

15.1.1948.
T.O.

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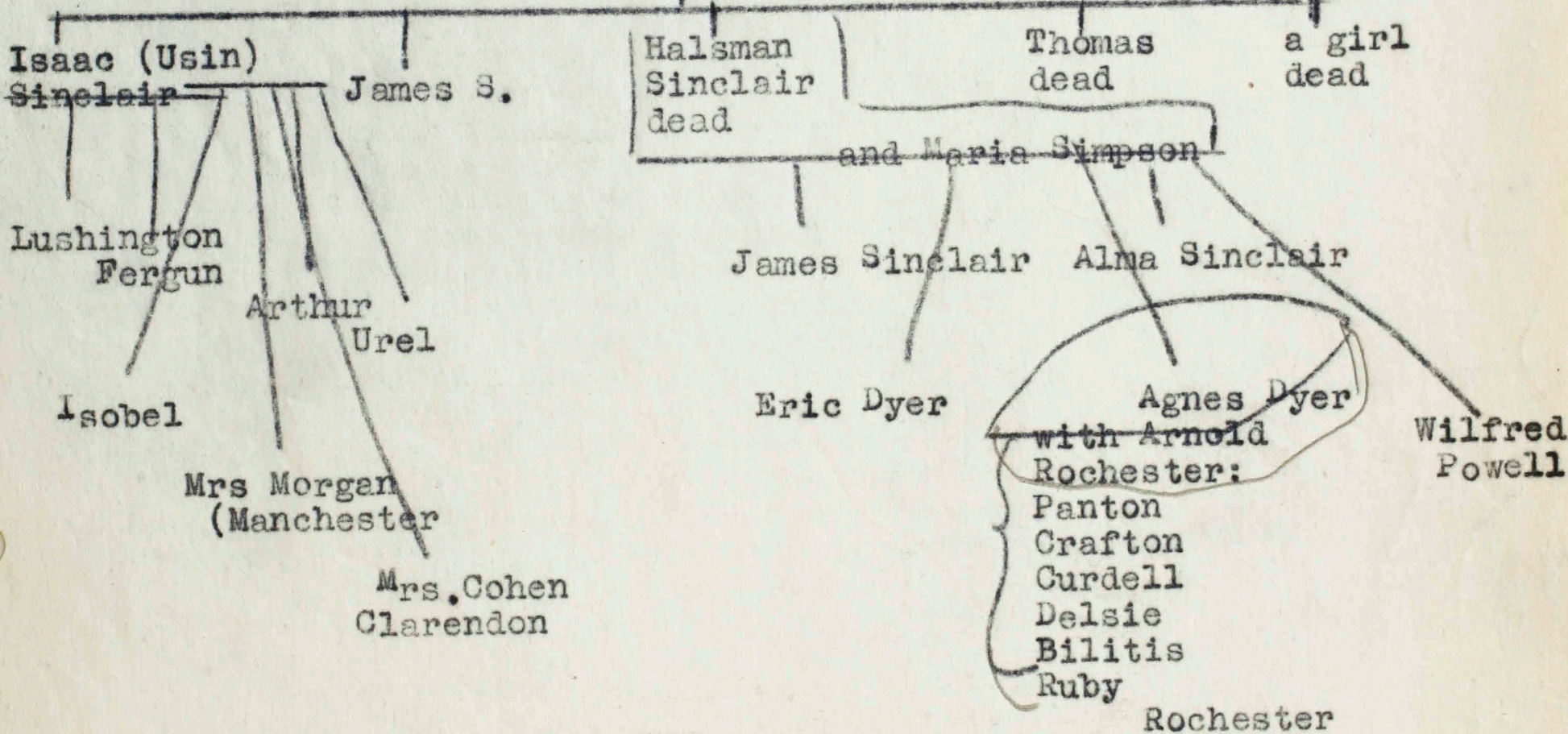
Sinclair Isaac head	M.M.	76	St. Eliz.	colour.	church of God	W.2.	farmer
" Florencewife	F.M.	73	"	"	anglican	X	homemak
" Arthur son	M.S.	45	"	"	church God	X	farmer
" Urel son	M.S.	32	"	"	"	W.2.	farmer
" Isobel dau	F.S.	29	1.1."	"	"	X	none
" son Lushington	M.S.	24	"	"	Anglican	W.1.	farmer
" Lindagr. dau	F.S.	2	"	"	"	"	"

5 goats
1 pig
6 hens

Isaac Sinclair owns 4 acres, 3 in cultivation, 1/2 pasture
1/2 "other".
1 ackee, 5 avocados, 3 breadfruits, 7 mangoes, 1/2 congo
1/2 cassava, 1/4 sweet potatoes, 1/2 yams, 1/4 tobacco = 200lbs.

