

5.X11.1947.  
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 6

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12/26/31

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Rochester	Reginald	head.	M.S. 32	St. Eliz. Colour.	Angl. farmer	W.1.
"	Vivian	son	M.S. 5	Portland	"	"

15

14 acres owned in 2 pieces: 6 and 8. no empl. labour.  
3 cultivated, 3 cultivable not used, 5 grazing, 3 others.

Tomatoes 0,3 = 700 lbs, congo 1½, cassava 1, sweet pot ¼  
3 goats, 2 swine,

Sectarian movements in Bull S.

His house is in Green Olive below the path leading to Mrs. Judith Rochester old shop.

Met him working cleaning the yard of the seven day adventist church. Two young men from Ridge were helping him. He said the seven day adv. started here about 3 years ago. The church which is not yet finished ( it is a fairly big building, spanish wall, red concrete floor, coag. roof, benches, podium) was erected from the money of local members and from help of overseas members. He does not know (or does not want to say) what is the cost of the building. At the beginning there were 14 members - now there are 28. They are in Bull Savannah and in Junction. The site for the church was chosen on a hill "for people to see it from all places".

They will have a service on Sunday at 3 p.m. to which he invited to come. "There will be some white people from college (?)" Mr. Reginald is a nephew of Mr. Claston Rochester - the leader of the Seven day sect. Mr. Claston was (according to Mrs. Judith Roch.) a staunch supporter of the Anglican Church and left it to join the adventists.

Mr. Reginald has the pleasant and "neophyte" behaviour characteristic for all the Adventists I met till now.

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Reginald Rochester told me his life-story:

"I dont remember my father - he went to Panama when I was small. I was raised in this - my grandfathers home. My mother was from BullSavannah. She lived just behind this hill. She marry another man. She died many years ago. My father was what you call "wild". He had 3 girls that went into family way for him at the same time. He owned only me. He left me with his father. The mothers of the other children - they used to ~~xxx~~ run with other men. My father wasnt wuite sure. You cant blame him. My brother Michael Rochester is 6 months older then me - but he is much shorter. He was raised by his mother. He is Rochester but my father never gave him the name, the mother took it. The mother of the girl she took my father to the court. The judged charged him 25 or 30 days arrest and 2/6 a week for the baby. This was this week and the next one he went and never come back".

the "owned" child.

Reginald was brought up in his grandfather's home When he was 16 the grandfather died. He made a will dividing his land among his children. To

Migration

Reginald he left 15 acres in 2 parcels: 7 acres in Green Olive and "8 acres in the woods." The grandfather gave it as a portion to his son who went to Panama. But he said in case this son came back he should take some of the land and still leave some to Reginald. If he did not come back Reginald had to have it all. "I stayed with the old man and was quite an obedient child to him." After the grandfather died Reginald stayed a year in Bull Savannah but felt he cant go on here. "I was a small boy (16) and had to parents to help me". At that time many people from BullSavannah used to migrate to Portland and settle there. Reginald spoke with some who came from Portland for a visit and decided to go there. His land was taken care of by the executors of the will - his uncles: Johnny Linton and Joseph Powell. As he was a young boy they paid the expenses connected with the will etc. and took care of his land "working this money back from it and to pay taxes". Thus while he was away he did not have any income from his land he got from the grandfather.

He went to the parish of Portland to a place called Manchioneal. It is a port and bananas used to be shipped there. He worked for other people and after a while rent some land and started to plant bananas. He went there as "then things were not so bright here. In 1929 (1928(?)) we had a drought which lasted 9 months and I heard they had rain there every day." In those days the banana industry was flourishing. "there wasnt any Panama disease yet - they made plenty of money". He went to a place a few miles from Manchioneal called Reach. There he rented land and built a temporary house. He stayed in Portland for 11 years without coming a single time to Bull Savannah. He used to go to Kingston sometimes. ~~inx~~ He lived with a woman. She was also born in BullSavannah, but went as a little girl with her father to Portland. The father went there much earlier than Reginald and now has some land there. "My brother Michael came after me. He had it easier because I could give him a place to sleep and to help him and I didnt have any help there when I first come". This brother Michael Rochester - 6 months older than Reginald - stayed in Portland. But Reginald did not succeed in Portland in 1939 he came for 5 months to BullSavannah and then went back to Portland to liquidate his things there and came back to BullSavannah in 1940 to stay here. "I am sorry I didnt come earlier here. I waste time in Portland." From Portland he brought his son Vivian. "I have still a little girl there. Just before Christmas I had a letter ~~xxxx~~ from her. She writes me she is in ~~thx~~ her first book and asks me for shoes. I was very glad she is so clever. And she has to walk 3 miles to the school. I wanted to take her but the mother wouldnt give her to me."

