

16th May 1947.

23/20/52.

E.C.
8.20.a.m.

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Newton, Susan | Head. | F.S.70.4.3. | Retired. |
| Williams, John | Son | M.M.36. | Farmer, Mixed Farm. |
| " Irene | Dau-in-law. | 32.2.2. | Homemaker. |
| " Samuel | Gr. Son. | M.S.11. | |
| " Nerissa | Gr. Dau. | F.S.6. | |

I saw the old lady, Mrs Newton, in the yard but she is old and slightly deaf and did not hear me. I called out "Morning Mrs Williams" she heard a voice from the kitchen say "Morning, ma'am. This was Mrs John Williams, Irene. Sh was ironing and immediately fetched a chair for me to sit on in the kitchen with her while she went on with her work. The old granny came up and leaned against the lintel of the door and so our interview took place. I explained to Mrs W. what we were doing and that I hoped to come back and talk to her husband about the ~~garden~~ cultivations but she could give me the woman's part if she would. She gave full co-operation and was extremely frank and has a most attractive manner. The old lady is quite acute inspite of her 75 years -- she might easily be more. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

was volunteered:
want to know de
ide ones dem?"

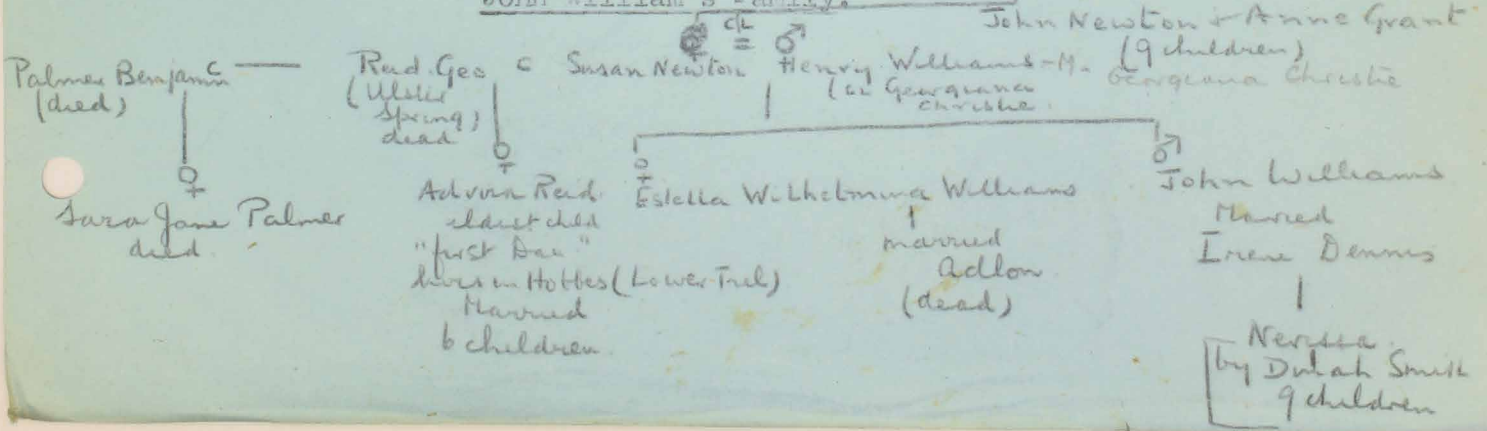
Family History. They were married 11 years ago. She has only one child, Nerissa Williams aged 9. She has never had any others. Her husband had nine other children#Born before they were married. He has never had any since they were married., or living together before marriage. Some of these are big and living in Kingston. Sammy Williams was working here but he left 4 years ago. (This is the Samuel W. in the Census.) When she was married there were two with her here -- Ruby and Henry. The mother of these children was Dinah Smith who lived in Warsop and died 4 years ago. It was when she died she (Irene) "took the little one."

Irene was born Dennis, in Malvern. She came here in 1936. Her husband met her when she was about 28 at Malvern when he came there to sell his agriculture. After the market there was a ball game (cricket?). They talked together and he wrote her family asking to marry her. They were married nine months after.

Irene's Parents were David A. Dennis and Ellen Dennis (nee Davis). They had 11 children "all lawful". He was a church warden in the Anglican Church at Malvern. "You want to know who witness us?" (i.e. to the marriage) "I can tell you. It was Mr Dickenson marry us. I been a member since I was 4. I was confirmed by the Bishop.

After we were married we came to this home. The grandmother has $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and the husband has $\frac{1}{2}$ acre which his father gave him. He built the house.

