

20.XII.1947.
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 18

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Rochester	James	head	M.M.	59	St. Eliz.	Colour.	angl.	X	farmer
"	Annie	wife	F.M.	53	14.12"	"	"	W.2	homemak.
"	Olga	dau	F.S.	22	1.1.	"	"	W.2	none
"	Lindon	son	M.S.	20	"	"	"	W.2	shoemaker
"	Burleigh	son	M.S.	18	"	"	"	W.3	none
"	Louis	son	M.S.	16	"	"	"	W.3	none
"	Monica	dau	F.S.	11	"	"	"	W.2	4.E.

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p. 8.

Owns 11 1/4 acres in 3 parcels : 8 3/4, 2, & 1. In cultivation 2 1/2, cultivable not used 5, grazing 1 3/4, others 2 acres. Value of land and buildings: £44.
 tomatoes 1/2 acr = 300 lbs, 1 ackee, 3 avocados, 4 coconuts, 1 grape, 6 mangoes,
 0,3 corn, 1/2 congo peas, 3/4 cassava, 1/4 sweet pot. 1/4 yams, 1 donkey, 2 goats, 2 swine, 2 hens.

Family history.

James' father was Simian Rochester. He ~~was~~ and the father of Laban and William Rochester were brothers. The old man's (Simian Rochester) home was in Green Olive - in its southern end. James bought the land on which he lives now. He bought it from his uncle - his father's brother.

James' economy.

James Rochester plants only about 3000 trees of tomatoes. He hasn't got time to plant more: he has to plant "food" (yams and badoo) and goes three times a week fishing. Thus he divides his activities into fishing, cash crop, and food. He has a big boat in Alligator Pond and goes fishing with a crew of three (i.e. four altogether). "Grandfather was fishing and passed it to father. He is dead now, but passed it to me - I am still fishing, but I have three sons - none of them go fishing". He says in olden times almost everybody was fishing. Only higglers from the ~~Bachland~~ would come to buy fish. It is since about 10 years that merchants from Kingston buy fish - send their trucks. They give a better price than the higglers. "Going fishing for 30 years, but younger people prefer tomato" Everyone - going in his boat - has pods. (It is not clear whether the pods are his, or only he ~~has~~ is the owner of the boat and a number of pods). Every one has at least 10 pods to look each time. They are left in the water for 4 - 5 days. James has at least 30 pods. The bamboo pods are for the yellow tail fish - ~~in~~ in rocks one has to use the mesh wire pods. Claston Rochester has 2 boats, but he doesn't go himself - he has a man to look after them.

Fishing - now and in the olden days.

land parts

New occupations.

James estimates that fishing is a good business - for somebody who knows the trade. "You have fish for yourself and can sell - get a little money". But younger people prefer to plant tomato, since tomatoes started young people dont care any more for fishing. James has three sons. "None of them goes fishing. One works at the factory. He "looks after the engine". He is the assistant of the mechanic who looks after the engines. Works all the year round - not only during the season. Gets £2 a week. James thinks it is not much money - he could get more out of fishing, but it is a good trade. He might be able later on get a better salary - here or anywhere he goes.

