

C.D. 22. Sbd. 8. Household 54.

Simpson	James	Head	M.M.	53	St. Elizab.	colour.	Angl.	W.3.	Farmer
"	Hilda	wife	F.M.	46	6.6.	"	"	W.3	homemaker
"	Spergent	son	M.S.	19	"	"	"	W.2.	farmer
"	Icey-Pearl	Dau	F.S.	16	"	"	"	X	none
"	Elford	son	M.S.	13	"	"	"	X	
"	Herbert	son	M.S.	11	"	"	"	X	

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His farm in 1942

4 acres see p 7

Under one acre.

~~ivdunvaxx~~

- 1 swine, 1 goat, 4 sheep, .
- 1 ackee = 12 doz.
- 6 bananas = 8 bunches. /?/
- 3 coconuts = 90 nuts
- 1 lime = 19 doz.
- 13 mangoes = 137 doz.

Inform. Dudley Simpson.

19.4.48.

J.O.

James Simpson - his land.

"James Simpson living on his father land - the land he got from his father. Him still living on it."  
 "I dont think he have more than around 3 acres ~~at~~ settled land" - i.e. the land on which "he make his home". The land was described by Dudley as "make his home land."

"He is an old man, troubled by asthma-stomac. And asthma and cultivation dont agree. He was a strong cultivator, but now he is quite down, down. He cant just himself in cultivation and such delight."

His wife - Hilda Rochester.

His wife was "Hilda Rochester at first. Her father was Henry Rochester and Martha Rochester was her mother. She /her mother/ was Martha Robinson at first, but marry to Henry Rochester in Top Bull Savannah."

Their children.

Outside children. he marry."

"He /James Simpson/ didnt have any children before

"Hilda had one girl before she marry James. ~~Klerak~~  
Florette Powell. She is my /Dudley Simpson's/ wife.  
Her father was Edgard Powell, from Bottom Bull Savannah.  
Edgar Powell - he is brother of Hubert Powell from down  
the factory /Overroad/. He is a corporal now in Clarendon."

Family children.

1. Spergent Simpson, the oldest son: ~~ixixixix~~  
He is living in the parents' home. He is a cultivator  
- works"on his father's land and Xsomebody else land.  
He worked this tomato crop on Mr. Rochester~~xixix~~ /La-  
ban/ land in New Forest."

2. Hazzeline - she is "around 16 now. A young  
girl. Previously Hazzeline was working in the factory,  
but not this year, since she marry. She marry to a man  
just recently in St. Mary's district near Malvern." She  
has no children: "dont make a baby as yet."

3. "Dummy". This ~~nixix~~ is a nickname of the next  
daughter /Icey-Pearl/, who is dumb - hence "Dummy."  
"She is a dummy. She is in the father and mother home,  
doing domestic work. Nobody worry about her and yet she  
is quite good looking."

4. Elford - staying "in father and mother home, do  
doing a little cultivation."

5. Hubert /= Herbert/ - "just the same" as Elford.

Nobody else is living in this house. Nobody prac-  
ticiseng any other profession besides cultivating.

Visit at home. Interv. Hilda and James Simpson.  
2.7.48.  
T.O.

I met Hilda on a previous occasion at Mrs. Claston Holness home. Now she saw me going down the hill and walked to meet me. She took me to the kitchen where her husband James was sitting.

The kitchen with its earthen floor and stone "fire table" was of an usual type. In one corner were palm leaves cut into narrow stripes and ~~pleated~~ bundles of pleated ones. In all houses in Bottom people pleat these stripes. They sell it to a Mrs. Dyer in Chocolate Hole. Pleating is not done in Bull-Savannah with the exception of a few houses in Thatch Walk.

The present household of James Simpson consists of:

Simpson James	head.	M.M.	57	Bottom	R."	Retired.
"	Hilda wife	F.M.	52	Bull.S.	R.W.	cultiv.
"	Spergent son	M.S.	25	Bottom	R.W.	cultivator
"	Icyparl dau	F.S.	23	Bottom	dumb	homemaker
"	Elfred son	M.S.	19	"	Illit.	cultiv.
"	Hubert son	M.S.	17	"	R.	