John William's Family:



Susan Newton was the daughter of John Newton and Anne Grant. Her parents had nine children. She had 4 children by 3 men: Advira Reid by George Reid (at Ulster Spring) who was her first daughter and is living at Hobbes, in Lower Trelawny, where she is married and has six children; Sara Jane Palmer (now dead) by Benjamin Palmer (now dead) at Ulster Spring; and Estella Wilhelmina and John by Henry Williams (to whom she was never married either). Estella ~~xxxxxxx~~ married Adlon. John is the head of this household.

This information was all given by Susan Newton in stages: as to the ages of the children she was vague: she said "fus (first) time people never tell de pickney dem age".

Susan lived with Henry Williams at Ulster Spring, but he could not get land there so he came up here where he bought 2 acres. They lived for many years and "then he married Georgiana Christie and broke up the marriage" (Irene) meaning the stable concubinage with Susan. He left her and she had to buy 1/2 acre from him. But he left John the other 1/2 acre.

Irene's Family:

David Dennis M Ellen Dennis
(11 children)

| (Davis all) Verley | Vincent 45. | Irene | Nerman 37. | Hepsie 35. | Zerisa | Wintward | Altaman | Uta | Louise |
|--|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 47. | Married. | Here | Single. | Married | 33. | 31. | 29. | \$ | % |
| Married. Lives same place Malvern) | Lives HERE Malvern | | Child ren in Con. | Malvern 2 children | Sing. 1 ch. | Single 4 child. | K'ston Single no child# | 27. K. S. No Ch. | 25. King. S. 1st hild. |

Herbert

age 22. Has been in America two times. Loves it: "No place on earth hi love like America". Still there

Altamont: "hear from him up to yesterday. Was working at the Gleaner -- must be same place. Letter was from "same" address.

\$ Uta: Went to Kingston with Mrs Clacken from Malvern's daughter to work as domestic.

% Louise: Working in Kingston. Her child is with her mother (i.e. the grandmother maternal) in Malvern.

All her parents children were born in Malvern. (St Elizabeth).

House and Land Beside the cultivation round the house Mr Williams rents 1 piece of land on Allsides of 4 acres (all together). Sir Archibald is all right but the only thing is that in Mr Bobbie Greaves' time (the previous manager of Allsides) the land was not surveyed that ws let to tenants. Sir Archibald have it surveyed and found he had 4 acres instead of 2 which he was paying for. So now he has to pay for 4 and it is hard.

Taxes on Land and House: "The old gentleman value the land for £100 -- yet him sell it (to John) for £4. So has to pay according to the value. I think it is £3 or £4 per year we has to pay. Mr Henry say him dont understand how it can beso." (Henry is the Revenue Runner.)

At this moment she thre a piece of food (peeling) through

& lives (or lived if dead) on the Parochial road down Baptist

Note: Any children by Christie??

ock:

the window to the pig saying ; "Piggy, piggy, tek dat!" with a laugh. The pig, a tiny one, had been hanging round us all the time licking my bare legs, also Mrs Susan's. Irene said it belonged to Nerissa. She has one for herself "tied out". She bought the pig when it was "just tek off the mother for 10/-".

They also have 3 Fowls and a goat. They dont milk the goat. They put it out. They had 2 kids from it last year. She sold one when it was very small for 5/- (one day dem mash up people's groun's". She kept the other one longer until she was able to get 13/- for it.

Damages: Sometimes damages amount to 13/- and 20/- (Was the goat sold for 13/- to pay the damages?). The "property valuator" was got in as it happened on rent land where it had been tethered (and got loose).

J.A.S. Husband is not yet a member of the J.A.S. but is going to join. He had heard about the Revolving Herd idea. It cost 1/6 year to join the Society. Teacher Gayle is the President of this Branch "Him whip up the members to join."

Crops round the house: (Could not check on these as was inside the kitchen but she said)The land here is not so good as at Allsides. We dont grown here. We plant yam, sweet potatoe, gungo peas and cane on Allsides.

Budget: The following is the list of what she said they bought in the shop in addition to the foodstuffs grown on their cultivations: for a week:

She said however that they brought "sometine according to how de money is." Purchases were for herself, husband & child only:
Fish $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 lb "or sometimes none. Sometimes ~~xxx~~ I get 3d worth "and all you can do is to look upon it, smell "it -- you dont see it." (laugh).

^u Meat: 1 lb on Fridays.

Flour: (only when the foodstuffs in the grounds run short),
1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs @ 6d per lb.

Sugar sometimes when home made supply runs short.

Soap: 2 cakes at 6d. But cant get it now. Sometimes buy a cake of palm olive now to wash clothes for 6d.

