

7/20

Interviewed Curdel Rochester.
23.6.48.
J.O.

Present household.

- Dyer Agnes, "around 40". /She is probably over 50/.
- Rochester Curdel, Agnes' daughter, 21.
- Powell Evadna, Curdel's daughter, 3.
- Sinclair Ivy, 1, grda. of Agnes, daughter of Rochester Ruby.
- Rochester Delsie, Agnes' daughter.
- Redway Gloria, 9/12, Delsie's daughter.
- Redway "Lun", 2, Delsie's son.
- Rochester Mervin, 2, ~~is~~ daughter of Wilbert, late son of Agnes.

8 Curdel Rochester was knocking off a mango from the tree near-by the house when I entered the yard. A girl of 3 was plying on the ground close to her, 2 other children sat under another tree at a distance of 15 yards or so, and still two other were playing on the ground near the house.

Curdel was pleased with our visit and she was ready to answer questions but answers had to be dragged from her - she never started to talk by her self and following her own inspiration.

House and its inhabitants.

The house they live is very small - just one room house with thatch roof. A kitchen with wattle walls is about 25 yards from the house. There was nobody in the kitchen and nobody around the house except Curdel and the children. Curdel explained that she is living in this house together with her mother Agnes Dyer and her little daughter Evadna. Only when asked about other children in the yard she finally admitted that those children ~~xxxx~~ live ~~was~~ here also, and also one of her sisters, Delsie Rochester.

Her mother rents this house from Sydney Simpson /? I heard that the place belongs to Stanford Sinclair, son of Charles Sinclair in Ridge/. There is about one acre around the house, but it is not cultivated. Her mother builds her own house nearby in Ridge. She is daughter of Hubert Dyer and builds her house on the land given to her by her father. ~~and~~ She cultivates also this land - cassava is her chief crop. She planted also tomatoes last season but failed and had no crop.

Other inhabitants of the house are: Curdel, daughter of Agnes, and her 3 years old daughter Evadne. Sinclair Ivy is daughter of Curdel's sister and Agnes' daughter lives in Manchester, in Mandeville. Her name is Ruby ~~xxxx~~ she married a Sinclair in Mandeville and lives with her husband. She has another child with her husband stays with her. Ivy was given to be brought up in her mother's home as Manchester climate is cold and suits the baby.

Curdel's sister, Delsie Rochester, is staying in the house with her two children, 9 months old Gloria and 2 years old "Lun", temporarily. She lives in Kingston where she is with a man but not yet married and works in ~~xxxxxxx~~ an ice cream parlour. She came here only to deliver the baby and ~~stayed~~ stayed since then. She worked in the factory in the season - in a short time she will leave the place and go back to Kingston leaving both her children with the grandmother.

Last child, Mervin Rochester, over 2 years old, is her brother's, Wilbert. Wilbert was in friendship with a girl in Junction when he died - He was drowned at fishing in Alligator Pond river. The mother of the baby - "she not treat the baby nice". It was 3 months old when Wilbert decided to take it away from the mother and to be brought up by the grandmother. The baby stayed with Agnes ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ and was fed on cow's milk.

Curdel's family history.

Curdel's mother Agnes is daughter of Hubert Dyer and Annie Dyer - both alive and living in Ridge in the next yard. Her father was Arnold Rochester who died last year ~~xxxxxxx~~ following her brother Wilbert. She had 5 brothers and sisters by her father and mother. The oldest, Crafton, is living ~~at~~ "over the father home" ~~as~~ as he succeeded the father. Ellen, who the next child, is living ~~in~~ with Crafton, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Also with Crafton stays in the same yard Panton, who was the third child. Panton was followed by Delsie, who lives now in Kingston and only pays visits to Bull Savannah. ~~staying~~ Curdel was the fifth child. They youngest one is Ruby who married a Sinclair in Manchester.

Curdel has also two half sisters and one half brother by father. One of her sisters, called "Shotty" married and lives in another district called "Tantamount." She visited her one year ago. She lives the place where her sisters lives - they have a lot of pimento over there. Another ~~xxxx~~ sister, called "Murry" lives in Top Bull Savannah. She married a boy whom they call "Manson" - his name is Tibbesoh or so. Their house is just besides Charles Lewis' shop. They have 3 children.

Her halfbrother, ~~was~~ Maurice Rochester, was by a woman ~~xxxxxxx~~ in Pedro. She does not know her name. Maurice is a fisherman. He is described as "not a nice brother - him give we no fish when he catch them."

