

SD222
D.D. 27.H.45.First Visit :
Tuesday 15.4.47.
E.C. with J.O.

Smith. Zachariah,	Head.	M.M.44.	Farmer.	Mixed Farm.
" Maria.	Wife.	F.M.42.	Homemaker.	
" Kenneth	Son.	M.S.12.		
" Cecil	Son.	M.S. 8		
" Hugh	Son.	M.S. 6.		
" Veronica	Dau.	F.S. 3.		
" Isaac.	Fath.	M.W.25.		
Cunningham. Egbert	Brother-in-law.	M.S.40.	Labourer.	
" Beatrice	Niece-in-law.	F.S.10.		
" Hurschell	Neph. "	" "	M.S.10 7	
" Una	Niece-in-law.	F.S.12.		

We met Zacchy Smith in Mrs Edna Facey's yard to which he came obviously to meet us as he said to me This is my house up here. We found his wife in the yard where some children were playing. There was ginger drying on a stand in the yard. The house is a very nice three-apartment house. Wellfurnished. Sewing machine in one room. We were asked to go in. Mrs Smith said her husband was a Tailor. She said the Ginger was very poor this year.

I did not then know that there was another family living in the home. Conclude now that the cultivations are done by Cunningham or with his aid.

House and land owned. Probably bought from Mrs B.

Smith impressed on us how poor they were and how hard times were. On this day the Collector of Taxes was in Warsop. Smith said he was "short" and could not pay. There is "grace" u til the 10th May -- after this there is a fine for non-payment.

Smith was a timid, somewhat depressed person, Marie, the wife, buxom, well-fed and much better nourished than her husband. She joined-up in the last war: served 3 years.

We were accompanied on our rounds by Mr Lucius Bailey who was somewhat "under the influence".

J.O.
Mr Smith learned tailoring before the last World War in Kingston. He Paid £5 for his training. There was a lot of china, glass and crockery on the table in the living room.

T.O.
I met Mr. Zachariah Smith at the cricket-match this afternoon. His mother died 20 years ago, his father 30. He was during I World War in England, France, Belgium Italy. He did not like the climate, he suffered from cold. He stayed in Rome and Marseille.

of trade There was a tailor here and he used to go to him every Friday and Saturday. It took him quite a long time to learn. He charges 6/ for pants, £ 1 for suit - coat and trousers. A shirt is an "easier job" He charges 1/ to 1/6 for a shirt. People do not buy ready made clothes, because you can't get them here, only in Kingston. The shopkeeper does not have suits here, because he could not afford it. ~~There is~~ There is not enough people to buy them. A suit lasts 5 or 6 years. The ready made clothes are too expensive. In America they are cheaper. When people go to America they buy ready-made clothes. He bought his sewing machine 30 years ago. When he

T O.

19.4.47

makes to order he supplies his own thread etc. There are no dressmakers here, because women sew for themselves.

He is a cousin of Mrs. Smith who has two daughters in Kingston. /Brother of her deceased husband?/

EC

... up in the afternoon and saw Zachariah Smith in his yard I went in and he took me over his cultivation round the house and talked intelligently about farming for a long time. Then he got on to the subject of his grievances as an ex-soldier of the 1914-18 War. They had been promised land. He had been given five acres in the cockpit country. It was quite good land for bananas but there was no road and it was impossible to get out the produce. It was also very far -- about 26 miles, -- from where he lives by a very round-about way. He had gone there and planted bananas. They grew but when he went back wild hogs had eaten the stems and felled them. They were all destroyed. There were about twelve or more ex-soldiers from the district. He had also money owing him for his allotment which he had not yet got. He got 1/- a day while on service but he only drew 6d and was supposed to get the rest when he came back. He still had some owing to him. The trouble was with Colonel Pinnock but he was dead and nobody else knew nothing about it. But recently he got a letter from Mr Platt in Mandeville. They was to put in their claims. He wrote but it is a month ago and he had no answer yet. He supposed he would hear.