Blue (for clothes) 1 ball/

Salt: 1 lb.

Cooking oil: $\frac{1}{2}$ pt or $1\frac{1}{2}$ d worth sometimes.

Kerosene: A big bottle (quart 4d).

Rice: But it is too dear.

Lard. 1d

Tobacco: Mr W. buys 2 yds. If he gets at Balaclava at market it is 3d per yard. If you buy in the shop here it is @

Bread: On Saturdays -- and someti es in the week we buy a ld. From the van or inthe shop.

Milk: 1 tin @ $10\frac{1}{2}$ "when can buy".

"Sometime when de butcher pass you buy ld lard mek pepper pot."

Meals:

Morning Tea: about 7.a.m. Mint tea with milk, (condensed). Piece of bread "or sometimes I bake bammy (cassava)" No jam. But I can make marmalade of the sour ornage. I can make guava jelly too and stew the guavas and pine -- I learned that where I come fro but they dont have guavas here. You dont do that here. (Regret at past comforts in her father's home?) Someti es you have porridge when you has your own corn or I buy the cornmeal, or arrowroot. We cant afford the Quaker oats.

Midday meal: "Warsop men can cook for themselves". They cook in the fields or sometimes I tek it for him. "Or sometimes dem dont cook a t'ing -- jus stay so." The meal would consist of foodstuffs from the grounds with a little piece of beef or fish. But sometimes just the bare yam.

Where do you eat your meal? Mr W. always eat in the house. I -- and Mrs Susan -- eat where we are -- here."

Fridays. Today being Friday Mr W. is not going back to the ground when he comes in. He is going to Balaclava this afternoon on business -- not for market.

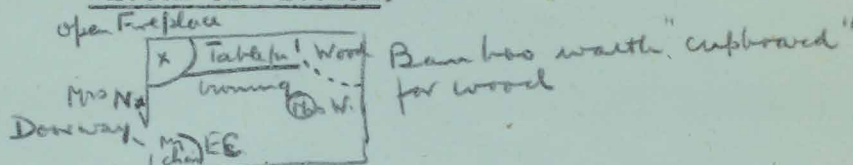
Labour:

Yesterday Mr W. had men working for him. I went up there to pick up feeding for my pig. They cooked there. I cooked here for myself. Foodkind and fish.

Note:

Scarcity in the shops: Apart from the soap shortage (which is island-wide and irrespective of class) or income) Mrs W. said sometimes they could not get fish to buy in the shops. This is a basic necessity to eat with the yams and potatoes and is a staple item of dietary. The shortage in it affects the working classes very much.

Sketch of Kitchen:



Water supply: He e it is not like my Parish where we have tanks. Dem have holes in de ground dem calls springs. But you cant drink that water. We go to a spring in one brown man's yard -- Mr "iltshire. Him keep that spring clean and can drink it. There are 3 holes not far from here. We get it up in water pans -- 4 and 5 a day. Nerissa and I bring it up.

Clothes and Household Furnishing.

Clothes: Cost of and Wardrobe: Clothes: dresses: "sometimes me have 4 to 6 -- someti es me dont have any. The last dress me bought was in December -- a good dress for Church. Cost: 3 yds @ 5/- - 15/- etcetras 2/6 I make it myself so it cost me 17/6. Before that the last dresses I bought was 4 years ago when I was going home. I bought two good dresses -- white -- to wear to Communion. Them is good, white dresses -- they wear long.

In December as well as the good dress I bought a working dress 3½ yds @ 2/9 and I mad it myself.

Underclothing: Donet buy for a long time. I couldn't tell you what I have! Urged not to "feel shame" she said she had 4 sets now, petticoat (lining) 4 short knickers, 1 merino and 2 flannels. Calico is rising to 1/6 and you couldn't get it. Flannel is 3/- per yard the good one or 2/6 according to quality, even to 1/6. You has to wear flannel here for it is cold.

Shoes. She had one a strong pair of low boots, unlaced. She bought those 2 years ago last May at Freeman's Hall for 25/- at Tomlinson's store. They were American Boy-shoes. She had one other pair -- a good pair -- which she bought 4 years ago at Albert Town for 18/-

Housefurnishing: What she told me (I did not go into house)-

The house is Room and Hall. There is one bed in the bedroom - a single iron bed -- with a straw matrass. The "baby" sleeps on the sofa in the hall.

She has 3 sheets.

2 pillow-cases. She took one out of the wash she had just ironed and showed me. It was on coarse material really beautifully worked in drawn-thread. She had made it herself before her marriage for her trousseau. 1 Blanket. They need another now but cannot afford it.