Curdel's childhood.

Curdel spent her child ^{hood} (not in her father's home with her grandparents, Hubert and Annie Dyer, her r parents. She was born in her father's home, and so younger sister Ruby. But later on their mother le father's place and went to live with her ~~parents~~ p Ridge. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Their father had a

"outside woman" and their mother ~~didn't~~ "didn't like it." She had to work hard to raise them. Wilbert, Curdel's brother was helping them when he was alive. Just on the day of his death he brought some cassava them and promised to bring fish in the evening.

Getting married.

The child she has - ~~Ernest~~ Evadna Powell - is for Ernest Powell, the taylor who works in Miss Edith/Elliott's shop. Ernest Powell is from Tad Town. ~~They~~ They fell in love with each other and now they are going to marry. Their wedding will be in August - not here in Ridge; it will be in the Outer Ridge, over the hill, in the place they are going to ~~live~~ live in future.

Ernest Powell went 3 years ago to America "on contract." He saved some money a bought a piece of land - about 3 acres with a house on it whose building was started by the lady that owned the place. Ernest bought the land ~~and~~ and the house in construction. He will finish the house by August and then the will move to their ~~new~~ own home. She will leave her mother alone with the children and will take only her own.

Ernest Powell is a good father. He supports the baby and her. She worked in the factory however in the season, in the wrapping house, earning sometimes as much as 5/- daily. Ernest loves the baby, but of course "mother always love more." This is her first baby. Was weaned at 9 months.

There is one trouble with Ernest - he is a drunkard, drinks a lot and spends a lot of money on drinks. She cant stop him from ~~doing~~ this - he wont obey her. The idea that she can command her husband seemed to her very amusing. and she laughed at my suggestion.

G.andmother and grandchildren.

~~When~~ When she will leave her mother's home the mother will be left alone with her grannies. Now both of them are looking after the children. Both of them are raising them. Wilbert's ~~daughter's~~ child is ~~supported~~ supported fully by them: "grannie and we helping Wilbert child." Other children - Delsie's and Ruby's are supported by the fathers and mothers. ~~Other~~ ~~children~~ ~~are~~ ~~supported~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~fathers~~ ~~and~~ ~~mothers.~~ ~~Other~~ ~~children~~ ~~-~~ ~~Delsie's~~ ~~and~~ ~~Ruby's~~ ~~are~~ ~~supported~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~fathers~~ ~~and~~ ~~mothers.~~ ~~Other~~ ~~children~~ ~~-~~ ~~Delsie's~~ ~~and~~ ~~Ruby's~~ ~~are~~ ~~supported~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~fathers~~ ~~and~~ ~~mothers.~~

Interview with Isaac Elliott and Panton Rochester.
29.6.48.
J.O.

Isaac Elliott and Panton Rochester/brother of Curdel Rochester/ explained that I must have misunderstood what Curdel said about her marital plans. The boy she is going to marry is Alvin from Comma Pen /Alvin Thomas? - Panton did not remember boy's name/.

Curdell was along with Ernest Powell only for a short time. Ernest Powell cannot marry her - he is married already to Josceline Holness, Jane Holness' daughter. He is living in Jane Holness' house - his own house in Bottom Bull Savannah is rented by him to his own brother, Cornelius Powell.

Ernest ~~xxxxx~~ Powell has ~~2~~ 2 or 3 children with his wife and ~~xxxxxxx~~ also 5 children with 3 different women besides his wife. His first child is by Zala Dyer, sister of Zemina Dyer. Both sisters live together in ~~xxxxx~~ lower Bottom Bull Savannah /or it is rather Ridge/ and Ernest's child is with the mother. Next 3 children are by Vera Ward: one child stays with Rachel Powell /greatgrandmother/, one with Ernest's mother /grandmother/ in Tad Town, and the third is with Ernest. His child by Curdel stays with Curdel and her mother, Agnes Dyer.

Monday .
28. 6. 48.
D. B.

Interviewed Agnes Dyer .

Family History .

Julia Simpson her mother dead

Hubert Dyer her father alive

Her mother's children

Agnes Dyer for Hubert Dyer

Alma Sinclair for Herman Sinclair

Doris Sinclair

Jeanna Sinclair

Jimsey Sinclair

Alma lives by herself at Ridge , in her mother's old ~~was~~ yard.

