

**A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY  
INTO HISTORIC LAND LOSS  
IN BERMUDA**

**CHAIRMAN  
JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER**

**COUNSEL  
MR. DIRK HARRISON**

**COMMISSIONERS  
MR. WAYNE PERINCHIEF  
MR. QUINTON STOVELL  
MS. LYNDA MILLIGAN-WHYTE  
MS. FREDERICA FORTH  
MR. JONATHAN STARLING**

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**LOCATION: UNKNOWN  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021  
AFTERNOON SESSION (b)  
(Continuation of Afternoon Session (a))**

<b>MR. SIMPSON</b>	0:02:	She was the one that really enlightened me to a lot of things as well, Mrs. Gwendolyn Smith, a lot of things.
<b>MR. QUINTON STOVELL</b>	0:09:	And is that house still on the edge of that cricket field? Is that correct?
<b>MR. SIMPSON</b>	0:14:	That house is still there. It has been developed and I think Mr. Whalen lives there. But I remember when some Portuguese were living there. And I approached
<b>MR. QUINTON STOVELL</b>	0:32:	If I may just enlighten Counsel, that would be people Portuguese heritage or lineage.
<b>MR. SIMPSON</b>	0:41:	Yes. Yeah. Yes. But I remember that that seemed to be occupied by them and I'm trying to remember if my Aunt Minnie was alive and I acknowledged that. I think she was because

she went blind and they put her in a Home in St. George's and I used to go down there and visit her too.

Whenever I would talk to her about the homestead and everything like that, she would tell me that I had to refer to the younger ones, whoever they were; she seemed to be really intimidated not wanting to talk about anything related to Josiah Smith with me. It seemed like bad memories or bad experiences, or whatever the case might be, you know, but she was happy with the fact that we celebrated and had Thanksgivings and commemoration of our ancestors, that was amazing. So me growing up as inquisitive person as well, you got all kinds of stuff everybody is saying that are linked to this place every single body, you know. I went through a whole lot of hardships coming up when I had to present myself to people because it was like who are you, and who is he. And that's all I have is knowledge of who I am, as relates to that family.

So when my mom showed me that document at that time, Lord have mercy that cleared up a lot for me. Maybe the type of person that I am, which I can be forward, if I've got reason to be I can be very forward, you know, I am going to make my pursuits with my forwardness, and on behalf of my mother, I supported her while she was alive right up until she passed. The good thing that happened with that my Mom got to see that area which she never saw before and who accompanied me with my mom, looking at the gravesite from the Clubhouse was Mark (Horachek)? Mark Horachek, my mother and myself. That is the truth but I took my mom in my taxi I said, "Mama all of this is Tucker's Town all of this is St. George's right out to the Castle and I went right down to the beach. This is the beach we used to hear that the sand is pink and the fish that was all in our discussions at Thanksgivings and all of that man, and it's true it is not a lie. And I got to experience it is just amazing you that my mom before she

passed the opportunity of visiting down there and seeing that graveyard, I'm sorry that gravesite.

**MR. QUINTON STOVELL**

4:17: Thank you Madam Chair

**MR. SIMPSON**

4:18: I'm so happy with that.

**MS. FREDERICA FORTH**

4:22: Good Afternoon Mr. Simpson did you ever meet personally with the Marsden Church members?

**MR. SIMPSON**

4:41: That is a good question too. No I was angry with them to be quite honest with you. Angry I was quite angry with them to be quite honest with you for my whole period of employment on that property. No one really seemed to care. As far as the Marsden Church is concerned to me In fact, I could be wrong with that, not even the Historical Society, no one seemed to be interested in Josiah Smith. They just seem to be interested in slaves, bad slaves and the graveyard that relates to slaves. I couldn't get nowhere with any of them as it relates to Josiah Smith and Marsden Church, I heard all kinds of stories, corrupt stories and I have gone through a lot with it all and it wasn't helping me they never did help me. I remember one time, one of my, well I guess I can call them a client, when they came down there and was going on the gravesite, I couldn't go to it, because I was afraid I would get upset. I'm very loud and people take my loudness and stuff as me being real or someone that's losing my cool and that's the way I am, you know. So I avoided anxiety, I couldn't deal with it, and then the next thing I was made redundant and kicked out and had nowhere to live. All my mamas' possessions, my own and everything that related with what I was doing here, I lost. I was able to get a hold of the Ombudswoman woman and that came through with my association with the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) because I was also a part of that. I went down and Mr. Alex Scott he was then the Premier in the office and it was great but all

that changed everything. All my hope was what I thought related to Josiah Smith and our incidents, the Government would have got like what we have here now, Is what I thought who might have first Progressive Labor Party, but it never did.

- MS. FREDERICA FORTH** 6:04: The second question I have is are you here because you feel, I mean in addition to sharing your stories, is it also because you feel that your family were not fairly compensated during that period?
- MR. SIMPSON** 6:27: It's more because of the truth and it is closure.
- MS. FREDERICA FORTH** 7:39: Thank you very much.
- JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 7:44: Thank you Ms. Forth. Counsel do you have any questions arising from the answers to Commissioners?
- COUNSEL DIRK HARRISON** 7:51: Nothing Madam Chair.
- JUSTICE NORMA WADE-MILLER** 7:52: Thank you. Well, that brings us to the point that we will end the proceedings for today. And we will resume at 10 o'clock on Monday. Thank you very much Mr. Simpson
- MR. SIMPSON** 8:05: Thank you very much. Thank you.

**END OF TRANSCRIPTION JANUARY 15 (AFTERNOON SESSION b) AT 8:08**