

23. S.D. 20 Household 49.

Gray, Luther, Head, M.M. 39. Farmer, Mixed Farm.
 Gray, Imogene, Wife, F.M. 35. 7. 7. Homemaker.
 " Sydney Son, M.S. 13.
 " Wesley Son, M.S. 12.
 " Lucille Dau, F.S. 8.
 " Elfreda Dau, F.S. 6.
 " Selvyn Son, M.S. 5.
 " Granville Son, M.S. 2.
 " Dolphin Son, M.S. 8/12.

16th May 1947.
 E.C. Morning.

Seen Mrs Imogene Gray and the three youngest children. There have been two more children since the Census: Basril, who is now aged 3 and Ambrose 1 year. I saw Basril, Dophin and Granville -- all more or less of the same size. Very dirty, but in fair clothes. Basril was relieving nature on the path before the house when I came down and was hastily hustled away. The three hung about while I talked with the mother, somewhat less lively than most of the Warsop children are as a rule. They had the usual bad colds and running at the nose.

Mrs Gray says she was married in 1932. She had had four babies dead before she ~~was married~~ had Sydney who is now 18. Her age in the Census would be 40. But she does not look within five years of that, inspite of having had ~~nine~~ 13 children of whom 9 are living and the youngest a year so she is still good for more. She is still menstruating. She says she was about 16 when she had her first baby she thinks. They were all by her husband, ~~She had four babies dead before she was married~~ but ~~highly~~ except the first Gita Bennett who died. In spite of finding it almost impossible to "do" with them -- i.e. to feed and clothe them and send them to school she volunteered that she was "contented and happy" "The times was rough and you cant buy clothes." But life was still worth living and she is a round, slight cheerful smiling friendly person and neat in her appearance. She was much cleaner than her children.

I didnt ask the
 thers name but
 Imogene's maiden
 name was Bennett.

Family History: Her parents were Alexander Bennett and Eva (nee Carter) They were married. The mother died when she was a baby. Her father came from Santa Cruz. They had 4 children :

Curtis Bennett, who now lives at Newhope, Warsop Bottom;

Mabel Bennett, married Blake who lives in Catadupa in St James and has 5 children all of whom are "big and lef her"; and from whom she heard six months ago; and

Ethel Bennett, who is in Kingston and from whom she has not heard for a long time; and

Herself.

Her Grandparents: Her mother's Parents : She remembers her mother's Father: his name was James Carter and he lived in Warsop and had a long beard. He was a black-black man (I asked if he were white because it is unusual to see a black man with a long beard) She liked him. She does not remember her grandmother name only that she was made to call her "Nana". She died when she was small.

Father's Parents: Dont remember either him or his name. He was dead long time fro she was a baby.. She knew her Father's mother, she lived in the home and they called her "Mimi" but she does not know her name, or remember what she was like.

Husband's Family. His mother was Margaret Gray and his father Arthur Gray but she cant tell about his ~~family~~ relations.

House and Land: The house and land which is about 1 stretch belongs to Mr Gray. He bought it but she does not remember when etc. They were living with their respective parents i.e. she in her home he in his, until he bought this and they built a little grass hut and set up here till they were married. The present house is a very nice wooden home which will be described later.

Our conversation took place in the kitchen. She said she was ironing and I suggested that she go while I talk but unlike Mrs Williams she was not able to talk and work and she leaned up against the table while she talked.

The kitchen is the usual grass hut with open fireplace in this case on the left on the door side. On the right was a barrel in which she kept water. This is the first kitchen in which I have seen this useful practice.

Water supply: They get their water supply from the spring at Darius Brissett's Boiling house. The barrell holds about 6 pans.

Meals: Tea about 8.
Lunch at 12.
Supper at 4.

Weekly Budget from shop:

It was stressed in regard to practically every item that it was not always possible to buy what was given all the time as sometimes it was not possible to get the article in the shops or the "money did not ketch". What is given therefore seems to be more their idea of what they need: it should also be understood that the products of their grounds is used whenever it is available: -

Fish: 1 lb on Saturdays -- "in the week you has to go back (for more) and you sometimes get a 3d (worth).

Meat: about 4 lbs a week buying on 3 days.

At this moment a neighbour shouted to her ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ from the bottom of the alley and she excused herself and went out to hear better what was said. She called back: "Yes, my dear" and then, to Granville, "Tek de pan and go down." She handed the small boy a water pan and explained that the neighbour wanted to borrow the pan. Granville went off. There is never that I have seen any reluctance on the part of the children to running these sort of errands.

Milk: Every morning 1/2 pt. But ~~itxxxxxxx~~ occasionally also buys condensed milk.

Soap: 1/2 bar for 6d or a 6d cake (Guinea). But cant get it no

Flour: 1 lb // These three are bought when the
Cornmeal: 2 lbs // ground provisions are running out

Rice: 3 lbs. //

Oil: for cooking, 1/2 to 1 pint.

