

3.1.1948.  
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 25.

22.8.hh.26

Rochester	Birdie	Head	F.S.	38	9.8.	St. Elizab.	colour.	angl.	X homemak
Powell	Ernest	son	M.S.	21		"	"	"	W.3. shoemak.
"	Merville	dau	F.S.	16		"	"	"	W.3. S.E. stud
"	Aldelseita	dau	F.S.	12		"	"	"	W.2.3.E.
Linton	Harry	son	M.S.	13		"	"	"	X no
Lewis	Verol	son	M.S.	3		"	"	"	X
"	Rupert	son	M.S.	5/12		"	"	"	"
"	Camest	dau	F.S.	5/12		"	"	"	"

under one acre. 1 ackee, 1 breadfruit, 1 coconut, 3 mangoes.

*Simon*

Berdie is one of the 8 children of Simian Rochester. She is the one who "stayed in the old home". The little house in which she lives with her children ~~taxxxx~~ was built by her father. She was born there. She got from her father - as all the other children one acre of land. She did not buy any more. Her eldest son is in Kingston. (Ernest?) Her other children live with her. The eldest daughter is a dressmaker. The son Harry helps with the farm. He takes care of the tomatoes.

(In Copies in Kingston.)

Fam. Rec. 25.

Her farm in 1942.

Under one acre.

1 ackee = 13 doz. 1 bread fruit = ?

1 coconut = 20 nuts. 3 mangoes = 65 doz.

Visit 16.3.4.8

T.O.

I went to visit again Miss Birdie to-day about noon. She was sitting in front of the house busy with peas. Yellow peas, green and beans were all mixed up. She was separating the bad ones. The rest she will cook together, although some of cook very quick and others take long. Her daughter Merville was embroidering napkins. She said it was for herself.

Her Children

Two small boys were playing around. One of them ~~is~~ was of the twins. The daughter whose name Miss Birdie gave as Sylvena ( Camest in Census) is with the father. ~~The other~~ This twin boy's name is Rupert. Miss Birdie said he was 6 years old. The other boy was a

still younger one. While I was sitting with them there one of her sons came from school for lunch. Another one - Harry - just finished to work on the patch of tomatoes near the house and was getting ready to go to work at the factory. He works on the "trolley" and gets 2/6 per day.

The eldest daughter and the third work also in the factory - the middle one stays with the children at home, as Miss Birdie works in the factory too. She changed her dress and put on shoes to go to work.

Although in the census only 7 children of Miss Birdie are shown I understand she has at least 10 for 4 fathers or more;

1. Ernest Powell the eldest son is since 6 years in Kingston." He is a mechanic driver there, he works in the military camp, but he is civilian." He visits his home very seldom. His sister Merville went there twice to Kingston "to visit him there." "Major Moxsy found this job for him."

2. Merville Powell the eldest daughter. She stays at home. She sews for people. Works in the factory during the season.

3. Second daughter Haven't seen her but Merville tells me that this daughter stays at home with children when the older children and mother go to the factory.

4. Third daughter (Aldelseita Powell ?) She works in the factory too. I met two big girls at the home on previous visit, but could recognise only Merville.

5. Harry Linton He worked to-day on the tomato patch and went later to work in the factory.

6. Verol Lewis came to-day from school to lunch.

7. A boy who should be about 8 years old and whose father is Caletus Simpson. Caletus told about this first child of his he had with Perdie Rochester. This child however doesn't figure in the census neither in Birdie's household, nor Caletus nor Caletus mother's or grandfather.

8 Lewis Rupert the twin, stays with the mother.

9 Lewis Camest (Sylvena) stays with the father.

10 The youngest boy. I asked Merville who is his father (Birdie was changing in the house) "Ask the mother" said Merville.

3

Raising pigs,  
costs nothing.

There was a small pig in the yard. Merville said it was bought a week ago for 15/6. Her mother keeps pigs 4 - 6 months and sells them. They have another big pig which Birdie kept for 9 months. She wants to sell it for £3, will sell it as soon as "She gets her price". Merville says it is worth while to keep a pig because "It cost nothing to feed it - just waste food from the kitchen and they eat grass all the time. During the season you give it tomatoes from the factory" (What is thrown away from the cannery).