Thomas Sinclair (born, lived & died in Comma Pen)

~~James Sinclair married Maria Simpson daughter of Thomas Simpson from Chocolate Hole.~~



James - Isaac's brother - is still alive, is the eldest of the family and was the eldest son of James Sinclair who first came from Comma Pen and settled in Outlet land. Ridge. At that time it was "outlet" land. James Sinclair senior came and occupied the little valley. At that time there were no regulations "Where to live and how far go" "No boundaries". When the surveyor came he "cut up the land, could (one) buy a certain portion, you has to pay 10 years and at the same time taxes." Isaac says he had to start with his 10 fingers. When he was younger he used to go to sea fish. But his father didnt fish, he only cultivated. Isaac didnt raise horses, he didnt have enough land for that. In his young days he cultivated castor oil, mostly tobacco. Cassava of course and yams. He doesnt

remember ~~his~~ anything about his great grand father. He also doesnt know to whom the origin of the family is traced. At the time of his grandfather Comma Pen was "a settlement" - not a big property, but "where people settled".

Lushington the youngest son married and lives in Dunder Hill.

Fergun, Arthur and Urel live with the parents. They all live on these 5 acres (4 in census). Isaac didnt yet divide the land. "Live poorly" but he seems very happy, a small man in a coat with $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves, as the rest is used up. Joyfully innocent is also old Mrs. Florence, Philemon and Baucis, She explains that the daughter who is at home is not "very cooperative". The daughter appears, she is a half-idiot.

The plant a little tomatoes. Not much. They dont have enough land for it. But none of them works on shares.

"Hard to work on share". He complained that one has to mulch, to work all the time, and to cover all cost of production, with only a small return from it. "All the profit goes to the company. You has to work for the Company and then get a portion of it.. Only a portion of it."

H/18

C.D. 22. Sbd. 12. Household 22.

Sinclair	Isaac	Head	M.M. 76.	St.El.	Col.	ChGod	W.2.	Farmer
"	Florence	Wife	F.M. 73.11.8.	"	"	Angl.	Ill.	Homemaker
"	Arthur	Son	M.S. 45.	"	"	Ch, God	"	Farmer
"	Urel	Son	M.S. 32.	"	"	"	W.2.	"
"	Isobel	Dau	F.S. 29.1.1.	"	"	"	Ill.	None
"	Lushington	Son	M.S. 24.	"	"	Angl.	W.1.	Farmer
"	Linda	GrDau	F.S. 2.	"	"	"	"	"

His farm in 1942

Operates this farmland as owner or part owner for 45 years.
 Owns 4 acres in one parcel.
 Main source of income: cassava- roots.
 No labour employed
 Works 38 weeks p.a. 6 days p.w. 9 hours p.d.

3 acres in cultivation
 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in grazing
 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre other

total value of farm £80, of buildings £45.
 1 catchment

Cultivations: 1 ackee not fruiting
 5 avocados (3 fruiting) = 15 doz.
 3 breadfruits (2 fruiting) = 10 doz.
 7 amgoes = 150 doz.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ac. congo peas = 4 bushels
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ ac. cassava = 4,300 lbs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ ac. sweet cassava = 400 lbs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ ac. yams = 1250 lbs.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ ac. tobacco = 200 lbs
 5 goats
 6 hens = 10 doz eggs.

Inform. Dudley Simpson.
13/14.3.48.
J.O.

Sinclair Isaac:
"Uncle Usine".
His land.

Sinclair Isaac is known in the neighbourhood under his nickname "Uncle Usine". He is an old man - brother of old James Sinclair, "the old patriarch".

