

Thursday

July, 22, 1948.

Family Record 103.

Ed. F

Interview with Vera Ward.

Vera Ward named in F.R. 101. (-interview with Edmund Francis; Vera Powell, is about 25.

Household: Vera shares one of Edmund Francis' rooms (rent ed) with Joan Powell a 2 year old daughter.

Her children:

- Vera has 4 children by 2 unions; these children are:
1. Mc.Kenzie Powell, "about 8," son to Earnest Powell.
 2. ~~JANE~~ Beryl Powell, "about, 8," dau. to " "
 3. Sonia Elliott, "about 3," daughter to Isaac Elliott, the son of Moses Elliott.
 4. Joan Powell ~~xxx~~ dau. to Earnest Powell.

Mc. Kenzie shares house with Janes and Charles Powell motherx and father to Earnest Powell.

Beyrl shares house with Vera's grand mother (father's mother Rochel).

Sonia shares house with her father. Her f ther is a part of the moses Elliott's household.

Joan: Observations re her behavior:

2,
Joan/is a plump bright eyed child. She appeared happy, and seemed rather attached to her mother. She kept hugging her mother in a confident manner. Asked her name, she said -"Sweetie Pie: Honey Bunch," and laughed.

She became rather peevd after some minutes of running about, and began to cry; she came to her mother, crying as she came; she seemed to be get her mother's sympathy; her mother took her between her knees, fondled her, and remarked that she was crying because she wanted to sleep. It was nearing nightfall. Vera took the child to a tub with water in it, and began to wash the child. The child continued to cry.

This child had shown some curiosity ~~xx~~ in regards my watch. She tried to take it from my wrist: cried because she could not remove it. Vera tole her -"why y'u want the ge gentleman' wristlet? See y'u have your own." Vera pointed then to a pair of alluminium bracelets worn by the child.

Continued Observations-Joan:

She ran to meet me; gave her hand. Her mother was then grating some cassava in the kitchen. Ida Thomas a member of the Sarah Thomas Household -F.R. 101, was also in the kitchen. Ida sat on a box.

Friday,
July 23, 1948.

*see F.R. 101 p 8
for record
pages p 6.*

February 1st, 1948. Sunday
T.O.

Interview: With Vera Ward, Dudley Simpson, Levy Lewis
Laban Rochester.

Friday, 23.7.48.
Ed. F.

Joan took a can with some water in it from the kitchen table, and then hunted for a spoon. She found a spoon and began to drink the water with the spoon. Her mother told her she would let me "beat the batty," (batty= buttocks) if she would not cease playing with the water. The child said -"No," and continued to drink from the can with the spoon.

The child then told Ida, -"Tell mi daddy to sen' rum come." Ida and Vera laughed. The child took up a basket and put it on her head, saying as she did so -"Mi a go a bay;" i.e. I am going to the Bay. She walked some distance away from the kitchen, and sat. Vera called out to her -"Sing down in my heart for the gentleman;" The child sang:

"Joy, joy, down in my heart!...
broke off there, threw back her head and laughed. She came back to the kitchen, where she nestled herself against Ida. Ida began to remove some burs from her head. Vera remarked that the child's hair needed combing, but that it was also dirty, and would have to be washed before it could be combed.

Joan broke away from Ida, went to the kitchen table from which she removed 2 knives. She went towards Ida with the knives; Ida took them away. Joan began to cry; Vera told her then -"A going to tell Daddy;" She asked the child -"Tell him?" The child said -"No."

Vera said compensatingly then: -"Sweetie-Pie, don't rude y'u know! Good baby don't rude y'u know!" The child asked for some water thus: -"Mi want some water!" It said that plaintively. Vera got a tin can, flipped it full from a bucket standing on the kitchen/and handed the can to the child. The child took the can without saying thanks. Vera asked her: -"What y'u sey?" The child replied promptly -"Thanks."

The child continued to play with the water; it took some of the water in its mouth, and then squirted it on the kitchen floor.

Vera told the child: -"Show the gentleman how Poto dance. The child turned round and round jumping the while. "Poto" Vera explained, is Caletus Simpson the blind man.

