

C.D. 22 Sbd. 13. Household 3. p.1. 11

Dyer	Sarah	head.	F.S. 59	2.1.	St. Eliz.	Col. Ang.	X	Farmer
Powell	Granville	gr/			"	"		tom. factory
		nephew	M.S. 17		"	"		W.2. yard boy /
Simpson	Lilian	niece	F.S. 15		"	"		X servant

3

Her farm in 1942.

Operates this farm land as owner or part owner for 20 years.

Owens 3 1/2 acres in 2 parcels: 3 ac and 1/2 resp.

Main income from mixed farming.

Employs 2 labourers for 10 weeks yearly.

Works 40 weeks, ~~5 days xxx~~ per annum,

5 days p.w. 6 hours p.d.

4 1/2 acre  
p. 14

In cultivation 1 1/2 acres. Cultivable but not used 1 1/2 ac. 1/4 ac. in guinea grass, 1/4 ac. in woodlands.

Total value of farm £ 30, of buildings £ 15. 1 catchment.

Cultivations:

0.1 ac. pumpkins = 50. 1/20 ac. -f escallion = 12 bund. 1/4 ac. tomatoes = 2000 lbs.

~~15 bananas~~

30 bananas ( 15 fruiting ) = 11 bunch.

3 coconuts ( 2 fruiting ) 40 nuts. 2 grape s = 100 lbs.

2 mangoes = 120 doz. 7 budded mangoes ( 5 fruiting )

= 40 doz. 7 pawpaw ( 4 fruiting ) 5. 2 cashew nuts

= 1 quart.

0.1 ac. corn = 1/2 bushel. 0.1 ac. congo peas =

3 bushels. 0.1 regd peas = 1 1/2 bush.

0.2 ac. cassava = 448 lbs. 0.2 ac. sweet cass. = 300 lbs

0.3 ac. yams = 1456 lbs.

1 donkey. 3 goats, 3 swine. 5 hens = 6 doz. egg  
2 rabbits.

Monday .  
29. 3. 48.  
D. B.

Interview with Sarah Dyer.

Sarah shares house with her daughter Shalabelle Rochester. There are two houses in the yard, but one house-hold. She has a ~~xxx~~ room for herself. She is the daughter of Margeret Dyer (nee Wellington) and Elias Dyer. Her father comes from Chocolate Hole. Her mother's father ~~xxxxxx~~ Ballard Wellington comes from Top Hill

School

She went to school, "but never learn anything much just caan sign me name". Sometimes when she was sent to school, she would hide and would not go.

*At her grandmother's home.*

She was born at Chocolate Hole, but came to live with her grand-mother Sarah Powell when she was 5 months old. Her parents had 12 children.

After she stopped from school she helped her grand-mother to twist tobacco. The tobacco was taken to Alligator Pond, and sold there. Tobacco was the main source of living at that time. She sold tobacco for one year and then stopped.

old /  
at /

She had to work very hard to support the home. Her grandmother was ~~xxx~~ and sick. Her aunt Lilian Wellington was staying at Sarah's grand mother's home too. She was not very sensible and could not work, so Sarah had to work to support her too.

*Higgler's career.*

At that time boats used to take goods from Kingston to Alligator Pond for the Bull Savannah shop~~xx~~ keepers. When the goods came to Alligator Pond the shop keepers hired women to go down there for the goods. She used to do that for Mr Aaron Elliott. She had to make two ~~xxx~~ trips for the day, to save life for me granny was very sick and nobody else fe help". She had to carry  $\frac{1}{2}$  bag of flour for 6d ~~xx~~, a box of soap for 3d or a  $\frac{1}{4}$  sack of salt for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d from Alligator Pond to Bull Savannah.

This was not helping her very much so she decided to trade on ~~xxxxxx~~ cassava. She bought at 4/- per cwt, and made bammies. She took the bammies to Alligator Pond twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday. Bammies were sold at  $\frac{3}{4}$ d and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. She traded for three years, and stopped, then started to trade with fish. The fish was bought at Alligator Pond, cured and taken to Christiana for sale.

When going to Christiana she left home on Thursday, reached Christiana on Friday night and sold at the market on Saturday. Fish was sold much ~~xxxxxx~~ cheaper then, then now, so she could make a better profit. She

did the fish trading for a long time . One day a donkey for one of her friends , who used to do the trading too , and her donkey started to fight , neither she nor her friend could control them . They galloped away , smashed and spoiled all the things they were carrying , "so me decide x fe put up the trade altogether " .

Her husbands.

"Me go through hard life but God help me , me gat through i' . Through life did so hard me get in company with William Lee from Bull Savannah . Him use to help me and me granny well . We stay together fe three years , and me leave him . As much as him benna help me , me granny never like the match a i' ."

She became friends with James Sinclair after she left William . She has one child and the father is James . Shalabelle is the child . She lived with James 2 1/2 years , and they parted when Shalabelle was 5 months old . James was in company with another woman , "and me didnt like i' " .

After she and James separated she became friends with Alexander Gardner from Alligator Pond . They were making plans to ~~get~~ married , the ring was bought , and "the same woman business again , me fling the ring ~~through~~ wey , him go fe him way an' me go fe me" . "Me a woman as you see a man begin play the fool with me , me ~~ix~~ this pack up me things an left him" .

Work at the factory.

When the factory was being erected she used to work there , carrying dirt , stones , and mixing mortar . She works with her son-in-law now , in his tomato cultivation and she looks after the children when ~~ix~~ Shalabelle goes to Kingston . She helps to prepare the meals too .

*Concubine*

be/

Friday .  
16. 4. 48.  
D. B.