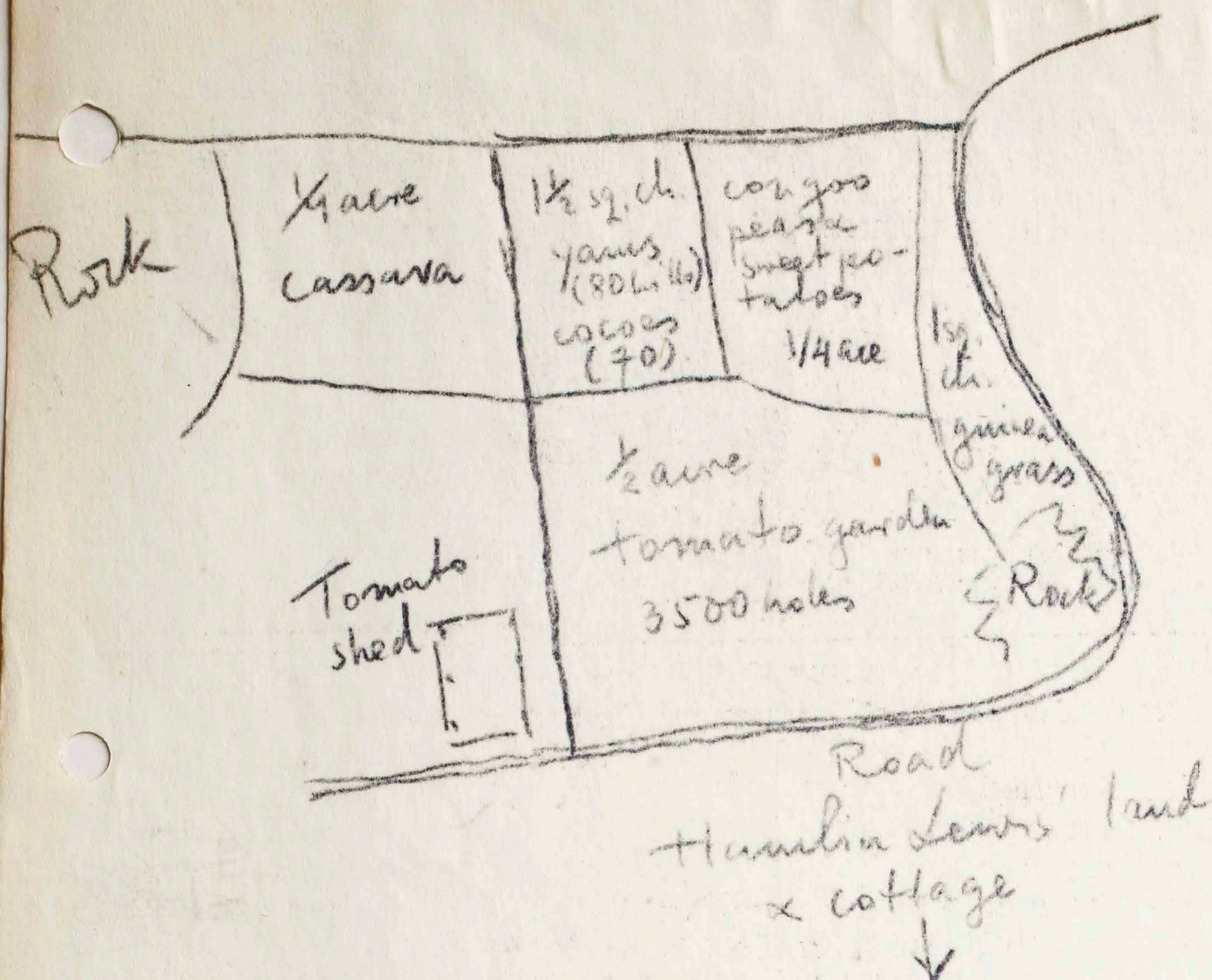
Interview and walk with Lindon Rochester.
10.1.48.
J.O.

Lindon Rochester came to take me to his tomato garde in the Leaseland. On the way to the spot he explained some details of his family life.

He is married /he did not mention whether it is cl. marriage or ~~xxxxxx~~ legal one/. His wife is Hamlin Lewis' sister and lives with her brother. They have a girl 4 years old. His wife stays with her family, he lives with his father. They plan to build their own home ~~in~~ in Leaseland, where his wife has 1 acre of land which she got from her father. Lindon has no land of his own. All the land his father owns remains undivided and Lindon works on his father's land ~~in~~ for his paternal household. The place they want to build their home will be inhabited by more people soon. His wife's brother built already a house for himself in close vicinity to their plot, so they will have company when they will move to live over there. Now he works to help his wife and his wife's family as well as to help his father.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

He has shown his cultivations on his wife's plot when we arrived at the spot. The plot 1 acre in size ~~of~~ looks more or less like an irregular square. 1/2 acre is under tomatoes. 1/4 acre under congo peas. About 1,5 sq. ch. under yams and cocoes. 1 sq. ch. under guinea grass. A field of cassava /1/4 acre in size/ adjoins his field. This is also his cultivation. The land is not his. It is property of his wife's sister, but he cultivates it. He does not pay any rent for the land, but shares the crop with the owner. They divide the crop in two equal ~~xxx~~ shares: one to himself and his wife, another to the wife's sister.



