Acquilla Clemons' two-men interaction at the Tippit crime scene and its interpretation

Greg Doudna

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Problem solution to Acquilla Clemons' two men trajectories

What follows is new and I believe shows prior trajectory reconstructions of Acquilla Clemons' two men until now have been mistaken, including my own.

The main point is that what Acquilla Clemons described, is what is known to have happened from the other witnesses.

She saw the Callaway-gunman exchange on Patton at ca. 250 feet south of her. She described the gunman moving *west* (or southwest), and the second man moving *south* (which agrees with a *southward* direction of movement of Callaway at that point according to a little-noticed detail in the testimony of Guinyard). *None of this* occurred on 10th, and Mrs. Clemons' second man *was no one not otherwise known*. We have the testimony of that second man directly, of his participation in that shouted interaction with the gunman that Clemons saw and described.

Once this is understood including the trajectories issue, nothing is added or new to the Tippit case from Mrs. Clemons' witness account in terms of persons or trajectories of movement that is not already in conventional testimony, except for these things:

- her physical description of the gunman is a little different from that of the other witnesses, but it is of the same gunman--therefore one must choose whether the other witnesses were in error, or Mrs. Clemons was inexact.

- She was quietly "advised" by a uniformed police officer, unidentified to this day, not to talk. Claims that she was making that up are to be rejected; she did not. She described the man wearing a blue police officer's uniform with a police cap and a sidearm--a Dallas Police officer from her description. The combination of not taking her story for the record, combined with warning her to be quiet or she might get hurt (by others), as "good advice" to a black woman in the deep south, was police misconduct.
- She was definitely a Tippic crime scene witness. Her presence at the northwest corner of 10th and Patton was confirmed by Mary Little many years later to Myers. There is no reasonable basis whatever for doubting she was a witness and truthfully told what she said she saw.
- There was a conscious decision in writing made by the FBI not to interview her. The Warren Commission was negligent in not making it their business to find her and have her interviewed. And if Mrs. Clemons' claim was true concerning the police officer's visit to her, the Dallas Police committed misconduct in not taking her story or reporting her existence as a witness. However--apart from a difference in the gunman's description, no *actual* new information is added to basic Tippit crime scene information from her story apart from the variability in physical description (though the DPD, FBI etc. may not have realized that, and suppressed her story thinking it could muddy up their case).

What Mrs Clemons saw--her story

The two main sources are: a transcript of a Shirley Martin interview of Aug 1964, and a YouTube and transcript of a Mark Lane interview in March 1966 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X3AMoQPc60).

She was on the front porch sitting and resting, at the house where she was a caregiver, on the north side of 10th St., second house west of Patton. She heard the shots and saw the gunman action at the Tippit patrol car. Evidently not yet seeing the gunman running in her direction, she came down off the porch and out toward the sidewalk and toward Patton to try to get a better look at what was going on. Then she saw the gunman manually unloading shell casings crossing the Davises' yard and crossing across Patton in the direction of the vacant lot on the southwest corner across from her. She observed a second man and some kind of interaction between them. She described maybe a waving of arms and thought she heard "Go on!"

The second man was on the other side of the street--on the east side of Patton. She gestured with her arms indicating the men ran in different directions following their interaction. The gunman was headed west, whereas the second man ran *south*, away from Mrs. Clemons. All of this happened on Patton. The second man was Ted Callaway, who interacted with the gunman and in his own words, shouted to him, "hey man, what the hell is ***going on?***" which Mrs. Clemons was able to hear from her distance only as ***"go on!"*** Mrs. Clemons then proceeded to the Tippit patrol car where she saw some activity of someone calling in on the police radio, before she returned quickly to the house of the elderly man she was caring for. She was a frightened witness and showed no signs of seeking pulicity but only fear of it. All interviews of her were sought by others, none initiated by her.

The two-men interaction did not happen on 10th Street

Mark Lane interview. This is pretty direct.

> Q. **When you heard the shots**, Mrs. Clemons, and then you ran out of the house, **did you see anyone there?**
>
> Clemons. **No, I didn't see anyone down there where he were layin**--
>
> Q. But did you see anyone at the scene at all?
>
> Clemons. The other lady who was shouting on the street [Helen Markham].
>
> Q. **Did you see any man there?**
>
> Clemons. **No**.