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Family Record 162.

Interviewed Sarah Dyer.

Sarah Powell.

Sarah Powell was Sarah Dyer's grand mother - Sarah Dyer's mother's mother. Her grand mother is from Bull Savannah.  
Her Land.

said/

Her grand mother bought the land that she lives on now from "Uncle Tim". Before her grand mother was dead Sarah bought the land from her grand mother for £10. Her grand mother left  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land in the woods for her - she sold two acres leaving  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

3 1/2  
She has given a shop spot ~~in exchange~~ off the land that she is now living on in ~~exchange~~ for 2 acres of land in the woods to Mr Laban Rochester .

She cared her grand mother well until she died . She was the only grand daughter who devoted all her time to her grand mother . Some of the others did not even come to her funeral when she died . Having attended to her so well the grand mother left her the three and a half acres of land when she was dying .

"When she was dying her grand mother said to her daughter if you ha' any use fe the grey hair 'pon me k head you can cut it off an take it , for you too good to me , an me no ha anything else fe give you".

She is the owner of the land still . Her son-in-law James Rochester cultivates all her lands, at home and in the woods . She does not rent any of the land to any one . James does not pay rent to her for what he uses . When the crop is reaped she gets a third of it.

The Houses.

One of the houses is belonging to her and the other to James . She built hers and James built his. Both were built after the storm 1933. She helped to work on her house by mixing all the mortar to build it. She got £1. 0. 0. from the Government to help with the building of the house . She had a little money for herself that she had saved , and with that money she build the house. James worked on his house him self. Both houses are made of Spanish wall .

They are not very large , and appear to be over crowded . Three of her grand sons stay with her in her house .

House-hold Arrangements.

it/

There are two houses , yet/is one household .All the meals are cooked ~~together~~ and shared equally . Sarah provides for herself , but everything that she provides goes with what her daughter and son-in-law have . Sarah is responsible for the cooking of all the meals . Now and then her daughter helps , as most of the time the daughter is busy when she is ~~at~~ at home -sewing or buying things to take to Kingston.

Sarah is very useful in the home , She cooks , ~~washes~~ washes , looks after the children. Sometimes if any of the children would like some thing different from the meal that is prepared , Sarah will take her own money and buy whatever the child or children would like . She loves her grand children very much.

Lilian Simpson.

Lilian is Sarah's sister's child . Her sister is Ida Dyer . Lilian's father is Hezekiah Simpson. Lilian stayed with her aunt for two years and then left . "You no know them no wan' behave them self. She like boy company too much , hear say she did have boy friend . So me hear me caan prove i' , so me sen' her home . She is living at Tryall now with one Burton.

Granville Powell.

Granville is the son of Isabell Holness and William Powell . Granville grew with Sarah Dyer . Sarah and Isabell are cousins - two sisters children . Granville used to work as yard boy over the factory. While working there he visited the engine room and little by little he learned the trade to operate the engine . Later on he became the engineer , and was paid 21/- to 30/- per week . He is now in America- he went on the Contract.

Roberta Dyer .

Roberta is ~~xxxx~~ staying with Sarah now . Roberta is her neice , Sarah's brother's child. Roberta has been ~~st~~ staying with her aunt for two years now . he worked at the factory for a little time packing tomato at  $\frac{3}{4}$ d per box , and in the shed a short time at 2/- per day. Her father's name is Bernard Dyer . Her mother is dead .

C.D. 22 Sbd. 13 Household 2. p.1. 3.

Rochester	James	Head.	M.M.	36	St. Eliz.	Col.	Ang.	W.2.	farm lab.
"	Shallebell	wife	F.M.	33 7.6.	"	"	"	W.3.	homemak.
"	Melford	son	M.S.	9	"	"	"	W.2.	4.E.
"	Magsie	dau	F.S.	7	"	"	"	W.2.	4.E.
"	Sylvan	son	M.S.	5	"	"	"	X	
"	Hildreth	dau	F.S.	3	"	"	"	-	
"	Verol	son	M.S.	2	"	"	"	-	
"	Barbara	dau	F.S.	6/12	"	"	"	-	

Monday .  
29. 3. 48.  
D. B.

Interviewed James Rochester & Shalabelle Rochester.

Present House-hold.

James Rochester	Head
Shalabelle "	Wife
Milford "	Son
Magsy "	Dau.
Sylvan "	Son
Hilrett "	Dau.
Verol "	Son
Barbara "	Dau.
Dorothy "	Dau.
Jimmy "	Son

James is the son of Nicholas Rochester and Margeret Rochester of Bull Savannah. He was born on Green Olive . His parents are still alive. He is 40.

Childhood

*most typical*

School

He went to school for a little time and left in 1st standard. His parents were poor and could not let him go for a long time. "Sometimes when they send me to school me hide and play ball, and sometime me go to the seaside at Alligator Pond with other boys".

At the seashore he bathed and swam out to meet the boats that were anchored in the harbour. The sailors dropped bread or money to the little boys swimming around the boat. The sailors loved to see them diving for what wask dropped.

Sometimes his father instead of sending him to school , took him to the cultivation with him. He was about 12 years at that time.

Sailor's career.

When he was 16 he went to Kingston . His uncle Samuel Roach sent for him. His uncle was a Water Police but he has resigned now. He spent 8 months in Kingston. During the 8 months he made trips from Kingston to Alligator Pond working as a hand on a boat. That boat used to carry goods from Kingston to Alligator Pond for the ~~smx~~shop-keepers at Bull Savannah. Two trips were made for ~~txx~~week . He got 6/- on each trip. "Me use to love the sea life".

in/ a/

work on banana plantation.