There is about 80 yam hills on his yam field /my estimate would be more moderate/ and about 70 cocoas. Tomato garden bears about 3500 holes. Varieties of yams planted: white yam, Mosella, and Lucea Afoc /two kinds of yellow yam/.

Tomato field was planted this season /1947-1948/. Yams were planted in June and July 1947, at the same time when his cassava was planted. Congo peas were planted "last year ~~xxxx~~ August", whereas potatoes on the same field in June the same year.

Next year his tomato field will be taken under cassava, potatoes and corn. Cassava will be ready in 12 months after planting; when the field will be cleared gungoo pease will be planted there. Gungoo peas "will stay - it is 2 years crop, which soon will be reaped for the first time /the first crop 7 months after planting/. Cocoas will take two years before they will be ready. Yams - 8 months. "Yam plot will be planted with yams again."

He does not sell ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ his food crops. Tomato is the only cash-crop - other crops are called "home use, self-keeping crops". Next year he will plant his toamtoes probably on his father's land, down in Duff House. He showed me his father's fields below the road far away at Duff House. There is a lot of cultivations there, where he worked together with his father: potatoes, gungoo peas, cassava and others. He will share this crop, on his wife's field with his wife's and his father's family.

James Rochester's daughters.

Inf.: Dudley Simpson.
14.4.48.
T.O.

"Mr. James Rochester have some good looking girls: Maisie - the eldest, Alga, Delsie. Nellion, Clarice, Gertrude, Monica and "Sally".

"Maisie she is Basil Witter now. She was along with Vincent Williams. Has children for him."

"Clarice marry in St. James and part with her husband and is living now in Porus."

"Gertrude married in Clarendon."

"Monica along with George Washington driver Clifton Roye."

"Sally a young girl."

Nellion is the girl with whom Dudley was in love. The parents ~~did not want to have anything to do with~~ were against this freindship as Dudley was a young boy then and didnt have a house of his own. The girl was sent away. Evenrually she married in Kingston. Her husband went to America and married another girl there. The American wife took all his money when he came to Jamaica and didnt send for him. ~~xxxxxx~~ Nellion parted with her husband.

Visit at home Interv. James Rochester and (mostly)
Annie Rochester.

19.6.48.

T.O.

Mr. James Rochester was in the yard. I told him I would like to see his wife, as I haven't met her yet. He led me to the kitchen, where Annie was making bannies. She invited me to sit on the low bench. She excused herself to have me in her kitchen, but she said that she heard I was weeding the other day with Jane Simpson "so you are like one of us, know our work so we are not ashamed." She talks freely, is a pleasant active woman. I complimented her on her figure which is straight and graceful in spite of her 12 children. "Everybody say I have a pretty shape" she said "It's only teeth, I blow the fire and them fall off, I put the plate here" and she showed me her plate which was hung on a wooden peg beside little tin tumblers.

Present household: (according to Annie)

Rochester	James	head	"over 60"
"	Annie	wife	54
"	Lindon	son	26
"	Burleigh	son	23
"	Merville	dau	"not yet 14"
Williams	Moxsy	gr. son	14
Witter	Joan	gr. dau	3