But after telling of seeing the gunman "at the corner" close to her, *then* she told of seeing an interaction with a second man.

At no point in either transcript is "Tenth street" named or mentioned by Mrs. Clemons as the location of the interaction.

But as will be seen, she *did* speak directly of *Patton Street*.

Three prime points indicate the interaction did not occur on 10th Street.

- She directly said she did not see the two men interacting at the location of the patrol car.
- She never claimed she saw it on Tenth Street.
- She described an interaction between the gunman and another man across the street from him which *is* known to have *occurred on Patton*, not on 10th.

Mrs. Clemons describes the directions of the gunman and the second man

Mrs. Clemons appears to have the gunman on *her* side of Patton--the west side--in her description. She told Shirley Martin of how frightened she had been because the gunman had come close to her across the street, such that she was afraid he might come her way and shoot her. From the Shirley Martin transcript:

> Q. Which way did the boy [gunman] run?
>
> Clemons. Cross there.
>
> Q. This way?

> Clemons. He went across that lot there, that's all I know. He went across that lot, I don't know which way.
>
> Q. I mean he [gunman] didn't go right up that street? (**MEANING UP PATTON TOWARDS JEFFER.**
>
> Clemons. **No. The other one [second man] did.** The one who done the shooting went across there.

The capitalized "up Patton towards Jeffer." is in the Shirley Martin transcript, typed, part of its original preparation. That is Shirley Martin's comment on Mrs. Clemons' meaning. Mrs. Clemons does NOT think the gunman went south on Patton, even though we know that *is* where the gunman did go. But Mrs. Clemons *is* saying *the second man ran south on Patton in the direction of Jefferson!*

Whether the gunman *actually* ran west starting to go into that vacant lot before doubling back on to Patton, or whether Mrs. Clemons only saw westward movement and motion of the gunman and thought he was running in the direction of that lot (west), even though the gunman never did actually do so, is unclear. Also unclear is whether the gunman was actually in the middle of the front of the apartment building at the corner of the alley (the one where Doris Holan lived on the second floor), as is the picture of Callaway's description, or whether the gunman may have actually been at the southern edge of the apartment building such that Mrs. Clemons could think he was headed into the vacant lot even though the gunman in fact--unknown to Mrs. Clemons--headed south on Patton following the interaction with Callaway/second man.

Mrs. Clemons locates the interaction on Patton

Mrs. Clemons appears to have *directly said* the second man "went up...Patton"--south on Patton.

> Q. The other one [second man; Callaway] **went up that...Patton?**
>
> Clemons. **Yeah. He went up [---].** He may have been just a boy getting out of the way (...) Probably somebody he told to get out of his way or something.

It appears Mrs. Clemons is saying directly that the second man "went **up that....Patton**".
In *contrast* to the gunman who went west across the field, in Mrs. Clemons' description.

The man with whom the gunman interacted on the other side of Patton was Callaway. Callaway described it in his Warren Commission testimony and in at least two interviews which can be seen on YouTube. One is an interview of Callaway by WFAA-TV the first weekend. Another is Callaway's testimony in the London mock trial with Jerry Spence. Callaway pointed out where the gunman was when Callaway had his interaction with him--the gunman was *not past* the alley (heading south). Nor was the gunman *at* the corner of the apartment building and the alley. As Callaway described it in the visuals just named on YouTube, the gunman was *in front of the apartment building* that was on the northwest corner of that alley and Patton. Callaway on the other side of Patton was just a few

steps beyond the alley to the south, looking across the street at the gunman who was a bit to the north of Callaway--a bit to the north of the alley--on the other side of Patton.

Estimated distance from the likely position Mrs. Clemons was standing on the north side of 10th on the west side of Patton, to the gunman's position at the time of the interaction, looks to be maybe 250 feet. That is far enough away that one would not hear conversations or exact words well. But unless there was background noise, it would be no problem to hear a shout at that distance in a residential neighborhood. And the exact match between Callaway's memory of what he shouted--**"what's going on?"**--and Mrs. Clemons thinking she heard the similar-sounding **"Go on!"** is believable at 250 feet. From the Mark Lane interview, Mrs. Clemons:

> "All I know, he told him to gone."
>
> "He just looked at him and went on."
>
> "No more'n told him to go on."
>
> "Yes, said 'Go on'."