After working for 8 months he stopped, and went to Portland to work. He spent three months three weeks in Portland, working on the banana ~~plantstxex~~plantation. After that he came home and went to trade at Alligator Pond learning there to tan leather . Phillip Thompson taught him the trade.

Tannery work.  
year/

He took one and a half to learn the trade, after that he worked as foreman. He spent 6½ years there. Once some of the leather he tanned won 1st prize at a Show in Mandeville. He worked at Balaclava teaching Mr Campbell and Mr Turner to tan leather.

(fish)  
His trade.

After a time he left the tannery and started to trade on fish from Bull Savannah to other country districts. His partner in this business was Robert Rochester. They bought the fish at Great Bay, White House, Alligator Pond and other places and went out to sell. They went around in a car. He did this trading for 6 years, then "the business 'mash up". His partner went away.

His Wife was/

She/~~is~~ Shalabelle Sinclair, the daughter of Sarah Dyer and James Sinclair. She was born in Bull Savannah. Her father did not marry her ~~mother~~ mother. Her father is dead. James and Shalabelle were married in 1935. They had 9 children, one died and 8 are alive.

up/

She trades from here to Kingston. She buys eggs, fowls, and fruits, then once a week she takes the ~~things~~ things up to Kingston. She goes on Mr D. Powell's truck. She does her trading sometimes and works at the factory sometimes. When she goes to Kingston she sells at the Coronation Market. In coming home she buys ~~gri~~ glasswares, and pieces of remnant, which she sells to the people ~~around~~ of the district.

Sometimes she makes suits for little boys, which she sells too. She has been ~~x~~ trading for 6 years. She is a dress-maker also. She sews dresses for 1/6, 2/- and upwards.

factory/

She is the oldest wrapper at the factory at present. She has worked in every department of the / the cannery, the juicing house, the packing house. She has helped in the building of the factory, carrying stones and mixing mortar.

Learning to read.

James learned to read 2 years ago, when the Literary Campaign was going around. He took a course with Teacher Millard. He took three months with the Course, "so me help me self now with little reading".

Tomato Industry.

Major Moxsy came ~~xxxx~~ to Bull Savannah and bought a piece of land. James does not remember what year it was that Major Moxsy came. Major planted tomatoes and made James an Overseer for the plantation. A small factory was made. He worked with Major Moxsy for 7½ years, as Instructor, then Supervisor, and a grower. The industry was getting quite big, so Major Moxsy sold the business out to the Government, and Major left

Carter/

John/ succeeded Major Moxsy. James worked with



Braham

Mr Carter for 2 years doing his Overseer's job. Mr Carter left and Kathleen Grey took ~~my~~ charge . He worked for one year with her , then she ~~went~~ went away and Charley Bryan succeeded . He worked three months with Bryan , and Mr Hastings came . James worked one month with Mr Hastings , and left to do his own tomato growing.

Customs .

The people of Bull Savannah are independent . "You dont see them when Monday come take up them spade and them fork and go to any property to work for any man. Every man work for them self. In the other Parish you see people do that , but not in Bull Savannah".

" Before the tomato , we use to plant tobacco for a living . That is all the people here use to do , and fishing at Alligator Pond."

War  
Emergency  
Patrol

"We in Bull Savannah we dont eat bull meat , nor bore pig , neither heifer . We eat steer , barrowxxx pig and weather goat . "(that is they eat all the animals that are castrated . "It is the old time custom, and it pass down from generation to generation.

It is the custom too that as soon as a boy reaches his 16th or 17 th birthday his father will say to him "boy a giving you this piece of land to make you house on . For a while the father start to lean up wood any where on the land . When the boy is 19 to 20 the father gather the full amount and then the boy and the father get down and build the house, and say me boy that is you house."

The boy will next be looking for a partner , "that time he still eat out of his parents pot, till he find a partner for himself, then he marry and go to his own house."

James has a lot of trades . He is a tinsmith, blacksmith, a half mechanic, and he works on iron too.

Friday .  
2. 4. 48.  
D. B.

- 10 -  
#2 ~~WV~~

Family Record 169

Interviewed Lilian Simpson & Granville Powell.

Informant : James Rochester.

paid/

I ~~was~~/another visit to James today . He told me Lilian Wellington is dead , she died 20 years ago. Lilian was SarahDyer's aunt , her mother's sister .

Granville is Sarah's cousin's child . His mother is Bell Holness. " Me no know who a him father , a me father him , for me help care him from him a ~~ixx~~ little pickney. After him come big one man come own him- a that time him Daddy come! William Powell is supposed to be Granville's father . He is dead now.

Granville is in America for two years . He went on the Contract once , he came back and he has gone again.

"You want to hear more news ? I can tell you a whole lot . You ever hear 'bout obeah ? The entire world hold a belief that there is some thing name obeah . The Bible say there is iniquity , but you must not believe in it. Them have some Bishop and Parson who believe it . When them done them preach and say them is the servant of God.

"The word iniquity ~~mean~~ mean satan organisation , and all those preacher hol' God in one hand and the devil in the other for them believe in iniquity , an yet them tell you no fe believe."

"Nothing no dey name obeah . You know what is obeah? Obeah is brains over brains . If me this go out and begin work little magic every body believe me can work obeah, and them begin come to me fe work fe them . That time me caan do a thing , only work little brains , or/ science a that people call obeah ."

" A only one prayer we must get up and pray everyday , and the only sin that we wont get forgiveness with is Blaspheme against the Holy Ghost. Every other sin God will forgive if you go to him."