Simpson James is the son of Sarah and late Richard Simpson. For his parentage etc. see F. R. 155. He looks almost older than his mother. A thin man, with long untidy hair, a kerchief tied round his head and an old hat. He sits in the same corner of the kitchen during the whole day. When after more than 4 hours of visiting in Bottom I passed again the kitchen he was still sitting there, although all the men from the neighbouring houses were busy thatching Mr. Powell's kitchen.

James told me that 19 years ago he became sick with "asthma stomach" and couldn't work since. This illness is in the family. His father had it too, but died of typhoid fever. The grandfather had the same ailment. James is not bitter about his illness; he is a serene old man, pleasant and friendly.

After his father's death - ~~when~~ James' youngest brother was at that time only a few months old - James was working the family land "I help to raise them all." James didn't travel, he spent all his life in Bottom. He has had two children before he married Hilda but they died. "For a while" he lived with his wife in the mother's house and there the oldest son Spergent was born. Then he built his house and all the other children were born in that house.

The house. Later on Hilda took me to their house. There are two rooms - one completely empty. In the other one there is a very large bed. In front of the house there is a small garden full of flowers - this is also a characteristic trait of Bottom. A banana grove and a few big mangoes are round the homestead.

Hilda Simpson is the virtual head of the house. The hardest time - she said - was when her husband fell sick and the children were small. She worked in the fields and she is doing it now too. She doesn't cook - this is left to the "Dummy". Hilda doesn't pleat either "I can't bother with it - too much work in the earth." She says she weeds and dig holes for the yams "I use the hoe and the pike". She is a very robust woman, looking strong and healthy. "Never been to a doctor" she said.

~~Her~~ Hilda's father was Henry Rochester son of Ann and Aaron Rochester. Her mother was Martha Rochester (still alive) daughter of Caroline "from Ginger Grounds" and James Robinson.

Her brother Wilbert lives "at the old home" and her sister Berita married David Roy. Her other sisters and brothers emigrated: Amanda lives in Kingston - she is a widow. The other sister Willelle lives also in Kingston with her daughter. Brother Henry lives in Kingston. He works at Henriques as a foreman. Ernest lives in Kingston too with his wife. At present he is in America on contract.

Hilda said that the brothers and sisters don't write to her. "They don't write to me and since they leave me I expect them to write first." As nobody made the first move, there is no correspondence passing between them. They write however to the mother and from her Hilda knows what is happening to them. Sometimes they come from Kingston to visit the mother. But they "don't bother to come to see me here." The brother who went to America didn't write to Hilda, but she heard he sent greetings for her - writing to the other sister.

This lack of brotherly and sisterly affection is compensated however by the very close and friendly way she lives with her neighbours in Bottom. When young Mrs. Julith Simpson came she said "we live like mother and daughter". I could see later on that they all lived like in one family, going constantly to each other homes and gathering to do some work in common.

Hilda's children. Before she married to James Simpson Hilda had a daughter with Edgar Powell. Edgar Powell left Bull-Savannah after a few years and is now a corporal of police in Wait-a-Bit. He married there. The daughter Florette was brought up in Hilda's mother home. Florette married Dudley Simpson (see F.R.4.)

All other Hilda's children were "for" James Simpson. One died of typhoid fever at an early age. The daughter Hazeline married a Mr. Campbell ~~xxxxxx~~ and lives at present in St. Mary district not far from B.Sav. The remaining four stay with the parents. Icepearl was born dumb. She is however "a very useful girl". She does all the cooking for the family, and also pleats the "straw". Later on ~~both~~ neighbours: Mrs. Julith Simpson and Caroline Powell told me what a helpful girl Icepearl was. Mrs. Powell said: "It's really the top is for the mother, the middle part for Julith and the lower for me - she helps all three of us." Icepearl is a healthy stocky girl with a pleasant calm face.

