

C.D. 22. Sbd. 12. Household 10.

Powell James	Head	M.M.31.	St.El.	Col.	Jeh.W.	W.3.	Farmer
,, Rose	Wife	F.M.25.3.2.	,,	,,	Angl.	W.3.	Homemaker
,, Trevor	Son	M.S. 3.	,,	,,	,,	,,	
,, Novelty	Dau	F.S. 1.	,,	,,	,,	,,	

4

His farm 1942.

*6 1/2 acres
the rest still
fly land un-
divided &
figures under
his mother's
name Burdie
widow of Ellis
Powell*

Operates this farmland as owner for 7 years.
Owns 12 1/2 acres (of which only 2 1/2 in this Parish)
in 3 parcels: 2 1/2, 5 and 5 acr. resp.
chief source of income tomatoes.
no labour employed.
works 20 weeks p.a. 3 days p.w. 8 hours p.d.
1 1/2 ac. in cultivation, 1 in guinea grass.
Total value of farm £ 70 , of buildings £50.
1 catchment.

Cultivations: 1/2 ac. tomatoes=1440 lbs.
1 ac. cassava= 1.400lbs. 0.3 yams=400 lbs.
1 donkey. 2 hens.

Inform. Dudley Simpson and Bradley Rochester.
23.3.48.
J.O.

James Powell.
His parents.

James Powell is son of Ellis Powell and grand-son of George Powell. His mother "Birdie" Powell is still alive; his father died a couple of years ago. /Cf. FamRec. 107/. He is a cultivator and owns a shop - lives just besides the shop.

~~His wife: Rose Powell~~
~~Rose Powell~~

He is also a cultivator. ~~His~~ Belongs to Jehovah Witnesses and plays an important part in the society. Is described as the secretary and all correspondence with the headquarters and with other branches is in his charge.

The shed which serves Jehovah Witnesses as their meeting house, is built on his ~~own~~ yard. He got his land from his late father.

His wife: Rose Powell.

He married some 8 or 10 ~~years~~ years ago Rose Powell, Michael Powell's daughter. They have not got many children. Just two or three.

His girl friend
Eva Dyer.

Before he married Rose Powell, he was in friendship with another girl, Eva Dyer. He got two children by ~~her~~ Eva Dyer: Aubrey and Vinell. They ~~used~~ stayed with their grandparents: Ellis and "birdie" Powell. Eva Dyer is Bradley Dyer's sister. /See Fam. Rec. 107/.

Visit at home. Interv. James & Rose Powell.
10.7.48. and 19.6.48.
T.O.

It's for the second time I went to interview this family and both times the interview was ruined by Boysie Roach who is the chief "publisher" of Jehovah Witness doctrine in Bull-Savannah. Whatever the beginning of the conversation in less than one minute Boysie Roach shifts to the Theocratic Government principles - and he won't let talk anybody else and on nothing else. I am afraid I won't be one of his converts. The more I hear him the less I like the idea of his denomination, as it seems to me that it hinders to a greater extent than any other denominations any attempts of social organisation which is so needed in this country. It is in principle against any ~~xxxxxx~~ "man made" government

The place of James Powell is the centre of the Jehovah Witness activities. There are two sheds: one ~~xxxx~~ smaller built two years ago for the purpose of serving as a meeting house for the Jehovites. This year a much bigger shed has been erected on the other side of the house. This will be made into a proper house with walls and doors and is the bigger meeting house, as the old proved to be too small for the numerous followers.

James Powell his brother Joseph Powell and cousin Vincent Powell (living in neighbouring houses) are staunch supporters and chief organisers of the Jeh. Witn. in Bull-Sav. Boysie Roach is the personification of the atomic energy giving the impetus to the activities of this society.

Present household.