"When you done this work , no man caan fool you, for you must get wise, for you know everything 'bout we now. As a man come to you, you mus t caan look through him and tell whether 'im good or bad".

"Me a one trick man , one a the trickiest man in the district- me run after them gal. Me wife Shalabelle is the prettiest woman in all the world. But that no hinder me from doing back a wall business."

Obeah

science/

extra  
marked

Asked why he stopped working at the factory , he told me " them ya man a the factory now a pinchy coby man (that is they want the work to be done and do not want to pay the money for it)"

Sunday,  
4th. March 1948.

Ed. F.

Interview with James Rochester

James is about 40. He met Shallabel in 1928. They tried out ~~own~~ sharing house and housekeeping together, married in about 1937. He is sure he met Shalabell ~~n~~ in 1928 because the following year 1929 was the year of one of the most severe droughts Bull Savannah has ever experienced.

James lives with his wife Shalabell, in a room he built on Miss Sarah Dyer's 2 acre piece of land. He built and lived in the room with Shalabell before he ~~was~~ married. ~~to~~-her. Miss Sarah ~~now~~ has a 2 apt. house on the same piece of land. ~~Some~~ Some of his and Shalabell's children ~~live~~ share these rooms with her. ~~live~~

Miss Sarah ~~s~~ cooks for herself and for his family. She does that always. They "are one family." He emphasized -"According to law mi is her son-in-law; wi live as one; she is mi mother jus' the same."

Sarah's household consists of:

1. Sarah
2. Melford Rochester, 16; James' first child.
3. Sylvan Rochester, 11;
4. Jimmy Rochester 20 months.
5. Leonora Dyer, 16, niece to Miss Sarah.

Leonora Dyer

Leonora is ~~Miss Sarah's~~ daughter of one of Miss Sarah's brother. Her father and mother are dead. Miss Sarah took Leonora after her mother died about 2 yers ago -Leonora's mother died. Leonora's father died ~~more~~ more recently.

James and his wife Shallabell had described Leonora as their servant: Miss Shalabell had come out of the kitchen to say however, -"Tell the gentleman she is mi niece." Only then did James make mention Leonora is Miss Sarah's niece.

Lilian Simpson

The family had had another servant before Leonora named Lilian Simpson. Lilian was also a niece ~~of~~ Miss Sarah; ~~she is a~~ she is a ~~child~~ child of Miss Sarah's sister. She left the family about 4 years ago, because Shalabell explained -"she get a little woman fling, an' mi tell her the best thing ~~she~~ sh' better do is go; but mi never really mean it. One day she hide wey (away) an' lef'."

She is now living ~~with~~ (sharing house and house-keeping) with a man in Try Hall. She comes to se the family sometimes; "brings sweets for the children."

When she is returning home she is returning home she is usually given ~~xxxxxx~~ "little fry-fish" and so on." -etc.

Granville Powell

Granville Powell is the adopted son ~~xxxx~~ to Miss Sarah. His father William Powell ~~xxxxxx~~ died 2 years ago. His ~~xxxxxx~~ mother Isabel Holness now lives on the East of Miss Sarah's. The land adjoins Miss Sarah's.

Granville's adoption came about as follows:

His mother Isabel was poor when a girl. She had no one to take proper care of her. Miss Sarah adopted her. She was with Miss Sarah many years and then she became ~~xxxxxx~~ "prignant" -pregnant. When the child was born and Isabel strong enough, she told Miss Sarah she wanted to go ~~xxxxxx~~ to work. Miss Sarah agreed. Isabel want to work and Miss Sarah kept Granville. He grew up with her as her son. Here Miss Sarah broke in to say -"an' sa mi son fi ~~xxxx~~ tru'," i.e. and he is really my son.

Granville's aid to family support

Granville is now in America. Has been there 2 years now. He was there for a 6 months period previously. During the 6 months period he sent money for Miss Sarah and the remainder of the family regularly; for his mother also. He used to send money in a sum with instructions that some of it should be used ~~to~~ by the family, the remainder of it saved for him. James used to do the saving.

now

Granville/writes home regularly -about every fortnight. James said with emphasis -"him (ma ning Granville) is the support of the whole family." Miss Sarah is his dependant as per the contract. She gets \$1 per month. He sends from \$5 to \$8 almost every time he writes. He never sends less than \$5, and has never sent more then \$8; that is during the present visit. During the 6 months visit he sometimes sent as many as \$25 at one time, with instructions that a portion of it should be used up by the family, the remainder saved. He is not now asking James to save any money for him, because James told him before he left that he should put his savings in the bank, and not send it home to be saved as he had previously done. James advised Granville thus because he felt ~~xxx~~ it was safer -because he would not like to have Granville's money stolen from him. Should such a thing happen he thinks it might be enough to make Granville mad. Many other farm workers have returned to find the savings

they sent while they are working in America spent out or stolen. This had caused them to get mad.

Granville's letters from America are now almost always directed to Miss Sarah. Now and then however they are sent to James. Granville instructs always, how the money he sends from time to time is to be shared. He always gives Miss Sarah the largest amount. Other participants ~~xxxxx~~ to these monies are James, ~~Mr~~ Miss Shalabell, and Isobel, Granvilles mother.

Farming- Cultivations.

On the 2 acres plot around the houses James planted during the recent crop as follows:

Sweet potatoes	1 1/2	square	chains.
Tomatoes	5	"	"
Bitter cassava	2 1/2	"	"
Cungo peas	2 1/2	"	"
Yams	2 1/2	"	"

He planted red peas between the yams and ~~xxxxx~~ cassava. He reaped about 24 quarts of peas from this planting.

