

C.D.22. Sbd.13. Household 31

Spencer Joseph	Head	M.M.57.	67	St.El	Black	Angl.	Ill.	Farmer
,, Ethel	Wife	F.M.45.1.1.	56	,,	,,	,,	W.3.	

Their farm 1942. Farm Sch.3. - under 1 acre.

Stock: 2 swines. 1 sheep. 5 hens - 2 doz.eggs prod.  
Value of garden produce: L.3.  
2 ackees. 1 avoc. 4 coconuts - 50 nuts. 9 mangoes  
- 112 doz. Ma 1 nasebrry - 4 doz. 1 cashew- 10doz.

5 acres p. 5

Thursday  
Tuesday  
25. 3. 48.  
B.

Interview with Joseph Spencer.

Joseph is the son of Rebecca Powell and Diliah Dyer. "Me father was Diliah, but me don' carry his name, it seems like dem did thief me" (that is he is got by one man, and owned on another man). His parents are dead. His wife Ethel is the daughter of Sarah Francis and Charley Francis. Ethel has one daughter Rebecca Spencer, and Joseph has four, one with his wife and three others.

He is 67 and his wife is 56. They are married 16 years now. Joseph cannot read "Ptcho them send me one time a school in a one suit, and when that dirty me shame and wouldnt go back".

When he was 16 he ran away to Clarendon. "Me hear say the place good and me want something fe do, for me parents a couldnt manage me, so me run 'way".

" When me go a Clarendon, me go as comma round, no me one though, other boy go to, den any body take we fe stan' with them as yard boy".

He stayed with Mr and Mrs Pusey. They treated him well. He stayed with them for a long time. "Me have fe say till me turn man for when you can have pickney you have fe say you a big man".

One of Mrs Pusey' daughters became pregnant for Joseph. When he found out the girl was expecting a baby for him he came home to Bull Savannah. The girl told her parents that she was expecting a baby for Joseph. That was after Joseph had come home. They did not quarrel, "because me go back go look for them, and me try fe make them love me. The pickney a big man now, dey min' me. Him in America now. Me no do like fowl, eat and wipe me mouth a ground. Me write to them sometimes."

" Me other son Arthur don' name after me neither

*Handwritten in red:*  
Father's name

dem /

him mother Eva Russel was in company wid another man name Brown , so/~~am~~ name Arthur after him ! He does not know where Arthur is , he has never seen him for a long time."If I meet him on the road I wouldnt even know him that him is me son ".

is/

The other son/by Vesta Brown. Joseph could not remember his name so calls him Alexander . He does not know where he is , or what he is doing . "Dem all tun big man now and gone 'bout dem business . Dem no worry with me , and me no worry with dem ".

Saturday .  
10. 4. 48.  
D. B.

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Family Record, 93.

Interviewed Joseph Spencer.

Cultivation.

I paid another visit to Joseph , and he told me that "according to the health me caan do so much with the cultivation-".- He plants a little potato , cassava , and french bean. He does not cultivate to sell -- only to get as much for the home.

"You mean wha' fe tek ketch a tup? Me fight ~~wt~~ with a pig or a goat, but no all the time . Me caan manage goat , me possession too weak , and a goat is from 10/- to 12/- . Pile dey can manage i' but me caan manage i'".

He would try to work sometimes to help himself if he could get work that is not too hard- ~~wt~~ "but no gentleman no call youfe gi' you any work".

"Me caan plant tomato because you have fe buy moal , seed, grass, and ga' fe hire some a body fe dig the hole , and fe me pocket caan 'low me fee do that".

His wife cannot work at all , she haw been sick for 16 years , "with her head and weakness a back". She has been to Doctor Mais six times, and cannot get better. She is now under the care of the Balm; "she sick period a time". Seeing that the wife cannot ~~wt~~ work to help every thing has to come through the little he can do . When he makes a shilling or two he has to save the amount to help to pay his taxes. "If me make i' pass the limit ~~them~~ them we put more k 'pon i' - level warrant.

His land.

He has two acres of <sup>house</sup> land - which he bought from Dorothy Sinclair of Bull Savannah .

His house & Garden

His house and his kitchen are in one . One room is used as the house and the other as the ~~kt~~ kitchen. The kitchen was well swept and looked neat and clean . ~~Max~~ The house could be seen only from without as the door is turned in the opposite direction to the kitchen .

He built his house when he became a young man

+ 3 acres  
in ~~the~~ ~~land~~  
see p 5. //

"Me know decently fe meself . You start life fe you self, then you want a house fe you self". When one has not father or mother to help himself "you ha' fe try and fight life fe yourself - but life tough".

