

P.D.22/S.D.5/Household 66.

Skeen.	John.	Head.	M.M.46.	Farmer.	Mixed Farm.
"	Esther	Wife.	F.M.40. 9.6.	Housewife.	
Brown.	Gwendolyn.				
	Step-Dau.		F.S.18.	None.	Blind from Birth.
Skeen.	Gladstone	Son.	M.S.16.	Farmer.	Farm Labour.
"	Louise	Dau.	F.S.13.		
"	Lebert	Son.	M.S.11.		
"	Princee	Son.	M.S. 7		
"	Sylvester	"	M.S. 5.		
"	Daniel	"	M.S. 3.		

18th May 1947.  
Sunday afternoon.  
E.C.

I first met Mrs Skeen this afternoon when I walked along New Rd after the rain. Her house is on the right hand side of the road going towards Ulster Spring at the corner ~~opposite~~ Mr Brown's shop.

They own the site and a whatch house on the roadside. It had been raining heavily and Mrs S. was at the doorway to the house and said everything was wet up as the house leaked. She was full of smiles and laughter and very affectionate. She said she thought we were going to "miss her" and they was in such need. So she had gone to Miss Aimee and told her Lord ma'am dem dont come near me yet! This was all said with much laughter. I told her we were coming slowly near her. I explained to her however that they must not misunderstand our work or they would be disappointed with us and that we should be very sad if we gave them any expectations that were not likely to be fulfilled. We had no money to give away. I gave the usual account of our work. She was understanding and said that that "must help them in the end". She for one would help us all she could. And John-- here she called to John to come out of the house and meet the lady. She said he was not dressed. John came out -- or rather he came from the inner to the outer room. (I was standing in the yard against the door and Mrs S. with me).

Children came running in and out all the time. I asked Mrs S. how many she had and she said "so many it shame her to count them". I said that was all right she had my share for me. She asked first if I was married and then said An' you no have no children?. I said My parents wouldn't let me have children unless I was married. She said "Oh--" as if that was quite an idea. It was a pity I had not had any. Perhaps I still would. I got credit for the team by telling her "the other lady with the husband had a son."

They have rent land and buy land and we discussed farming in general but it was agreed that I should come back on a working day and have a long talk and they would tell me everything about themselves and "the land".

Information:

As usual Miss E. and Miss A. knew all about them. They were very poor. The daughter Gwendolyn, who was blind had been sent by the Parochial Board to the School for the Blind in K'ston but she would not learn anything there and they found her hanging round corners with men and though they had not actually sent her back she had come home. When she came back she was thin. She had fretted for home. But her mother had trouble with her. She was found locked in a room with "the old blind man Francis Bailey one night and the men hauled him out and beat him up. Then she had gone to live in the Pauper's house

This, Miss E. explained was a room the Parochial Board had at one time rented in Bottom Warsop near the Baptist to put the paupers in. She had had to go there because her mother was disgusted with her and turned her out. Then she had gone to live with another girl. She was not pregnant. She had not had a baby. She had just got very fat.

On Monday the 19th on the "New Road" below the Methodist Church a fat slatternly looking young girl passed and we exchanged good-mornings. When speaking to me she raised her head and looked in my direction with heavy lidded eyes. I saw she was blind and thought she might be this girl. A few yards higher up I met a man I knew and asked him and said it was Mrs S.'s girl. He said she was living with the mother.

One of Mrs S's boys is very bright and intelligent looking. While talking with them I lit our cigartettes with my lighter. I saw he was fascinated and called him and lit it for him -- he first drew back exclaiming "Ugh!" then burst out laughing and ran away to come back in a moment his eyes bright with excitement. I gave it to him and fortunately "the contrivance" was on its best behaviour and worked first time. He was thrilled. All the other children came out to see him do it. I said he was smart and his parents were very proud of him.

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Today (Monday) in my walk on Allsides I learned that John Skeen has a bit of land and a thatch house on Allsides which he rents to Mr Gladstone Rose. I met Mr Rose later and he confirmed it.

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y 1947.

scrotal/

Passed the house at about 11.30 a.m. but there was no one there apparently and the door was shut.  
Mrs A. says Mr S. has a bad/hernia and wont have it operated.

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22/5/68

Skeen John	Head	MM	46	Farmer	angl.
" Esther	wife	FM	9.6.40	homemaker	adv.
Brown Gwendolyn	st-d	FS	18	blind from birth	
Skeen Gladstone	son	MS.	16	farm lab.	
" Lucise	da	FS	13	W3	4E
" Robert	son	MS	11	W2	4E
" Prince	"	"	7	W1	4E
" Sylvester	"	"	5		
" Daniel	"	"	3		

## From schedule 2:

4 and half acres in two parcels. 3 and three quarters rented in AllSides, halfacre own. Three and quarter acres in cultivation. 2 acres cane, halfacre yams. a quarter sweet potatoes.

Ackees - 1, avocados - 2, breadfruit - 1, bananas 90

lemons - 1, mangoes 2, oranges sour 1.

One donkey.

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