

C.D. 22. Sbd. 14. Household 15. p. 3. 8.

Rhoden Hidalgo Head M.S. 25 St. Eliz. Black Angl. W.I. Farmer.

His farm in 1942.

Under one acre.
Garden crop value £ 1.
1 coconut = ?
1 mango = 20 doz.

Friday,
April 2nd, 1948
E, F

Hidalgo is 30. He is the son of Marcus Rhoden and Rosetta Reynolds, both dead. Rosetta was the sister to Henreitta and Esther Reynolds. Before Rosetta died he used to share the room he now occupies with her. She died 5 years ago. He has continued to live in the room during that space of time.

Rosetta was buried by himself and his sister Relda Rhoden, on the land. Relda was at the time of their mother's death, living in Kingston where she had gone many years before. Relda came down to Bull Savannah to the funeral.

Do you pay taxes? -"You want me to give you the full of it?" Yes; -"Well mi moter used to pay the taxes before she die; when she die one of mi ~~aunts~~ take it over," i.e. one of his ~~aunts~~ took over paying of the taxes.

Rosetta had got the land from her father. Before he had died he had given her by "word of mouth," about half acre of land and had told her "to go and mek (make) life with her partner." Her partner was Marcus his father.

Hidalgo pays from 1/9 to 2/- taxes every April. He does this through his ~~xxx~~ aunt Esther in whose name the land is registered.

Career

School: He attended the Bull Savannah Elementary school from he was 7 till he was about 13 and in the 4th book. Said he ~~is~~ -"Mi lef' before mi time up because of dry weather, and a have to carry water fi mi mother." The water was got from the spring.

After school: After school he ~~xxx~~ "was fishen-ing" (fishing) and ~~xxx~~ he added -"a till the earth

He fished with his father. His father captained a boat for another man -Mr Charlie Brooks of Top Bull Savannah. Mr. Charlie is now dead. His father operated the boat on shore.

He worked in this boat with his father for about 2 years; left off because the boat got "mashed up." (broken up) The boat was old; it could not work again; "it spring a leak."

After the Brooks boat got useless, he began to work with David Roye of Top Bull Savannah. He did that for 8 months. He left off because David ~~was~~ "fell ill, and died not long after."

When he worked with Marcus on the Charlie Brooks boat, he used to fish in 5 fish-pots ~~provided~~ provided by Charlie Brooks. "The hands" ~~the~~ crew members were not allowed by the captain to operate more than 5 pots. The capt. operated himself, about 12 pots.

/used to

Hidalgo sold his catches ~~at~~ at the Alligator Pond, to fish vendors chiefly. He ~~used~~ sell some of his catches to casual buyers, but would always reserve some for the ~~regular~~ vendors because they were "regular customers."

He always sold ~~his~~ his catches for cash. -"We don't credit fish here like other parts of the world." Why? -"Well, you can credit it you know, but when the customer come, them bring them money, and w atsoever profit them make wi noh business with it." (-we noh business= we are not concerned about-) He gave the cash he received for his purchases to Marcus. ~~With his~~ With his own and that of the other "hands" -Nickie Powell and Charles Bloomfield, Marcus used to take the money obtained from catches to Charlie Brooks. Charlie by agreement initially made, and permanently understood, used to ~~get~~ get a half of the money he made from his catches. The other "hands" ~~received~~ received the same. Nickie and Charles, were also give a half of the money they made from their catches. Marcus the capt. of the boat also got a half share, but he used to get more money than the "hands" because always had more than twice the number of fish-pots they had. Rarely did Marcus set less than 12 pots. When he did not set 12, he would have at least 11.

Charlie had used to Capt. his own boat, -"but him get hard, ripe," ~~xxx~~ i.e. to say he got old, and could no longer stand up to the rigours of the "sea life." This fact had made Charlie "buy some

new boats, and give them out" to different captains all of whom worked on share for him; the crew of the boats also. All worked on the half share basis.