Bananas.

He showed his Bananas with great pride. He had no disease near the house. The land was fat. He kept the pig there. It was a good boar. He had bought it for \$40 from a woman who could not keep it. He put it out to serve at 10/- or a pig. He mostly got the pig. He reared them and sold them. But he had not got a service for three months. The people round had common stock and were satisfied with them. He fed the pig on cane tops or any bananas that were not saleable. He did not move its pen round. He kept it there. It has eaten down the coffee trees near where it was tethered. But it was the only cool spot for it on his cultivation. He fed it three times a day. They cooked peeling skins for it. Sometimes when he was going round his other cultivations he would take it on the rope with him.

Stud Boar.

Bananas.

He did not know how many Banana trees he had. But he showed me four good bunches on the tree. They were all nine hands. He did not need to spray. There was a spray man lived in the house opposite. He would lend the spray free but you had to provide the water and the blue lead and the lime (ashes). But he had no disease. He got a bunch a year from all his trees. He allowed one or some times two suckers of different sizes to come up. He killed the other suckers or the trees would come too thick. His trees were good.

Cane. Cane was a good crop. He pointed to two of his children who were at the cane field with machettes. One boy was in the act of cutting out a cane. He said That is what they do as they come back from school (it was about 5.p.m.) They come back from school and if there is nothing else in the house to eat they go down to the field and cut out a cane and eat it. They have the sweet which is good. And they are no botheration to anyone. Cane is very good

Cane.

to have if you have children..(I gathered that he was less concerned with cane as a cash crop than as food for home use.)

Cash & Staple
crops.

Later Smith described discriminated between the crops as follows to Obrebski: Yams and potatoes is cash crops; cane and bananas is staple crops.

Tailor. Smith is also a Tailor. He said it was a good thing to have something else to fall back on. He works in his field and in his shop.

His wife doesnot appear to work in the field. She is always busy about the house whenever I pass. They have a nice home and there is always someone chatting to them in the backyard. She is a fat cheerful rather silent woman. She offered me Veronica ,who is about 8 if I would "take her".

Interview with
Zaki Smith.
7.5.47.
J.O.++ T.O.

Zaki Smith stopped us to complain about his troubles with getting some money from Ethe Gnt which was due to him in connection with his service in the army in the World War I and ~~raising his parents~~ and advancing ~~to~~ some money support to his ~~own~~ parents on the promise of help by the Gnt. He complained that the land he got for his army service /5 acres/ is ~~near~~ in the deep interior of the Cockpit Country. It is 8 miles from here ~~through~~ of a roadless or even pathless way through the forest and 28 miles by the road. From the road to his plot it is again 8 miles of ups and downs through a roadless country.

Cockpit
land settle-
ments.

He has no profit ~~from~~ from this land. The way to his cultivations takes him two days. He can stay there only two days - as ~~long~~ as his provisions he takes with ~~him~~ are eaten he must hurry back. Wild boars invade the fields and nothing can be saved from the destruction. Bananas are overthrown, yams and corn eaten. It is an excellent place for shooting birds and many big men come to these places ~~for~~ to hunt pigeons. The distance from the road and the roadless way prevents him from bringing what was saved from destruction by wild boars to the market. He would like to sell this land, but again the land was allotted to the exservice-men on condition that it can not be sold.

Boundary
conflict.