From the Shirley Martin interview:

> Clemons. All I know he was talking (-----) who done the shooting (----). He was talking to a tall guy on the other side of the street with yellow khakis and a white shirt on, but I don't know whether he was in it or he was just going to get out of the way or something.
>
> Q. You didn't hear them yell or anything?
>
> Clemons. No. I heard no more than I heard that lady [Helen Markham] call. She told me to look at the man shooting the police.

That the interaction seen by Mrs. Clemons was Callaway and the gunman there should be no doubt. The waving matches. The across the street matches. The interaction matches. The second man as "tall" matches Callaway whose height was 6'1". (Mrs. Clemons' saying he was a thin man does not match, but the height does.) The two men running in what to Mrs. Clemons were different directions matches.

A missed correspondence between what Mrs. Clemons saw, and an overlooked detail in Guinyard's testimony

What has been missed is the direction on Patton Mrs. Clemons saw the second man running, and its correspondence to Callaway, which was *south on Patton*.

Mrs. Clemons is remarkably consistent between her tellings to Shirley Martin and to Mark Lane. In her description to Mark Lane of the second man, she makes these two references:

Q. And what did the other man do?

A. Man kept going...**straight down the street**.

Q. And then did they go in opposite directions?

A. Yes, they were--**they weren't together, they went this way from each other: the one done the shooting went this way; other went straight down past street that way**."

Two points. First, where the typed transcript of the Mark Lane interview has "*straight down past street that way*", I believe from listening to the interview Mrs. Clemons actually said "**straight down Pat(n) street that way"**. Literally I hear phonetically "*pastreet*" which sounds like elided from "***Patton* street**" where in rapid speech the "n" was not heard distinctly.

In the Shirley Martin tape Mrs. Clemons directly referred to Patton Street, and Mrs. Clemons was saying the same things in the two interviews. It is natural to say a person went "straight down <name of street>". It is not natural to say someone went "straight down past street".

The second point is that in the video Mrs. Clemons can be seen visually gesturing dramatically as she tells the differing directions she saw the two men running after they interacted. When she describes the gunman "went *this* way" she gestures with her right arm extended *off to her right*. Imagine Mrs. Clemons facing south at 10th and Patton and gesturing that the gunman went (as she believed) headed *west*. That is her gesturing with her right arm to the right. Then she gestured with her left arm waving it not leftward, total opposite direction, but mostly *directly forward*, a little to the left but not a lot to the left. ***It is an image, in her gesturing as well as in her wording, of the second man--Callaway--running south on Patton,* in her description.**

Because everyone has been focused on knowledge that Callaway ran *north* to 10th--to where Tippit was in the street beside his patrol car--this may not seem to make sense.

Mrs. Clemons clearly appears to be describing the second man going directionally away from her, *south* on Patton, on the east side of Patton, the other side of the street from the gunman.

What may be overlooked is that although Callaway himself says nothing about running south on Patton before he ran north, ***that is exactly what Sam Guinyard said Callaway did!***

Mr. BALL. Did you see Mr. Callaway there?
Mr. GUINYARD. We was together; yes, sir.
Mr. BALL. You were together?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes, sir; he was at the front and I was at the back.
Mr. BALL. You and Callaway were standing at the alleyway? Mr. GUINYARD. Yes.
Mr. BALL. The alleyway that runs along the north side of the lot?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes.
Mr. BALL. Now, where was Oswald when he passed you going south toward Jefferson?

Mr. GUINYARD. Well, he was between the alley and the driveway coming off Patton.
Mr. BALL. And he was across .the street from you, wasn't he?
Mr. GUINYARD. No; he was on this side of the street.
Mr. BALL. You were on the east side of the street?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes, sir; and he was too--he was on the east side of the street until he got across our driveway and then he got onto the west side.

(Could it be that westward direction of movement of the gunman Mrs. Clemons saw which made her think the gunman was headed west into the field, instead of south?)