His garden at home is not such a ~~ixg~~ large one . Whatever the crop was it has been reaped . The plants that are left have all become brown and dry. In working his ~~garden~~ garden he does it all alone . "Me ha' fe ping pong me one for me no have them money fe hire any body."

His standard of living is very poor . When his crop is finished he has to buy food or bread "that is when me can find a fippence". Now and then he buys a little fresh fish , but it so dear that he cannot manage it all the time . Sometimes he has to buy salt fish or mackerel . and sometimes do without fish altogether . "for two ends caan come together fe ketch the/fish or mackerel!"

salt/

"That help fe bring on the sickness more fah the body caan care as it ~~shix~~ should " .

#### His Childhood.

As a boy he grew with his mother for a time . His mother found it hard to support him so she gave him to his grand father William Powell. He grew with his grandfather until he became a big man, "and have understanding".

He went to Clarendon because as a young man he wanted to see what the Island was like , so he started out to travel. He did not tell his parents that he was going , but after he went to Clarendon he wrote to his mother telling her where he was.

#### His Women ~~Friends~~

Eva Russel one of his girl friends is from Thatch Walk , Bull Savannah. Vesta Brown another of his girl friends is from Clarendon . He met Vesta in Clarendon while he was living there . After he came from Clarendon he met Eva .

"Me did love Vesta , but one was sufficient."

Drawn from the record.  
11.6.48.  
J.O.

Present household.

Spencer Joseph, 67.  
Spencer Ethel, wife, 56.

Information supplied by Lillian Powell  
who interv. the family on 15.6.48.  
J.O. 11.6.48.

Joseph Spencer - son of Dilliah Dyer and /Chocolate Hole/ and  
Rebecca Powell /B.B.Sy/. He has 4 half-brothers: Dorrel Dyeer  
/Shaddock Hill/, Badam Dyer /Junction/, Percy Dyer /Junction/,  
Cussman Dyer /Junction/. One half sister: Sarah Banton,  
Thatch Walk /or rather B.B.S./.

Joseph Spencer had two outside ~~children~~ sons: one "Mydear"  
ab.39 years old, is in Kingston. Another, Giddel, ab.46 years  
old, is in U.S.A. Mydear's mother was Eva Russell from  
B.S. She died. Giddel's mother is fr Vesta Brown /Clarendon/.  
In the case of Eva Russell - "death separated" them. From  
Vesta Brown he "went away".

Ethel Spencer. - is from Bull Savannah. Her father /dead/  
fr was Charles Francis, ~~her~~ her mother /alive/ fr  
Sarah Francis, living in B.B.S. She has 3 full brothers:  
in Bull Savannah: Edmond Francis and Adolphous Francis /living  
besides Sarah Francis/ and in Top Hill: Theophilus Francis.  
Has also one half brother: Dee Francis, living on the verge  
of B.B.S. and Thatch Walk, near the place of old ~~Benjamin~~  
Benjamin Heath. Only one full sister: Martha Burton,  
living in Kingston; and one half sister: Alice Swaby, liv-  
ing in Shaddock Hill /wife of William Swaby/.

Joseph Spencer and Ethel Spencer /nee Francis/ have only  
one child: she is Rebecca Spencer, living now in Thatch Walk.  
Her c.l. husbnad was William Powell, now dead. She had one  
son for William Powell: Ivan. He is staying with the mother.  
Their house is in Thatch Walk.

House, land, farming. One room house, 1 kitchen, 1 latrine. Fru  
Furniture: 1 bed, 2 chairs, 1 table /poor/. 1 tank. House nad  
land owned by Joseph Spencer. Land: 5 acres: 2 lots: 2 acres  
home land, 3 acres Brednut Wood. Homeland b ught from Dorothy  
Sinclair in 1906 /Dorothy Sinclair - her proper name was Six-  
sins clear, but people changed it into Sinclair - was wife of  
Daniel Sinclair and grandmother of Eli Sinclair/. Brednut  
woodlnad was bought from land settlement in 1903.  
Trees: 18 mangos, 1 naseberry, 3 coconuts, 3 sweet saps, 1  
plum, 1 ackee, 1 custard apple, 1 sour sap. Cultivations:  
3000 tomatoes, L10 /crop gailed/, yams, congo, gassava. Ani-  
mals: 1 pig.  
Expenditure: weekly spendings: 25/-. Clothing for the past year  
L14. Savings: "very little L5 kept at home." Religion:  
Religion: Jehovah Witness.