

Case History 34

P.D. 28. Sd. 19. Household 88.

Allen Emmeline	Head	F.W.	38. 9. 6	Farm labourer	M. /
" Florence	Dau.	F.S.	14		
" Ruby	Dau.	F.S.	8		
" Zarabelle	"	F.S.	7		
White Claris	"	F.S.	3		
" Cecil	Son	M.S.	$\frac{1}{2}$		
Campbell Glen.	Nephew	M.S.	2		

Interview

6.4.47.

Int. Ruby Allen
J.O. & T.O.

We met Ruby Allen at the mainroad just at the par. road to Allsides. She rushed to us and volunteered to show us the water spring from which water is fetched. We followed her. She showed us the houses around, named their owners /vide the map and data on the map/. She gave us some data concerning her family history during the talk at the water spring, It was interesting to learn that she knew by names and surnames all the people living near the water spring and she knew also their nick-names.

Ruby Allen is one of six daughters of her mother. There is also a boy in the family - little one. He is more than 2 years old. Their house is on the left side from the road going from Mrs. Brissett's house and towards Troy and is at a distance of about ten chains from this house.

She is employed now by Mrs. Allen, the Postmistress, as the servant. She is busy among others with carrying water. She comes on an average six times a day to fetch water from Breda Gess Spring. Sometimes it is less sometimes more than 6 times. At 9:30 a.m. when we were at the spring she went already for the second time this day. She learned to carry water on her head from early childhood. Mrs. Lena Allen is no relative to her.

Previously she was at school. She is out of school only for the first year. She attended the school from the 7th year of her life until she was 15. When she was at school there were no "houses" in the school. "Since I leave they started the houses".

Her first job after the school was at Mrs. Brissett. "I came to Mrs. Brissett and worked for her. I worked for her and she sent me to the doctor. I worked for the doctor I liked the doctor very much. I carried the medicines for him and kept people quiet. And I washed things for him." Asked, she agreed that she would like to be a nurse.

"I was working very late." Mrs. Brissett gave her eight shillings a month. "The doctor paid to Mrs. Brissett, but she did not give me the money." She says Mrs. Brissett did not pay her all she should and even now she keeps some money of hers. "I was working for the doctor 3 months and three weeks."

Now she is working for Mrs. Allen. She gets 24/. monthly. Sometimes also a lunch. Sometimes her sister brings her ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ her lunch. She sleeps at home. She does not spend all her earnings and keeps her savings at home.

There is a new doctor in Warsop now. "A little girl who is working for Mrs. Brisset, is helping the doctor."

First visit
18.IV.47.
J.O.+ T.O.

We visited Emily Allen's house casually on our way back from the walk to Hector's River. / For some particulars, see Village Topography file, Walk from the Village Centre to its Boundary/.

Begging.

Emily Allen stopped us and invited us to visit her kitchen. She showed us a pot of soup boiling on the fire, explained the content of it and deplored her poverty. She put only some roots into the pot / yams, sweet potatoes, coco etc/ and has nothing to season this meal. The meal is for her children, they get nothing but this soup. She was little inclined to talk any other subject than her poverty. She tried to get some money and was promised to be sent some other time, since we do not carry money with us. Then she showed her dress / which was dirty and in rags/ and complained that she has nothing but this one frock. ~~xxxxxx~~ She asked to give her or to buy a new one. She admitted that she has also a Sunday dress, which is clean and nice, but this of course is only for festival occasions, and not for daily use.

Burnett White,
her cl. husband.

Mrs. Emily Allen admitted also that she lives with Burnett White, with whom she has children and who belongs to the family. But she gets "no help from him, no help, Mam." What help can she get from him? She was disappointed evidently with our misjudgment of the capacities of Mr. Burnett White.

Visit from
Mrs. Allen's
family.
Begging.

Ruby Allen tried to invade our room several times after our visit to her mother. She was sent away coming in most inappropriate moment for receiving visits.