Cultivations at Mushet lands:

Miss Sarah also has lands at Mushet. The land is in two parcels the respective sizes of which ~~xx~~ he did not name: ~~xxxxxxx~~ it is 2 1/2 acres in area. The plots are divided by a 6acre plot. He planted on these plots as follows:

<del>Sweet</del> Bitter cassava	2	acres.
Yams	1/2	acre.

He also planted cungo and red peas between the 1/2 acre of yams.

He sold 30/- worth of the cassava at 6/- per cwt: ~~xxxxx~~ -"but generally we don't sell our crops: we keep everything for home use."

His Complaints

James complains that he has been extracting his teeth since 1916! Said he -"but them was so hard to take out of ~~xx~~ the head that a never get ~~xxxxxxx~~ them all out till Sept. 1947. He had pyorrhoea. "The three last teeth give mi particular trouble. Them have to put mi under chloroform to get them out." He still suffers. There are growths of gristles in the teeth cavaties. These growths ~~xxxx~~ cause his gums to be very tender. The gums pain him unbearably some times. He used to have them regularly clipped by the doctor, but has been advised by the one he last saw, not to have them clipped any more, as that only seems to excite their continued growth.

He is a "jack of all trades." In his work with iron, he has strained the ~~museles-of-his~~ nerves of his

eyes. He has been to see doctors Mais and Henriques at Mandeville; he also saw Dr. Mais in Bull Sav. Both doctors tell him they ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "do not know anything about eyes -a mus' see an eye specialist. They give mi a letter to Dr. Evlyn at the Kingston Public Hospital. Dr. Evlyn investigate mi whole body -mi whole system. He find that mi eye nerves was strained. He charge mi five guineas for the investigation, and told mi to wear a glass; thats what the eye need. A get a glass for four guineas. After wearing them a find that they was not helping the eyes: I went back to him. He said that the glass is alright but that a needed another glass that is weaker. A got a second glass ~~xx~~ for 4 guineas."

"A come back home, but it (the eyes) still give mi trouble. I went back (to Dr. Evlyn) again an' him still give mi a cooler one, -a cooler glass, an' order mi to wear the cooler one today, the harder one tomorrow and the other one the next day, until the eye is alright, but bwoy! (boy) to wear a glass pon mi face is like mule ina harness! A don't like it; it have mi too confine'."

-In regards a formal Education

"Book learning is not all. Plenty man have book learning and still don't know to handle themselves." That is especially true of "black man."

"As soon as him a get a little position him feel himself so big." To illustrate he would tell mi a story as follows:

The story:

He was one of a group of men standing ~~xxxxxx~~ about the Bull Sav. Gasoline station, when, a man attached ~~to~~ to a tug boat company -an influential concern, came in a motor vehicle for gasoline. In his officious uniform, the man stepped out of the vehicle, and walked pompously towards the group in which he was standing, ~~xxx~~ The man asked for the man selling the gasoline. Some of the fellows ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ said the man selling the gasoline was gone to lunch others said he was gone to other places. The man waited: kept looking at his watch ~~///~~: fussed about the regulations being that he should be ~~xxxx~~ attended to in 15 minutes time after his arrival. The man demanded the name of the manager of the gas station /of the man who sells the gasoline. He took these names down in his notebook; everybody was frightened. Everybody felt the man who sells the gasoline would lose his job.

/the name

Previous to the man's arrival in the motor vehicle there had been a n agument between the man around the gas station in regards to whether a man could get along withouB a big education. He (James) had maintained that "good common sense" could take a man through life.

The majority of the other men present had said that if a man does not have a good education he cannot "hold a good position."

/quietly,

He saw in the behavior of the company man an opportunity to prove his point; he waited/while all the other fellows ~~xxxx~~ all frightened, stood waiting around not knowing what to do to help the gas ~~xx~~ man.

The "gas man" arrived. He was challenged by the company man. The gas man was frightened and began to mutter some excuse when he (James) cut him short -told him, "don't frighten boy; you can't loose y'u job. He turned to the company man then and asked deliberately and slowly -"Did you call the gas-man? Did you Blow your horn ? " The company man began to point out that he had been asking for the gas-man, but James cut him short with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ pointing out that they were none of them around the pump obliged to tell him anything; they are not employed by the gasoline company. He told the man he was supposed to blow his horn three times, and then if he got no response after 3 minutes ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ would have had no cause for complaint. The man was therefore talking foolishness; the gas-man could not lose his job, because they - 8 of them, could all witness that he ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the company man had made no attempt to call the gas-man. The company man agreed. ~~xxxxix~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ He congratulated James on his wisdom. James thinks he proved that "good common sense" can overcome the disadvantage ~~of~~ in the lack of a good education.

While the interview proceeded Miss Sarah was in the kitchen making bammies. There~~d~~ are two kitchens. I was sitting in the larger with James and Shalabell. Miss Sarah was very busy with various household dutiess. She excused herself early to go away to starch some of the children's ~~clothes~~ clothes. The children would need the clothes to go to school tomorrow.

The starching of the clothes finished she had gone ~~xxx~~ into the kitchen to prepare ~~the~~ dinner. I suspect this was to be ~~of~~"bammie/ and gungo" because I saw her baking the bammies, while Shalabell was busy with shelling some dry cungo peas. The peas was stored in a box kept in the larger kitchen. This kitchen measured roughly about 10 by 15 feet.

James seemed embarassed to see me sitting in the kitchen and further on a soap box. He offered a chair. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Shalabell told him -"Let the gentleman sit down where him want to."



Wednesday .  
7. 4. 48.  
D. B.

~~ADL~~  
-17-

Family Record 162

Interview with James Rochester.

