

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON HISTORIC LAND LOSSES IN BERMUDA

COMMISSIONER: Justice Norma Wade-Miller

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION OF MEETING: Warwick Camp - Dining Hall

DATE: 15 January 2021

TIME: 9:30 am

Commission Counsel 00:00: You do, you do. Nothing has changed.

Winfield Simpson 00:00: A lots changed. I can't fight like I use to, I can't move like I use to.

Commission Counsel 00:05: You don't need to. Don't worry. Could you just you scroll down. Keep going. Yeah so, just here. This is in, whose handwriting is this? Do you know?

Winfield Simpson 00:21: No, I don't and.

Commission Counsel 00:25: You had submitted. Could you scroll down to the written part for me please.

Winfield Simpson 00:32: Yeah. That's yeah. That looks like looks like literature that might relate to the Manders family outside of my grandmother.

Commission Counsel 00:41: Now I'm just asking for the handwriting because it is part of the document that you submitted to us.

Winfield Simpson 00:47: No, no, no.

Commission Counsel 00:48: Okay. Could you just scroll on again for me to the type part of the family tree. It's labeled family tree.

Winfield Simpson 01:03: This stuff I brought along and gave to the Commissioners.

Commission Counsel 01:06: This is, this document that is projected now on the screen, you recognize that?

Winfield Simpson 01:15: Again, that relates to a mum family members of mine. They will be like siblings to my grandmother, and that family. That's that's that's not me directly.

Commission Counsel 01:33: Okay, but what you have done is that you have shared with us your understanding of the family tree.

Winfield Simpson 01:39: Yeah, I bought everything that relates to my family and I gave it to the Commissioners. And that was inclusive to it.

Commission Counsel 01:47: Okay. We'll come back to it, shortly.

Winfield Simpson 01:51: Yes.

Commission Counsel 01:52: Now, very quickly, because uh, personal difficulty has arisen and we may need to stop shortly. You have made footnotes to your original document, that's correct?

Winfield Simpson 02:09: Yes. I made a footnote.

Commission Counsel 02:18: Okay. And you have also, in pursuit of what came to your attention, and what came to your attention, I refer specifically to what is WCS2. This letter that had been written from the Secretary to the Commission, this is a Bermuda Development Company, and written to your grandmother, grandmother. You also made representations to the Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs.

Winfield Simpson 02:49: Uhummm

Commission Counsel 02:50: And then I'm going to ask you not to answer, uhummm. Cannot write that on the record please sir, okay.

Winfield Simpson 02:54: Yes.

Commission Counsel 02:56: Okay. They and you also had representation to the Ombudsman, Miss Eileen Brock.

Winfield Simpson 03:02: Correct. That was all in my pursuit as it relates to this. This a mum this ordeal here.

Commission Counsel 03:12: So, what I'm going to do I'm just going to ask you to take us through the footnote. And at that point, we're then going to pause for, for a bit. Let us just go to the footnote.

Winfield Simpson 03:21: Sure.

Commission Counsel 03:22: Documentary referred to as Winfield C. Simpson's footnotes.

Winfield Simpson 03:27: Sure. Let me use just take..

Commission Counsel 03:28: Just a minute. And you had, it's dated 11th of September 2020. I'm just going to ask you.

Winfield Simpson 03:41: Now.

Commission Counsel 03:42: One minute sir. So, going to ask you to sign that copy that I'm giving you, please. Madam Chair, I'm going to ask for the document which is, which Mr. Simpson refers to as footnote is headed Winfield C. Simpson's, Winfield C. Simpson's footnote?

Madam Chair 04:24: That's Winfield, Sorry.

Commission Counsel 04:26: Winfield.

Madam Chair 04:27: Thank you. Winfield.

Commission Counsel 04:37: C. Simpson's, footnote.

Madam Chair 04:43: Yes.

Commission Counsel 04:44: And importantly I make the point that it is dated 11th of September 2020, but he has signed it today, which is the 15th of January 2021. I mean, that's important point. I ask that it be tendered and admitted as exhibit WCS3?

