

Inform. Dudley Simpson and Bradley Rochester.
26.3.48.
J.O.

Lawrence Johny -
his family history.
His settling down
in Bull Savannah.

"Lawrence Johnie - him not born in Bull Savannah. He come from the district we call Stephen Run - the same district I was trying to remember the other night."

"He did have one aunt married and living in Bull Savannah - Mrs. Francella Simpson is his ~~xxxx~~ aunt."

"He come here as an old man, he come here as a fiddler. At that time he was playing at a rum shop old Charlie Thompson have at Top Bull Savannah. Almost every Saturday he was playing there - music to dance. At that time when you have a music in a rum shop it gather a crowd and you sell a lots." 20 to

At those times - about 30 years ago - there were two ~~xxxx~~ rum shops in Bull Savannah: one run by Wintworth Elliot, another by old Charlie Thompson. Both shop-keepers employed the same ~~methodx~~ to attract the customers. ~~There was a team of musicians in every shop playing dance music on Saturdays. Kxx Charlie Thompson - "him always keep picknick. Him have common and him did employ Lawrence to play at the shop." Mr. Elliott ~~has~~ "had another a man from Tryall, another fiddler - Coolie Gayle was his name." The fiddler played the first part in a small orchestra consisting of a tambourine, fiddle and guitare.~~

According to Dudley, it is "not so gay now in Bull Savannah. More money right now, more spent, but in old time, all the shops in Bull Savannah, they have music: tambourine, fiddle and guitare. There was music and dancing and drinking and merrying. ~~xxxxhave~~ You have also mouthorgan and you have fife blowing too."

At those times people were making more money and everything was cheap. ~~Rix~~ "Fishermen - they had money, and raising animals - this bring money too. Selling mules ~~xxxxxxx~~ for 30, 40 pounds - they had a lots of money. A shilling give you at that time what pound give you now. Now a man have £20 - you call him rich man. £10 build him a home in those days. All the house lumber right here - cheapest thing. In ~~xxxx~~ Uncle Tom days" / Mr. Laban's father/.

Johny Lawrence settled down in Bull Savannah as the fiddler. "He wasnt doing any /other/ work - plying music and keeping dance all the time. Living at Bull Savannah him stopped at his aunt home - Francella Simpson. Him live now in the village over 20 years, playing for 10 years before he settled."

Johny Lawrence's marriage. His wife Iris Dyer. Theri land.

He settled down by marrying Iris Dyer. Iris Dyer was "the daughter of "Doctor" Dyer. She was sister of Edith Dyer, Dorrel Dyer wife, and sister of ~~Estelle~~ Estelle Dyer, ~~now~~ later on wife of Calbert Elliott." "She is cousin of Bradley Dyer."

Her mother was Rebecca Dyer. She was Simpson, she come from Shadock Hill. Old Daniel Simpson ~~from~~ daughter from Shadock Hill."

Johny Lawrence had no land of his own. ~~He~~ Never inherited and never bought any. "The land he live on is his wife land. She got from her ~~father~~ father."

Johny Lawrence pre-marital life.

Nothing is known of Johny Lawrence love affairs before he married Iris Dyer. "Johny Lawrence, before him married, him spent all his time in Kingston. So I dont know him girl friend - no woman here. Then him marry Iris."

Iris Dyer boy friend before she married.

Iris Dyer boy friend before she married Johny Lawrence was Calbert Elliott. "Before she marry, she had that girl May Elliott for Mr. Calbert Elliott. May Elliott - she marry and ~~live in~~ ~~Ballard's~~ ~~Valley~~ living in Ballard's Valley. She marry to one Errol Elliott. Him ~~has~~ have land in Thatch Walk. Him bought it from Charlie Thompson. Charlie Thompson bought it from one "Poon" ~~Heath~~ Heath. He was the owner pf the place. Charlie Thompson bought it from him. It was an ol settlement, an old tank was there - need the ~~repair~~ repair."

"May stay all her life with Calbert."

Johny Lawrence's and his wife's children. Aston.

Dudley knows they have quite a number of children but he does not remember their names.

The eldest is Aston - he is about 18 now. "Working in the factory - employed all the time to Mr. Hastings to take mail from Junction. And he is busy at the yard at his home." His salary is paid weekly, but Dudley dose not know the exact amount of it. Aston is still "a single man."

Agatha.

"Agatha - she is in Kingston now, employing to somebody as a maid. Mr Lawrence have family in Kingston - she got job through his family."

James.

"James works a little in the factory. In the cannery - during the crop only. Him catching the tin after them clamp it. Last year carrying the slush from the cannery."