The cassava Vera was grating she intended "using for dinner." Dinner will be made at about 4.00 pm. She finished grating the cassava, stuffed it into the basket used for the purpose, and took the basket called "bag" to the press under a tree some distance away.

/table

Family Record 103.Ed. F.
23.7.48.Interview with Vera WardFamily History

Vera's mother Eldie Senior died 3 years ago; died/July 8. Her father James Ward, is in Kingston. Eldie ~~xxxxxx~~ had with James, 3 children:

1. Earnest Ward - "about 27." Earnest now shares house with Rachel Powell her mother's mother. Grand Ma Rachel lives "Below the Bromfield's shop." Previously, Earnest (lived) shared house and house-keeping with Edith Brooks then his wife (c.l.) Earnest parted with Edith - "Owing from Jealousy" Ida Thomas said, when Vera heistated to give the cause of the break.
2. Vera Ward - herself.
3. Amy Ward, (age not given;) Amy also shares house with Grand Ma Rachel.

Her mother's mother is Rachel Powell.

Her mother's father James Sinclair. Eldie her mother was the only ~~xxxxxx~~ child to Rachel and James James had by 2 other unions:

1. Allan Sinclair of Ribbit Town. Allan's mother is Dovey Rochester. Davey is Laban Rochester's sister.
2. Cecil Senior. Cecil's mother "married name Powell." She died.
3. Jim Senior. Jim lived in Plowden. Cecil's mother is also Jim's.

James was x "raised" byx an old man named Senior. For this reason James named himself Senior, but really is Sinclair. Allan always gives his name as Sinclair, but Cecil and Jim give theirs as Senior.

Her father's mother was Rebecca Ward. She is dead.

Her father's father Samuel Ward. He is dead.

Rebecca and Samuel had 4 children:

1. Birtie Ward. Birtie is in America.
2. James Ward. James ~~xxxxx~~ is in Kingston.
3. Ida Daley. She is in Montego Bay.
4. Mrs. Estella Simpson of Plowden.

Samuel had no other children. Rebecca had by another union:

Gena Reid. Gena live in Alligator Pond.

Childhood

Vera was taken while she quite a baby, to Alligator Pond, by her ~~motherx~~ grand mother Rebecca.

School: Vera began to attend school while she was at Alligator Pond. She left Alligator Pond when

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she was about 11, and was in 2nd book. She returned to Bull Savannah where she shared house with Rachel Powell her grand mother. She attended the Bull Savannah School then, till she was 14, and in 3rd book. She left and went to Stony Hill then.

She was adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Thompson at Stony Hill. They sent her to the Stony Hill Elementary school. She left this school when she was 15 and in 5th book.

Contact for going to Stony Hill: Miss Zala ~~XXXXXX~~ them Powell, Called Aunt Zale, was asked to get/a school-girl, by the Thompsons of Stony Hill. Vera had not met the Thompson's till she went to Stony Hill. The Thompson's treated her nicely.

She left the Thompson's "because mi grand mother sen' an' tek mi back," for reasons she does not know. She had been quite contented with staying at Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's, because mi never find no fault with them, but a was glad to come home back ~~taxtxx~~ all the same.

On her return home, Vera stayed with her Grand mother Mrs. Rachel Powell. She used to help her grand mother to do the housework. She added -"She, (her grand mother) usual buy cassava make bammy, an' mi go to the market an' sell it."

Her first Boy Friend

Earnest Powell for whom she now has 3 children, was her first boy friend. By boy friend she means ~~xx~~ a male with whom she is having intimate sex relations. She had used to see "plenty fellows, an' them talk to mi, but it was not anything like that."

Earnest was the first man she had sex relations with. She does not know how old she was when she first met him, -"but it is 11 years now since I an' him was friends."

The interview concluded here because Ida seemed reluctant to talk in Ida's presence. Ida had been absent while she (Vera) told about her boy friend, but had returned at the point where the talk terminated.

I remarked that the heat of the sun made me sleepy. Ida observed that my eyes were red and that I needed some one to "hug-up" and go to sleep.

Interview with Vera Ward.

Wednesday,
July , 1948.
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Vera said she was not vexed when she heard that Earnest with whom she had been ~~for~~ having intimate relations for many years, was going to marry Joyce his present wife. She did not say why she was not vexed; ~~as~~ she implied that she was not ~~xxxx~~ resentful, even.