His father was fisherman - he had only little land, which was passed on to his brother James Sinclair. ~~His~~ Usine in his young days took ~~xxxxxxx~~ into possession and cultivated or utilised a piece of land in the Ridge. It was still before land was surveyed and ~~xxx~~ land titles acquired by the inhabitants of the district. After the survey he got only small piece of 5 acres, for which he paid taxes. In this way his land possessions were reduced to the size of 5 acres only. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Never in his life he bought more land. His father had no land on the Ridge - all his father's land was in Ribbit.

His wife Florence.

His wife Florence "she was ~~sister~~ sister of old George Powell wife, Frederica Powell. I dont know her name. One of her brother was Dyer /Frederica's/, but I dont know whether the same father."

Their children.

Their children stay with the parents. "All of them live with him, living in him father home."

Arthur Sinclair.

"Arthur get an old man and him have no wife, never have no wife, and I know of no girl friend him have."

Urel Sinclair.

"Another one - Urel - him have girl by name ~~Ruby~~ Ruby Rochester. She is daughter of Agnes Dyer /and late Arnold Rochester/. But the girl - she living now with a man in Manchester. So Urel have no girl friend now - all alone. Ruby have one child for him. The father took it."

Isobel Sinclair.

"Isobel - she is an idiot. She have one child. ~~by~~ Philp Sinclair son - we call him "Bredda" - is the father of the child." The child is 7 or 8 yeras old. It is not "owned" by the father, but nevertheless people in the district know that "Bredda" Sinclair is ~~his~~ is father. It is a girl - her name: Linda.

/I saw Isobel the other day - she is really an idiot, chased away from the visitors by her parent but nevertheless ~~very~~ pesting them all the time. ~~They complained that Linda~~ Uncle Usine and Florence did not fail to complain that the child is "not owned, and ~~suggested~~ wanted me and my wife to ~~adopt~~ adopt it./.

Lushigton Sinclair.

Lushington ~~xxx~~ is no more living with his parents. Him marry and living now in Dunder Hill. May Neil, Harold Neil daughter, his wife. Lushington "own his own land in Dunder Hill and make his own house. Him went to America once. Come back, buy land and settle himself."

Saturday
May 1.1948.
Ed.F.

INTERVIEW WITH ISAAC SINCLAIR.

Mr. Isaac 80 "was born and bred and live same place" - Ridge. His mother and father died "years and years now when" he was a child.

His lands.

He did not inherit any of the lands he owns. This is 5 acres. He acquired the lands as follows: "In that time after them come out to run out the land, / Government surveyors come to survey the lands/ if you have a little claim, them cut it off an' give y'u, and then you have 10 years to pay for the rest. Meantime, while paying that dutiful money, which was anout 10/- or 12/- a year, you have to pay the dutiful taxes to the Government." / "Dutiful" = due/.

Initially he had 13 acres but due to the "diffi- culty of times, a had to sell 8 acres, leaving mi with 5." He used the money he got from the sale of the 8 acres to pay off the ten years money due on the 5 acres. He was forced to do that because the 10 years allowed him by the Government to pay for the whole 13 acres had about elapsed; he was advised by Mr. Charles King, now dead, to well some of his holding so as to save some of it. Mr. Charles King was the Government agent in charge of Crown lands in the area. He sold the 8 acres to a man named ~~Samxxx~~ Roye. Roye in turn sold the land to the Company. Roye had died.

Mr. Isaac called "Uncle Usine" evaded telling how much he sold the land for; - "It was hardly anything. Land don't value much in those times."

His cultiatioⁿs:

He used to cultivate tobacco chiefly in those times. Usually he planted about 1000 holes; this did not cover an acre. He also use to plant cassava, sweet potatoes, yams, " and a little peas, but not much of that.: He used to sell only his tobacco crops. He bever sold any of his food crops - "or then a would a have to go an' buy flour."

Additional earning:

Tobacco was sold usually for 6 d. per lb. Some- times the price fell to 4 and 1/2 per lb. Sometimes it went aslow as 3 d. per lb, or even 2 lbs for 4 and 1/2 d. He earned additional mone y from making cassava bags., made from big thatch. He made these at 3 d, 4 d. and 6 d. each according to the size. Said he - "A made them to order when them bring the

tach (thatch) come. A don't grow the t~~h~~a~~ch~~." He made one or two bags per week.

He is now Unable to cultivate his ~~own~~ lands. His sons Arthur and Uriel Sinclair are doing so instead. A portion of the~~s~~ land is "rock-land" situated on the hill side. -"The only thing y'u can cultivate on it is guinea grass; it is pure bone up there."

During the tomato crop just past Arthur cultivated about 2 square chains of tomatoes, ~~xxxx~~ Euriel ~~is~~ 1 sq. chain.

sale of
Of the money earned from/ the crops he says: "Whatever them give mi a satisfy. Them pay the taxes and so on." Taxes are due on the 4th of this month.

In the 2 square chains area on which he had ~~e~~ planted tomatoes, Arthur now has cassava ~~interspersed~~ interspersed with red peas, the latter called french beans. Euriel has done likewise on his plot.

Mr. Isaac has planted a few sq. yds. of cassava in one plot and es~~cellion~~ cellion in another. Encouraged by last night's good showers, he was sticking in a few "cassava sticks" between the es~~cellion~~ cellion. He would like to ex~~g~~end his cultivations, but cannot get enough grass to ~~d~~ do so. He has about 3 squares of level land under grass. He expects his~~s~~ son to chop out the trees now grown on the rocky hillside. They will burn the land after. Guinea grass will grow there after the burning. He will not have to plant the grass.

Stock

He has 2 ~~xxxxxx~~ goats and a pig. He bought the pig recently for 24/-. ~~N~~ The purchase was not made from tomatoe money.

Savings

Of the tomatoe money he says "The little money I get from me ~~s~~ sons, a have to go and pay the taxes out a it, and a owe a little~~s~~ shop bill you know; have to put way something for sickness to'." Tomatoe help people to do little better with you wearing ((clothes) to send~~s~~ you child to school and ~~s~~o on. Help you well with yo eating too especially when food run out and you have to buy the little dear flour."

Food Preferences

"My food is the bammy. When I eat the flour is only for ration. When y'u out of cassava, y'u don't ~~net~~ have nothing; it is the keeping up of every home."

He eats the bammy with fresh fish, "and sometimes a little pound of beef; sometimes y'u get a litte grains (congo peas) to help y'u on, or some salt-thing from the shop."

"Saltthing is a shaky meal -poor meal!" Salt-thing is saltfish. Those pickle fish mi don't x scarcely eat -the mackerel and herrring. When you do buy the ~~heering~~ picklefish, y'u have to buy the coconut oil to' -more money spen' and not such a good meal."

Complaints

His sons Euriel and Arthur joined us here. While they stood listening he said -"The trouble as the present time is that people have no land room, to cultivate and raise. (Raise stock) In olden days, all these space (he made a sweeping gesture with his hand ~~then~~) belong to one man. Y'u could raise, kill y'u goat -y'u pig, get meat to eat, but this time, this last time now, if they kill goat, pig or cow, y'u have to pay 1/- for a pound."

"It, much harder now. If y'u home have 4 big man, an you have a wife an' a picknie, an' you buy a pound of meat, what it do? -it dont even give y'u a good meal."

Arthur added: "Some of the bigger man them inhabit up the whole of the land, and leave the poorer one them to kotch/ina little ~~eeener~~ surface."

Euriel: -"And the goevenment wont see to it, more than if y'u owe a little taxes them come scrape up y'u goat or pig, cow -anything; them level (levy) on it for taxes."

Issac: -"An' when them make that level, y'u still have to pay the taxes!"

Arthur: -"Take for instance, look on the little piece of land wey (where) ll people settle on! It too thickly settle!" Y'u don't have noh play. (i.e. You have no play.) If y'u bring even a fowl come a y'u yard it gone into the other yard."

Asked whether the cultivation of tomatoes had brought any change in ~~mix~~ purchasing power, Arthur answering for the group said -"Tomatoes give us a

Food

Land

/up

few shillings more so that a can buy a little stock or so, but land get so dear now that if y'u get even a £20 from y'u crop it can't buy an acre of land."

Arthur: He has not yet bought any stock ~~from the~~ with the money obtained from the sale of this tomatoes, intends to buy a goat or a sheep.

