

P.D.23/S.D.20. H. 45. Beckford family.

	Beckford.	Cyril	Head.	M.M.	50.	Farmer.	Mixed Farm.
	"	Florence	Wife.	F.M.	40.	8.3.	Homemaker.
Interview	"	Semi	Dau.	F.S.	17.		Farm Labourer.
with Mr. Beckford	"	Joseph.	Son.	M.S.	14.		ditto
15.5.47.	Saunders.	Calvin	Neph.	M.S.	7.		
J.O.	"	Linda	Niece.	F.S.	6.		

Mr. Beckford's house and land.

Mr. Beckford showed me his house from a distance of about hundred yards below Allen's grasshouse. It was a wooden house with verandah. He built this house recently and the house is not yet finished. He has not enough money to build at once and there are no nails. He is not a member of Agr. Society. many

Around the house there were fruit-trees ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~fruitxxxxxx~~ and the garden ~~ix~~ was certainly not a new one. The trees, especially breadfruit trees, looked old. Mr. Beckford said he planted these trees himself. It was long time ago, before he bought this land.

Acquisition of his buy land. Prices of land and scarcity of land on the road.

He bought this piece of land only 6 years ago. The former owner of this land was Mr. Darius Brisset, to whom all the land around belongs or belonged previously. He rented this land "long long long time ago" before he bought it. The breadfruits around the house ~~was~~ were planted by him years ago, still when he rented the land. He lived for years in the grass house, and only lastly was able to build a better house. He paid to Mr. Brisset 15 pounds for 1/2 acre, which means that he actually paid ~~xxxx~~ £.7 and 1/2, since his land is only 1/4 acre in size. ~~xxxx~~

He ~~wanted~~ should like to buy some other place, near the road, as other people do when they buy a land for a house-site. But he has not got enough money. "Poor black man cannot afford it. Big shots have any amount of land, but dont want to sell it to poor people". The land on the road would cost at least 100 pounds. He paid much less for the land he rented for years from Mr. Brisset. Now his land is much more valuable. Its price would be about 100 pounds - just as for the land on the road /because of the house?/.

Mr. Beckford's family.

There are now 4 ~~xxxx~~ people in his family living together in his new house: him, his wife and their two children. He had more children, but only 4 are alive. Two girls are in Kingston - they are "domestics". One boy - he is 19 years old - is now in the field. He ~~xxxx~~ works already and helps a lot. Another child is in the school / a girl?/. Mrs. Beckford is not at home now. She went to Allsides River to wash clothes.

Their farm.

He has no more land of his own besides this 1/4 acre ~~xxxx~~ where his house stands. But he rents 2 and 1/2 acre in Allsides. His rented land is in canes and yams chiefly. There were bananas previously, but they "killed out". His land in Allsides is not suitable for ~~xxxx~~ bananas. There are however places in Allsides where bananas grow very well. It is not so easy to get good land in Allsides. Good land is scarce and occupied by other people. What is left is of such quality that it does not pay to cultivate it.

Beckford family.

Mr. Beckford's
family origins.

Mr. Beckford was born in a thatch house below Miss Eda's house. There is a grass house on this place now ~~here~~ where a cousin of his is living. He rented land in Allsides for years, ~~and~~ just the same as he rents it now.

Mr. Beckford's
occupations.

Mr. Beckford goes now to do some work on the road. He will clean the road and make it even. He does this work from time to time to earn some money. He can earn at best 2/. daily by this work. Some people who are stronger get earn as much as ~~2x~~ 4/., 5/., or even 6/. It depends not only upon the strength and efficiency of the worker, but also upon the quality of work or section one gets. When he will finish his section, he will wait till the road officer /inspector?/ comes and examines his work. Then his payment will be fixed. He will not get his money at once. He will go to Top Warsop next week to get what is due to him. One does not get the payment on the spot. One must wait for it one week.

Miss Eda.
16.5.47. y.o.

Beckford is an outside son of the old Beckford in Bottom Warsop, "sick man, with some funny children in the yard." "That old man is the father of Mr. Beckford."

Beckford on the New Road is a healthy man - has no syphilis. May be because the old Beckford had him when he was young and still healthy himself.

The name of his wife is Florence. Miss Eda does not remember her family personalities.

27th May 1947.
E.C.

I went to Mrs Beckford's house and found her in. I asked her if "the other lady or gentleman with me" had been to see her and she said No one had come. So I proceeded to explain our mission and to take an interview which she seemed willing to give. It was only after some time, ~~xxxxxx~~ that Mr Beckford arrived and I broke off with her then to get the particulars for him, explaining that as the men were more difficult to find at home, I would return later and finish hers.