"Jimsey " has married ~~3~~ Adassah Sinclair

Doris is a cripple and lives at the old yard. "She walk over something bad way no did set fe her". All the toes have fallen off one of her feet . She has to walk on her heel . She has never been to the Doctor nor to the Bala . They were ~~was~~ making ~~plans~~ plans to send her to the Poor House "Doris say before she go she stay home and dead " .

Jeanna is dumb and lives at the old yard with Doris , and Alma .

Agnes spent her childhood days with her mother and father. Sometimes she would be at her father and another time at her mother , but the most ~~time~~ was spent with her mother . She preferred to sleep with her mother . At her father's home she was well cared for , Miss Annie was very kind to her also her father . Days would be spent at her father's place , ~~by~~ but as it is ~~drawing~~ drawing towards evening , "right to me mother home me go " .

School.

~~Agnes went to school , but did not read "Further 'an Primer . Me head couldnt take i' , if them even show me ' A' this minute the next minute me would'nt know that a 'A' , head couldnt take a thing . All me use to do is to trade'pon banny , but that time we could get cassava .~~

Her Son

Wilfred Rochester was drowned three years ~~at~~ ago at Alligator ~~pond~~ . Wilfred used to sleep at his father's house - father was Arnold Rochester . One Saturday morning he got up very early , went to his mother's home took his cutlass and a bag and told his mother he was going to Duff House . He was in a very great haste and refused to wait for his breakfast . He went away and

returned very quickly . His mother could not believe he had reached the place much more to come back . He carried an extra amount of cassava that his mother wondered what he was up to to carry such a load . Immediately he got in he was ready to go and look feeding for the pig, with out breakfast . His mother had to force him to take a bammy from his aunt Alma who was at the time baking bammy at Agnes' yard . He took it and crushed it in his hand with extra strength , then put all in his mouth. He went away this time and never came back .

When returning with the cassava from Duff House he met a boy who encouraged him to go to Alligator Pond to get fish, for some one the boy knew was there blasting fish. (Agnes does not know who is the boy). This boy had promised to wait for him so that was the reason why he was hurrying so much. At Alligator Pond he took his clothes off and swam to where they were catching the fish . His clothes he gave to a little boy to hold , and the little boy should meet him at the beach .

On reaching the boat he was told that they had sent the dynamite to blow the fish but did not know if it had exploded . As he could swim and dive they sent him down to find out. Agnes was told that he never came up again. She does not know who were the people in the boat. They never said any thing to her . She got the news about him three o'clock the Saturday afternoon from Ellen Simpson, who went to market at Alligator Pond . Search was made for the body , but they have not found it . Agnes started to cry and said "if me did even find one a him finger nail fe bury me wouldnt mind . Me would look 'pon that as him remains , but me no have a thing left fe look 'pon

She had heard all kinds of story about his death . She was told that the dynamite must have exploded on him under the water . She heard that Alligator must have swallowed him . At Miss Seta's balm she was told that "them bury him in a one whole that a only God can find him " . Agnes was very sad in talking about her son . It makes her sad every time she talks of him . Her son was very good to her , used to care her well "feed and clothe her " . She did not have to go to the ground , carry the food from the ground , nor a carry wood . He did everything for her .

Life will be hard for her now "for me only help gone . Me daughter them help me when them can , but it hard fe them too for them have them children . She cannot work , because she is suffering with pain . She plants a little cassava and escallion on her father's place , "but the no nothing much " . Wilfred had a child by Ernie Sinclair from Junction . The child is now staying with the grand mother . Since the death of the father , now at then a friend of the father's gives the child a shilling

or two to help the child along , as the father was very kind to every one . Agnes ~~xxxx~~ said "me live off e the pickney". She lives off the donation that the child gets . She would not say who were the x people who had given the child any ~~xx~~ thing .

Both Agnes and her daughter Curdel were very pleasant , and we chatted in quite a friendly way . Curdel is to be married in August to Alvin Thomas from ~~xx~~ Ridge . The date for the marriage has not been fixed as yet. Curdel does not know where the wedding will take place , it may be Mandeville . "If me marry a Mandeville then gwine say me gone buy sugar ". When any one is married in Mandeville it is termed" them gone buy ~~xx~~ sugar " .

She has a child for Ernest Powell who is married to Joyce Holness. Ernest does not care the child so well , " because me no make him live any kind a life with me , as how him can do with Vera "ard . Me hear that himand the wife fe part through Vera !