Other children.

"Other children - small." Some of them in school age and attending school.

Family Record 114Interview with Mrs. Iris Lawrence.

Tuesday,

July 13, 1948.

Ed. F.

Asked how old she was Iris Lawrence said -"My dear sa, A couldn' tell y'u that: a don't know mi age at all; fimi mother dead an' fimi father dead, an' a never hear.

The present household consists of:

1. Johny Lawrence (age not given) head. Not seen.
2. Iris Lawrence, wife, about 45.
3. Aston Lawrence, son, about 26; works in factory. /
4. Viris Lawrence, dau, about 13; seen; attending school
5. Cynthia Lawrence, dau, about 10; stayed in mother's presence through interview. Has never been to school; mother is unable to send to school.
6. Clara Lawrence, dau, about 7; she is attending school. She was not seen.
7. Rose Lawrence, dau, about 6, Seen playing about the yard.
8. Vincent Lawrence, son, about 5; stayed with mother throughout the interview. Fell asleep on a bench beside her.
9. Ivy Lawrence, about 4; stayed in mother's presence through the interview.
10. Lloyd Lawrence, son, about 2½; was with his mother throughout the interview.

/not seen.

Children to Iris and Johny not sharing house with them are:

1. Agatha Lawrence, /"about 20," who works in "ONE store with a china lady," in Kingston.
2. James Lawrence, son, "about 14;" he is staying in Malvern with an aunt to his father.

Mrs. Lawrence has one child by another union preceeding her union with Johny. This child is Mrs. May Elliott, wife to Errol Elliott of Ballard's Valley.

Her relations with May: Agatha: "Sometime ago, a go an' see her; she use to come to' si mi, but she dan't come for this long time because she ha' young baby."

"Agatha wríte mi, an' sen' what she ha' fi gi' mi; i.e. Agatha wrítes, and sends her money.

Family History

Her mother Mrs. Aleta Dyer, died 2 years ago. Her that father Ambrose Dyer died about 3 years ago.

Family Record 114

Ed. F.
13.7.47.

Wednesday,
July 13

Interview with Mrs. Iris Lawrence

Her father had by her mother 18 children. Nine of these died in infancy. There 16 girls and 2 boys. Those mixtks alive are:

1. Mrs. Edith Dyer, wife of Darell Dyer of Shaddock Hill;;
-age not known.
2. Mrs. Shalabell Dyer, wife of "Badman" Dyer. "Badman" is
x brother to Darell, h r sister's husband
3. Mrs. Estelle Elliott wife to Calbert Elliott.
4. Mrs. Eunice Samon, wife to Ellis Samon of Mandeville.
5. Loretta Dyer; she shares house with her sister Mrs.
Samon in Mandeville.
6. Crafton Dyer, husband to Ivy Powell, who xis dau. to
Michael Powell. Crafton and Ivy have
3 children(not named, by Iris.)
7. Angus Dyer, married to Luken Dyer whos is the son of
Calbert Dyer. Angus and Luken have 3
children.
8. Coolie Dyer; -"she dead; mi did figat (forgot) that shi
dead; she did live in Mandeville."
9. Mrs. Iris Lawrence -i,e. herself.

The house and land

The house consists of "one big single room;" it is built on 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land owned by herself: -"Mi get it from mi father; mi father give it to mi; her husband had the house built on it before they were married. There is no tank to the premises; she gets water from Mr. Winty Elliott's tank nearby.

Childhood:

She grew up with her mother and father, brothers and sisters in the parents' home on Dunder Hill.

School and after

She attended the Bull Savan nah elementary school from she was 7or 8 till she was 13 and in 5th book.

She continued to share house with her parents after school till she was 16. She had her first child then.

Parents house and land -Dunder Hill

Her parents house and land in Dunder Hill where she grew up, has been inherited by Angus and Crafton. The house consists of -"3 rooms and one hall;" this is built on -"plenty of land. She does not know how much land. Her parents also had and have left some lands "in the woods -down in Runnit. This land is to be shared up. She does not know how much land there is in Runnit.

Interview with Iris Lawrence

/built,

She had Aston, Agatha, and James before she got married, and came to live at her present home site. Before she came to live at her present home site she had used to ~~live~~ share house rented from Edgar Powell, with her husband. Edgar Powell is now ~~dead~~ dead. Having planned to get married they had had/the house they now live in. ~~built~~

/found

Iris who took every opportunity to complain about hard times, is pregnant. Viris whom she had sent to her son Aston, at present working at the factory, returned to say her brother (Aston) had been ~~as~~ unable to find Percy Dyer. ~~who was at the office~~ Dyer is one of the office employees to the Ja. Vegetables Ltd. Viris added that after much hunting about Dyer had at last been ~~found~~ in Mr. Robinson's shop, playing cards.