Obviously, however, she was not keen on being interviewed on the subject: She seemed glad ~~to~~ for an excuse to break away. This came when Joan her 2 year old ~~girl~~ daughter asked for water.

Child Observation:

Joan's mother was combing her hair. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Vera sat on a box, while the child stood between her legs. As soon as Joan saw me she said: -"Mama, Mr. F. a come." As soon as I had got in their immediate presence, the child drew my attention to the fact she was wearing a pair of shoes. She seemed rather proud of her shoes, -of the fact she was wearing shoes. She ~~said~~ also told me that she it was who had brought the box her mother was then sitting on. She seemed proud in having been able to do that also.

She looked at her mother who has a wart on her right eye. She said to her mother: -"Mama, who juk y'u dey? -i.e., who stuck you there? Vera replied -"One-man;" -i.e., a man did it. The child asked then -"A Sweetheart noh?" (noh -is it not).

Vera said it was not Sweetheart who had had stuck her, and asked the child -"Who is Sweetheart?" Joan said -"A Dadda(-i.e. it is my father.)

Joan had a bruise on her nose which her mother afterwards explained, she had got when she bumped the nose into something. Pointing towards the child's nose, Vera asked -"A who juk y'u pon fi y'u nose? (-i.e. who has stuck you on your nose?) The child replied -"A Sweetheart!" Vera asked ~~again~~ next -"A who a fi y'u sweetheart?" (that is who is your sweetheart) The child said -"in down dey so;" she pointed towards Thatch Walk.

Vera's attitude to the child:

Vera kept on laughing throughout the above conversation. The child seemed to find encouragement in this attitude. Vera set her at arms length, and surveyed her admiringly after she had finished combing her hair.

The child seemed to be happy. Vera kept fondling her and making quiet and endearing remarks to her.

Information from Leo Powell.
 Interv. Edmond Francis and Vera ~~xxxx~~ Ward.
 15.6.48.
 J.O. 27.8.48.

Present household.

Francis Edmond, 40,
 Ward Vera, daughter of Edmond's late c.l. wife., 24.
 Powell Joan, Vera's daughter, 2.

Edmond Francis - for his parentage see F.R.101.
 Edmond married in 1935 ~~xxxx~~ Hortense Berton. They parted
 and his wife lives in Kingston now. They had no children.
 His second /c.l./ wife was Eldie Senior, who died a couple
 of years ago. ~~xxxx~~ Vera Ward is Eldie's daughter
 by James Ward, ~~xxxx~~ Eldie had 3 children for James Ward:
 Vera, Ernest and Amy. Ernest and Amy live in B.S. in
 Rachel Powell's house

Ward Vera: ~~xxxx~~ she has ⁴ children: 3 for Ernest
 Powell in B.S., one for Isaac Elliott in B.S. Her child-
 ren: 9 years old Cecil Powell, son of Ernest Powell,
 lives with his grandfather and Ernest's father, Charlie
 Powell in Tad Town; 5 years old Beryl Powell stays
 with her aunt Amy Ward in B.S., Overroad. 3 years old
 Sonia Elliott, daughter of Isaac Elliott, lives with
 her grandfather and Isaac's father, Hubert Moses Elliott;
 2 years old Joan Powell - with the mother.

Edmond Francis went to Cuba in 1924. Built his home
 from the savings.

House: two rooms. Kitchen. No tank. Furn. 2 table
 3 chairs.

Land: 6 acres: 1 ac. homeland, inherited. ~~xxxx~~ 5 ac. Duff
 House, bought from Land Settl. for £25.

3 ac. cultivated, 1 g. grass, 2 woodland.

Trees: 1 c. mangoe, 3 coconuts, 1 grape, 40 bananas.

Tomatoes: 3000 holes, £20. 40 yam hills. 1 ac. cassava.

1/2 ac. corn, 1/4 ac. congo, /6 bags/. 1/4 ac. red peas.

1 donkey, 1 pig.

Weekly spendings: 10/-. £10 spent on clothes. £3 on doctor
 Dont belong to any ~~xxxx~~ congreg. Regard themselves Angl.