Then on a morning a girl came who was trying to convince my wife that she promised to send her mother 6d. She gave her name as "White". Since my wife did not remember any Mrs. White to be promised 6d., the girl was sent away. ~~andxxxx~~ Ruby did not try to invade our room again. She asked only occasionally to take her with us.

Second visit
30.5.47.
J.O.

Mr. Burnett White.

I met Burnett White ~~xxxxxx~~ doing some gardening in front of their family grass-house. & He ^{was} boring with his machette small shaloo holes in the ground, about two or three yards from the house, and trying to fix some green branches in the ground. Three branches were already fixed in the ground, ~~xxxxxx~~ a hole for the forth one was being prepared. I asked Burnett White, whther he expects these branches to grow roots. ~~xxxxxx~~ He does not. He fixes these branches in the ground to ~~xxxxxx~~ enable a choche growing nearby to climb them. Then he will have some choche for the children.

Their farm.

Theyhave only 3 square chains of land under the house and under cultivation around the house. He could not explain whether the land is their own or rented. "The big man ~~xxxx~~ has all the land and the small man has nothing and ~~xx~~ has to squat." He admitted that this is not all the land from which they draw their subsistence. The place belongs to his wife's father, it is "her father's place." There are 2 and 1/2 acres which in some way are connected with ~~xxx~~ his wife's residence on this spot. They belong to her father, "she works on her father's land."

Their house.

The house in which they live was built by him. He alone did all the work. Some workers were hired only to carry lumber from Manchester, where it was cut, to this place. They carried "little board and little post". Then some neighbours helped him to fix the posts in the ground and to thatch the roof. The rest of the work ~~xxx~~ was done by him alone. It took him "one month of labour." His expenditure in money on this house was about £.4. The house was built ab.3 years ago. It is a typical grass-house, but much ~~ixxx~~ larger than prdinary grass-houses. Emmy Allen's ~~xxxxx~~ old house was described at 1942 Census as occupying 96 sq.feet. This is at least twice as big, if not more.

His family history.

Burnett White lives here for "several years" already. He was not born here. He is fro Manchester, ~~xxxx~~ where his "father had land far back in the deep part." They had 3 acres of land. This land is now in possession of his mother. There were 11 children in his family. Some of them stay with the mother /father is dead/, "some of them are abroad: one is in Kingston, one in St.Mary, the rest at home with the mother." His mother is 60 now. He is "the third one" child of his mother. He gave his age as 28. His family in Manchester leads a similar life as he leads here: "they doing just what I am doing - a little planting, little cassava, little yams, little peas."

Mrs. Allen.

Mrs. Allen was not present at our talk. Mr. White did not try ~~at~~ at all to beg anything or to describe their poverty ~~in~~ in expectation of some immediate help. He was busy and escaped from the further ~~in~~ conversation by accompanying me to John Carter, whom I wanted to see.

Mrs. Allen appeared soon after I sat down on John Carter's mat at the entrance to his house. ~~She~~ She could hardly stand to listen to ~~my~~ conversation with her father, brought three little children with her and interrupted the conversation dwelling upon her poverty and having no money to buy something to her children. At last she openly asked, and with some impatience too, to give her some money to buy something in the shop for the children. ~~But~~ I pretended not to understand her and then Johnny Carter came to rescue and ~~acted~~ acted as the interpreter. I gave her sixpence promised several weeks ago and she cleared off. Then Johnny Carter called one of his ~~grandchildren~~ grandpicksies, got some pennies from his handkerchief and keeping ~~his~~ pennies in his fingers, thrust into girl's palm, explained her for a long while what she has to buy and to pay for. It was the business of buying bread for twopence or so. The ~~commission~~ commission was enacted exactly in the same way in which I have seen it when Robert Johnson sent his granddaughter to the shop.

Monday June 16th, 1947.

Ruben.