I asked him why he did not bring the girl ~~xxxx~~ at the same time when he brought the boy. He explained that at the time he returned to BullSavannah the girl was only a few months old. He had to stay at first with his uncle and there wouldnt be possible to bring a baby. The boy was already 3 years old. "The boy is more ~~to~~ use to me - the girl some other man will take her - change her name." I asked why he did not bring the woman. "She wouldnt do". He considered she was not a proper person for wife in BullSavannah. He left her the house he built on the rent land in Reach, but she removed the house and put it on her father's ~~groundxxx~~ place. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Reginald married here. He hasnt got children with his wife "but she have one for herself". I asked him how he would dispose of the land in his will. He said his intention is to give equal parts to all his children. But of course if the girl lives far from him "I will give the most to the boy - but will still leave her something."

The boy is more use to me.

The father he doesnt remember.

He says the last letter he and uncle William had from his father was in 1928. He remembers the post office was Conception and the place his father lived in Panama was "Chivaqui". Some years later they asked a Mr Hanson (he is an intelligent man ) and he wrote to the British consul in Panama to find out about his fate ther. But it was during the war and they did not get any answer. They think that because of the war the consul "had many papers" and just did not have time to search for ~~xxxxxxx~~ Reginalds father. Reginald says he doesnt feel like going abroad. Sometimes he thinks he would like to go to the USA but he is not quite sure. But if he knew his father was still alive in Panama he would like to go there to see him.

His land & house.

Reginald lives in the old house his father built. He explained that here people usually built first what they call "kitchen and buttery". ~~Then when they xxxxxxxx~~ They live in it till they can afford to build a nice house. Then it is used for kitchen and store place. The old house his father built was "half mused up", so he had to repair it and live there. The land in the woods is much better than the one in Green Olive valley. When you plant tomatoes here and there and there is no rain, tomatoes here will ~~xxxxxx~~ dry up and the others will survive much longer. They grow much sweeter there too. There are many worms troubling the plantations. Reginald planted already twice his tomatoes and he has to plant them a third time. At some seasons the worms do not trouble ~~so~~ much, so you can replant them and still have something out of it. His 8 acres "in the wood" are on the way to Little Pedro Village between the field of Uncle William and uncle Labanx.

Duppies &  
day.

Mr. Reginald says there are many people who believe in duppies. He is a 7 day adventist. He brought a book - a publication of the Adventists for me to buy. He said it was a very good book though he didnt read it - just " a little at the beggining". It is about the "bumb". Its title is "When God splits the Atom" in which it is shown that the atom splitting was prophesised in the Bible and announces the approaching worlds end (see Religion).

Innocent.

X Mr. Reginald said he loved children - all pf them. They are so innocent: "If you strike them - they come back and dont resent."

Visit at home. Interv. Maud Rochester.  
21.6.48.  
T.O.

Present household.

head	Rochester	Reginnald	37	<del>21</del>	Bull. Sav.	Advent.	Cultivator
wife	"	Maud	32	2.1.	"	"	housewife
son	"	Isiah	10		Portland		at school
step-dau	Bent	Ellerine	10		Bull Sav		at school
half-sister	Powell	Turnica	17	/s	"		househelp

I visited this house about 11 a.m. In the doorway to the kitchen a small girl was rubbing violently with what smelt like kerosene a little boy's temple. She explained to me the boy was stung by a wasp and kerosene "takes the poison off". The boy was submitting patiently to her doctoring.

I found in the kitchen Mrs. Maud Rochester the wife of Reginnald. She was cooking the breakfast. On the low bench just next to the entrance sat her sister Esta Miller, who lives in the next house. A young girl was also sitting on the bench doing some sewing. This was Turnica Powell who lives in this house. There were 4 children present: Ellerine Bent the outside daughter of Mrs. Maud, a 3 years old girl Cecil Miller - the daughter of Esta Miller; Burley and Willy Williams - sons of Maisie Rochester. They came "just on a visit". Esta Miller was shelling french beans.

