

22/12/67 p.18 line 18.

Fam. Rec. 72

Simpson	Francella	head	F.W.	70	8.7.	St.Eliz.	colour.	angl	X	retired
"	Albert	gr.son	M.S.	20		"	"	"	X	none

grandy

Figures in farm schedule under one acre.
 1 swine, 4 goats, 6 hens, Garden products annual value £ 13. 1 breadfruit, 1 coconut. 12 mangoes.

5.3.48.
 T.O.

Mrs. Francella Simpson is the "grandy" in Bull Savannah. I heard many times people speak highly of her professional capabilities and also of her kindness. When she comes to assist at a childbearth and people are poor she "helps them out of her pocket."

She lives in Shaddock Hill opposite Lewis's shop. A nice house with verandah, spacious kitchen with "fire place" a big square in front of the house with the family graves.

I invited her through Dudley Simpson, but he said she was shy to come, so I paid her a visit today.

WaxI met her near her house and she wanted to bring a chair for me on the verandah. But I preferred to go to the kitchen (the coolest place) and we sat there on the bench. Unfortunately we were followed by three small girls who kept staring at us, also a neighbour Miss usella Simpson who came running to see me and declared "Me nither ~~father~~ mother nor father mumma, me go with you." Also the half-wit grandson Albert came and kept begging for cigarettes. Easton Simpson joined also the company.

Francella Simpson was born in Steven Bottom where her parents lived. They died when she was a little girl and she was brought up by her grandmother Mary Forde who was also a grandy. "Call come from all spots, him (the grandmother) help them all white wife."

Francella learned her trade from her grandmother. She married a Simpson from Bull Savannah and came to live here. Her husband died long ago.

She told about her three daughters in Kingston who married chinamen. (I dont know whether all of them). Amy "keep shop business in Kingston, but dont keep any more, she rent out the shop and the house". Amy has 5 children.

Isabella is also in Kingston "him daughter keep shop". Isabella has 3 children.

Dussy "keeping shop" she has 6 children. One of her children is Albert Simpson, who stays with Francella now.

her name is Madgin(?)
One daughter is in Frankfield. She did not say anything about her other children.

Her land.

I asked her who helps her with her cultivations. She says it is only the boy Albert who helps her a little. She doesn't have any land and the little she has nobody wants to rent it. There is nobody to help her. Landon Simpson "my husband family - he help me but he dead."

"I have no one but God and good people."

She told me about childbirth etc. (see Family Life No 13.)

Visit of Mrs. Francella Simpson
12.3.48.
T.O.

Age of mothers.

Mrs. Francella came this morning - as she promised me - to pay me a visit. She was in a simple print dress and a clean well starched kerchief tied on her head.

We started to talk about the age of mothers. I asked her what was the youngest mother she knew in her practice?

"Little, little and young, 13, 14, 15 (years old mothers). Baby have baby. Babes have babes - as in Scripture."

Old women have children too

"Over the 50 they have it, have children."

Pressed for names she said Mrs Francella Rochester was quite old when she had her last baby. This baby didn't live. But Mrs. Simpson didn't know the exact name of Mrs. Rochester at the time she has her last baby.

age
+ 1

Francella's practice.

Since we met last a week ago Mrs. Francella attended to two births in Bull Savannah. Two girls were born. How many babies did she help to this world? ~~350~~

"350 babies. Some are big women, many have pickeny. Some I don't know them - They know me. I don't know how they know me. They love me."

"Start to work before I got pickeny. 17 I was. My grandmother teach me. She was consumeddy (country meddy - country' grandy') a woman doctor. Buckra care for him (for the grandmother). That

was a good grandmother to me. She raise me. Buckra woman give her load of money, & she give it to the poor".

Mrs. Francella told how her grandmother had a big pocket under her skirt right on the slip. She use to carry money there. She would go around and nobody knew she had money, and she had plenty money in this secret pocket.

From whom the grandmother learned her trade?

Origin of the "profession" in the family.

~~From~~ "Him (the grandmother) learn from him son. My grandmother him have a son - a doctor in that (midwifery) business. Him learn from him."

"He (the son of Francella's grandmother, Dr. Forde) is still alive. Lives Brunny Way (?) down the bottom side - you have to go far, far. I never see him this long time."

"Dr. Forde older than me long time. Old man now."

And who sent Dr. Forde to be trained to be a doctor?

Family background

"David Forde - my grandmother's husband. Was a catechiss - (catechism) - preach in church. Nain Church, baptist. Him preach every Sunday."