Madam Chair 05:03:

WCS3. So, the document uh named, labeled as Winfield C. Simpson footnote dated September 11, 2020, but signed today, the 15th of January 2021, is hereby entered as WCS3.

Commission Counsel 05:30:

Thank you very much. I was going to ask to take us through this document sir. You may go ahead sir.

Winfield Simpson 05:36:

Yes, and I'm glad that the Lady Chairman uh, miss pointed out that it's , I think it's September the 11th. I have it down as, the 11th. Sometimes I do this sort of, you know and it's the date, may not relate to the month. But I believe it was September the 11th when I done this.

Commission Counsel 05:56:

Okay, could just take us through it? Thank you, sir.

Winfield Simpson 05:58:

Yeah. And um, what brought that about?

Commission Counsel 06:01:

Just, I'm going to ask you to before we go to the explanation. just going to ask you to read it. My apologies. Okay?

Winfield Simpson 06:06:

Okay, Sure. Winfield C. Simpson's Footnote. The Tucker's Town and St. David's Communities did get along as neighbors participating in social as well as sporting events before the US base-lands were developed in St. George's, where our airport is located today. My grandmother, Thalia Durham's sister, Mrs. Pearl Lamb used to swim from Tucker's Town, to the St. David's islands to see her boyfriend, whom she ended up marrying, eventually. His name I believe was, Burt Lamb.

The women were strong swimmers and would often swim from shore to the breakers and back. Tucker's Town family stories I learned growing up from family gatherings as well as some relatives and family friends. One story regarding my grandmother's mother's sister who while outside the family homestead, located, I've got down 57 Breakers Road, but that's not necessarily the right co, a mum address. uh, It might have been South Breakers Road. Whatever, number I'm not sure of but, I repeat that. Homestead located, as is written 57 Breakers Road was

dragged around the house of property from a donkey grabbing her hair. This was the incident that caused her to be considered retarded as she grew older. Another story told to me, was how the women of Tucker's Town, used to love to play cricket any field near the old Pink Beach Hotel and the old house resident's location on South Road. Incidentally, TT Women, that's Tucker's Town women against SD women, which is um, St. David's women. I was also told by my aunt Minnie Parker, that it was she who gave the field in Devil's Hole which was part of the homestead property to the community of the area, which know today as Cleveland County. I believe that after her husband passed, She had no children and befriended a gentleman, I believe his name to be Mr. Cleve Smith. I met him whenever I used to visit there, meaning the homestead.

Then there were the stories of mermaids luring the men of TT to the ocean with their cries and squeals at night. Large waterspouts were always seen existing frequently from the southwest horizon. It was believed to prevent a waterspout from reaching land where it would become a tornado. one would have to take a sterling silver butter knife and cut the waterspout upon first sight at sea. If you failed to do this then the waterspout became a tornado when touching land, becoming devastating, destroying anything and everything in its path. These stories I found fascinating. And those relatives, friends and family of mine, giving these stories, seemed very serious. The TT community seemed to be very spiritual people who were a mixture of free slaves and others, colored, black and white.

I would say my ancestry is from Josiah Smith, a crown Queen Victoria's pilot. I am his descendant and on behalf of my mother Cecily Simpson, my grandmother, Thalia Durham, her mother Ainsely Eldie Manders I see justification in some form of retribution to the estate or estates of Josiah Smith as well as the homestead located 57 Breakers Road. I believe to be in control of the Marsden Church of Devil's Hole. I believe it to be a shame that my mother's grandmother, Mrs. Ainsley Eldie Manders was deprived of her heritage etc. and us, her descendants, including myself, being deprived of the homestead

controlled by the Marsden Church. Sincerely, Winfield
Chuck Simpson.

Commission Counsel 11:15:

Thank you, Madam Chair, at this time based on what I had
been advised. I wonder if it is a convenient time.

Madam Chair 11:24:

Thank you. Thank you, uh, Counsel um. We'll adjourn now
and uh, we'll allow Commissioners um just to go into their
lunch and perhaps we could resume at 1:30? Mr. Simpson,
we're taking the morning adjournment now. And
Commissioners are going into their luncheon at 12 and
we'll resume at 1:30 please.

Winfield Simpson 11:50:

Thank you very much.