Early Life

I had another talk with James , and he told me he was born at Thatch Walk . He grew with ~~x~~ his aunt Laura Lemmen , his mother's sister. Laura was living at Thatch Walk , she took James when he was three ~~mon~~ months old from his mother. His aunt was better off than his mother - a little more wealthy . His aunt is dead now.

When he was 16 years old he started to work on the boat from here to Kingston . After working on the ~~n~~boat , and in Portland he ~~ex~~ came home . He went to live at his father's house . He did not go back to his aunt's place to live , because he was getting big and wanted to have a little time with the girls . His aunt was very strict , and at nights when he would like to stay out late with his girl or girls "me couldnt go to ~~to~~ her house and push her door at that time of night".

At his father's house there were other boys bigger than himself who used to go out , and so he got the chance to go with them , and to stay out late. He stayed at his father's home for two years, then he left.

"Me use to run up and down and have me woman them ~~me~~ Me have umpteen woman , me caan telllyou 'bout them. As you look 'pon me you see me a smart man and tricky! He left his ~~x~~ father's home because he became friends with a girl - Shallabelle, and he started to give some of his money to this girl. His mother and father did not like it because he did not give all his money to them, his parents . ~~&~~ They started to quarrel and he left his parents' home and went ~~x~~ /live in ~~x~~ a house belonging to Adolphus Francis . paying 2/- per month .

to/

Living alone &  
His trade

Adolphus was away in Cuba at that time , his mother Sarah Francis was left in charge of the house during her son's absence . In paying 2/- per month for the house was more a favour Sarah was granting James because James was very kind to her . Sometimes James would offer her food or money, on a whole he treated her as a son ~~w~~ would treat a mother , and she as a ~~me~~ mother to a son . He lived in Adolphus' house for 5 years.

During that time he was learning to tan leather at Alligator Pond .

His Girl Friends

By this time Shallabelle was expecting a baby & for him. Shallabelle's mother was against him when she fall , but after "she see how me treat her so good the mother take me in ". Shallabelle was again expecting another baby for James . He then moved over to Shallabelle's house to live . Still he went on doing his trade at Alligator Pond . After completing his trade he started to trade on fish .

Shallabelle had three & children for him before they were married . The house they were living in was blown down in 1933 in the storm . He made another house and & in 1935 they were married .

"Me have more girl friends but me caan tellyou 'bout them,them too much . Me have them all 'bout Rxxx Tryall , Ploughdon, Ballards Valley, Bull Savannah , me have mor e than tongue can tell . Me caan tell you them name for some a them a thief business . Some a & the woman have & them husband , and if them know it & wi' bring trouble 'pon me . When people hear all that 'bout me and meet me up a road them & wi' say what a bad man me."

"Lord Jesus me na tell you all them dey things . Me do too much bad things in the world .What a some& thing me boy put meself into . A gwine tell you 'bout one but you mustnt tell any body or & else a trouble . A have two pickney that dont belong to me wife". One by one & Nem-hard of Comma Pen , but the girl is now living at Lincoln in Manchester . The mother has named the child after James , seeing that the child & is so much like the father . The child is about 13 years old.

the child/

James supports/&, giving the child money or & food when he come s where the & father id . The child mother loves the child very much , because she loved James the father . James has another child in Bull Savannah but he will not tell the name of the mother or the child . He is afraid of getting in trouble . The other child is about 17 . He had & that one & before he & was married . He does not want his wife to know about these children . People might have seen the child and know the child is his , but he does not want to talk about it so that any one might hear it from himself . Now and then he gives & that boy any little thing he has . He hears that the woman's husband loves that & & child more than any of the other children he has. The woman's husband say the



went two weeks to one Charles who was living at Alligator Pond, and was a black-smith. He learned the black-smith trade in two weeks.

or two/

For instance he could take a ~~fm~~ few hours to learn a trade. He has stood for about that time - an hour/, and learned most ~~mg~~ of his trades. "As for the mechanic me caan tell you how me learn it" If any thing happens ~~xx~~ to a car and he is in place when they are working on it he would look on, and what he sees once he keeps it in his head.

His Magics & Obeah.

He can do a lot of magics, but he does not like to practise them, because his wife does ~~n~~ not like them. She is afraid that people will take her husband for an obeahman. He is not afraid of doing them, because ~~km~~ they are not obeah - he ~~km~~ knows what is obeah.

catch/

If a person has a plantation and people are stealing the things from the plantation, they can be stopped by just putting up a sign with these ~~xxxx~~ words "Beware of crows". Anyone seeing that will think it is obeah the owner is working to ~~k~~ prevent people from stealing his things. "Not obeah at all" all that is done ~~is~~ to get a bamboo joint, and/a mangoose. Bore a hole right through the bamboo ~~jam~~ joint, ~~kiki~~ from top to bottom. Then along the side cut a tiny hole. Kill the mangoose, then put it in the bamboo joint and bury the joint, ~~km~~ leaving the small hole that was cut at the side out, so that the odour can come out.

When the odour comes up the crows will ~~km~~ come down to find ~~whatevhr~~ is dead, but cannot because it is buried. When people see the crows they say "you set john crow to keep them out of you place".

"They call that obeah but that no obeah". "If I have a friend, and knows that ~~xxxx~~ friend has a little money I covet that friend and want to get some of his or her money". The person may be sick with a lame leg, and knowing that the person has some belief in obeah he set about working out some plan to get some of his friend money.

