

Visit at home. Interv. Joseph and Roberta Powell.
21.7.48.
T.O.

This house is below the Jehovah Witness shed, half way down to Michael Powell & Green Olive.

It is a new two-room house covered with shingles. Mrs. Powell was scraping cassava in the kitchen. Later on Joseph appeared and was painting light pink the outside of the house.

Present household:

Powell Joseph	head	32
" Roberta	wife	25
" Ainsel	son	7
" Kerrol	son	4

Joseph Powell is a quiet soft-spoken man. He has bright blue eyes, like his siter Lilian and his cousin Vincent Powell.

Joseph's father was Ellis Powell son of old George Powell. Ellis died a few years ago. Joseph's mother is Burdie Powell. She is from Elliott family from Ballards Valley. Mrs. Burdie Powell lives with her only daughter Lilian in "the old home".

Joseph has one sister: Lilian. She isn't married (about 30 yrs old) and lives with the mother. His brother James lives in the neighbouring house. His other brother Leslie lives in Prospect where he married to the sister of Joseph's wife. He was born in Bull-Savannah and brought up in the parents home. I don't know how he first found his way to Prospect from where his wife is and where he has a child with another woman.

He went to U.S.A. 5 years ago and stayed for over one year. The/ american savings helped him to build his own house.

Possessions and trades.

The land left by his father Ellis Powell is not divided yet. Joseph works it together with his brother James. The portion of Esie is also worked by them, but Leslie doesn't get anything out of it, it is destined for the mother. I asked how they intend to divide the land. Joseph said they didn't have any plans yet. There are no misunderstandings in the family regarding this land. The sister Lilian lives with the mother and Joseph and James are providing for them. Leslie doesn't claim anything from his land relinquishing towards his share of the mother's and sister's upkeep. Joseph said that the land hasn't got to be divided necessarily into four equal parts. It all depends. If for instance the sister marries, then she will be provided "otherwise" (i.e. by the husband) so she will

get a smaller portion or none. If she doesn't marry and stays at home, she will get an equal share. They don't think they have to worry about the land to be surveyed and papers drawn. "We are of one faith" he said as the reason of their harmonious participation in this world's riches. The whole family belongs to the Jehovah Witness and "Brother Joseph" is one of the pillars of the society - which is to a great extent a family concern.

Joseph keeps shop together with his brother James. He also learned shoemaking from his brother James and they are both working at this trade. Their work-shop is in the shed on James' premises. The shed serves as a prayer house for Jeh. Witn. during Sundays and other appointed days. A bigger shed is being built now where the Jeh. Witn. services will be transferred soon.

Joseph gets from his shoemaking about or a little above 10/- weekly. The shop brings also "something" but he couldn't tell how much. "The one helps the other" - it is the same answer I got also from his brother James to the same question.

Joseph's cultivations are rather modest. He had this year about 1000 tomatoes and got £ 8 for this. He cultivates yams, corn, cassava and peas. He sells a little of it, but a very negligible quantity.

His home however looks more prosperous than his apparent means of subsistence. Quite possible it is due to the American savings which he invested in the building of the house.

Roberta Powell is from Prospect. Her parents are Nathaniel and Louisa Holness. Her father died but Roberta didn't get any land as the mother lives with some children in the old house on the land. Roberta has a numerous family 5 brothers and 6 sisters. Her three full brothers and one full sister lives in Prospect. The "balance" are her half-siblings and ~~many of~~ most of the live in St. Elizabeth but in other districts.

Roberta is a pleasant plump young woman. She has a delicate face planted on a body of a small athlete. She was clad in a print cotton dress and had a large ~~hat~~ straw hat on, which isn't usually worn here by women when working in their kitchen. A kerchief is the usual head gear, rather favourite with the older women. The young ones don't cover their heads unless on special festive occasions.

The founding of the family, & children.

Joseph has two outside children: one by a May "il-son in Kingston - this is Lide Powell. The other child is in Prospect. Its mother was Una Spencer. The ~~child~~ child stays with some relative of the mother.

Joseph and Roberta had three children before they married. Roberta was staying at the time in her mother's home. Besides the two boys who live now with the parents there was a girl "to follow the first boy". This girl died when she was two weeks old. Roberta says the child caught a cold and couldn't breathe. She took the little baby to Doctor Pitter but the doctor said he couldn't save it.