Their budget.

At present four members of the household: the mother, two daughters and a son work in the factory. The boy earns 2/6. "He works every day when they have tomato on the trolley. (The conveyor from the sheds to the packing house and cannery) Only when there is good tomato to pick he stays away". At what task in the factory women work and what they get I couldn't yet ask to-day.

Points to investigate:

The eldest son who is a driver in Kingston is not married - whether he helps the home - I don't know yet.

The boy Harry works the land - the little there is of it.

Merville also sews "for people". How much she gets?

Do the various fathers of the numerous children contribute to the household?

How they get cash when there is no work at the factory?

18.3.48. T.O.

Side information about Birdie's children.

According to Dudley Simpson Birdie had also a son for Ezra Linton. This boy's name is Verol Linton. "Ezra has him" i.e. Verol stays with his father.

Caletus Simpson's son name is also Verol. This boy stays with Birdie. "Red head boy - school age". (In census Verol Lewis (?))

The father of the twin Rupert is Charles-Lewis. The twin girl stays with Charles Lewis.

"Harry - Tubby they call him - is for J.B. Linton". This J.B. Linton is Johnny Linton an old man half-brother of Arthur Linton.

I asked - to make sure - whether Verol and Harry Linton were for the same father?

"No, Harry for J.B. Linton, he (Harry) stays with Birdie and Verol for Ezra Linton, he (Verol) stays with his father Ezra."

Monday .  
14. 6. 48.  
D. B.

~~A~~ Family Record 25.

Present House-hold .

Birdie Rochester	Head .
Marion "	Dau.
Merville Powell	"
Harry E Linton	Son
Adelsetta Powell	Dau.
Verol Canute	Son
Rupert Lewis	"
Trevorlin "	"
Camiee "	Dau.

Birdie's parents, Simeon Rochester, and Margeret Rochester are dead. Mother died 21 years ago, and father 14 years. She does not know any of her grand parents, but she heard that her mother's parents came ~~xxx~~ from Comma Pen. Her mother had fifteen children for her father. ~~x~~ "Me mother no khave no outside children, but ~~me~~ me father have one by me mother sister Leah Sinclair from Comma Pen!"

When Birdie's mother found out that her sister Leah was expecting a baby for her husband, she was displeased, and it caused a "big quarrel" between the two sisters. Leah is dead and the son is in America for many years now. Eight of her mother's children are dead and seven are ~~xx~~ alive. Birdie ~~xx~~ lives in her parents' old home, all the other children live in their own home.

Her first man .

She was 14 years old when she had her first intercourse with a man. She had stopped from school, "but me didn't out school". She was learning to sew. She and Joseph/ became friends ~~xx~~ after meeting a few times. Joseph began to visit her at her home. He went to her home as if he was visiting her brothers, and no one took any notice of his visit, or asked why he was coming, because they were one family.

"The Powells and the Rochesters" ~~xx~~ "One family right through Powell married Rochester, and Rochester married to Powell, so we all mix up in the district. You chiefly find the mixing up with the Powell and the Rochester. Elliott and Simpson no mix like we. If you touch Powell you touch Rochester".

Neither Birdie nor Joseph want ed the ~~xxx~~ parents to know that they were friends. He knew the days when her parents were not at home, and on those days he would go to visit her. One day when they were alone at home he asked her to "do it". She refused as she had done on the other occasions ~~xx~~ when he had asked her. He was not prepared to take no this time. He was a big man and she was a just a girl, she could not fight against him so he

Powell /

had his chance . After a while her mother found out that something was wrong and she asked her who had interfered with her , then her mother started to cry . She told her mother it was Joseph , and her mother sent to call him . He came and "owned it" , and promised to marry her . He stood up manfully to everything .

