

P.D. 27. Household 29.

10th April '47.

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Stewart	Samuel	Head	M.M.	40.	Farmer	Mixed farm
"	Wilhelmina	Wife	F.M.	38. 10. 9.	Homemaker	"
"	Clarence	Son	M.S.	18.	Labourer	"
"	Headley	"	M.S.	16.		
"	Eloitt	"	M.S.	14.		
"	Jennie	"	M.S.	12.		
"	Rozlan	"	M.S.	11.		
"	Joyce	Dau	F.S.	6.		
"	Cleveland	Son	M.S.	8.		
"	Gwendolyn	Dau	M.S.	2.		

First Visit

10. IV. 47.

J. O.

I entered his farm from the valley and was invited into the yard. I congratulated ~~him~~ Mr. Stewart with his nice banana garden, but Mr. Steart appeared to be much less satisfied with it. He agreed that the soil is good, but there is no land to cultivate. His farm is only of 1/2 acre seize. He has no money to buy more land and he cannot support his family out of the farm of this seize. ~~His~~ His is a large family. He is father of 11/eleven/ children. He cannot get enough profit out of his farming to buy more land. The land costs a lot. He did not answer what is the price of his land, but volunteere an information that the land along the main road is much better and costs much more than the land in the ~~backpa~~ backside. There is plenty of land to be cultivated around. This land along the parochial road ~~on which~~ towards the coepits belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Brisset. If there possibilities to earn money they could buy more land and be better off. But there is no industry here, no work and no possibilities to earn something. They are poor people, very poor. "Look at my house - he said - I could not build any better house." This was a typical wattle ~~hous~~ hut with a grass thatch. Even such a house costs a lot of money. Sticks must be bought, and grass must be bought, all the material must be bought. He did not say how much his house costs. Only people who are rich enough can built better houses. Peopel who brought from America some money, ~~and~~ can buy more land and build better houses. In the village only big people have good houses. Who are the big people in Warsop? "There is no biggest man in Warsop than Mrs. Brisset. She is the biggest man in Warsop."

Not all of his children stay with him. His older son went away - he showed in a gesture the world around.

1947.

a.m.

visit
ference
Minute)

I found Wilhelmina Stewart working with a machette in her field. We had showers of rain yesterday and the day before breaking the drought and I noticed everybody out in their fields. On the way to her I passed a small boy tethering a pig in the field. Mrs Stewart went on working until I was nearly up to her and then came forward cheerfully. Her hands were red with soil and she held the machette with which she had been planting. and 2 girls. She said she had had seven boys

Mrs S. added: There is no farm here to work (i.e. the sons could not get day labour). We has to employ we pay 1/6 (i.e. per day). "De islan' poor." He S. added: "when man like we hire him we pay 1/6. We can pay more." He said Mr Webb on Allsides only hired Allsides tenants. He pays 3/- per day. Mr Brissett (Mr Sil) pays 2/6.
Mrs S. "Jamaica people life rough."

Note: Both Mr S. and Ralston (not seen) probably V.D.

Mrs S. obviously the worker of the family and the mainstay of the home.

May 13th 1947.
F.C.

Saw Mrs Stewart in her home. Two of the smaller children were with her and one was very affectionate and stayed with us while we talked. Mrs S. was sewing a patch on her son's crousers -- or it would be better to say she was sewing the pants round a patch. So I sat in the room with her while she went on with it. She is an industrious housewife and a very fond mother. Several times while I was there she called out to "Headley" to take the pig down and feed it. Headley came in and explained that he had "cut de coco and hab it on fe bwile". He and the smaller child played with my cugarette box and lighter and asked lively questions. Mrs S. said Headley could not go to school because he had the only suit she was mending. Plenty o de children couldn't go to school becasse de clothes is distressing we.

Mrs S.'s parents were Isaaiah ~~and~~ Smith and Mary Reid. Her mother later married Alexander Reid.

Zaccy Smith and Mrs Gertie Plummer are her brother and sister ~~but~~ by the same father but different mothers.