It was only on my return that I find that O. had already got the facts given above from MR B. I repeat my interview in full, however, even when the facts are duplications. They were good informants.

Mrs Beckford.

Her Father (Samuel Beckford) came from Lower Trelawny. Her Mother (Rhoda Beckford) came from Santa Cruz in St Elizabeth. Her father died in Manchester. Her mother died and was buried here "in the Wesleyan", (cemetery). She herself is a Baptist. Her parents were married in Santacruz. She never heard from her parents where or how they had first met.

Her mother had 13 children : 3 before she was married to her father: -

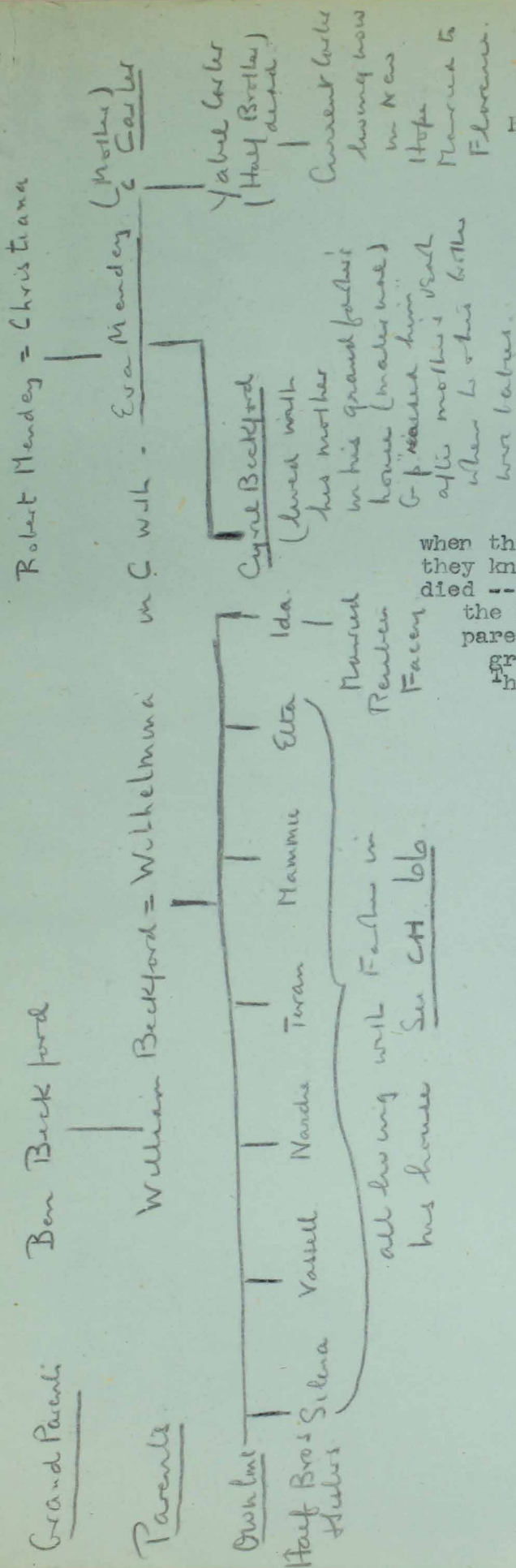
on. C. Phillpotts. C. Robin- --- Rhoda Married Samuel Beckford
son

Mr Beckford's Family History:

His mother lived in her parents' home and died there. She never lived with his father in his home. He always lived where he is living now. While his mother was still alive his father married Wilhelmina (he did not know her surname. He had a large family by her and they all live with him in his home except Ida who is married to Reuben Facey. They are all sickly. His father's house is in Bottom Warsop.

For Father's Household see C.H.66.

Neither he nor Cyril ever lived anywhere but with their mother. She died when they were babies. They were so small that they knew nothing (did not understand) when she died -- "when they was laying her out we was in the kitchen cooking." When she died the grandparents raised both him and Carter. His grandfather owned a half-acre and a house their son, Walter, died.



Early start in life.

He started as a Labourer. He worked for strangers on Allsides. This lasted for about ten years. Then he was able to take up rent land. He got 3 different pieces making $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres together. He now has 2 pieces; one of 1 acre and 1 of $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. In Allsides. He also rents $\frac{1}{2}$ acre on the Wesleyan land. And he has bought the land on which his house now stands, with $\frac{1}{4}$ acre round it. It was "bare land" when he bought it and he first had a grass hut on it and then a few years ago he built this very nice wooden and shingled house, which however is not yet completed.

