into what I've been.

Commission Counsel 43:24: Speak into the microphone for me please.

Winfield Simpson 43:26: and checking into what I've been brought up to believe I'm a part of and I'm um and I found it yeah.. I found it and then um.

Commission Counsel 43:36: At the time that you had found it, there was no golf course there?

Winfield Simpson 43:40: There was a golf course there was. There was no Club House there. The club was wasn't situated where it is now. That wasn't there. But a mum, it was a golf course. And it was a whole lot of trees and stuff that you know you still had to go through and in order to get you know, to observe it.

Commission Counsel 44:01: Okay.

Winfield Simpson 44:01: You know, you're just couldn't see it like that. And a mum Yeah yeah. Yeah, it was it was. When I first saw it I looked at it as being a grave out of importance or whoever's buried there. You know, it's people who.

Commission Counsel 44:26: Does your memory allow you to tell us when it is that would have about when you first discovered it?

- Winfield Simpson 44:32:** Yeah, I think it was, I think it was around in the 80s to be honest with you. I think it was, it was it was when my mom was alive, and I was you know had this information. I was doing as much research as I could you know, I talk to a lot of people. I visit the areas looking and I found and a mum yeah.
- Commission Counsel 44:57:** Okay. What seemed to be a little concerning if I am correct in terms of the maintenance and the restoration of the gravesite.
- Winfield Simpson 45:14:** Well yeah. I a mum I didn't know, at first like in the 80s who was responsible directly. All that came in my research; me taking the initiative to find out what's happening. What was important to me was the document that I had was inherited from my mother, which as far as I'm concerned solved the myth as to who, who, who the true owners or the true people Tucker's Town are. Which is me, my family, you know. But a mum um, when I would talk to people about all of that, it wouldn't getting me anywhere. It wasn't getting me anywhere at all. But um, I've done a lot of research you know, on foot, on my own um.
- Commission Counsel 46:05:** Your research is mainly speaking to people though or is it otherwise.
- Winfield Simpson 46:09:** Yeah, speaking with people uh, going to the a mum register general, the place downstairs of the government offices doing as much research and trying to find as much as I could about this Josiah Smith. You know, because that's where all my emphasis was on Josiah Smith. If it wasn't for Josiah Smith I wouldn't be here, my mother wouldn't be here, no one. None of us would have been born. So you know, all that is what was concerning to me.
- Commission Counsel 46:38:** Can you just help us a little with the we say your I would say your family tree. But, you're a Simpson and you referred to, you wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Josiah Smith.
- Winfield Simpson 46:46:** Absolutely. Absolutely.
- Commission Counsel 46:48:** So Josiah Smith...

Winfield Simpson 46:50:

Yes, and I'm a Simpson. My Simpson comes from my Jamaican grandfather who's my father's father. And that's another research that I'm doing as well you know, And a mum believe it or not.

Commission Counsel 47:08:

We'll come to that document short. We'll come to that document shortly in terms of the family tree shortly. But let us, I just want you to make a note that we will come back to it shortly. Because we need to make the connection between your claim now of Josiah Smith and you being Simpson.

Winfield Simpson 47:25:

Yes. Yeah, that's it. That came from my grandfather from Jamaica. His name was Horace Simpson. Horace Simpson was his name. He married my grandmother, Doris Trott, my daddy's mother.

Commission Counsel 47:38:

Thank you. Now, let's take you to the foot of page two the last line we could continue there where it starts there. The last two words. Page two. Could just continue reading from there sir?

Winfield Simpson 47:58:

Okay.

Commission Counsel 48:01:

Page two.