Referring to Zaccy Smith she said the father had left all the land for the family but he had it all -- they never get none.

The house in which we were talking and the land round it was her husbands which he inherited from his father. There were two other brothers. "De two o' dem living but we cant tell wey dem dey. From dem go wey we dont hear a word a dem. Long time dem go wey. First to Kingston. We write to dem dere but de letter cum back."

There are about 2 acres round the house. In addition h e husband rents $\frac{1}{2}$ acre from "Mr Syl" for 15/- He has been renting that piece for about 6 years. "Every year we tek it out and hav' fe work back in de same place an' i' no bear again. (i.e. the land is exhausted and they want to move on to a new piece). But we cant move becausen we cant get lan to work. Dem wont rent at Allsides -- Allsides land is only for Allsides tenants."

The pig. I inquired whether the land might not be improved in fertility if they kept some Livestock and put manure back. She said She buy a pig "An' you wan' hear how I get the pig? I's a little pig and it cost 20/- I break stone -- an' you have to buy de stone -- I get dem at Missa Wiltshire -- you pay 3d a box. You ha e fe sledge it up and carry it on you head from slam over yonder to here. It mek you life hard. Den you brwak it. I get 25/3 and then I have to pay (deduct) the 3d a box. An' me tek it go buy one little pig."

Mr Stewart's Family. It was noteworthy that Mrs Stewart several times referred to her husband when talking to me as "Sammy". It is more usual for the women to refer to their men folk when talking to you as "Mr So and So."

Mr S's parents were Charles Samuel Stewart ("He was named after his father") and Caroline Green.

Mrs Stewart's Family.

My father was Isaiah Smith and my mother Mary Reid. I asked if she remembered her grandparents and she gave me her mother's family. My grandfather's name (i.e. mother's father) was Alfred White. "Me no remember me mother's ma's name. Me Father's mother was Smith (she could not remember his christian name). "Me no barn cum see dem" (I was not born when they were alive) The mother is alive and lives "as you go down Baptist -- de paint house at de cross as you go to Baptist -- you no did see it on Sunday when you go to service?" I said it was Mrs O who had gone to service at Baptist on Sunday. Before her marriage to Reid her mother had three children: her, by Isaiah Smith; Oswald by James White and Eliad by Walter Mendez. There was also Adeline Smith, her sister, who was cripple up from her birth -- "him draw, him crupple up".

Marriage. She was married 9 years ago. (This would make it 1938. The Census gives her eldest son as 18 in 1942. He was a Stewart.)

Budget. Introduced by the question: What it cost you to live? What you have to buy in de shop? To help her, I said what you have for breakfast and dinner and supper? She said "Supper ma? We don't have supper!" I asked if they ate nothing after the 12 o'clock breakfast and she said "No, ma." (I don't think this is quite accurate -- they may have "tea" but it is not a substantial meal.) I said I would get hungry to go to bed after nothing after midday and she said "We ~~xxx~~ don't have it." quite factually and not pityingly.

She said they bought in the shop weekly:

3d Fish (saltfish). N.B. As fish is 11½ per lb this is merely for flavouring.

½d Salt.

1½ lb meat per week. "Dem wont trust (i.e. credit) more. De butcher want him money."

Kerosene oil 1 pt.

Often I only give dem (the children) so so food (i.e. only yams etc). And de kerosene oil nu carry you thru de week -- you can't burn it lamp all night. Sopa -- none can be got but "de white soap" (Guinea Gold) an it doan wash -- it doan lather. An' sometimes I buy little sweet oil.

Bananas. Yesterday was buying day. She had sold 3 Bunches for 2½ Counts. But she owe onw Tailor for trousers (trousers) for one boy (one of the children) and she borrow 2/- and have to pay it back. So nothing come in.

Clothes. A dress costs 7/9. I asked her how many she had: she looked startled and said "Wen you has 2 you has nuff". After a sigh and much stitching of the patched "trousis" she added: "Fust times tings was better -- since de Island get bruk down dem is hard -- hard!" (I think this refers to the collapse of the Banana business.)