Iris became rather annoyed on hearing this and turning to me said -"Y'u ever hear a thing like that sa?" (Her tone was heavy with bitterness and ridicule) She continued -"Wey manager dey, him (Dyer) can get fi come out?office man, an' him dey a shop a play card! Suppose them want him? Them should a brok him! ('Brok him -deprive him of his job.)

On returning from the errand Viris had given her some ~~money~~ money. It appears she had had no money for making the evening meal, and had sent Viris to go to Aston who in turn had had to see Dyer. ~~for the~~

Giving her what appeared to be one of 2/- shillings she had received, she sent Viris to Rebecca Rochester to buy some sweet potatoes. The child returned with ~~about~~ 14 potatoes three quarters of which were smaller than a tea cup, and certainly, none larger.

Iris was furious; she said: -"It caan sell, it caan sell so! carry it back and get back mi shillin' an' tek the shillin' go buy flour a shop come gi mi. (I greatly doubt whether the potatoes could have weighed more than 4 lbs.

The kitchen

The interview was given in the kitchen. Iris sat on a piece of board used across to boxes to form a bench. The children were grouped around her; it was obvious that her great concern was should she do for the evening meal. She had had no money it seems and so had sent to Aston

Family Record 114Interview with Iris Lawrence

for money. The money having arrived she seemed confronted with the problem of what to buy with it. There was a brief whispered consultation between her and Viris, after which, the child had gone off to get the potatoes.

The children appeared rather shy. They avoided walking near me, and having passed, could not be encouraged to pass me to go outside again. They appeared to be sad and were rather inclined to cling to their mother. She was in turn, rather kindly disposed in her attitude towards them.

The kitchen used by this household is made entirely of thatch and coconut palm leaves supported by sticks and ~~xxxx~~ posts. There is no fire-place; -no built up fire place. The fireplace consists of 3 large stones set in a triangular pattern. These stones ~~xxx~~ form support for cooking pots. There was a wood fire going between the stones forming the fireplace. One of the children roasted a small ear of corn in the fire during the course of the talk.

Information from Lillian Powell.
 Interv. Johnie Lawrence. 19.6.48.
 J.C. 25.8.48.

Present household:

Lawrence Johnnie, 60.
 Lawrence Iris, wife, 48.
 ,, Aston, son, 21.
 ,, Violet, dau. 13.
 ,, Cynthia, dau. 12.
 ,, Clara, x dau. 8.
 ,, Rose, dau. 7.
 ,, Vincent, son, 6.
 ,, Ivy, dau. 4.
 ,, Caulton, son, 3.

Johnie Lawrence: his parents James and Jane Lawrence were from Brinkley. He has one sister Clara Lawrence living in Kingston.

Iris Lawrence nee Dyer. ~~xxxx~~ Parents: Ambrose and Alitia Dyer in Dunder Hill, both dead. Her brothers Angus and Crafton Dyer live in Dunder Hill. Her sisters: Eunice Samuel - Mandeville, Lauretta Dyer - Mandeville, Estel Elliott, B.Sav., Edith Dyer - Shaddock Hill, Shadde-belle Dyer - Junction.
 Johnie and Iris have 10 children, 8 staying with them, 2 away. Those away? Agatha Lawrence is in Kingston, working. James Lawrence in Malvern with relatives.

Iris has one outside child. She is Ida May, daughter of Calbert Elliott in B.Sav.

John Lawrence went to Panama in 1904-1905. Built ~~xxxx~~ house from his savings.

House, land, farming etc.

House: 1 room. Kitchen. Furniture: 2 beds, 1 chair, 1 bench 2 tables.

Land: owned by John Lawrence 1.25 acre, bought from his father-in-law Ambrose Dyer. in 1936.

Trees: 3 coconuts, 4 mangoes, 2 pears, 2 pomegranates, 6 sweet saps.

Cult. : tomatoes none. 24 yam hills. 1/4 acre corn. 1/4 acre congo, 1/4 acre cassava.

2 goats, 1 dog, 1 cat.

Occup.: Aston Lawrence carries mail to the factory. Earns 14/- weekly.

Spending: 14/- weekly on groceries and meat. L14 spent last year on clothes. No savings.

No religion.

Children in school: none. Aston read only till 1st stand.