Mr. BALL. How close was he to you when you saw him?
Mr. GUINYARD. I guess he was about 10 feet from me---maybe.
Mr. BALL. About 10 feet?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes, sir.
Mr. BALL. Mr. Callaway has told us and we measured it with a tape measure, that Oswald was on the west side of the street, and we measured it and he figured it was about 55 feet from him when he passed.
Mr. GUINYARD. Well, he crossed over after he crossed the driveway.
Mr. BALL. Well----
Mr. GUINYARD. **Mr. Callaway followed him, you see,** we was together--he was my boss at that time and **he followed him**.
Mr. BALL. Callaway?
Mr. GUINYARD. **Yes; trying to see which way was he going.**
Mr. BALL. And then, which way did he go after he got **to Jefferson**?
Mr. GUINYARD. He went west on Jefferson--on the right-hand side---going west.
Mr. BALL. **And what did Callaway do?**
Mr. GUINYARD. **He turned around** and run back to the street and we helped load the policeman in the ambulance.
Mr. BALL. He ran back up to 10th Street, did you say?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes.
Mr. BALL. Did you go with him?
Mr. GUINYARD. Right with him.
Mr. BALL. Did you see a police car there?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes.
Mr. BALL. What did you see besides the police car?
Mr. GUINYARD. The police that was laying down in the front of the car.
Mr. BALL. A policeman?
Mr. GUINYARD. Yes.
Mr. BALL. Was he dead or alive at that time?
Mr. GUINYARD. He looked like he was dead to me.
Mr. BALL. What did you do?
Mr. GUINYARD. Helped put him in the ambulance.

Very little notice has been taken of it, but in the bolded above, Guinyard describes Callaway going *south* on Patton following the direction of the gunman headed toward Jefferson, *before Callaway* "turned around" to run north to 10th and around the corner to get to the Tippit patrol car.

This southern movement of Callaway immediately following his shouted interaction with the gunman on the other side of Patton, is what Mrs. Clemons described--showed visualy in her gesturing with her left arm--as the second man going in direction away from her, south on Patton!

It is the same thing as Callaway's movement!

This is what is new here. It is a solution to this decades-long mystery of where Mrs. Clemons' two men and their trajectories were, from the perspective of Mrs. Clemons who witnessed them.

It supports that Mrs. Clemons was a truthful witness (not the same thing as being inerrantly accurate, which few witnesses are). Mrs. Clemons described something that at first glance does not seem to make sense--hence the cause of no end of discussion and puzzlement and elaborate theories of a second man that none of the other witnesses noticed.

No! -- Mrs. Clemons saw no man that is not already known and familiar!

And what she saw, all along was described directly by Guinyard--that Callaway briefly ran *south on Patton* after his interaction with the gunman *before he turned around and ran north to the crime scene*.

Concluding comment

The point of this is a problem solution which in this case results in a negative--once it is properly understood, Mrs. Clemons was a real witness but saw nothing actually different from what the other witnesses saw.

I had earlier been on to an identification of the Callaway-gunman interaction as the two men's interaction told by Mrs. Clemons--but I did not understand the detail about Callaway and the second man running *south* on Patton seen by both Mrs. Clemons and Guinyard. Then Bill Brown objected that the distance at what Brown estimated was 300 feet was too far for that interaction to be heard by Mrs. Clemons, as an argument that that was not Mrs. Clemons' reference. I believe the distance was more like 250 feet not 300, but that is not the important point, which is Mrs. Clemons was in position *to see it* and even at distance in a residential neighborhood a shout between two men can easily be heard at 250 feet, and arms waving can be seen visually. Mrs. Clemons seemed to go back and forth on whether she actually heard words or shouting or if it only looked that way to her from the gesturing. But Mrs. Clemons *never* herself puts that interaction on 10th, and there is no reason requiring it to be on 10th, and there is no reason to invent entire imagined scenarios to account for a phantom additional "second gunman", or citation of Mrs. Clemons' description as evidence of a gunman's accomplice at the scene. What she saw was Callaway and he was no accomplice.

The *only* thing Mrs. Clemons says that adds anything new compared to other witnesses is the "short--kinda heavy" of the gunman. The other witnesses who saw the fleeing gunman did not call him short or "kinda heavy"--most of the other witnesses described the gunman as medium height and neither heavy nor thin. (For comparison with suspects, Oswald was 5'9", 140 lbs and thin; Craford was 5'8", 150 lbs and medium build.) But there is no question Mrs. Clemons **was a witness**, and there is no question that the gunman she saw was **the same gunman** the other witnesses saw. This is like witnesses varying on how many shots they heard, etc. One can interpret Mrs. Clemons as inerrant on the physical description, and the other witnesses mistaken, or vice versa--that is one's judgment call, an issue of interpretation of data. I hope this is helpful.