History of Annie. She is the daughter of George Dyer and Mary Byer nee Sinclair. "My old home over the ridge where my two brothers live". "Charles Dyer who live in Green Olive is my brother too." I asked about her sisters and brothers. "Plenty, plenty of them, some dead, some alive." She had 5 full brothers: ~~xx~~ Charles, Lindon, Annas, Algonan and Willie. ~~thevixatxtwoxtvxt~~. And 7 sisters: Rachel, Ethline, Arlietta(?) Susan, Thalia, Vera a still another one, whose name I couldn't catch. 3 sisters ~~xxvxtvxtx~~ and two brothers are dead. She was brought up in her parents home. She remembers her young days as easier than her married life. I asked her how old she was when she married. After some mental arithmetic she said she was 19. "I had it hard, but what do, I couldn't cut my throat." I asked why it was so hard "Children them coming one after another, and we have it hard here, we live in a hard part of the world." The last sentence must be a saying as I hear it from many old women. When she married James they first lived in the little room which is in the same building as the kitchen. "After a few years we built that house and move." She had with her husband 12 children "12 of them and every one alive! "Nine girls and three boys". She said all her children were alive because she is healthy. When children die it shows that the mother is not healthy. Her eldest daughter Maisie lives now with Bazil Witter the shoemaker. She had previously 6 children with Williams and has 2 with Witter. Gertrude is married

Her children:

to Macklaken and lives in Clarendon. Vertrude is 34 and is two years younger than Maisie. Delcy is 30 she lives in Kingston and is not married. She works there. Nellie married in Kingston and lives there. Her three daughters: Clarisse, Violette and Olga live in Porus. Olga is married there to a r. Miller. Clarisse works as a bar maid. Violette had a child with Witter, younger brother of Bazil. Afterwards she left for Kingston and married there. She was not happy with her husband. "He didn't treat her properly" So she left the husband. The child Joan she had stays at present with Annie and James. "I take care of the child to free her" Violette stays with her two sisters in Porus. They rent two rooms and live together. Violette hasn't got yet a regular work. The youngest ~~girl~~ daughter Merville still goes to school and stays with the parents. Monica lives in Bull-Savannah with.....(?) Lindon married the sister of Ham Lewis. "He sleep there but is here all the time". "He spends the day and eats at his parent's home. "I have it just the same" (as before he married." Burleigh works in the factory. He helps with the engine. "I hardly see him, give tea and he is gone, comes for breakfast and is gone." Louis is in the U.S.A. on contract. Asked which child is best for her she said "All of them good, but the one most helpful is the one that stays in Kingston which is not married. Not that the other worse, but she is in possession to help." Annie says she loves all her children just the same, whether they are married or not. Her son Linton is married, but still she wouldn't have a bammie she wouldn't give half to him. Everything she cooks is for him too.

Grandchildren. Moxsy Williams is the son of Maisie and Vincent Williams. This boy stays with the grandparents who adopted him. Joan is the daughter of Violette and Witter. This Witter - younger brother of Bazil - "is a sweet man" he would like to get money without dirtying his hands, up and down all the time. He doesn't help his child as he hasn't got the money - he won't work. The mother Violette supports the child. Lately Joan had something in her foot, ces were swollen, "the child walked on the head" it was so painful. Annie thought it was hookworm or other worm. She wrote to the mother she "fret much about the baby". the daughter said she will come and take the child to Porus to go to the doctor, as now, since the road is blocked the doctor doesn't come to Bull-Savannah. Just when I was leaving the daughter arrived. Somebody saw her on the hill opposite coming and the boy Moxsy was sent to meet her. "Run quick" said the grandmother. Annie had another granddaughter staying with her - I couldn't make out whose daughter she was. the child was about 11. "She become rude and stubborn, the mother said to flog her, but I couldn't flogg a child, I feel bad to flogg a child. So I said - you are the mother you punish her". and the stubborn child went back to her mother. Some children of Maisie come for meals "all the time".

About the middle of our conversation Bazil Witter came, He brought a scale which he mended for James putting a tin piece in the side. He had one of his trouser-leg rolled up high, because he had some boils on his knee and above, that hurt him. He looks quite smart with whiskers

James and Annie like him obviously as they chatted and laughed together. Annie told him about Joan's hook worms and the child's mother coming. Witter expressed the opinion that the child must have stepped into donkey's piss or else some animal's blood must have sprinkled ~~at~~ the foot, as from those two causes most often toes are swollen, boils develop and it is very painful.