"Every Sunday he eat plantain. Have to buy it in the market, fry it and put calico on the table and him eat it. Every Sunday."

Mary and David (the "catechism") Forde had two girls and five sons. One of these daughters was Francella's mother.

"Two girl, one fe me mother "dda Forde and Jane Forde married Lawrence. Uncle Charlie, uncle Philip, uncle Cecil, uncle Henry. Henry not dead yet. old, old. Keeping hop - but now do nothing, old, old. Some dead and some living."

The grandmother Mary Forde was very old when she died, Francella used to put her on a chair and carry her in front of the house during the day. Before sunset she carried her grandmother back into the house.

"White head like cotton."

Francella pointed to her head: it will be soon also as white as cotton. She wondered: people are strong and move about and when they are old they have to be cared for, carried in a chair.

I tried to bring the conversation back to the "baby problem".

Are there sometimes difficult births?

"Some are born with one foot - to save the mother" (?)

Usually the first child is difficult:

"The first one has to open the way."

And if prematurely born?

7
"8 months cant live. 8 months may live. The same Miss Francella ~~she~~ have 8 months. Doctor wrap in calico, Told feed (the child) mother breast every 2 hours. Not give tea at all!" (But the child died)

What was the cause of this premature birth?

"The water leave it too soon. Had to take him by the hand."

"Ivy Simpson - she has 8 children. Marry Neil" (She had all the children after the marriage.) (girl)

"7 girl and one boy. The second take to father he dont look. - Me want a boy."

"Come back and breed again. He want boy all the time. 6 girl, only after the boy and again a girl"

Is it possible to influence the sex of the child to come?

"You cant help - the Master make it so we cant help it."

"When it born sickly you must tend to him. Rubb him."

Cause of illness

"Mrs Lynch (sister of Jude Rochester. Mrs. Lynch died a year ago soon after the birth of her 8th child). Mrs. Lynch - got to nothing, bones sticking. Sometimes she say - 'feel my belly something walk there.' Doctors, Black Rover hospital dont help. People make it. Something walk up in the belly. They go to balm and the balm say - 'come sooner could help - too late'. Some of these friends no good. Some dont like - will harm you. One friend (fiend?) do it."

ex of children.

Money aspect
of her profession.

"I get nothing at all. Sometimes I cant go. They begin to cry, so I go. Calbert Rochester from Thatch Walk come to me 'Do come (he said) I am in distress.' Mrs. Francella answered: "I promised not to go for me get nothing.' but feeling come on me and I go."

"He (Calvert Rochester) have 4 children - distress Missis. Nither food, nither salad, him sickly no money to hire somebody. The man sickly cant work. The wife cant do a thing herself. 'Me weak, weak' (complained the wife) - 'Keep your heart and trust the Lord'" (told her Mrs. Francella)

"Some of them - shame to go to them. No clothes. Suppose a distress call them to go to hospital - how they get there?

Sufferation - Lord have mercy Jesus."

I hinted again that too many children being a "sufferation" for poor parents wasnt it possible to do something not to have children?

Mrs. Francella again eluded the question. She started to tell the story of her "pass" she got from the "Island best". She told me this story already during our first interview. I suspect she might know something about it, as four times I asked her during our to-days talk and four times she ~~didnt answer~~ didnt answer telling about her "pass" or the little money she got from her profession instead.

"One Mrs. Campbell (the district nurse) say the pass no good. Doctor Cassell (give it to me) he said I must help the poor. He (?) sent a constable - Holness - come to me to carry to the doctor. 'You got it from the island best (said the doctor after inspecting Mrs. Francella's pass) He dont trouble me again. Him say I help the government. For me nither kill them (the mothers and babies) nither...."

"The same Mrs. Campbell ~~shax~~ Claston wife asked her. She come with big money - one guinea and if I go - I go to the poor."

Mrs. Claston Rochester is a wealthy person now. She called the district nurse when she had her last baby.

But when Mrs. Claston Rochester was still poor she called Mrs. Francella to help her with ~~the~~ her children births.

Rich want the rich.

"I help him (Mrs. Claston) with two first. First hard one. The first has to make the way. They dont give me nothing. Now they are rich they want the rich."

"When your eye are ~~shut~~ shut you are dead you like to go to a good place. Whats the use of shining yourself." (meaning there is no use of accumulating worldly possessions, as everyone has to die and only those who help the poor will get " a nice place" after their death.)