He may know a man in Kingston who ~~km~~ knows ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ nothing about ~~p~~ obeah. He goes to that man, and arrange with him how to get some of this friend's money. He tells everything about his friend here to the man in Kingston -- a good description of the house and the exact spot to find ~~xit~~. He comes back to his friends and tells his friends about a man in Kingston who can help him ~~to~~ get his foot better. Nothing is really wrong with the friends foot, but perhaps a little cold is taken or perhaps the wrong treatment is being applied.

The friend anxious to get his foot better ask him to do the business in Kingston for him . He offers quickly to do it , telling his friend that the price for the job will be £10. 0. 0. . At this time he had planned with the man in Kingston to divide the money , so £5. 0. 0. would go to the man for the job , and five to him self.

He goes to Kingston and the business is fixed . Before he goes to Kingston he buries a little bottle under one of the mangos trees in the yard . He tells everything to the man when he goes to Kingston . He returns , and then one night, according to the direction that the man gets he leaves Kingston and comes to Bull Savannah quite late in the night .

When he reaches the place he goes in and tells the people of the house who he is and what he has come about He can tell the names of the people in the yard , and everything about them . They are surprised to hear all what he can tell them about themselves , seeing he has never been this end before .

This man now set about doing his job he tells the person with the foot that a bottle is buried in the yard under a mango tree . If she did not send for him and the bottle taken out before 9 days time , he would be dead . He has with him a little viol with some kind of mixture in it , but nothing of importance . He goes to one or two trees pretending to be searching for the bottle that is buried . At last he goes to the right tree , and starts to dig - he finds the bottle .

After taking it out of the earth he quickly takes his viol out of his pocket and pour something out of his viol on to the bottle to keep down what is in the buried bottle - as if what is in his viol is more powerful "and say to the bottle run now run make me see where you can run to." There is nothing in the bottle to run . He shows it to the man and says this is the root of all the evil "if it didnot come out, you would be a dead man , but nothing caan do you now.

He has some drinking Potash that he has taken with him to treat the case of the man . He mixes it and gives him three bottles , telling him to take one table spoonful every morning . The job is finished, in about three months time the man gets better - he goes about and tells people that if it was not for a man from Kingston he would die , "because people bury bottle in a 'im yard , and is 'im come all the way from Kingston come dig i' out and help him fe get better." That is what people call obeah , "but that is just brains .

### Water into Wine

make /

"You ever see anybody lay egg? Me can ~~xx~~/them lay egg, and me can turn water into wine, and push a wire through me tongue". To turn the water ~~xxxx~~ into wine he gets a glass with water, takes his handkerchief and spread over the glass. He calls on the seven stars of - "but me no re tell you all them dey things". He speaks to the seven stars, and when he takes off the handkerchief the water is turned into wine. That is the way he performs all his magics. He would not tell who taught him the magics. It was while he was in Portland he got to know about them.

### ~~xxxx~~

### Cud-chewing animals.

If a cud-chewing animal has lost its cud he can help the animal to get ~~xx~~ its cud back. "People come from all about to do it". Get a kerosene tin, half it with water and put it on the fire. Allow it to boil - next put in the boiling water some drinking turpentine. It must be taken off immediately the turpentine ~~x~~ goes in. After taking it off put the pan in a crocus bag, then put the animal's head down in the bag over the pan to inhale the steam. The animal must be held very tight at the neck so that the air cannot pass through, for a little time. That will give it back its cud.

If that does not help, get some urine and fine salt and gives it to the animal ~~xx~~ that will cause the animal to throw up. After ~~xx~~ that he makes a ball with ~~xx~~ black-pepper, salt and ~~xx~~ grass and gives that to the animal that will ~~x~~ make the animal quite alright.

### Tomato Industry.

"A me carry tomato industry come here". When he was trading with fish he went to Mandeville and he saw the little packets with the tomato seeds marked Marglove - at the Bargain House. He bought four packs for 1/- . Teacher Blythe instructed him how to ~~xxxx~~ sew the seeds, and next how to plant them. He planted them and they grew remarkably. Teacher said this place can grow ~~xxxx~~ tomato there must be some one who can export tomato.

At that time they had in the Agricultural <sup>D</sup>ranch here two instructors - Blackie and <sup>D</sup>axter, they told Teacher Blythe that there is a man who ~~xxxx~~ exports tomato by the name of D. B. Phillips. Teacher wrote to Mr Phillips inviting him to a meeting. When Phillips came he told them he was not the man who exports tomato Major <sup>M</sup>oxsy is the man who exports tomato from Jamaica.

Major Moxsy was invited to another meeting. In

coming he brought with him a little seed . He gave the seeds to 28 people and that was the start of the industry here . Later on it became the Jamaica Vegetable Ltd.

James is the third Vice-President in the Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society here . The meetings are held in the School -room, once every two months.

He is not a member of any of the Political Parties, but of all the parties he prefers the Peoples' National Party. ~~When an Election Campaign is in progress~~

When an Election Campaign is in progress he goes all about and helps to keep meetings . He has no followers that he knows of ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ He does not belong to any church, and will not join any " you mustnt join any thing with God , you must believe God , man caan join God". Of all the churches int ~~at~~ the District he prefers the Jehovah Witness. They are true - they tell you about God .

Christian means a ~~folkn~~ follower of Christ - the person who lives a Christ -like a life- travelling in ~~the~~ the foot -steps of Christ- doing everything that is right

Visit. Interviewed Sarah Dyer and Shallebelle Rochester.  
28.6.48.  
J.O.

Paid to-day a visit to James Rochester's home. James was not in - he went to plant cassava in company of Wilfred Ellington, his "adopted son." Miss Sarah ~~xxxx~~ and Miss Shallebelle were ~~xxx~~ shelling red peas, helped ~~xx~~ by Lenora Dyer and Magsy. Other children: Barbara, Verol, Dorothy and Jimmy were playing around in company of two neighbours' children.