~~xxxxxx~~To-days occupations of the members of the household: Reginnald Rochester went to Brednut wood to dig a lime kiln His son Isiah (Vivian in Census) went with the father to help him. "He collect wood - sticks and put on a heap" told me Mrs. Maud when I asked what help such a young boy could give. Mrs. Maud put the contents of the pot into a tin vessel and gave to Ellerine to carry it to the woods. It was Reginnald's and Isiah's breakfast. She and the children have had their breakfast already. Ellerine did not go to school to-day because she had to carry this breakfast to the woods

~~xxxxxx~~ History of Maud Rochester. Thompson Thompson  
Maud is the daughter of Philip ~~xxxx~~ and Reberta ~~xxxx~~ nee Rochester. Reberta's parents were Aaron Rochester and Ann Rochester nee Sinclair. About this grandmother Maud was very eager to tell me. "My mother's mother was very old when she died. She was 106. Nobody knew her age so Mr. Blythe a teacher we had here sent to Spanish Town. They printed it in the newspaper for everybody to read: she was 106. For 7 years she stayed in bed. Her legs were paralyzed. She could sit and talk, but couldn't walk. She ~~stayxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ live at her own home. I use to come and stay with her for the night and my sisters too stay with her for the night. Sleep with her. That house - it is the old house over the hill - nobody live there now."

Maud spent many evenings with her grandmother. Ann Inclair told her that her ~~xxx~~ parents' home was "in Ribbit Town - where Theodore Holness lives now." She use to tell her also about slavery. This is what Maud told me as told her by the grandmother: "She always tell me when the slavery - at the time of slavery when a woman had a baby she would strap it on her back and work for the day in the sun and they wouldn't give a chance to eat. If they did anything ~~xxxxx~~ that was wrong they would chain people." I asked her whether the grandmother told her about any slave owners. "Slave-owners - down at New Forest and on in Tryall but I don't remember the name." "The slavery set free - I don't remember the year but it was the 1-st of August." "The slaves - they couldn't work for themselves, had to work for nothing and if they don't work they beat them, sometimes beat them to death."

When she told me this story about slavery times her sister would repeat these sentences. ~~xxxx~~ I got the impression ~~itxxxx~~ these sentences must have been repeated many times. They even were said in a different tone - more monotonous than the rest of our talk.

The parental home. Maud had many sisters and brothers: the eldest sister was Edith who married Calbert "yer "He is a driver to the Company". Esta married Miller who is also working as a driver at the factory. Muriel stays with father and the youngest Calcie is still at school and stays with the parents. She had 6 full brothers: Philip Jr. Alfred - who lives now in New Forest; Bernard, Aubrey, Vivian and Headley; and two half brothers on her father's side: Leslie and George Thompson. All these children were brought up in the home with her. I asked about the relations between sisters and brothers when they were still children at home. "Sisters always together - always fight with boy-children. They tear clothes and pull hair." Maud says the lot of the eldest sister is always the hardest. "The first has always the most work - help the mother cook and wash and everything in the home." Has the eldest brother similar duties? "With boy according to the mind. If he has the mind he will help the father to raise other children But not every one. Just according to the mind."

Her outside children. when Maud was "quite a young girl" she had an affair with a Bent from Ballards Valley. She never shared the home with him, but stayed with her parents. She had two daughters with him: Phillis and Ellerine. The father would support Phillis but not Ellerine. Maud doesn't know why he supported this particular child. "And Ellerine has more likeness to him" and still he would give money or food to Phillis any time she would go to Ballards Valley to ask for it. Bent never sent anything, only gave when the child called. This Phillis died 29th April 1947 aged 13. Maud says she had typhoid fever, was taken to Black River Hospital. But the doctor said she died of meningitis "Its an illness attack brain". Maud regrets this child very much. "She was a child always busy - try to help in everything. "on't care ~~xxxx~~ what I tell her she always do. But she was never strong, always puny and weak."

Maud has had only those two children. She expects in a few months to have one with Reginnald. She says children are "most troublesome when them babies" To nurse them and to care them is very fatiguing. Later on they can be left with somebody in case the mother has to go out. When a girl is 7 - 8 years old she "can help the mother a little, she can wash up and clean and run to the shop." "A girl is always with the mother - a boy with both parents."

Her husband She married Reginnald Rochester 4 years ago and settled with him in this house. She was not inclined to tell much about more intimate details as her husband's half sister and many children were with us. I had the impression she would gladly talk on the subject had we been alone. She said Reginnald was a good husband "hard working and cares well for the home". "He treat me well." She said there is no real marriage without love. "You must love to marry/, else its a companionship but not true marriage."

