

Present Household

Thursday .
4. 3. 48.
D. B.

Brooks .	Alexander	Head.
Brooks.	Rebecca	Wife.
Powell	Doren	Adopted Dau.

Interviewed Alexander Brooks, and Rebecca Brooks.

Family History .

Mother 6 Henniretta Brooks,
Father -

Mother is alive and was born here . Grand parents ,
and their parents were born here also .
Has always lived in Tatch Walk , pays visits to
Kingston but has never lived there . He has no
children , but has adopted a little one for himself .

Land

Alexander has three acres of land . He did not buy
what he owns , he inherited it from his parents ,
who got it from their parents .

Occupation

Alexander is a cultivator . He plants corn , peas,
and cassava , also a little tomatoes , about a
square chain-Mrs Brooks said . When asked what did
they do with the corn peas , and tomatoes , Mrs
Brooks said that she sold some of the produce and
the balance was used for home . Samuel Elliott a
friend who was standing by stressed the point of the
hardness of life in Jamaica and went on to say that
the best living in life to man in Jamaica is to have
a lot of money , as one was not counted ~~without~~
here without money . He gave an instance of when he
was in America on the Contract . One day he went
into a bar to buy beer , was told there was none .
A little after some one else went . Of course that was a
coloured person and he got it , so he went back and
asked , and after telling them that they were the
same people that helped them in the war , he showed them
some paper he had . With that he was able to get the
beer that day and every day after . He told that on
one occasion they the Jamaicans were termed as some -
thing by a little girl who had never seen black
people before .

Religion

On asking Alexander what church does he belong to he
proudly told me that he does not belong to any , for
he has not got any belief at all in the church
is too much church and none of them true . , there

He told me boldly that he has his church in his home ,
When asked which was the st rongest in the District he said
the Anglican was , but if he was to join any he would join
the Jehovah Witness . He likes that one the best , Elliott
again joined the conversation and proudly said that he
would join the Adventist as he had attended their meetings
in America and what more , they lived the nearest to God .
Because they dont work on their Sabbath , but keep it holy .
Turning to Mrs Brooks I asked what church she would love
she told me staunchly that she does not believe in church
either , the parson ~~was~~ is just as sinful as any man else
and men are too selfish . For instance she said she had
to go three miles for water when they have pipes laid to
carry water to the factory and they never think of laying
it for the men \is "allfe dem self" . (~~all for themselves~~)
"We are too poor and when we dont get a good start we have to
meet life very hard" . The tomatocrop was not so success-
ful this time as the y did not get much rain . The smaller
the amount you plant the smaller the crop , the bigger the
amount you plant the bigger the crop . Alva Samuels who
had come to join the company said to grow the tomatoes one
had to credit manure from the factory . then when you reap
the crop they take it for the payment and sometimes you
can scarcely get any thing off the crop for yourself .
Its a veery hard life. ~~manure~~

Kit

(9.7.48.
Friday .
D. B.

Interviewed Clemintina and Alexander Brooks.

The house .

rooms /

The house is made of spanish walls , with one of the/pe having a thatched roof and the other zincroof. It was built eleven years ago , and is still in good condition . It has two rooms , one very large that is used as the bed room , and the smaller one as the hall . The bigger room can be made into two rooms , "but me never think of it fe divide i' , me may do it later on though , when Doren grow big " .

The kitchen is of spanish wall also , with thatched r roof . It is not a very small building , it is of a fairly large size . Much of the interior of the house or the kitchen could not be seen , as we talked out in the yard under a grape vine , where Clementina was picking peas . Looking in the kitchen could be seen a barrel with a few things put on a piece of board across the board.

Rebecca

Source of living.

Alexander is not only a cultivator , he used to do fishing at Alligator Pond , working with Nicholas Brooks as a hand . It did not pay him well , as he had to give more labour than the pay he got , so he stopped after working for three years . It is a good while now since he has stopped . He does not cultivate very largely , "me only do wha' me one caan manage , for me have the money fe pay people fe work " . He plants about three sq. chains of tomato , "and this as much cassava and peas and corn fe me home . oemthime i' caan even feed we " . He has a lovely field of corn besides his house , "but you no see that i' no gwine come to nothing for after the rain stop . The crop gone from we , if we did only get one more shower that would a help we " .

Rebecca

Clemintina is not working at present "for nothing no dey fe do , me only help me husband with the cultivation " . Once she used to trade on bammies at Alligator Pond , "but me stop now fa me caan get the cassava fe buy now . And every body do the same thing so i' caan pay at all . Sometime me go with i' and have fe come back with all mos' all" .

Reading.

Meals .

"Fe feed we self is the hardestthing . Every day you have fe gone a shop , and we caan hardly find the money fe spend , yet we have fe spend i' . Sometime we have fe spend 12/- or more fe the week a the shop , and the Saturday market no in dey . One pound a rice caan hardly give one meal , but sometime we have fe make i' serve two . We na get any help from Government , and every year them put on more money 'pon the taxes . We is this have fe say that the land belong to them , them wi' soon come take i' for a fe them . Me hear that a move them though move the people them in a Jamaica carry go to another place , i' better them move we carr' & go

to a more fruitful place , wey we can get something fe eat , fa we caan get anything in x a this ya Parish , i' too hard ya ."

Family History . - Clemintina.

Sarah Banton (nicknamed Sarah Beccy) her mother alive
William Lee her father dead

Her mother's children for Joe Witter :-

Elsa Witter who is living at her mother's house , at present.