Powell	James	head	38	Jeh. Witn.	cultivator & shoemaker
"	Rose	wife	32	"	housewife
"	Aubrey	son	16	"	cultivator
"	Vinnel	son	12	"	at school
"	Trevor	son	9	"	"
"	Novely	dau	8	"	"
"	Beryl	dau	5	"	"
Simpson	Adelle	cousin	25	"	househelp

outside James's

& Boarding with James Powell household but sleeping at Vincent Powell
Roach Boysie 28 " clerks at factory

Boysie Roach will soon have to remove from Vincent Powell's new house. Vincent is getting married in a few days and needs the house for himself. Boysie probably will stay with his mother in Ridge but will be still boarding with James Powell.

The house. There are two rooms in the main house. Two more rooms are in the building in which the shop is. So 4 rooms are used ~~as~~ living quarters. The shop consists of one room in front of the building. The kitchen is in a separate building. On each side of the living house there is one shed: the old and the new meeting house of the J.W. The shop is rented by James to his brother Joseph.

James Powell is the son of Ellis Powell/grand-son of George Powell. His father is dead. His mother Birdie Powell lives nearby with her only daughter Lilian. (sister of James) James has two brothers: Joseph lives in the next house lower down the hill and Hestie left Bull-Savannah and lives in Prospect.

James learned shoemaking and taught this trade to his brother and cousin. He is doing shoemaking now in addition to ~~his~~ cultivatings.

His two outside sons with Eva Dyer are staying now with him. Eva Dyer died.

Rose Powell his wife is the daughter of Michael and Margaret Powell, who live very near at the bottom of the small valley. She was one of 13 children (counting also the half brothers and sisters). For particulars see F.R. 126.

Children Rose had only 3 children with James. They live with the parents. James had 2 outside children - also living in this household. I saw the three younger ones. They are pleasant children. Both the mother and the father watch them and admonish sweetly but firmly. At my first visit Novely was helping to shell the french beans. She is "in the first book" at school. She ~~was~~ was playing at my second visit at counting the spokes in a bicycle wheel. She went as far as 27 but stopped when she realized I was watching her.

Novely has two god-mothers (one god-father) as it is the custom here. Rose explained to me that the custom is really not local but it is required by the parson. The god-parents have to join the church and this is the way the parson gets members of his church. "All that it is politics".

Adelie Simpson is from Rose Hall. She is a kind of servant in this household. I haven't seen her. Her parents brothers and sisters live in Rose Hall.

Boysie Roach. I met him on many occasions and he paid several visits to us. He is from the Roach family from Ridge. His parents are Michael and Ida Roach. Michael is a brother of Thomas Roach (father of Mrs. Marion wife of Isaac Johnson) Boysie has 5 brothers and 4 sisters. He said he couldn't convert any of them to his doctrine.

Boysie is working in the factory. During the season he was the manager of the packing house.

Boysie Roach hasn't seen "the true light" at once. During his life time he belonged already to three denominations. (He himself doesn't like to talk about it and it is certainly not easy to induce him to talk about what he doesn't like or to stop him talking about what he likes. Careful as I was I didn't succeed in keeping out of the religious problems. The moment Roach appeared joining James, Rosse Powell, their children and myself I found him standing in front of me with his bright big black eyes sparkling with fervour and white teeth (one in front is missing) flashing in front of my dazed eyes. He has a tremendous facility of speaking, or rather of pouring out quotations from the Bible and sentences from his Jeh. publications. Much as I tried I never could see any sense in it, sounds to me pure scholastic and reminds very much of other "publishers" of a secular but better known doctrine, whom I had the opportunity of hearing frequently in the ~~xxx~~ past years.

Boysie Roach seems to me worked by a great emotional problem. All ~~xxx~~ others of his fellow-believers - the most important of whom were present at this particular interview - were quiet and I spoke with them on many occasions about other matters without them bringing their doctrine into conversation. Boysie is very dark as compared with his associates. He is not married. Has no house and no land of his own. It seems to me he never acts naturally.

I shall not relate the particular subject of his sermon as there are long interviews with them on the subject in File 7 (Religion). There is only one interesting point to be added.