Family History.

I.

Burnell White.	Head.
Emmeline Carter ,nee Carter.	Common law wife.
Florence Allen	Dau.
Ruby Allen.	"
Eda Allen,	"
Zarabelle Allen.	"
Claris white	Dau.
White	"
Cecil "	Son
Allen	Dau. of Florence Allen.

Burnell White was weeding when I arrived. He told me that he was born in Manchester and had afterwards lived in Ulster spring. He said- ' Me move 'long workin' fe Johnny Carter till I able to hire a small piece a land a him. Me pay him £1 a year fe 3 square chains a land; it's not so good all the same but me mus' satisfy onaccount it better than having none at all. All the same, here is a little better than Manchester; the soil seem cooler an if we having drought the things keep bloom all the time. All dis land belonged one time to Johnny Carter's granpa an when he came to die Johnny Carter seem to be away. Other people what was Carter's from up St. Anne's Bay tak over the land on account they don' know Johnny Carter is heir fe the property. When he come back him tak back the land by force an him had fe trace a lawsuit 'for him could full claim the poperty. An all those p people wat help him fight it in law him give m a little piece a land each fe assistance. Then all the land still with the Carter's but Johnny mus had fe sell a little land ta Masa Brissett fe help him fight the law an then him sell an m sell an the land pass off an off . Him got jus aroun 3 acres leave. Himm property so small hiynot able to rent a outside person no lands.'

The house was made of thatch; it was about 8 ft. by 5ft. and was divided into three rooms. White said about it- 'I got a few men helping when I was making a preparation to set it up. I give them 2/6 a day an they assist me an get in the lumber. We carried the wood from Manchester on our head. The house cos' me rounh £4 to build. It tak me aroun' two months. I git the table an chear fe 20/- by the carpenter an we don trouble with no costly bed, we jus' tak a board an make it fe suit our purposes.

The pickinies are a little neglee today on account their mumma not here. She first was Emmeline Carter- she calls Johnny Carter, Father. I tak her wi four girls an here have three pickinies fe me. Turn over now to eight pickinies fe one daughter, Florence ,jus' got a girl. The manuse help her with the chil' firs' but he don' trouble again.

All the pickinies keep on room an we keep the other. Mos' times the pickinies don' fin' no job. Sometime they ken work a little fe other people; they don' pay them anythin' a consequence. If they don' hev good in them they tu'n out wuthless.

We plant a few hills a yams - not anythin' great fe we don' employ nobody to help us . Dis land can't keep me - me mus' work out wi other people - those that a little better than me fe obtain a little money fe buy sugar an cornmeal an milk. We 'carsely ken shif' ourselves as can other people- the little pickinies don' hev no shirt fe change. As this one dirty up them mus wait on it as it wash. We jus' keep goin' by the mercy o' Jehovah God.

Mos' times I able fe sell a little yams to the market. Sometimes ken sell 400 or 600 if the crop turn out bright. Sometimes only 200. We mus hire a truck convenient to carry it to market. Sometimes all five six somebodies load a truck. Then we mus sell here. He (the truckman) buy the amount I got an pay me fe it. If I got enough fe fill the truck meself I hire him jus' fe ply my yams to market. Sometimes we get 15/- a hundred, even more, a Kingston. It even better sell here on account we mus' pay the truck 4/6d a hundred. When what was the market department was buying round here we used to live better; now we jus' hev' to take what the other men offer. Life is barely speared.

The men that get all the land is the bigger men. An if we want land to hire, can be good or not, we mus' pay 30/- a acre, or £5 a acre to buy, the least.

Asked about livestock and tools White said, 'I don' keep nothin' at all, only two little fowls. I settin' the fowls to increase the breed so I not getting no eggs now. I got one pig, we may even get £1 for him a little after this. I got no money fe spear fe tools, what the hoe don' do the maschette do an what the maschette don' do the fork do.'