Details of House. The house is really very nice. It is 22ft long, 10ft wide and has a 5ft verandah which however is not yet floored.

Mr Beckford was quite willing to give me the particulars in regard to the cost of the house (and the land) but he could not "rightly remember". He offered however to look up the papers and if I would come again on a Tuesday or better still a Saturday -- but not this Saturday as he would be out -- he would let me see them.

He gave me the following facts :

not pay the
in one lump
he took 5 yrs
by it. Mr B.
not charge
interest./

The land around the house, $\frac{1}{4}$ acres in all, was bought by him (date to be ascertained from receipt when produced) about ten years ago for £10. from Darius Brissett. /It was "bare land then". He began to put up the house about 4 years ago. He hired Mr Constantine Watson to build it and he brought his own men to work on it with him. He paid Mr Watson £24 in all but "little little". The house was not built all at once but "little little" as he had the money.

Before he started building he was about 2 years collecting the lumber. He began to buy just as the war start. Things were high then. He got the lumber from everywhere -- some right here, some at Crown lands, some from Craig, and some Boards (imported) from Kingston. He had to pay for all the lumber. At the time he bought he paid from 24/- 25/- and 22/- for Boards. The ones he bought in Kingston were 44/- per 100ft. It took 2,500 shingles to roof the house and he paid £3. per 1000.

While the carpenter and his men were working on the house he provided a meal a day for them.

Lands, and Cultivations.

1) Round the house. It is now well planted with economic trees - all planted by him. There are 4 Breadfruit trees; 3 Coconuts; a few coffee; 50 Banana trees; 2 stretches of cane; annatto; peas; cabbages and vegetables are also planted. The cane is replanted every few years -- it would not do so well otherwise. It was last planted 3 years ago. (It is the best looking plot of cane I have seen).

They have no Livestock.

He used to keep a pig but the last one died of swine fever or some sickness and he never bother with one since.

There is a nice little flower garden near the house and although on a slope the cultivation is made the most of.

Rent Land at Allsides:1) 1 acre:Cane: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.Yams. Not planted yet. Last year had 300 hills. Eat some and sold rest. Could not say how much he sold as they sell "little little" -- not at one time. Has started now to plant but does not know how many hills he will get in -- whether an increase or a decrease.

Uses hired labour to dig the yam hills. Usually hires 2 or 3 men. Pays 10/- per 100 and their meal. He employs Harvard Beckford who is his wife's brother; Herman Smith (who lives on the Parochial Road at Allsides) because "him and Joseph is friend", and Joseph (his son).

2) $\frac{3}{4}$ acre: This is all in Yams. He plants them all the time. He does not rest the land -- "there is not enough to rest it." He had 200 hills here last year. He has started planting here yet. You can go on planting until July. It takes just 12 months before they are ready to reap.3) Rent land at "esleyan: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre: All this is in cane. It was on it when he took it over. He has replanted it since. He makes sugar. He uses Mr Drissett's mill. He pays:

1/4 per Barrell to draw

1/- ditto boil the liquor.

Expenditure to market:

He himself takes the sugar to Santa Cruz to sell in the market there: He pays the truckman or cartman 2/- per tin to truck it; and there is 3d per tin market dues to pay. In addition he has to buy wood to boil the sugar @ 3/- per load and it takes about 1 load to boil a barrell. Then he has to hire a beast to draw the cane to the mill. And pays 3/- per day to a man to chop the cane. He would take a day to cut enough cane to make a barrell of liquor ("dem dont cut but a barrell in a day according as to how de cane tek bush sause you cant manage to clean it as accordin").

We worked out what Mr Beckford made on a barrell of liquor

Manufacturing costs: 2/4 per barrell.

1 load wood 3/- ditto

Chopping cane 3/- ditto

Drawing cane to mill (not given)

Marketing costs:Carriage to market 2/- per ~~barrell~~ tin

Market dues 3d per tin.

(1 tin equals 1 barrell liq.)

1 tin sugar makes 5 doz heads.

Heads are sold at 5/- a dozen but sometimes will get 10/- (This latter figure is more the truth), which is equivalent to 2d per head.

Total cost production 1 barrell liquor or 1 tin sugar 10/7.

Gross receipts for 5 doz heads @ 2d

10/-

Net loss

7d.

And this does not take into account the value of the land utilized for, one year or any labour put into the cultivation by himself.

At this stage Mr and Mrs Beckford began to relax considerably as a result I think of my realising with them that it was difficult to make a living out of produce on these lines. He said even the yam sticks they had to buy at 20/-. The implication was that in the good old days they could go to Crown lands and cut them. Now "the Government will neither sell the land, nor lease it nor let you use it." "If you tek wood dem will send you to prison". "And dem who has the land tek advantage of you". He worked hard and made do, but it was hard, missis hard. But he had to be honest and so he kep' on. But even the house couldn't finish. But he had it "against sickness". He wanted to have that so he put everything into it.