Present household.

- Dyer Sarah, mother of Shallebelle, over 60.
- Rochester James, son-in-law. 41
- Rochester Shallebelle, his wife. 38
- Rochester Milford, son - first born, 16.
- Rochester Magsy, daughter, 14.
- Rochester Sylvan, son, 11.
- Rochester Hilreth, daughter, 9.
- Rochester Verol, son, 7.
- Rochester Barbara, daughter, 5.
- Rochester Dorothy, daughter, 3.
- Rochester Jimmy, son, ab. 2.
- Dyer Lenora, niece of Miss Sarah. *f. 15*

*12 - adopted = servant*

One member of the family is absent: Granville, adopted son of Sarah Dyer - he is still in America. There is still another ~~man~~ young man who may be counted to the family. He is Wilfred Ellington, son of Esmilda Roach in Thatch Walk. He spends all the day with Rochesters, but sleeps now at his grandfather's, Louis Roach.

Houseing.

All the family - 12 persons - live in two houses: one is old house of Sarah Dyer, another built by James Rochester. There is one little house almost completed near Miss Jude's shop; this is for Granville when he will come back from America. Another house is built ~~at~~ now also by James - this will be attached to his old house so that their new house will have 3 rooms together. One kitchen, one tank.

Children.

Miss Shallebelle was eager to talk about her children. Milford, the first born, is already a big man. He is out of school, helping his father with the cultivations. James Rochester has another young man to help him: young ~~Willi~~ Wilfred Ellington, whom they adopted years ago. Wilfred was born in 1930 or 1931. His mother was Esmilda Roach. The woman was ~~not~~ not "collective" and as the boy was some relation to James Rochester they decided to take the boy ~~and~~ to their home. The boy was 8 or 9 years old when they "took him first time". He did not stay long

*auto/plan*



*Wilfred*

and ran back to his grandfather Louis Roach in Thatch Walk. Only when he was about 12 or 13 he asked once Mr. James Rochester to take him back. ~~xxxxxx~~ He remembered that he had much better living in this house. Mr. Rochester took him and from that time he lived with them. Miss Shallabelle praised the boy: "and he was very useful, very useful. He is good little boy - and when I say good he is good." Now Wilfred spends only days at Rochesters' working with Mr. James and helping him with his cultivations. He sleeps in his grandfather's home.

Now only four children are in the school - ~~xxxxxx~~ and there is a lot of trouble with preparing their clothes when they go to school. To-day only Sylvan and Hilreth went to school - Verol ~~xxxxxx~~ who had no clean clothes stayed home. Miss Shallabelle prefers when children spend the day in the school - much less trouble with them when they are away. And there is little help when they stay ~~xxxxxx~~ at home. They are troublesome - make noise. Though she complains of the noise they make she is glad they are noisy ~~xxxxxx~~ - "noisy children have brains".

Magsy, who is 13, left school at 6th standard and takes private lessons from the teacher.

Verol is helping a little when he stays ~~at~~ in the home. ~~xxxxxx~~ They have some land in the Woodland where Mr. James has his cassava and other cultivations. When he works all the day in the woodland he never takes food with him to cook his brakfats on the spot. "Mr. Rochester does not like cooking." His brakfast is carried to him by Verol who knows all the ways and paths leading to their land down in the woodland. Barbara, though she is only 5, knows also the way tto the woodland as she accompanies Verol ~~frs~~ when he carries ~~hxx~~ meal to the father.

Occupations.

Three women are in charge of cooking and ~~xxxxxx~~ running of the household: Miss Sarah, Miss Shallabelle and Lenora Dyer, Sarah's niece. When Miss Shallabelle is in the house she does cooking herself, but when she is away cooking is done either by Lenora or by Miss Sarah. To-day Lenora was cooking and ~~xxxxxx~~ Miss Shallabelle learned from me that it is almost 11, she sent Lenora to the kitchen ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ to look after the breakfast. She expected Mr. James to come soon. Cooking takes a lot of ~~xxxxxx~~ time as the family is so big. To-day they will have for their breakfast salt fish and sweet potatoes.

Miss Shallabelle is a higgler. She goes to Kingston every fortnight, sometimes even every ~~xxxxxx~~ week. ~~frs~~ Her specialty is eggs and fowls. She buys them here ~~fr~~ and carries to Kingston where she has two regular ~~xxxxxx~~ customers buying from her. One is a man in Coronation market - he has his own stall, another a woman who lives near the market. When she goes to Kingston she takes also other goods: peas, water-melons, escallion, mangoes - anything.

In the season she is allowed to go on the Company trucks ~~and without paying anything~~ and without ~~paying anything~~ paying anything. When she goes on a private truck - for instance Leon Powell's - it costs her sometimes as much as L1. She sells her goods for "balck market" prices - ~~xxx~~ red peas for 1/6d /the Gnt price is 1/3 per quart/. Inspite of the cost of transportation her trade brings her profit and she is satisfied with it.

Neighbours.

Miss Shallabelle was complaining that they are poor. They feel is especially now, since ~~there~~ there is shortage of everything and everything is so deary~~xxxxxxx~~: ~~xxxxxxx~~ The only thing they can afford now to buy are sweet potatoes. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ She agreed ~~xxxxxxx~~ however that people in Kingston are much poorer than people in Bull Savannah and are really affected by the shortage of food and high prices. It is not so bad in Bull Savannah: "We can run to every neighbour yard and pick a lime; we can run to every neighbour yard and pick a pepper; we can ask a neighbour cassava and he'll give."