"Plenty give to rich and leave the poor. Give the poor and wanty and God give you the blessing. Hoy!"

"Some give to the rich - make themself high."

"I see a man in my yard. Sore foot he have, I have only one penny. 'Whats a penny to you?' (asked Francella the poor man) 'Lord may give you something' (said the poor man accepting gladly the penny.) I give the penny and by the evening I get a shilling. God is God."

Visit at home. Interv. Francella Simpson.
24.6.48.
T.O.

I went to see Francella Simpson to ask her about some details I haven't got at previous interview.

Francella was in front of her house with Mrs. Macmorris who is renting a part of her house, Maisie Rochester and some other women. The big yard and tank between her house and the parochial road form a kind of "piazza" where people often meet as there are a few paths crossing leading through that place.

Francella's maiden name was Bent. Her maternal grandmother was Forde but her mother ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Ada married Dacosta Bent. She has a brother Cyril Bent who lives in Kingston, but she hasn't heard from him for a very long time. She had also a brother Morel and a sister Lydia by her father (different mother) but she doesn't know where they are now.

About her four daughters Amy, Isabella, Dussy and Madge, she told me on our first meeting (see p.l. of this F.R.) She had also a daughter Zada who married Simpson Levy. This daughter died a few years ago. Francella has two sons: Euston and Claston. They live just nearby (see F.R. 144 & 147)

Her husband Salomon was the brother of Robert Simpson and David Simpson. His other brother William died not long ago.

Francella rents now a part of the house to Ellis Macmorris and his family. They won't stay long, as their own house will be soon finished and they will move there. The only person who stays permanently with Francella is her grandson Albert Simpson. He is the son of Dassy who has a shop in Kingston, and of Eli(?) Simpson.

Francella has often her meals at different homes related or friendly to her. In almost every home there are children she helped to bring to the world and people are glad to see her. "Everybody loves me."

She doesn't cultivate any land as the "sons are responsible for it." Also the sons give her the support. Daughters send her sometimes presents etc. from Kingston.

The house is a big one with verandah. 2 rooms are rented to Macmorris and 1 room is occupied by Francella and 1 room by Albert. The kitchen is at present shared with her tenants..

Present household:

Simpson Francella head	about 80
Simpson Albert gr. son	" 25 (she doesn't know and he is a half-wit)

Lodgers: Ellis Memorris with wife and 3 children (F.R. 102)
Jehu Simpson around 40. Sleeps here, but works and gets the meals at Richard Edwards (.F.R. 151) Jehu is the son of Stanford and Frederica Simpson (See F.R. 158 his brother Eli.) Jehu is 7 Day Adventist. I met him at Edwrds. He (Jehu) seems to be below average intelligence.

Typed J.O. 17.6.48.
 Shaddock Hill.
 Simpson ~~Francella~~ Francella, 2.
 16.6.48.
 Simpson Francella interv.
~~Information~~ Information from des Johnson.

Present Household.

Simpson Francella, head, widow, 70, 80. Born in ~~Stephen~~ Stephen Run. Settled in B.S. 55 years ago
 Educ. 3rd stand. Angl. Midwife.

Simpson Albert, ~~gr~~ grandson, 25 years, Son of Adassa Simpson, Francella's daughter, ~~and~~ who is in Kingston, and of Eli Simpson in Bottom.

Family History.

Francella Simpson's parents Ada and Dacosta Bent are from Stephen Run. She had 3 brothers and sisters, 2 half siblings, ~~through~~ by the same mother, 1 full brother, ~~by~~ No relationship kept with any of them. She married Salamon Simpson in 1893. Had with her husband 8 children, 6 alive. 3 of her daughters: Isabella Simpson, Amy Simpson and Adassa Simpson live in Kingston. Ada Simpson is in Clarendon. Two son Claston and Euston Simpson live in Shaddock Hill. ~~That~~ She "serves the public as a midwife" but is supported mostly by children.

Simpson Albert, he grandson, is ~~his~~ outside child of Eli Simpson and her daughter Adassa.

Housing. Her house has 4 rooms and verandah - it is one of the best houses in Shaddock Hill. Francella occupies one room, Albert another. 2 rooms are rented to Ellis Mc. Morris. Her furniture: 2 beds, 1 wagon /?/, 1 table, 4 chairs, 1 sofa. 1 kitchen. 1 tank.

Land and farming. Sons Claston and Euston are "responsible for land." Stock: 1 goat, 1 pig.

Religion. She is Anglican.