Expenditure on Food and Clothing.

I asked if they would like to tell me something about what they spent on Food and Clothing. They began diffidently and with the embarrassment which is always shown over this subject. But eventually they agreed that they need not be "shame" about it and that it would help us to give the picture of what they as farmers could afford to buy if they told us what they had in their wardrobes and when and how often they bought.

thes.

The clothes they wore were patched and mended but clean.

Mrs B. said that often people said how they did not see them and that they lived long time here and yet they never went out but how were you to go out if you did not have the clothes. Mrs B. said to buy a dress now would cost 40/- (This is an exaggeration) I said that was a lot and instanced the print dress I had one which could be bought and made for 16/- (3 yrd and @ 3/6 and 5/6 for making which is about what they would pay). She then came down a bit and this was the information they eventually gave me:

Mrs B. Last dress bought was in Christmas before last (i.e. 1945). This was the one that cost her 40/- -- she paid Pearl Dixon 4/- to make it. In November last year she bought a pair of shoes at Mr Chin's shop for 20/-. It is the only pair she has (She was barefoot).

She bought a slip (petticoat) of pink poplin at Christmas this year for 5/-. She has 2 good ones and 2 old ones for wear "to the ground". Panties cost 2/6 -- she has 2 good ones which she takes care of. The others are old and ragged (here she laughed in embarrassment).

At night she sleeps in her chemise.

Mr B. "De clothes weak". In November 1945 he bought one trousers and shirt. He has two suits. "One hang up and one on". The "hang up one" (the one bought in November) is khaki trousers and a poplin shirt. The material for the trousers was 16/- and Aston Gordon charge 4/- to make it. The material for the shirt was 2/- per yad (2 yds) and cost 6/- and 2/- for the making.

Underpants are four shillings and quattie (4/1½) each and he bought one last month. He has 2 pairs. He has 2 merinos which he bought last year from Kingston. They cost 5/- each. At night he sleeps in merino and drawers (underpants).

He has one pair of shoes. He was wearing them. They were strong well mad looking and were he said made by Mr Smith the local shoemaker for 20/-

Food.

Like all the farmers around Mr and Mrs B. live mostly off their cultivations. The things they buy in the shops (when they have the money) are fish, cooking oil or butter, kerosene oil for lights and Bread. When there is nothing at all in the way of yams or potatoes to be got out of the ground then they buy cornmeal, flour or rice. Sugar is seldom bought in this district as they eat their own production.

I asked Mrs B. how often she went to the shop. She said on Saturdays -- she had gone last Saturday -- but sometimes when there was no money she would not go at all.

Last Saturday she had taken a shilling. She bought :

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb fish	6d.
1 pt kerosene	2d.
Butter. (There was no cooking oil)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Bread.	2d.

This was for herself and her husband and "the two others." Out of the grounds they got last week, "a little piece of yam and 2 little potatoes". They cant afford milk or meat. "When you has de shilling you has to let de beef pass. You cant pay de 1/- ~~xxx~~ a lb for it or you would sleep in the dark". (i.e. not be able to buy oil.) "You has to hang your basket as high. as you han' can tek it down." (This is a new one on me).

The big people. I referred to Mr B's expression about the "big people" used earlier and asked him whom he would consider were the big people in farmingground here. He named Mr Curtisacey, Mr Grandison, and Mr Refford Davis. The latter is father to Mr Percival Davis (Case History 59).

Mr Beckford said the land around here used to belong to Mr Donald Edwards who lives on the Mount Nappy Road and is a brother to Mr James Edwards.

Mr and Mrs Beckford's family and household.

Mr Beckford said he and his wife had had 8 children but only 4 were alive : 2 were in Kingston -- Semi and Gita. They went to Kingston to seek jobs. Two are here. Joseph is his son. The other is not really my child but I call him so. He (sic) is adopted. Name Linda Saunders (so he proves to be a girl.) Linda's parents were Howard and Irene Saunders. Mr B. told me smiling and with pride that he had taken the little girl because she came to him and she love him. So I tek him over. He repeted several time -- with many smiles -- "she love me." (N.B. I do not see it set down in my notes but I am under the impression that he said Lindas parents were alive and lived here). Linda goes to school and is about 10 years old.

Nothing was said about Linda's brother Calvin who appears on the C.Sc. and as I had not then seen the Sc. I did not inquire.