The main secular aspect of the J.W. doctrine is the absolute condemnation of war and government. In fact wars are the result of "man made" governments. The government should rest exclusively with God. "We are against the democratic government, the totalitarian government, the aristocratic government, the only government is the theocratic government." I avoided to argue with him on the basis of Bible but tried some arguments of secular and concrete type.

Government. The J.Wit. don't vote on the principle that those who govern have to be appointed by God and not sent by men.

Q. "Are you an active officer of the Growers Association?" Yes he is. He does tell people what to do etc. But this is not a government. It is concerned with planting, the plants grow by the will of God.

Q. "Suppose all the inhabitants of Jamaica become J.W. would you vote then?" Mr. Roach thinks there wouldn't be any need for a government. I said there would be still need of somebody who would look ~~farx~~ after the management of problems concerning all the nation. For instance the

care of the health, where to built hospitals etc. It seems I have chosen a wrong example. Mr. Boysie is sure there will be no need of hospitals. "hen everybody in Jamaica is J.W. "Nebody will say 'hm' from pain". It seemed to me something of a miracle. But suppose I said a stone dropps on your head. No, when everybody is J.W. no stone can harm any head.

They don't vote. "Suppose you are a Polish Ambassa-
dor in Germany would you vote?" He asked me. No I wouldn't vote because it is not my country. Well that is the reason J.W. don't vote, they are ambassadors of another govern-
ment here on Earth.

The war Boysie considers the greatest calamity of mankind. This war started with Germany wanting a part of Polish territory. Why Poland didn't give them, it would ~~pre~~ have prevented this war. He looked at me with pity and amazement when I told him that in my opinion some type of life might be worse than death. No he wouldn't mix in any type of social strife. He agees slavery was a bad thing, but he wouldn't fight against it. "You can be a Christian even when you are a slave." And if he belonged to slave owners - were born as the son of a slave owner. "I would leave the place and stay away."

He made a point of it that they are not seditionis-
ts, but just don't want to have anything to do with go-
vernments. They only try to bring the theocratic government
But how it would work here he wasn't concerned. God would see to it.

The only principle of their religion I liked was ~~th~~
the abstention from smoking and drinking. It is not a bin-
ding rule and they don't condemn anybody who smokes or
drinks. For instance Vincent smokes. But as it does no
good neither to the body nor to the pocket they try not
to do it. With the exception of Vincent none of the accep-
ted the cigarettes I offered. ~~Avuephxvewarixvxoexxvtvkeevvv
vixavetken~~

It was getting late and finally I manage to tear
myself from Boysie Roach. He repeated several times that
when I get home I should read a certain paragraph of the
book "Let the God be true" which is published by the
Watch Tower. (I bought the book for my collection). "This
will help you, this will make you good." At parting I
told him that if ever he stands for elections and I will b
be in a position to vote, I will vote for him. All the
men laughed. I believe Boysie liked the compliment too.
He even forgot to repeat that I should read the paragraph
on theocratic government. I left the group of people be-
hind the shop laughing.

Means of subsistence of James Powell.

He has $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of home land round the house which he got from his father who got it ~~from~~ in turn from his father George Powell. James bought 6 acres in Duff House from the settlement at the beginning of war. It provides the family with "food kind" He is not satisfied with his tomato crop this year, though it was exceptionnaly good for almost everybody in B.Sav.

The building in which the shop is belongs to James. He rents it to his brother Joseph. James himself does shoe making i.e. repairs. He says the money he gets for it doesn't cover even half of the cash expenditure for the household. In fact it is much less.

Their boarder Boysie Roach pays for his meals in cash. "Charge him modest." but he didn't tell how much. It is more a friendly service than business.

Rosy works during the season in the factory. On Sundays James goes "publishing" from house to house. I met him on such occasion last Sunday at Cornelious Powell house.

On the whole this household seems well off. The two brothers and cousin Vincent seem to live in close friendship, they can be found very often in the smaller shed, talking or doing some work together.