He went away to Cuba before the baby was born , but he supported the baby from Cuba , and until she ~~became~~ was quite grown . He came back from Cuba , and tried to renew his friendship with her , but she did not love him any more . At the same time he was courting Zala Rochester , and after they parted he went and married Zala .

first /  
working /

her/child for Joseph is Marion and the other is Ernest, who is in Kingston working , but Birdie does not know what/he is doing. Marion is a dress maker . She has to hire a machine to do her sewing at 10 /- per month . She x sews in a room on the hill , behind her mother's house . She has to pay for the using of the house , but she does not know how much Marion has to pay . Marion gets quite a lot of work to sew , and x she has two girls sewing with her .

Tuesday .  
15. 6. 48.  
D. B.

Marion was named after her mother Rochester , and not after her father . Why she was not named ~~after~~ after her father was a mistake made when they went to Register the baby . Birdie's cousin Blanche Sinclair did not remember the father 's x name , but knowing that the mother is Rochester , she gave the baby as Rochester - hence the baby had to be christened by the name Rochester .

to/

There is a strong unity existing between Birdie's children and Joseph's lawful children . Marion can visit her father's home any time , she is beloved by Miss Zala and all her children . She is received heartily any time x she goes/ the home . Her father does not maintain her any longer , but she is offered any thing else such as meals, or uncooked food or fruit. Birdie too visits the home , "Up to this morning me go out dey go ask Cleon ~~xxx~~ fe come help me put x up me house Saturday , and when me go Miss Zala give me some a her tea , so me and them move good~~x~~ all the time .

Merville and Adelseita two of her daughters are children of "Pinion " or Ernest Powell . Formerly the children used to visit their father's home , but they stopped about x a year ago . One day Merville went to the home and the woman who is living with her father , did not receive her as usual . "She show me bad face as if she did not want her to come to the home . "So from that we never go back " . They were not asked by the woman or the

father why they had stopped from visiting the home . Ernest supported Merville until she took her Third Year Examination . Since then he has not given her any thing in the line of ~~maintainence~~ maintenance , neither has he given Adelseita any thing . Merville informed me that it is the custom round this side that as soon as a girl reaches the age of 15 the father does not support her any longer .

Birdie's children and Pinion's other children all live in good harmony . Birdie does not go to Pinion's home , "me and him never quarrel , but me and him na speak " .

She has one child for one "x Canute who was a carpenter working at the x school . They became friends and she has the child for him . She and Canute did not live for any time to gether , and after the work at the school was finished ~~Sam~~ Canute went back to where he came from .

Her three children for Lewis are being supported . Camice the girl is with the father , and the other two are with the mother . The father supports them very well . Birdie visits her child at the Lewis' place sometimes , "and Miss Vi' always treat me good . Some- Miss Vi' send Camice to spend the day with me "(Miss Vi is Mrs Violet Lewis , Lewis ' wife )

Birdie has it hard to "raise"her children , harder than most women . Sometimes the children are naked , and sometimes she has nothing to give them to eat

#### Her brothers .

Birdie has five brothers in Bull Savannah . They are all married . The brothers and sister live x quite close to each other . She and her brothers and their wives are on very good terms . They visit each other regularly and offer each other food cooked or uncooked . There is unity between the children ~~ee~~ of each brother and sister . During my visit one of Birdie's sister in law was there . She is Nichola Rochester wife of Joshua Rochester . Nichola and Merville were looking in a Jehovah Witness's book - "The Truth Shall Make You Free" Both Merville and Nichola are attached to the Jehovah Witness .

#### Her Occupation.

Birdie's chief source of making her living is to "raise pigs and goats and fowls . She buys the pigs , a small size one for 15 /- and when they are grown she can sell for about £ 3. ~~ee~~ and upwards . She plants tobacco and a little tomato too . When the crop is on she works

at the factory , and when that is over there is nothing else to do but to sit down at home .

Her House .

mother/

Birdie and her children live in the house that her/ used to live in . The house is getting very old and shabby . It has one room , built of spanish and has a thatched roof . She will be making a new house , and will start it on Saturday . Cleon Powell , has promised ~~me~~ to ~~help~~ help her in the setting up of it . She had to save for a long time so as to be able to start the house . When whatever money she has is finished she has to do more saving so as to finish it .