Earnings at fishing

While with Marcus on the Charlie Brooks boat Hidalgo earned from five to twenty shillings (5/- to 20/-) per week. His earnings depended largely on the ~~xx~~ weather and on luck. "Sometimes for weeks he could not go to sea," because of high breeze and high seas. During such periods he stayed home: lived on his savings. He did not say how much such savings were.

With David Roye

With David Roye, Hidalgo also worked on "half share." He sold his ~~fixk~~ catches - every hand sold his catches for cash, every day. They got ~~the~~ daily, /their /share of the money received from the ~~xxx~~ sale of the catches.

Working in Field

After David Roye died Hidalgo "did not bother to go back to Fishening." ~~xxxxxxx~~ (Note: Every fisherman spoken to, to date, has used the word "fishening" instead of fishing - to "fishen" instead of to fish.) He worked instead "in field with the other bigger man them. Some of such bigger man were Charles Bloomfield of Ballards Valley, William Lee of Top. B. Sav., Son-Son Francis of Bottom Bull Savannah, (Son-Son is brother of Edmund and T. Francis He has house and land neighbouring Charles Roye.) Other men worked with were Septimus Holness of B. Bull Savannah, Cecil Sinclair also of Bot. B. Sav. and many ~~others~~ others, among those James Rochester of Over Road. In the meantime he was also ~~xxxxx~~ "trying for miself" - making efforts at helping himself at planting sweet potatoes, cassava, and yams. He did that on the haldacre left him by his mother.

Taxes for land

April

"Every /~~year~~ mi auntie ask mi to hands up taxes." (Hands up - deliver up.) He asks her to cut off his piece of land and ~~xx~~ give it to ~~xxx~~ him so he can pay his taxes separate, but ~~xxxxx~~ she only tells him she is not ready as yet.

Present Occupation

Hidalgo is now engaged in the tomato shed. He earns there 3/- per day. He carries tomatoes from

the tomato store shed (see sketch ~~xxxxxxx~~ File 30, factory 6.) to the ripening racks -"bims"

His girl friend and Children

Who cooks and washes for you? --"Mi ha' gal frien' y'u know, an' picknie to'." This girl friend "cook and sh' wash fi mi." Vernice Elliott ~~of~~ (see F.R. 52) is the girl friend. She has 2 children for Hidalgo.

Before I interviewed Hidalgo I had been speaking to his aunt Esther Reynolds. Hidalgo had come ~~xxxxxx~~ to lie in the grass about 15 feet away. He was curious it seems to hear what was being said.

When she saw him coming Esther had remarked quietly and resentfully -"A whey ~~this~~ disa fas' one a go now? Him so like to push up himself!" ~~(xxxxxx)~~ i.e. to say where is this fresh one going now, he so likes to push himself up -is so presumptuous. With what seemed a gleam of malice in her eye, she had kept on eying him in covert fashion. I got the impression she is resentful about his claims to the land he used to plant. ~~andxxxxthe~~ ~~smallxxxxhousexxxxxxxix~~ He, on the other hand, did not show anything like resentment towards her. He referred to her always as "mi aunt." ~~xx~~ His tone did not suggest there is any feeling of bitterness towards her on his part.

Information from Lilian Powell.
 Interv. Hidalgo Rhoden.
 18.6.48.
 J.O. 25.8.48.

Present household:

Rhoden Hidalgo, ~~32~~³⁴ 34.

Rhoden Hidalgo: father Marcus Rhoden, mother Rosa Reynolds, both dead. Has 3 half siblings: Noel Rhoden in Thatch Walk, Linnette Rhoden in Thatch Walk, Relda Rhoden in Kingston.

Hidalgo has two children: Delsie ~~and~~ /boy/ and Aldith /girl/. ~~Their mother~~ Their mother is Vernice Elliott /see F.R.52/. Both children stay with the mother.

House, land, farming.

House: 1 room, poor condition. Furn. 1 bed.

Land: owned by Hidalgo: 1/2 acre plot /homeland/, inherited from parents.

Tress: 1 mango, 1 sweet sap, 1 pear.

Cult.: tomato: none. Yams - none. Congo "a few holes."

Spends weekly: 12/-, including cigarettes and matches.

L12 spent on clothing last year. "Savings none, condition poor."

No religion.