Winfield Simpson 48:04:

Okay. Yes, it was me. who told them who was buried there. And as a result, led to the protection and restoration of this grave site, thanks to Mr. Trim, not the Marsden Church congregation and members. They, the Marsden Church were responsible for maintaining and taking care of the gravesite. However, they were very negligent and allowed the gravesite to become overgrown by trees, plants and vegetation. Where if someone was just looking would not know a graveside existed there. This made me and my mother, very unhappy. When my grandmother, Thalia, my mother's mother died. It was her wish to be buried where her mother, Ainsley Manders was buried. They'd been at the Marsden Church graveyard in Devil's Hole. My mother had to verbally argue and fight the

committee and members of the Marsden Church to honor her mother, Thalia's wishes. My mother told me they were reluctant to acknowledge, more than likely because they did not like my grandmother, Thalia Durham, keeping the memory of Josiah Smith alive, I learned as I researched this history. Therefore, whatever reasons the governing establishment of Bermuda, did not seem to like this man, even though they knew he represented the Crown. I made copies of the document given to my mother's grandmama, Ainsely Eldie Manders from the commissioners of the then Bermuda Development Company and put them into circulation to family members. Talk Show hostess Randall reference, the Shirley Dill Talk Show and some dignitaries of Bermuda. PS. The remains and belongings of Josiah Smith was kept at Mrs. Minni Parker's house where my mother's mom, Thalia Durham lived caring after her mother, Mrs. Ainsley Eldie Manders' younger sister. Thalia Durham, my grandmother died before her aunt Minnie Parker and as a result of this, the Grant and Talbot families of Devils Hole managed her affairs, and property to my knowledge, rather than my mother, Mrs. Cecily Simpson.

Arnold Brown who, to my knowledge married, one of the family members, (and let me just say this, I found out later, that he didn't marry her but, I didn't know), married one of the family members of the Grant family. He got in contact with me, inviting me to their home in South Road of Devil's Hole and showed me the small container housing hog money and literature relating to Josiah Smith, my great, great, great grandfather's business, etc. And um these is involved with the etc. Anyway, he, Arnold Brown also shared with me the interest a white man of Bermuda he showed it to, had in it. I am not completely sure of his name. However, I believe it to be Mr. Morris Brown, or some name like that however, he wanted to purchase these belongings. I told Arnold to hold on to these to those items, not to sell them and bring them to my Uncle Ed's attention. My Uncle Ed was Arnold's godfather at least that's what Arnold told me. Ed also was my mother's brother.

In closing my mother's my mother always told me that her mother, Thalia Durham, and grandmother, Ainsley Eldie Manders, were the family from Tucker's Town that never

received anything; no monies, no land, no nothing. All that her grandmother got from that ordeal was pregnancy, giving birth to Cornwall Manders whose father was, I believe, Osborne Talbot. He was also the father of Queenie Ross and Roy of the Talbot brothers. Cornwall Manders who was considered a cousin was in fact a brother, raised by Thalia and Aunt Minnie Parker at that homestead. To my knowledge it was me who shared this information with my cousin Miles Manders, Cornwall's son. As far as land grabs from the families of Tucker's Town is concerned my research showed me that the powers that be relocated the families living there, buying their properties and swap or build better homes for them by court orders. Josiah Smith also had twin daughters, Dorothy and Dyna. One of them died. The other was removed from the property as she resisted to move

I believe if my memory serves me well from my research, two colored/black St. George's policemen, surname being Denbrook and Calabress escorted her to an area near the Angels Grotto apparently. The two white family members connected to this were Gosling and Spirling, where she called them liars and thieves.

I believe Skipper Ingham, karate expert and Monroe Smith are some of her family members today. The truth concerning the expropriation regarding Tucker's Town should be more focused to Josiah Smith, my great, great, great grandfather, Queen Victoria's personal pilot and admiral of her ships existence and I Wilfred Chuck Simpson, heir to his heritage. Sincerely, Wilfred Chuck Simpson.

Commission Counsel 54:57:

Thank you sir. Now sir, in fact, earlier when we started you had made reference to what is, what is now WCS1 a number of other pages. We will come to it after as you had, we had spoken about first, earlier. But you have a family tree included there. An actual family tree.

Winfield Simpson 55:25:

Yes.

Commission Counsel 55:25:

You have a family tree that has been typed up.

Winfield Simpson 55:26:

Yes

Commission Counsel 55:31:

I will, just a moment. And that good looking man is you.

Winfield Simpson 55:44:

Oh yeah, that's a long time ago. I still wish I look like that. I was really fit then also.

Commission Counsel 55:53:

You do you do.

END OF TRANSCRIPTION JANUARY 15 (MORNING SESSION) AT 55:53