History of Turnica Powell. Turnica is a half sister of Reginnald by the same mother. She is the daughter of James Powell and Lita Dyer - Charles Dyer sister. When Turnica was 2 years old her mother died. James Dyer married another woman Caroline Powell. There were 5 children in James' home by his first wife and Turnica was the youngest. Her step-mother (mother - in - law as she calls her) was not good to her. Caroline had one outside child but it did not live in Turnica's father home. "She don't treat me nice. She treat well when them small, but when they grow turn them out of the home." Maud Rochester explained that this step-mother wanted to turn out Turnica from the home when she wasn't even 14. Maud heard that somebody was to take Turnica "over the hills to Manchester". She had to go to strangers to work for them. Of this Maud did not approve, she told her husband "Go and take her - we are all the same family". So Turnica came to Reginnald's home and stayed with them ever since. This was over 3 years ago. Turnica doesn't like her step-mother, she feels her home is with her ~~mother~~ half-brother. Of her 4 siblings: "one die, two marry and left home and one still with father" She has a boy friend but did not want to say more about it.

Turnica used to go to the Bull-Savannah school. At the time her half-brother Reginnald married she was still in school. She did not attend his wedding, but her brothers and sisters did. She remembers well however that it was in August 4 years ago. She said she did not come to the wedding because she was too young "still at school."

Green Olive.  
 Reginald Rochester. 4.  
 14.6.48.  
 Reginald Rochester and his wife.  
~~Info~~ Information from Leo Johnson.  
 Typed J.O. 17.6.48.

Present household.

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 Rochester Reginald, head, M. 36.2. ~~unk~~ B.S. Sev. D. 5th. Cultivator  
 ,, Maud, wife, M. 32.2.1. T.B.S. ,, 4th. Housewife.  
 ,, ~~Rehahkur~~, son to Reginald, 9. Portland. Sev. D. 1st. School.  
 Bent Ella, dau. to Maud. s. 11. T.B.S. ,, 2nd. ,,

4x1

Rochester Reginald - is son of Aletia Dyer and Isabah Rochester. His mother did not live with his father. He was outside son, but owned by father. Was brought up by grandparents /paternal/: James and Julia Rochester, and by his paternal ~~uncle~~ uncle, Laban Rochester, all in Green Olive.

Has no full brothers or sisters, only half brothers and half-sisters by his mother. Half brothers: Dalson and Philmore Powell, Cecil Senior, Michael Rochester. Half sisters: Daisy, Monica and Turnicca Powell.

His first c.l. wife was Hilda Sinclair, with whom he was along sharing the same house when he was in Portland. /1938 - 1940/. They parted, because "couldnt get along." He has two children with Hilda. 9 years old Isaiah is with him, 7 years old Edith is with mother in Portland.

~~His present wife is a daughter of Philip and Alberta Thompson /Alberta was Rochester's first wife brought up~~

Rochester Maud - is daughter of Philip and Alberta Thompson /nee Rochester/. Was brought up in parents' home. Her parents were married. ~~She had 2 brothers and 2 sisters /brothers: Leslie and George/ and two half sisters /Mavis and Vera d./ by father.~~ She had 2 half brpthers /Leslie and George/ and two half sisters /Mavis and Vera d./ by father. With the exception of Leslie who was brought up in father's home, all the rest ~~remain~~ stayed with the mother. ~~She~~ She maintains relationship with all of them. Her full brothers and sisters: Philip, Brenard, Aubrey, Alfred, Vivian, Edith, Esta, Calcea. Alfred lives in New Forest, Esta in B.S.P., all the rest in T.B.S.

Before she married Reginald Rochester she was along with Issac Bent between 1936 - 1939. They parted : "couldnt make it." She had two children for ~~him~~ for Isaac Bent: Phillis /d/ and Ellis /11/ who stays with her and his step-father. Isaac Bent's parents: Ellie and Ellen Bent.

~~None~~ None of them went abroad, but Reginald Rochester went between 1929-1941 to Portland. ~~Brought home savings~~

Housing. 1 building which is two rooms house. One room is living room, another kitchen. They have 2 beds, 1 table, 2 chairs. All of them live in one room. There is tank and water supply sufficient.



Land. 15 acres of land owned by Reginald. 2 plots, 7 ac. home-land, 8 ac. Woodland. 3 cultivated, 6 guinea grass, remainedr woodland and grassland.

Farming. 11 mangoes, 8 common, 1 Robin, 2 others. 3 naseberries. Eapears.

Planted last season 5000 tom., L.50. Yams: Mosella 30, Tawya 12, Affoo 30, Cpeoes 200. Corn 1/2 ac. 1,5 cassava. Red peas - 7 quarts planted. Congo 1 ac.

Stock: 1 heifer, 1 donkey, 1 sheep, 3 hens.

Expenditure: Spent ab.8/- weekly, L.10 on each adult yearly on clothing and L.3 on each child. Helath last year ~~2~~ L.15. Books ~~xxxxx~~ L.2. Educatio L.1.

Religion. All belong to Seven Day Adventists. Reginald is Missionary Voluntary Leader. in S.D.A. church.