

27/22/31

Mc  
be  
in  
Ma  
25/2.1. Farmer  
7.M. Hd. Mclesh Maria  
H.S. 20. Labourer  
Winston Son.  
E.C.  
May 1947.

Mrs McLeish. (nee Miss Marie Wiltshire).  
Winston McLeish, son, aged 23.

The house is on the right side of the Mount Tappy road and is part of the George Wiltshire family land. Mrs McL. is George Wiltshire's sister. She is also white. Her son is coloured. Her husband is dead.

Mrs McL. is an untidy slatternly woman with a thickset fat-figure. She is active and talkative. She had heard I had been to see her brother. She wanted to know what we were doing. She knew I had a little girl (Miss D.) with me. She had heard of the other two -- the lady and her husband. Was I married. Why not -- though not in so many words. ~~RMz~~

She has been living here since 1939. Before that she and her husband were living at Wasop. But he left (died??) and then she came back to her father and he told my brother to build me this house. (It is a very poor house compared to his). She has 1/2 ac. round the house. Her father had given her 2 acres but times was hard and she had had to sell 1 1/2 acs.

She took me down to the field where the son Winston was working -- planting yams. He was civil, quiet, reserved at first. His mother did most of the talking.

Winston rents 1/2 acre in Durham from Mr Brissett on McClure's land which Brissett bought. He pays 15/ for rent. The trees on the land remain the property of the landlord and he reaps them. There are bananas, breadfruit and mangoes.

Last year he planted 100 hills of yam and a stretch of ginger. He worked them himself he did not hire labour. He did not have to buy all the heads -- he bought only about 2 cwt. @ 12/ per 100. He ate some and sold the balance -- i.e. about 5 cwt.

He made for this £5. after eating all they needed, 100 hills should give 500-600 lbs. "if it bears well and is good land". The land he rents is "second class land on the hills de." He grew yellow yams.

He planted 1 stretch in ginger and made 50/- from it.

He therefore made £7.10 less £1.4/- net £6.16. WITHOUT COUNTING HIS LABOUR -- which he did not mention.

Livestock: He pointed to a goat and 3 kids tethered on the grass land above his cultivations -- land belonging to George Wiltshire. He paid 20/- for the goat when he bought it two years ago. The kids are 5 weeks old. They don't milk the goat. They will sell the kids when they are bigger.

Pig: A friend has given him a stoat pig to keep. When it is fit to butcher they will sell it and share the profits fifty-fifty.

He is a member of the J.A.S. but he only joined at the last meeting which was a social, so he does not know much about what they do. But he had heard about the revolving herd. He thought it a good idea. He would like to get a cow.

The Wiltshire Burial Ground: outside on road.

On the way I had seen these tomb-stones. On two there are inscriptions as follows:

In Fond memory of Rhoda Wiltshire died March 23rd 1928 aged 85. Asleep in Jesus.

Thesecond is the same wording but in mem. of A.F.L. Wiltshire died Feb. 27th 1939 aged 90.

Mrs McL. said her sister was also buried there, named Ida who married to Chung and has 4 children: the baby, Wilton George hung died and is buried there; then she has Lucille aged 23; Lebert aged 21; and Sheridan aged 19. (They came two years apart George Wiltshire's daughter and her child are with the husband in Kingston. She also married a Chinese called Chung. This sounds as if it needs verifying??

ams:

inger: