

~~RANK~~ C.D. 22. Sbd. 12. Household 8.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|
| 1. | Powell George | Head | M.S.93. | St.El. | Col. | Angl. | Ill. | Farmer/ret/ |
| 2. | ,, Rosa | | F.S.60.3.3. | ,, | ,, | ,, | ,, | Homemaker |
| | Simpson Whilel Rosas | Dau | F.S.38.1.1. | ,, | ,, | ,, | W.3. | Serv.Home |
| | Martin Roger Rosa's | GrSon | M.S. 7. | ,, | ,, | ,, | W.1.4E | |
| 3. | Powell Annie /P.G./ | Dau/Head/ | F.S.51.4.4. | ,, | ,, | ,, | Ill. | |
| | ,, Wilbert Annie's | Son | M.S.24. | ,, | Black | ,, | W.2. | Farmhelp |
| | Sutherland Daisy | ,, Dau | F.S.19.1.0. | ,, | ,, | ,, | W.3. | None/yes/ |

Live in 3 separate buildings

22/12/8

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------|------|-----------|---------|-------|---|------------------------|
| Powell George | head. | M.S. | 93 | St. Eliz. | colour. | angl. | X | farmer |
| " | Rosa | sister | F.S. | 60 | 3.3. | " | " | " homemaker |
| " | Whilel | niece | F.S. | 38 | 1.1. | " | " | " W.3. servant at home |
| Martin Roger | nephew | M.S. | 7 | " | " | " | " | W.1. 4.E. |

gr/nephew

owns 80½ acres, in cultivation 1 acre, not used 3 acr. pasture 3 acr. woodland 31 acres, "other" 42½

12 mangoes, 0.3 corn, 0.5 peas, 0.3 cassava, 9 goats.

Inf. Dudley Simpson
26.1.48.

J. V. 2

George Powell

and his children.

George Powell was married to Fredrica Dyer. He had with her a number of children. The first one was Ellis Powell. Then: David Powell /Vincent's father/; Sarah Powell - she married and lives in Bellevue; Annie and Rosa - they did not marry and stay with George Powell. Francella - she married William Rochester. Joseph Powell - lives separately. The last child was Alma who married to Panton Rochester. Edith Powell - one of his daughters - married to Winty Elliott. Another one - Fedrica Powell - is in America.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ All these children were by one wife - Fedrica. When she died, or even before she died, he went with Henreta Reynolds and had with her one son, Percival Rex Powell. Simpson does not know of any other children of George Powell. ~~xxxxxx~~ "I dont really know of any by any other woman." But he has "hundreds of of grandchildren - lots; them cant count."

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23.2.48. Visit at George Powell's home
T.O.

The old man's
place

Going up the road in the morning I could see George Powell sitting on a chair under his "kitchen shed". I was returning the same way after some 2½ hours and he was still sitting in the same position. The kitchen is a wall-less shed. In the middle the fire place, lots of sacks and packs, His daughter an elderly graying woman was preparing lunch.

The old man
himself

I introduced myself telling how much I heard about him from his sons, daughters and grandchildren.

George Powell is a tall slim man. His beard and moustache grey, his abundant hair white as milk. He wears a felt hat to which is attached permanently a handkerchief which covers his left eye. This eye is blind. He showed it to me - it has a cataract.

He doesn't hear very well - one has to speak to him slowly and louder than usual. He speaks slowly but firmly, repeats two or three times each sentence. But his mind is quite lucid, he remembers well especially the earlier years of his life ~~which~~ about which he talks with pleasure.

His parents and
contemporary.

"I was bred and born ~~here~~ in Bull Savannah - down in the Bottom." he said pointing to the place where Turnica and Edith Powell live now.

I asked him about the people who used to live here when he was young.

"Thomas and Simian Rochester, and others - all of them dead - we were young together - only me one left."

I asked about his parents.

"Father - he come from Rose Hall. Mother, - he married Fibi Rochester. Father died long ago, I was a big man 25 - 26 years old."

Horse business

I asked him about his work in his young life.

"I buy horses and sell them in Kingston. A gentleman wants horses. No trucks, no cars then - only buggy. I was in my bloom. Sell horses. Only gentlemen with buggy. Travel around. If you don't sell your stock you take a vessel in Kingston and come to Alligator Pond.. Go selling to Porus, Old Harbour, Panish Town. You sell - you go and sell as you go. When you come home - a bagfull of money."

car & truck
competition

I asked about the prices of horses at that time.

"£10, - 12, - 20 - even £ 25 - according to horse. You go to Low Land - speculate - buy horses. You buy them you hire a man, you bring them home. Buy mule, buy horse. Car and truck broke up all them - no call for them. Car and truck do the whole and do it so quick."

How long did it take him to reach Kingston with his horses?

"Before you go to Kingston - three or four days - all places you call and sell till you reach Kingston."

His descendants.
~~Thevrvskvsvskx~~

"My had 12 Pickenies. Only two died. All other are alive. Grand-pickeniny - it is numberless. It was 100 and three born since. Now full - the whole place.

Grand-pickeniny - they all around - knocking - so me know them. I have pickeninies at Old Harbour. Every spot I go I left picheniny. All places. My pickeny, my family all over the world: olon - you find them, America - grand pickeniny."

"They call me Coolieman Powell in Kingston. My head blavk - so they call me Coolieman Powell. Now my head is white - you won't find a black hair."

"Every Powell is my contract. Anywhere you find a Powell is my contract. If my whole family get up - this whole place was full. I don't feel a pain in my body. @b Only in my head - when it come I drink coffee and its gone. I dont know pain, I couldnt tell you what pain is. I dont loose my strenght at all."

His land.

"I have property. Plenty of land. Property in Duff House, property in New Forest. I never do fishing. Only boat when take from Kingston to Alligator Pond. Ta "ake a day and a night."

"Rochester - all them pass and gone. A hundred grand pickeny I own. I had plenty other - don't put them down there (He doesnt not cunt them among the hundred)

"Five outside pickeny I have, five outside one and lawful - twelve the lawfully one. I don't put the outside. The 100 six grandpickeny - only lawfull one. Everyone outside child is boy - no outside girl, not a single girl - outside. Everyone is boy."

The patriarch.

"Me daughter Edith marry and live here - he said pointing to the right - here my son Joseph - and he pointed to the houses in front of him. There David - he swept his maxarm to the left. Rosa, Alma - he half turned in his chair. Panton on the hill - and he pointed backwards. "All live round me, all around my pickeny."

The black district.

"There - a different district - a black district by itself. Me had two sons there."

"Everywhere you touch Powell - its for me. Black place - when I was young - in ~~him~~ my bloom - I run there - sport there. I have two sons there. Black people keep to themselves - brown people keep to themselves. You wont find black people here - only brown. Little Bull Savannah, Big Bull-Savannah - its where brown people li ve. Thatch Walk - black people. In Little Bull-Savannah you find all nation there: Powell, Rochesters, Lewis. From Little Bull-Savannah you go to Valley, from Valley - up Hill."

"In Thatch Walk Brooks. All nation but chiefly brooks."

"Perkin - they are my cousins, my first cousins. Michlas Perkins. Perkin went and live among them black. Perkin - my first cousin."

"Them (the black people in Thatch Walk) from Slavery. Them couldnt live among brown people. They settled there. I wild place. But this place was brown people - a different class."

"Brown people mix with them - so they are brown. But before only black people live there."

"My two sons - they live there. They are brown. Perkin my cousin. Mix with black people. Live right there."

Nearest church

" Church when we going - the nearest in Letitz. We go to the nearest in Letitz. In Letitz there was a Moravian one and Brethren. We join the Moravian in Letitz. - the nearest. In St. Mary's - church of England. We have a church of England here and school room."

Tobacco and
"tomaties"

"I plant tobacco - plenty of tobacco. Now it is all tomaties. Tomaties - he come so quick. Before - all you do with tomaties - make sauce. But now tomaties become all."

About Charlie
Elliott

"Charlie Elliott - he come from Valley. Him marry my cousin. First wife - his first wife - Judith Rochester. Second wife Rhoda. Him dead now. All of them dead. I am the only one."

His lunch was ready and I got up to go.

"I wish you well me daughter - I wish you well. You come to join the Bull-Savannah club. It is a fruitful land. I wish you well me daughter."

Interview with Vincent Powell
3.3.48.
J.O. + T.O.

Old George Powell. We talked with Vincent Powell his old grandfather George Powell, the protoplast of the Powells' clan in Bull Savannah. George Powell is in great esteem among all the Powells and Vincent Powell gave full vent to his admiration for the old man.

He is 96 years old - the ~~most~~ oldest man in the district. And he is healthy and strong too. Never was ill, in all his life did not take more than a spoonful of medicine. He remembers a lot of old times, but his memory is getting weak ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and more recent events escape his ~~xxxxxxxx~~ notice.

He has lots of descendants. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Three years ago they counted all his grandchildren and the number reached was 175 or so. Greatgrandchildren were not included into the list. He had 11 children by his wife and one ~~xxxx~~ outside child.

George Powell
and his town.

George Powell lives in the middle of his family town inhabited by his sons and grandsons. ~~One~~ He lives in his own house, built some years ago - his old house was ceded to his Daughter Rosa who stays with him and looks after him. The old man does run a separate cookery - Rosa is supposed to cook for him, but really all ~~xxxx~~ his descendants participate in keeping the old man.

He does not need to think about his meals. All the compound contributes to his living.

"Here is his daughter home, ~~xxxx~~ here - across the road - ~~xxxx~~ his grandsons' shop, here is Adolphous Powell, and Joseph Powell, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ here again is me and my Daddy. He can step everywhere - he has'nt got to provide. A funny man - when he come one day, he ne never come again the next day. He go to other places. But when he come, all day he spend here. And he got his tea, and he got his breakfast, and he got his dinner. And then he go. But he never says when he come. Never give notice."

His land.

"He has a lot of land - 96 acres". This was the amou amount he owned originally. His land is on so called ~~xxxxxx~~ "River Hill" - rocky and wild place partly only cultivated. It adjoins the Duff House, but is not derived from Duff House land settlement."The pipe - con- ~~duct~~ ducted from Alligator Pond River to the factory - passes ~~in~~ his land about 1/2 mile."

George Powell's land possessions are considerably reduced now. "He give some land to his sons - says Vincent Powell - some sold, I buy 10 acres." Vincent Powell does not know how much land ~~is~~ is still left in actual possession of his grandfather.

Powells' ancestral history. History of Bull Savannah.

Powells claim that they were the first settlers in the area and they opened the land for other settlers. Their ancestral history goes back to slavery times ~~and~~ or rather to emancipation days.

"When slavery was abolished, it was wild place here - nobody here only ~~the~~ bush and wild goats. They kept the slaves in a pen - there was a slave pen - ~~in~~ ~~the~~ Rose Hall is the place. After they set slaves free, they were in doubt - the slaves were in doubt - whether it is for good. Two men, one Father Senior and Mother Senior, one Father Powell and Mother Powell, they left Rose Hall and come here and settle. Father Senior and Mother Senior, Father Powell and Mother Powell. We dont know their names. We call them Father Senior and Mother Senior and Father Powell and Mother Powell." V/

"They hide away and come into the bush and settle."

"Both of them build ~~houses~~ the same time. And the t o first houses in Bull Savannah was the houses them build. One Cornelius Elliott place and the other p that's my Daddy place. Father Powell - him build where Elliott. Where is my Daddy place, that's was Senior. ~~XX~~ Senior - not Father Senior, his son, him sold to Powell." So the place passed into the hands of the Powells' family.

"There was no man here when they come. No cultivations. Only the goats, the wild goats. And they catch them and kill them and eat them. Those times, they dont go to market. Dont sell, dont buy. They go to bush, dig a pit in the earth, ~~and~~ cover it with bush, and the wild goat come - bum! - and fall in. They cultivate a little food and catch wild goat all the time. That's how they live. They havent got money - no use of money how they lived. You have something, you invite your neighbour, you share what you have. And they share what they have too. No money, no selling. That's how they lived."

They houses were primitive but solid - built of the dark wood. Square nails had been used instead of round ones and these square nails can be seen still in the oldhouse of David Powell. They ~~know~~ did know ~~the~~ masonry as they know to-day. ~~That~~ They did not use "concrete", but made wattle walls covered with plaster.

The grandfather of old George Powell was son of the first ancestors: Father and Mother Powell. He married Pheby Rochester and in this way Powells and Rochesters became related to each other.

Powells were strong and healthy - ~~they~~ "Powells live long." They multiplied and to-day ~~they~~ they are one of the most numerous families in Bull Savannah.

Seniors did not multiply as much. "They are a breed of people them dont live long. Them sick and die." They dissappeared almost completely. Eustace Senior in Thatch Walk is ~~from~~ not of their stock - he is from Seniors who came here and settled in later times from Ballard's Valley. Luther Senior is one of the surviving descendants of Father and Mother Seniors. "Him a great ~~grand~~ - great - great - grandson of Father Senior."

Powells in Rose Hall.

There is also another branch of Powells ~~xxxxxx~~ derived from the same stock. Father Powell who settled in Bull Savannah had a brother who was in the same "slave pen" with him, but who did not run away after emancipation, but stayed in Rose Hall. "There were two brothers Powells in Rose Hall - the same family. Father Powell came around, his brother stayed." Rose Hall Powells are in this way distant relatives of Bull Savannah Powells. But they do not regard each other as relatives, though they are aware of their common descent.

Rose Hall Powells were for a long time better off than Bull Savannah Powells. They had pimento trees and coffee, which paid good price. "We had anything but little tobacco. Now with tomato, we are better off."

Powells in B.S. and related families.

In Bull Savannah Powells multiplied and spread and entered into family relationships with other people. But Vincent Powell denied my supposition that there is hardly any family in Bull Savannah with whom Powells are not ~~xxxxxx~~ relatives. "First of all, he said, you." Then he enumerated the families which are "no relation" whatsoever to Powells: "Simpsons, Holnesses and Sinclairs - they are no relation to Powells. No relation whatsoever. Only Rochesters and Elliotts - these are our relatives. We are ~~xxxxxx~~ all one family - Powells, Rochesters, and Elliotts." Then he explained that it is through the marriages of their ancestors that they entered into family relationship with other families. But he was very emphatic about Simpsons, Holnesses and Sinclair as being full ~~xxxxxx~~ strangers and no relation to them."

9.VI.1948. T.O.

Informant Vincent Powell - (grandson of George Powell)

During the last rains the roof of old George Powell's house was leaking badly, and the old man was greatly inconvenienced. It has been decided that to-morrow morning 9 of his grandsons will go to the Spring Grounds. Each of them will cut thatch, & bring his bundle to the grand father's house and ~~xx~~ mend the roof.

The grandsons who are going are:

1. Vincent Powell, son of David
2. James Powell son of Ellis
3. Joseph Powell jr. " " "
4. Cleon Powell son of Joseph
5. Leo Powell son of Joseph
6. Harry Elliot (son of Edith) who married Winty Elliot
7. Dexter Rochester (son of Alma who married Pantton ~~Roe~~ Rochester) ~~Rochester~~
8. Wilbert Powell (son of Anny who stays with George)
9. Albert Simpson (son of Rosa " " " " " " " " " " " "

Two visits at home.

13.7.48. Interv. Rosa, Annie and George Powell
and Whilel Simpson.

16.7.48. Interv. the above plus Wilbert Simpson.
T.O.

On my first visit at about 6 p.m. Rosa and George were sitting on low boxes at the kitchen entrance. Whilel was standing in the kitchen door-way. All three of them were having their dinner.

In this "yard" there are two households:

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Powell | George | almost 100 | father |
| Powell | Rosa | head over 60 | daughter |
| Simpson | Whilel (dau of Rosa) | 42 | gr. daughter |
| Martin | Roger (son of Whilel) | 13 | great grand son. |

The other household consists of another daughter of George Powell: Annie Powell with her son Wilbert and her great nephew Orrett Rochester. (Fam. Rec.)

George Powell lives in a one-room thatched house behind which there is another bigger one - two rooms - in which live Rosa with her daughter Whilel and grand son Martin.

The cooking is done by Whilel and Rosa, but mostly by Whilel in the kitchen used only by them.

Parentage.

George Powell - "the father of Bull-Savannah" as somebody called him in the yard - is the son of Joseph Powell and "Fibi" Powell nee Rochester. Joseph Powell came after the emancipation from Rose Hall where he was a slave. He married a ~~Rax~~ girl from the Rochester family who were already settled in Bull-Savannah. The tradition of the Rochester family maintains that they were slave-owners. Joseph Powell died when George was a man of about 25 - 30 years old. "Fibi" died 19 years ago. As far as Rosa can remember (George Powell loses his memory already) Joseph and Fibi had three sons: George, "Jackie" and Isaac. Isaac was the youngest and inherited the parental home in the bottom of the Green Olive Valley where Nany and Edith Powell live at present. Nobody remembered the "right name" of "Jackie" I think however it was David, because everybody agreed Michael Powell was his son, and Michael Powell gave me the name of his father as "David Powell. Joseph and Fibi ~~might have had also a daughter and even more sons,~~ but only the three above are ~~skins~~ in the family tradition. Only George Powell is alive. They had also a daughter "Mottie" who lived in Bigyard.

remembered/

David "Jackie" Powell and his wife Margaret had: Michael, (lives in Bull Savannah) Jane (married Robert "Joint" Simpson) and Lydia who lives in Exton. A descendant of Jackie (perhaps outside) was "Boggy". Boggy died long ago "him raise David Simpson Powell. David not quite collective, talk goes to his head."

Isaac had the following children: Ernest, Thomas (in Cuba) Emmanuel (died) Turnica, Edith & Stanford.

George with his wife Frederica nee Dyer had the following children: (the list is not arranged acc. to age.)

1. Francella married William Rochester. (B. Sav.)
2. Alma married Panton Rochester. "
3. Edith married Windy Elliott. "
4. Sarah married a Griffith in Top Hill. Her husband is dead. She is living now with a daughter in Comma Pen.
5. Nicola married a Samuda. Lives in Boston U.S.A.
6. Rebeca - "Mrs Grace" died in Colon.
7. Rosa stays with the father
8. Annie stays with the father
9. Joseph married Zala Rochester lives B. Sav.
10. David married Edith Powell (lives B. Sav.)
11. Ellis (died) married Birdie

12. with Henrietta Ronalds outside son Percival Powell. George Powell boasts of many illegitimate children, however only this one is known in Bull-Savannah.

Rosa Powell had a c.l. husband Frederick Simpson from Shaddock Hill. she had with him three children: Albert, Whilel and Caletus Simpson. Frederick Simpson left Bull-Savannah and joined the water police in Kingston. Rosa showed me a picture of ~~xxxx~~ a group of water police all in white uniforms looking like sailors. This was taken in 1928 and her c.l. husband was among them. After he died Rosa was turned out from the house and land by the brother as she had no "papers". she lives at present with her father keeping the house for him.

Whilel Simpson the daughter of Rosa has been away for many years working in Kingston and Savannah la Mar. She had a son there Martin Roger who stays at present with her. She is a very energetic person. Cultivates - hiring labour - some of her grandfather fields.

Nicola was brought up in the "great house" in Spring Grounds. George Powell used to sell horses there and had something to do (I didn't understand quite clearly) with the cows on the property. The girl was "adopted" by the owner of the property and he sent her to America. She married (either still in Jamaica

or in America). She has a business in Boston. ~~xxxxxxx~~ It is a hotel. "Nice place" told me Wilbert Simpson who visited her when he went on contract to the States. Many Jamaicans who are ~~xxxxxxx~~ travelling in Boston stay there. Nicola came once on a visit to Bull-Savannah. It was 20 years ago, just one year before the death of the mother. She stayed here 3 months. In America she has three children. Rosa gave me a letter from Nicola, to copy the address in Boston. It is written on a lovely ~~xxxx~~ light blue velin with a monogram "ESA" (I wonder whose monogramme it is). The address is 31, Brrddal (or Buadall - I couldn't decipher the letters) Park, Boston, Mass. It is written in a "educated" though simple style and hand. I am told she helped to emigrate to America many dozens people from Jamaica.

Rebecca had a child: Eucal Rochester by a "Rochester from St. Thomas." This Eucal was brought up in Bull Savannah and had later on with Lilian Holness (daughter of Claston Holness) a child: Orrett Rochester. Both Eucal and Lilian died and the child is adopted now and lives with his great aunt Annie Powell.

For Annie see F.R.

The yard.

The yard of George Powell is always frequented by neighbours and there are always some activities going on there. When I came there to-day Rosa was mixing lime with water to white wash the kitchen. Nilel was scraping cassava. In the same yard but in a separate house lives Annie with her son Wilbert Simpson and great neapew Orrett Rochester. They cook in the big shed which is at the far end (coming from the road) of the yard. Wilbert Simpson was sitting under the shed. Soon came Caletus Simpson with Edmond Francis who brought him. (Caletus is blind.) Caletus lives in a house which is adjoining to this yard. His wife was in the yard too. She can be almost always seen with her sister in law and mother in law who are her nearest neighbours. Mr. Theodere Holness came too. Caletus asked George Powell whether he recognised who it was. "Mass T" said George Powell. I offered cigarettes to George Powell and he wanted to take the whole box. Everybody laughed and they told him to take only one so they will have also the chance of getting one. It seemed to me they laughed to show that they didn't approve of his manners placing himself in a lower position by taking the whole box instead of taking one cigarette as an equal. But George didn't mind, took the one I shuffled from the box and -poor thing- was told by his granddaughter and daughter that he shouldn't smoke it as he smoke too much. He lit it however and went to his house to smoke it in peace. He soon emerged however back to join the company.