The youngest son Hubert is very small and slim for his age, he helps a little his two older brothers in the fields ~~xxxx~~ I asked who directs the boys in the work. Hilda said they know what each has to do "Just from practice"

Land and Income. They live on 4 acres of land which James got as his portion of the father's land. The land ~~xxxx~~ round the house, it runs up the Shaddock Hill. On ~~the~~ the hilly parts guinea grass is planted. On the rest they cultivate all crops for house use: cassava, corn, peas and yams (over 100 hills). The elder boys planted together about 1500 tomatoes. ~~xxxx~~ Cash is derived from: tomatoes, eskallion (Hilda) pleating (Icypearl) and raising of pigs. They have 1 donkey, 2 sheep and 2 pigs. Hilda estimates the weekly expenditure for "shop" for the whole family of 6 at about 10/- Hospital is a big item of expenditure, they spent £10 for the last year. (Last summer there was an outbreak of typhoid fever in the district).

Hilda assumed the role of a Cicerone and took me to the homes of all the other neighbours. She told me they saw me not long ago walking towards Chocolate Hole and wanted to meet me.

Informant Dudley Simpson who is son-in-law of Mrs. Hilda  
11.7.48.  
T.O.

Miss Hilda is an authority on healing herbs and knows how to prepare them. She is not a "balm woman" yet, but the prescriptions given by a certain Miss Rita from the zinc shop in Lettitz are carried to her and she prepares them.

"Miss Hilda is a candidate, she work with this Miss Rita. Miss Rita the balm woman she write down the list of all bush she has to use. They carry it to Miss Hilda, she pick it and boil it and bottle in quart bottles."

Unfortunately with all her knowledge Miss Hilda couldn't help her sick husband. "Him an old man from beginning."

Lately Masie Rochester who lives with Basil Witter complaint of a persistent head ache. She went to Miss Rita and got a prescription which she gave Miss Hilda to "dispense." This prescription Dudley got for me from Miss Hilda. It is attached to the top copy in File 7 - Health - Fasc. 3.

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Information from Leo Johnson.  
 Interv. Hilda Simpson.  
 17.6.48.  
 J.O. 21.7.48.

Present household.

Simpson James, 57.  
 ,, Hilda, wife, 52.  
 ,, S Spergent, son, 25.  
 ,, Pearl, daughter, 23.  
 ,, Hickford, son, 19.  
 ,, Hubert, son, 17.

James Simpson: son of Richard Simpson and Sarah Simpson /first Lewis/. For details see Sarah Simpson his mother.  
Hilda Simpson. ~~daughter of Henry and Martha Rochester~~  
~~first Robinson~~ daughter of Henry and Martha Rochester.  
 For details see Fam. Rec. of Martha Rochester and Wilbert Rochester in B.B.S. Her brothers and sisters: Wilbert Rochester /B.B.S./, Berita Roye /Bop B.S./ Henry R. - Kingston; Earnest R. /U.S.A./, Amand Gayner /Kingston/, Wilhel South /Kingston/. Relations are kept only with Wilbert and Berita.

Marriage. They married in 1925. Before this she was along with Edgar Powell. "Didn't stay together, couldn't get along." She had one child with Edgar Powell: Florette Powell, now married to Dudley Simpson in Shaddock Hill. Florette was raised by the grandmother, Martha Rochester. James Simpson had 2 outside children: both died.  
Children: they had 5 children together. Four are staying in the home, one is away: Hesline Campbell, 18 years old, married, is in St. Mary.

House, land, farming.

House: 2 rooms. Kitchen. Furn.: 2 beds, 1 table, 2 chairs.  
 Land: 4 acres, all at home. Inherited from James' father.  
 2 ac. in cult., 1.5 g. grass.  
 Trees: 7 com, mang, 1 another, 1 green skin.  
 Cultivations: Tomatos 1400 holes, Casasva, Corn 1/2 ac. Co Congo. 100 yam hills. Escallion 1/2 sq. chain.  
 1 donkey, 2 sheep, 2 pigs.  
 Occupations: James is crippled, can't work, Spergent is doing all the cultivating. Spergent and Hubert worked in the factory in the season.  
 Spendings: 10\_- weekly. Clothes L6 last year. Hospital L10.

Religion: all anglican.

School: Hubert left school in the 1st stand., Pearl and Hickford never went to school.