I had another try at Mr. James Powell home. But we didn't have the chance of talking for more than five minutes when Boysie Roach emerged from the house, so I hurriedly went away.

James Powell learnt shoemaking from "an old man Gordon. He was from Junction. Was for a time in Bull-Savannah but left the district and went to Christiana." Mr. Powell went to Spaldings "to follow the trade" and stayed there for a little more than a year. He came back to Bull-Savannah in 1930. He never went abroad. In Spaldings he was working as a shoemaker.

James Powell also sells in the shop. "It's both of we doing the business." I asked which is ~~ax~~ better shop or shoemaking. "The one help the other, both not bad at all". He regards however cultivations as his main basis of maintenance. "Whatever you do here in Bull-Savannah you have to cultivate, the main importance from cultivations."

He would like to go to America on contract: "You can earn good money and it is the experience, I would go, but it's hard to get the ticket."

Information from Lilian Powell.
 Interv. James and Rose Powell.
 17.6.48.
 J.O. 26.8.48.

Present household.

Powell James, 38.
 Powell Rose, 32, wife.
 Powell Aubrie, James' son, 16.
 Powell Vinnel, " " 12.
 Powell Trevor " ~~xxxx~~ and Rose's son, 9.
 Powell Novely, James and Rose's dau., 8.
 Powell Beryl, " " " " 5.
 Simpson Adelaide, 25, ~~xxxx~~ cousin.
 Roach Boysie, lodger, 28.

James Powell - son of late Ellis Powell and Burdie Powell, brother of Joseph Powell /see F.R. 107 and 161/. James Powell before he married Rose was along with Eva Dyer ~~xxx~~ /d/, by whom he had 3 ~~children~~ sons: Roncliff /not stated where he is now/, Aubrie and Vinnel. Other children are by his present wife who had 5 children for him, 3 alive and living with the parents.
Rose Powell is daughter of Michael and Margaret Powell, in Green Olive. She has 4 full brothers: Samuel, ~~xxxx~~ Eustace, Louie and Lodrick / all in Green Olive/, 5 full sisters: Icy Dyer in Dunder Hill; Ida ~~xxx~~ Ford, Ridge; Zellavine Powell, U.S.A.; Muriel Powell and Cislina Powell, Green Olive. And 2 half brothers: Esban ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ Powell ~~xxxx~~ in Green Olive and Vian Powell in Comma Pen.
Adelaide Simpson: father Gussy Simpson, mother Agnes Simpson, in Rose Hall. Her parents and 2 brothers and 2 sisters live in Rose Hall.
Boysie Roach is from Ridge, son of Michael Roach and Ida Roach. ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ Has 5 brothers and 4 sisters.

House: 4 rooms, Zinc roof. Kitchen. Latrine. Shed. Shop. Meeting house of J.W. Furn.: 1 cabinet, 4 beds, 4 chairs, 4 tables, 1 bureau. Tank.
 Land owned by James Powell 6.5 acres, 2 plots. 6 acres in Duff House bought from L. Settl. 1940; 1/2 acre homeland bought from grandfather George Powell. 1930.
 Trees: 4 seat saps, 1 grape.
 Tomaroes: 3000 holes, L15. Crop failed. 50 yam hills.
 1/2 acre caesava. 1/2 acre corn. 3/4 acre congo. 1/4 ac. red peas.
 1 donkey, 4 goats, 2 hens, 9 chickens.
 James Powell is shoemaker, earns 10/- from his trade. Rose works in the factory in the season. Earned ~~xx~~ L6 in this season /in 3 months time/.
 Weekly spendings: 50/-. L20 was spent on clothes for the household last year. L2 on med. treatm. James spent 20/- in the last year on books from W.B.T. Society /Jeh. Witn. publ./ and L3 on travelling to J.W. conventions.
 Savings very little kept at home: L10.
 Religion: all the fam. Jeh. Witn.
 In school: Vinnel 4th st., Trevor 3rd, Novely 1st.