She will not have to pay to put the ~~new~~ house up . That will be done freely , her duty is to provide tea and bummy for the men who will help . She will not buy white lime , she made her own Lime Kilm with the help of a few men .



Interv. Adelceita Powell (daughter of Berdie Rochester.)  
15.7.48.  
T.O.

Adelceita Powell is at present working at Mrs. Judith Rochester as maid (See F.R. 1 p.66)

-She gave me the present household of her mother's as following:

Rochester	Berdie	head	40	
Powell	Merville	dau	20	(father: Ernest Powell)
Powell	Adelceita	dau	15	" " "
Linton	Harry	son	18	(father: Johnnie Linton)
?	Verrol	son	7	(father: I couldn't understand. Possibly Caletus Simpson)
Lewis	Rupert	son	6	(father: Charles Lewis)

Adelceita told me "My father is Ernest Powell but he doesn't give me anything." Merville Powell is a dressmaker. She rents a room in the new house of Renald Rochester (son of Joshua and Nicola Rochester) where she sews. She sleeps in mother's house.

-Birdie Rochester is building a new house. I saw it yesterday. There is the "skeleton" and the thatch roof. The eldest son Ernest Powell who stays in Kingston is by Joseph Powell.

Interviewed Merville Powell.  
17.6.48.  
J.O.

Present household.

Rochester Birdie, mother, 40. ~~Marion Rochester, ab. 25~~  
Powell Merville, daughter, 21.  
Powell Adelseita, daughter, 15.  
Linton Harry, son, 18.  
Canute Verol, son, 7.  
Lewis Rupert, son, 6.  
Trevorlin, who has no name, as his supposed father Caletus Simpson, did not own him. He is about 8<sup>2</sup>.

*Handwritten notes:*  
1. ~~Verol~~  
2. ~~Canute~~

These are all children of Birdie Rochester who stay now at home with the mother. Other children: Marion Rochester, 25, lives separately in Shadock Hill, in two appartm. newly built house which she rents from Ronald Rochester. Ernest Powell - 27 lives in Kingston. Comis Lewis - lives with Mrs. Violet Lewis in Top Bull Savannah. ~~xxxxx~~ Glenrick Lewis, another child of 10 that Birdie Rochester has born, died when he was 3 years old.

Children's fathers.

Marion Rochester and Ernest Powell, two eldest children of Birdie Rochester, were both for Joseph Powell /in B.B.S., son of old George Powell/. Only Ernest was owned by the father and so Marion took her mother's name.

Merville and Adelseita Powell - ~~xxx~~ were both for Ernest Powell /Uncle Binion/ living in Green Olive. Father used to help them Merville was schooled owing to her father's help - he paid the pences for her private lessons for Teachers Pupils Exam. Now that she is regarded as grown up her father does not help her any more. Merville does dressmaking.

Verol Canute /7 years old/ as supposed to be Charles Lewis's son. ~~xxxxx~~ Lewis ~~xxx~~ did not own him and so Verol is presented as a son of a Canute.

Rupert Lewis and Comis /Camest/ Lewis are both for Charles Lewis. The girl stays frequently - or permanently - with her father. His wife, Mrs. Violet Lewis is looking after her. There was still another child for Charles Lewis, Glenrick Lewis, that died when he was 3 years old.

The last child Trevorlin - is supposed to be Caletus Simpson's child. Caletus Simpson in an interview with spoke even of two children ~~xxxxx~~ for him by Birdie Rochester. Now Merville says the child has no father. Caletus Simpson, met another day, said that his child by Burdie Rochester /only one/ does not stay with him. He satys with the mother.

The house and land. Their house is one-room house. All the family lives in this one room. Birdie Rochester has one acre of homeland around the house, which she got from her father. 4 mangos, 1 naseberry, 1 pimento, 1 breadfruit, 20 coffee trees. Cultivations: 800 holes of tomatoes, 26 hills of yams, small amount of cassava and corn. 2 pigs. Birdie Rochester worked at the factory as ~~xxxxxx~~ grader, Adelseita as wrapper. 1 kitchen. No tank. All Jehovah Witnesses.