The ~~affair~~ whole affair was an oldtime business - the last letters were exchanged - without any positive result - in 1938 and it was evident that this subject was only a pretext ~~for~~ for inviting us to his house and talking. The conversation ~~ended with a remark~~ turned soon to the subject of the boundary conflict which Mr. Smith has with Mrs. Brisset.

and the house

Mr. Smith has ab. 5 acres of land. It is in three pieces at least /besides his 5 acres in Cockpits/. His father has a piece of land on the other side of the road. Mr. Smith moved to this side of the road. He bought a stretch of land under the house and paid for it 40 pounds. It was long ago. /!?!?!?!?/ He bought also a piece of land /it is any how less than 1 acre, and probably even less than 1/2 acre/ ~~for~~ from Miss Dawkins, whose house and garden is on the opposite side of the Church. Mrs. Brisset bought a piece of land, attaching to his plot, from Mr. Murray and sold this land to the Government.

fence around the ~~the~~ Church yard, around Mrs. Dawkins land, and around the ~~his~~ plot, which she bought from Murray and sold to the Government. In this way he is blocked from his plot, on which he cultivates sugar cane. "She blocked the road." According to the law of the country the proprietor who sells a piece of land inside his property must provide also the road for the buyer. He was using the road through Mrs. Dawkins land. /He ~~was~~ was using alternately the name of Dawkins or Beckford/. ~~Now~~ Now Mrs. Brisset "by bribery and pressure" makes this woman to deny this fact. The law is with him. He will simply make his way through the wires with which Mrs. Brisset blocked his property. He had a talk with a lawyer - a good lawyer - and the lawyer reassured ~~him~~ that it is his right to do it. He will call the land-surveyor to show him his way to his land. He will not give up. Mrs. Brisset has her own business and should be satisfied with it. "She should sit quiet and let other people work and do their business."

The reason ~~for the existing this is very~~ of all these manou-
vres is very simply. If his plot will be "blocked" and the
access cut to it, it will loose its value and he will be forced
to sell it for half of its real price.

Sunday
18.5.47.
T.O. J.O.

I experienced Europe and they can't beat me, out of my experience. Few people here are equipped in principle. We further on advanced, we know better. I must know what is due to you. That's the principle. I did not learn much in school but I travelled and know my principle. I have a quick brain. I was in Belgium and England. In Liverpool and Southampton. I was in Marseilles - in France. I come back to Jamaica and I lived in Kingston. Since I have family. I don't want to have cane, but children running around and pick it - you feel good. Since Mr. and Mrs. Brissett have no children - all for themselves. The man bouting - can put a little ginger in it /sugar/ - it is nice - quite expensive - keeps children amusing.. In my garden I have guava, rose-apple, jack-fruit - plenty around. Children like to pick them and enjoy - any children pick it and have good time. I don't look out for me children alone.

When Mrs. Brissett start her campaign, she have a game against me. I was a young man sporting money but I have no place to put me head. I didn't get from father when I started my foundation. When I was 14 years of age father didn't give me to buy pants. I was raising me goats and buy what I want. Started work. Father give me free access to the land. My mother give me a kid and I got 1+7-8 goats and buy my first suit. That was when I was 12. My mother give me a fowl. I raise 10 chickens. They /parents/ have no trouble with me. I caught a mongoose.... I lived that way till I was 15 years of age. I went to war. I have my drummer cord till now. My brass buttons. I use to wear a blue tassel. I have it right now. After I come from war - from Europe I go to Cuba. I was for 10 months. I work and could save a little money - \$150.-- I was working - you know. and I invest myself. I came from Cuba in 1920. I buy that little money my home. I give father and mother supportance. I keep that money in Government Saving Bank. When you travel you got an idea.

I learned my profession when I was 10 years old. I went to a taylor. After a year I could make a pant. I have quick brain. I went to P.D. Brown to learn the trade. He is in Kingston now. I stayed with him 1 year. After I come from Europe I stayed ~~2 years in Kingston~~ 2 years in Kingston. I work for a taylor. I get some graduation from him. He pay me for the piece. Sometime 17/6 a week/ sometime 30/ a week. I came to Warsop. I started to do a little work/ taoloring/ and I started to do a little cultivation. When I can't get a pound from work. I get from cultivation. M

My wife and Mr. Brisset are first cousin. My wife was Mary Cunningham. Her father was a white man like yourself - like Mr. Brissett. Mr. Brissett's mother raised my wife. Teacher Gayle is her god father. I meet her in Kingston. She was working for teacher Gayle's mother in law.. I know my wife while we was child here/ in warsop/ I came back / from Europe/ we was big people. Teacher is her protecotr. Teacher is still calling on her. We were married in Warsop in the Baptist Church. in 1931. I couldn't afford

S unday
18.4.27.