For Elgar Simpson :-

Grace Simpson- living at Cheapside , was working , but has stopped . She does not know what Grace is doing now.

For Marcus Rhoden :-

Noel Rhoden - Shares house with his mother too. He works now and then , chiefly when the crop is on.

For Hubert Powell:-

Adolphus Pcowell (nicknamed Ramus) He lives at his own house , "so him say but me no know wha" ka kind a house "

Herself -

For Luther Brooks :-

Neville Brooks - who is living at his mother's house .

Clemintina

"hedid not grow with her mother , she grew with Mrs. Esther Roy . Her mother gave her to Esther . She stayed with Esther "till me grow big young a woman . When me get big me and she couldnt gree again , for when she send me out and me stay long she beat me when me come home . Me never like the beating at all , so me go home to me mother " Esther did not send her to school , "she only make me stay home work . When you poor and have fe stay with people a so them treat you . She send fe her pickney a school , and me stay home work fe them . After me leave she no did bother come back fe me ,fa that time fe her pickney them grow big and she no did want me any more " .

After coming home from Esther she started the bammy trade , and that is what she has done for a living all the time . "he has never done domestic's work .

Her husband

She and Alexander were living together for a long time before they webe married . They got married at the Anglican church seven years ago . Neither Clemintina x nor her husband has any children . They have adopted one of Elas's children

Adopt

The child is Doren.

Doren

She has been living with Clemintina and Alexander for three years . Her parents are Elsa ~~xxx~~ Witter and Ossie Powell, Ossie is also called Vincent Powell . Elsa has two children for Ossie . Ossie has taken one , and he still supports the other when he can . "A plenty pickney him have fe mine so as him have the other one , me no look fe plenty fe this one" . Elsa is sister to Clemintina . "As me no have any children and she have ~~xxxxx~~ so much me take one fe help her with i' . Me no have i' so much neither , but wha' me eat the pickney wi' eat " . Doren has not started out for school as yet , "she no reach the time yet" .

Family History - Alexander

§ Henrietta Brooks his mother alive
David Brooks his father dead

His mother's children for his father :-

Martha Brooks married to one "Burke from St Kitts " . Maria 's father sent her to Cuba . While she was in Cuba she met Burke , they got married there and came home . Burke died after he came to Jamaica . Maria is living at Thatch Walk . Alexander cannot remember how long Maria stayed in Cuba .

Albert Brooks HAS HIS OWN house in Thatch Walk , and is ~~xxxx~~ also married .

Ethlyn Brooks is now in Kingston . He does not know if Ethlyn is working . Ethlyn was ~~x~~ sent to Cuba by his father , but returned to Jamaica after spending some years there .

Ethel Perkins (nee Brooks) ~~xxxxxxx~~ is living in Bull Savannah at her own house .

Birdie Brooks has married to Mr Christian and is living at Marley Hill

Arthur & Iris Brooks are living at the old yard still with their mother

Himself.

Alexander went to school , but ~~xx~~ did not learn any thing . Sometimes when he was sent , he would hide in the bushes and sometimes he stayed home and "me and them other little boy play A now me sorry me no did go , for me would a like i' now" .

Information from Lillian Powell
 who interv. Alexander and Rebecca
 Brooks on 15.6.48.
 J.O. 13.7.48.

Present household.

Brooks Alexander, 35.
 Brooks Rebecca, 33.
 Powell Dorrel, ad_daughter, 6.

Family history.

Alexander Brooks is son of David Brooks and Henrietta Brooks,
 late Thatch Walk. For his family see Fam. Rec. 35.
Rebecca Brooks is daughter of Sarah Banton /Thatch Walk/ and
 late William Lee /T.B.S./ For her/brothers and sisters through
 the mother /she describes them as "full" brothers and sisters/
 see FamRec.19. Her half brothers and sisters through the
 father /she describes them as "half"/ are: Amy Lee /Kingston/
 G.Lee, Eurdal Lee, Violet Lee, Marion Lee, May Lee, Verna Lee,
 Arteem Lee - all in Top Bull Savannah.
Dorrel Powell. She is the daughter of Rebecca's sister /half
 sister through the mother/, Grace /~~xxxxxxx~~ The father of the
 child is Vincent Powell. Grace Simpson is now in Junction -
 according to what Vincent Powell says, married. NB! Vincent
 Powell twice told me that his child by Grace Simpson is with
 the mother in Junction. Dorrel Powell is adopted ~~now~~ by Ale
 xander and Rebecca Brooks and she is "grown and cared by Rebecca

half

/ Simpson

House, land, farming.

House: two rooms. Furniture: 1 bed, 2 chairs, 1 couch, 1 table.
 No tank.
 Land: 3 acres of homeland owned by Alexander Brooks; bought
 from father David Brooks in 1943.
 Trees: 4 mangos, 4 coconuts, 2 ackees, 3 sweet saps.
 Cultivations: ~~xxxx~~ 500 holes of tomatoes, L4. "Crop failed."
 Yams: a few hill affoo; cassava 1/4 ac. congo 1/4 ac. some
 corn. 1 ch. sq. red peas.
 Animals - 1 pig.

Expenditure: Weekly spendings: 20/-. Clothes for Rebecca for
 the past year: L10. Rest of tze household: L5. Health: L4.
 Savings: "very poor - L10".