Arthur: Asked whether he would not buy a cow he said -"No; a can't ketch to buying a cow.

Arthur: Are there more cows in the area than there were a few years ago? He said -"Yes, I believe so. People have more cows since tomatoes come in existence, an' people can get to handle themselves. obligingly

Isaac's attitude: The old man was/obligingly informative. He sat ~~beside~~ beside me on my cloak spread on the dried grass ~~mulching~~ mulching. He smoked a home made cigar during the talk. I got up to leave; he said, "thank you for your fine talk, and y'u mus' come agother time."

Wednesday .
7. 7. 48.
D. B.

Interviewed Isaac Sinclair & ARTHUR Sinclair.

Present Household.

Isaac Sinclair	Head	80 years
Florence Sinclair	Wife	75
Arthur Sinclair	Son	42
Urel Sinclair	"	33
Fagus Sinclair	"	27
Icybelle Sinclair	Dau.	about 36
Linda Sinclair	Gr. dau.	8

Arthur + Merlin Sinclair, gr. dau, Urel's out Jan, 17.

Temporarily working in the forest

He is a cultivator, he earns his living from what he plants. The most of his cultivation is done in the woods. The Ex-service men from May Pen and "other places" have got land from the Government to cultivate. Those men who get the land have given the land to men from Bull Savannah to work for them. Phillip Sinclair is in charge of a portion of the land. Phillip gives smaller plots of the land out to a few men that he knows, and Arthur is one of them.

When the crop is reaped Arthur gets two thirds and the owner gets a third. The chief things that he plant are cassava and peas. Arthur contributes to his father house hold. There are two houses in the yard, but there is one house hold. Arthur and his brothers, Urel and Fagus live in one house while the father, and mother, Icybelle, and Linda live in the other. Arthur does not have a girl friend or any children.

Urel

He does the same kind of work as Arthur, also Fagus. They all work with Phillip as the supervisor. Urel and Fagus contribute to the house hold also. Neither Urel nor Fagus has a girl friend. Isaac had eleven children, three are dead and two are alive. Two of the children are in Clarendon, one in Manchester one marry and live at Dundar Hill, and four live at home.

Icybelle.

She has a child for Isaac Sinclair, son of Phillip Sinclair, Isaac started to support the child, "but stop/people carry lie and story say the pickney a no fe Isaac, a fe Henry Ford. So before any quarrel fe over it, me mine it me self for a fe me daughter pickney. Icy not so sensible, she stupid like". Icy does not work out, she helps in the home

because / *Parent hood*
her mother / *to the Ford*

Isaac cannot do much work now, "for me get old and shakey me have fe leave that to me son them. Only try fe plant any little thing round the yard".

Isaac
Sinclair

When he was a boy.

"Well what a confusion them have now a days over the word of God! When me was a boy it never did stay like this. And the little pickney them, the things that them can talk and gwan with me never hear them dey things when me did dey grow. Them have this church, and that church, and more 'an whan me a did little boy. Some say them save and no have any sin, and this ask them a favour, see if them wey grant it".

"Some a them that say them save them a the great set hypocrite, them no grant favour, them no love one another, and yet them say kx them save. Fe do the will of God a no this fe talk i' with you mouth, a fe live the life. Jesus say a no the person wey live near you, a you neighbour, a the person wey do the kindness to you a you neighbour! Isaac is old and cannot go to Church again, but when he could go x he used to go. On Sundays he sits at home and read his bible.

When he was a child he was trained in a proper way. On Sundays his mother would get them (he and his brothers and sisters) ready and put them before her to go to church. There was no church at Bull Savannah, but they used to go to Littiz to church. "We never run up and down and listen to big people business as how me see pickney do now a days. When we parents dey talk we have fe go way go paaay or do we duty, and only go when them call we. Them ya pickney no wait till them call them, them in a the middle dey listen to every thing. The bible say fe train a child when him young smix the way he should walk and when he is grown him a won' depart from it".

"G Words wey me hear pickney talk before big people now, you thing we could a talk the m dey words make we parents hear, we nx never even know them. The world really coming to the end. Jesus say when the end is near all this will happen, x so a the bible dey fulfil".