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T.O. - J.O.

Wedding
ceremony.

marry previously - my foundation was weak. Only this ceremony in the Mission. The Baptist minister - he was Miss Eda's father. Miss Eda well acquainted with me. It was not expensive. Fee 6/ for the parson, 2/6 for the licence. An evening at home on Sunday. I invite 18 friends. 6 fowls and 10 lbs of beef. - We have a good dinner. A few bottles of rum - of course. A cake. A nice evening at home. It was a Sunday evening. About 30 people came. - My father and George Murray and Wallace I invited. Brissetts - I didn't invite. They are big shots. Teachers at school came teacher Wright - quite a nice man like teacher Gayle - quite a nice merry man.

When we came to principle we like to live by them. If I am abrupt you won't help me. Wiltshire took me when I was 3 years old. They didn't sent me to school. I started to go to school when father obtained me and sent me to tailor - to learn trade, and I go to school too.

Father - he ~~brought~~ bought the land, 5 acres. From Mr. Brand - he had a shop Mr. Brand where Mrs. Brissett's shop is now. Father born in Warsop. Also my mother. She had a portion of land, but we don't look for it, because people/ who now possess the land/ are too poor to give it. It is a poor land too. Mother's parents from St. Elizabeth. Mother died 9th of May - 20 years ago. This May 20 years - will be 20 years.

My brother died in 1933. He was older than me. He lived in Warsop. He was a cultivator. He start his life by father. He didn't marry. He had 4 children - illegitimate children. ~~Two~~ Two is here now. Still living under my protection. I gave them a little land to make their own house. They are opposing me. But I know better than their. The woman who has children for my brother - her name is Bertrude Edwards. Two boys. I don't give them land - only put them to live until they come of age. They must take instruction from me. When they are of age I'll see.

Plummer - my sister is fighting me, from ignorancy. Sister Diana she dead. She live two children - illegitimate children. They are with me. I give them food and clothes. Diana didn't marry. The father is here - John Williams, but he don't give to support his children. He married a next woman. Father had 6 of us. Burnell Copeland is my sister. There is eruption in the family because they are not intelligent. If they was intelligent life is nice. They spoil the beauty of life. My sister Copeland took me to law. There was local vision 6th of December. She should pay £6.12.6. According to expenses to the lawyer. ~~xxx~~ I have to record the property in my name. The lawyer is Murry and Tucker from Brown's Town. - All my business is recorded. £5.15.- charged me Mr. Tucker for the last case. £8.4.- testamentary expenses. It cost me more. It is a matter of 29 miles to Brown Town. 58 miles up and down. I ride it. I did have a mule. I sold the mule. I am broke now. I must get witnesses to travel with me. I spent £43.-- Have to pay Ivan Steward and Vincent. They are witnesses. £5.6.- for the diagram - to pay the surveyor. The land was to be divided and all the legatees receive a certain amount. It is only stupidity, because of their stupidity all these expenses."

Sunday
18.5.47.
T.O.J.O.

At that moment Mr. Napier arrived and the conversation changed into another subject. "Here in Jamaica we work hard like brutes" said Mr. Napier. Both gentlemen / Mr. Smith and Mr. Napier / agreed it was the fault of the Government, who embezzle the money sent from England for the people of Jamaica. There was a sum for a housing scheme. "The most majority live in no house" - stated Mr. Napier. Trelawny had a representative Mr. J.W. Marshall? / "He refused that money for Housing Scheme. He is a speculator and he profiteered" stated Mr. Smith. The representatives they send to the Government make profit of their position, they are not for the people who send them. There is a deep conviction that the local government are not honest and that that accounts for all the misery of the people.