All the time Annie was busy with her bammies James stood nearby in the yard. She would ask him for some wood and he brought. Next she asked him to bring Joan's nickers. He brought them, they were made of the same pink material I saw all over Maisie's home the other day. "And I'll ask the Missis to help me". I put the nickers on Joan, who held her skirt high up for the occasion. She is a nice fat girl with a bulging tummy.

The daughter Violette was already near, so I got up to go and said that they would like probably to talk with the daughter whom they see seldom. "You know what I feel Missis" said Annie and invited to come another time. She would offer me a bammie if I care for "our cooking here" She added I must be used to different food. "We here have tea early morning at 7, and at 11 - we call it breakfast, and supper round 5. After that if you feel to have something you have some tea before going to bed."

Housing. I haven't been to the house, only to the kitchen. The kitchen is small and rather poorly equipped. In the same building there is another room which serves as buttery now. The house is a two room one.

Beside s cultivating and fishing James Rochester deals also in tobacco. He buys tobacco in the district and sells it in Kingston. He said his brother Joshua Rochester is the biggest tobacco dealer in the district and he does it on a smaller scale.

Information from Leo Johnson.
Interv. Ann Rochester.
14.6.48.
J.O. 29.8.48.

- Rochester James, 60.
- „ Ann, 54. wife.
- „ Lyndon, 26. son
- „ Burleigh, 23. „
- „ Merville, dau, 14.
- Williams Moxsy, grson, 14.
- Witter Joan, grdau., 3.

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Rochester James, son of Simian and Margaret Rochester. His brothers and sisters: ~~John~~ Nicholas, Charles, Joshua, Panton, in Green Olive. Adelle / not known where she is now / Berdie / Green Olive /, Mirriam / d / . One half brother Joe Rochester probably dead. ~~Half brother through the mother is Ann Rochester~~

Ann Rochester: daughter of George and Mary Dyer, sister of Annas and Algonan Dyer ~~in Ridge~~ and Charles Dyer in Ridge. ~~Six~~ Sisters alive: Rachel, Ethline, Susan. Ann and James had 12 children, 3 living with them. Other children: Maisie Rochester, 36, in Shaddock Hill; Gerty, 34, in Richmond Park married to Charles McLaughlin; Nelly, 32, ~~and~~ Delsie, 30 in Kingston, , Clar s 29 and Violet 20, in Porus. Olga 28 married to Rudolph Miller in Porus; Louis Rochester in U.S.A., Monica 17 /in B.S. ? / . Lyndon Rochester is married to Esmay nee Lewis. They have t two children with her: Ardine and Panzie Rochester, both living with the mother. Lyndon has two outside children, by Sylvia Perkins in Thatch Walk. Williams Moxsy is son of Masie and Danile Williams, adopted by grandparents. Witter Joan is ~~son~~ daughter of Violet and Ruel Witter, also adopted by grandparents.

James Rochester went to Cuba in 1918. Lyndon to U.S.A. in 1945. Brought some savings.

House: 2 houses, one 2 rooms, another 1 room. Furn.: 3 beds 2 tables, 1 waggon, 1 center table, 1 washstand, 4 chairs. Kitchen. 1 tank.

Land: 17,5 acres, 1,5 inherited, rest bought from landsett] 5 amngoes c., 2 greenskins, 4 coconuts, 1 ackee, 2 pears. 1200 tomatoes, L12. 60 vanhills. 2 ac. cassava. Corn, congo, red peas. 1 donkey, 1 pig.

Fishing: James has a number of his own pots which he ~~uses~~ sets with his friends. Goes fishing twice weekly. ~~Spent~~ Spendings on clothes ~~last~~ last year Ann L5. Lyndon L8.10.. Burleigh L9. Merville L8.15. Moxsy ~~L2.3~~ L2.3. Joan L.3. On books 10/- . On childrens educ. 12/- . All the fam. Jeh. Witn. Burleigh is cultivator, Lyndon shoemaker and cultivator. In school: Merville and Moxsy.