Harry Linton's father is Johny Linton, Dunder Hill.

Inform. Dudley Simpson.  
28.7.48.  
J.O.

I asked Dudley Simpson about the men with whom Birdie Rochester was along in her life. Dudley ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ burst laughing: "lots of men, lots of men."

"First man that I know that give her a child was Josphe Powell - Uncle Joe. Before he was married. Then ~~he~~ was in friendship ~~xxxx~~ and it happen that he give her one boy - Ernest Powell." out

"Well, Uncle Joe leave her and never marry her. Simple this: the woman that him live with was better possession. She got land from his /her/ father - she is Mr. Laban sister."

"Well, it was 2 children that she have for Uncle Joe: Ernest and Marion. Him own only Ernest, him tell Marion was not for him. The girl /Birdie Rochester/ was with a next man the same time, so him said it was not for him."

"The next man - she was along with Uncle Peny. At the time he was living with another - also Birdie Rochester - but this one was in the home, and he was moving from one to another. Two birdies with one stone."

"Birdie Rochester /not his c.l. wife, but his outside friend/ have two children for Uncle Peny: Merville and Delseita. Merville is now 23, Delseita about 15. Many years he was in company, support the children."

"Why was she changing the men? As one man leave ~~her~~ her, she had to take a next. Is help she looking. If she is along with the man, she gets a help, some support from the man."

"After Merville she was with Johny Linton. We call him G.B. - from Dunder Hill. She have one boy for Johny Linton: Harry Linton. At the time Johny Linton was a married man. She have one child for Johny Linton and then come back to Uncle Peny. Have this Miss Delseita."

"Then she got to Arthur Lewis in Dunder Hill. She have one boy for Arthur Lewis, but that boy dead."

"Well, Arthur Lewis separate and she was along with the blind man there, Caletus Simpson. Have one child for him, Verrol Simpson. Leave her out again - Simpson - and she get to Charles Lewis. Have tow children for Charles Lewis, twin. One live with Charles Lewis, and one live with the mother."

"After him leave Charles, she had a pickney for same Uncle Joe, but she does not name the father. Him support the child in ~~the~~ a secret, him cant make him wife know of it."

Why do men go to her? Is she so attractive? She does not seem to be good loblack at all? "Ugly, Doctor, ugly. She have no beauty. But she is a caper, she can do it all right. This man Simpson tell this: give good works."

"She tell me that no time she have connection with the man. she feel sufficient. She is greedy, quite greedy. She tell me one day this: her mother sent her to Alligator Pond, to the office /post office/. She was much younger girl. And she meet Uncle Joe down in the wood. And them go to business. And she tell me that him Uncle Joe do it that she have pain in her stomach and through that she never ~~satisfied~~ satisfy, her belly never full enough. She was about 16 then - just ordinary girl."

"Burdie - nobody wanted to marry her. Because she moving with so many men nobody worried himself to marry her."

Information from Leo Johnson.  
Interv. Marion Rochester 15.6.48.  
J.O. 23.8.48.

~~xxxxxxx~~

Marion Rochester is 25. She is dressmaker. She belongs to the household of her mother, though she lives ~~xxx~~ partly separately. She sleeps in her mother's house - at least sometimes - and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ also has some meals with the family.

During the day she stays in Ronald Rochester's new and empty house in Shadock Hill ~~xxxxxx~~ where she does dressmaking and teaches Bull Savannah girls the trade. She rents this house as her workshop.

Her father is Ernest Powell /Uncle Peny/, but she took her mother's name.

During theseason she works at the factory ~~xxxxxx~~ in the packing house. /wrapper/.

She read till the 4th stand. No part.religion.

J.O. 23.8.48.

I met Marion Rochester 3 or 4 times, but she ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ never was easy in conversation. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Her dress is always neat and ~~xxxx~~ nice.- she looks morelike a teacher than a village girl.

Just before our departure we learned that Burdie Roche ster is also building a new house. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ So far only posts were erected and the thatch roof put on.