Roberta came to live to Bull-Savannah only two years ago. At first she lived with her husband (she married him and children at old George Powell's home. Then a few months later the house was ready and they transferred to their own home.

The furniture.

The two rooms ~~have~~ are well though not over-furnished. Through the open doors I could see what was probably the bed room with two beds, one wash stand and basin and a sewing machine. Chairs were put on the bed, as Joseph was painting the outside wall he removed it from the vicinity of the door.

The house isn't completely finished yet. In the kitchen under the ceiling there are a few broad boards which will serve to finish the edge of the roof (to prevent water getting under the shingles)

The kitchen is very pleasant. There is a good cement floor a polished cement fire table, some benches and a table.

Some items of the budget.

Joseph evaluates his earning from shoemaking and shop to about 25/- - 30/- a week. It is not regular. "In the season" it is much more, now it is about that amount. His land doesn't bring him much in cash. It is only tomatoes which bring ready money and that was £8 for this year. However he hasn't to buy the basic foods like cassava, peas and yams. This has to be supplied however by flour, cornmeal, fish and meat, milk powdered or tinned. Together with the expenses for sugar, salt, oil and washing items Roberta says she spends approximately £ 1 per week. He says the expenditure on clothes are about 30/- per month for the family. When the ~~boy~~ elder boy will go to school there will be additional expenditure for his clothes books etc. Roberta takes part in religious "conventions" and spent on travels for this purpose round £ 5. They also buy the Jeh. Witn. publications which costs 5/- per quarter, and on doctor a few pounds. They also spent a few pounds on the household equipment and on additional items connected with building like paints, boards etc. Their earnings during the season provide a surplus which enables them to make these expenditure.

They seem to live very harmoniously. Both are gentle and there is an air of orderliness about them and the household. Roberta said she was sorry her flower garden was so poor owing to the drought.

Information from Lillian Powell.
 Interv. Joseph~~us~~ and Roberta Powell.
 17.6.48.
 J.O. 25.8.48.

Present household.

Powell Joseph, 32.
 ,, Roberta, wife, 26.
 ,, Ansel, son, /in school, 1st stand./
 ,, Kerrol, son. 4

Joseph Powell - see F.R. 107 and 108. Son of Ellis /d/ and Burdie Powell. Brothers: James and Leslie Powell, sister Lillian Powell.

Powell Roberta, nee Holness. ~~Father Nathaniel Holness~~
 Parenst, Nathaniel and Louisa Powell, Prospect. Her 3 full brothers and 1 full sister live in Prospect. One of her ~~had~~ 2 halfbrothers lives in Prospect ~~xxxxxx~~ /Dorrel Holness/ another /Edgar Holness/ in ~~the~~ Coleyville. Two of her 5 halvesisters /Amy Powell and Burdie Holness/ live in Prospect, of the rem. 3: Ethel Dickson in U.S., Madge Kavanaugh in Malvern, Maria Hutchinson in Pepper.

Joseph and Roberta had 3 children, only two alive, with the parenst.

Joseph has two outside children: Bogsie Powell, whose mother is ~~xxxxxx~~ Una Spencer in Prospect; Bogsie is "taken care of by Uncle Alan Spencer. And Lyde Powell, whose mother is May Wilson in Kingston. Nothing is known about this child.

Joseph Powell went in 1943-44 to U.S.A. Built his home from the savings.

House: 2 rooms, shingled roof. Kitchen. Furn.: 2 beds, 1 bureau, 1 cabinet, 4 chairs, 3 tables, 1 washstand, 1 gramophone, 1 sewing machine.

Land owned by Joseph: 1 acre homeland inherited from his father Ellis Powell.

Trees: 11 mango, 1 pear, 2 sweet saps.

Toamtoes: 1000 holes, L8. 50 yam hills. Very little of: cassava, corn, congo, red peas.

Animals: 1 pig, 1 dog, 2 hens, 3 chickens.

Trades: Joseph is shoemaker, earns from this trade 12/- weekly. ~~xxxxxx~~ He runs also the shop /owned by his brother James/ - ~~xxxxxx~~ income from the shop "hard to estimate."

Weekly spendings: 20/-. L20 spent on clothes last year. L2 on med. treatm. They spent 20/- on books from Jeh. Withn and L4 on travelling to Jeh. Withn. conventions.

Religion: all Jeh. Withn.