Kerosene: 1 qt 4d.

Matches: a box a week.

Sugar: When none of we own then buy. For the last two months cant mek a pan. We buy a Band a week for 1/6 which is 6 heads. It is 1/6 from de shop but 1/- if you buy it at the Boiling house.

Butter: 1d or 1 1/2d.

Asked why they did not grow kalalu in their gardens she said it did not do well -- the place too cold for it, it want a hot climate.

Kitchen was divided by apart from the wooden bed room was a wooden bed. She asked if any one slept there. No. It was used to iron on. I kept them in there when I raised the bed (to sit on)

Meals:

Food.

Life's wardrobe:Clothes:

Mrs Gray was emphatic about the strain of getting clothes and said when I broached the subject "That cant talk about" I explained that if she would tell me frankly it would help as I could only guess otherwise and I might so easily be wrong and she decided she could give details which were obviously not easily given. Their delicacy at this point is quite noticeable: nothing hurts more than this inability to "dress nice." I felt that she was showing great courage and confidence in us and our work (which had been fully explained to her at the beginning of our talk) in speaking so frankly about her wardrobe. She did not find it half so embarrassing to talk about food.

The last dress she had bought was 3 years ago. It was "a common little thing". The material was 3/- a yard.

She had given it out to make for 2/6. It was zaxgax to get out in. She did not go to Church. (She said this regretfully) I was Church of England when I could go but as t'ing is bad I cant go. I asked her if she would "go out" in the dress she had one which was neat, patched but tidy and something that I would have thought she could go anywhere in this village in -- certainly a great deal better than many a working class wife of the slum areas in England wears all the time. She said, ~~it~~ she would never go out to the shop like that. She had to be decent when she went to the shop. It was a clean print frock. She said she had this "working one" and "a next one".

Underclothing: She had 2 sets: chemise, slip and drawers. She makes them herself. She wears no merino nor flannel.

Shoes: She has 2 pairs. One working one, which she was wearing, which she bought in June last year. She had it made by the shoemaker, Mr Rose, here. "I find him the canvas and he charge 11/6 to make it."

The best ones she bought three years ago for 15/6 at Albert Town "at Mister Zacca a Syrian woman." (This interchangeable use of personal pronouns is very interesting / all through Jamaica).

iceable/

Mrs Gray gives out the "best" clothes to be made but makes the working ones herself.

Children's Clothes:

Boys'. Chambray is 2/6 per yd. It takes 1½ yds to make the babies' ones. She makes the babies herself and gives out the ones for the bigger children to the seamstress, Miss Maggie Jennedy. I pay her 2/- to make 2 suits and find the thread. Selwyn's suit was 9d to make.

Girls: The 2 little girls at school -- have to buy 4/- yd print to go to school and it costs 2/- for making a dresses. It costs "2/6 a yd for the chambray for dresses to drudge a yard" (to wear at home). "Cant get nuttin cheaper dan dat that will tek washing."

Men's. Pants is 4/- per yard. The ready-made shirts is the cheapest. The raw cloth is too dear. It is 6/- ready made.

I asked whether she ever went away. She said "only one week to my sister Madupa (St James) and that was 3 years ago. She was born in Warsop and went to school. She left in the 4th class. As a child she paid a visit to Kingston to her sister. She has been to Ulster Spring, to Albert Town; to Balaclava market. Her little girl "cut a tonsil at Ulster Spring (i.e. at the Hospital there). She has been to Falmouth.

Best time for contacting her husband: This was Friday morning. Tomorrow he will be going to his ground -- far away -- "to stick it" (put in yam sticks). On Allsides. It would be best to see him on Sunday. You see, (smiling) on Sunday him is able to rest and him will talk."

At the end she asked me for "a bread". I said I had no money to give but I would bring a bread when I came on Sunday for the children.

18th May 1947.
Sunday 9.a.m.

E.C.

doctor who comes to
Warsop (D.M.O.)

Went by appointment to see Mr Gray. He was with his wife in the house. She was on the verandah combing Lucille's hair and killing the nits between her fingernails. The air was being done in the five plaits with the front lock hanging down on the forehead.

Mr Gray was suffering from bad toothache and occasionally groaned when it bit him. He has four of the back teeth worn down to the gum line. The dentist in Ulster Spring will charge 4/- and 6/- a tooth to taken them out and he cant afford it. The ~~dentist~~ there would do it for 3/- but him dont do it all the time.

House and Land.

which are

(a) House is a good well built wooden structure with a verandah in front, sitting room and two bedrooms. It is of native wood right through except for the inside boards, the inside sills and ~~linse~~ of imported lumber.

There is 1 square round the house. The land was bought in April 1937 from Wilhelmina Doyle (to get the exact date the Receipt from Mrs Doyle was produced which confirmed the size but the price £4. was given on the receipt whereas before its production Mr Gray had said it was "about £3."). There was a grass hut on the site when he bought it.

He started building the house in 1936 and finished it in 1941. He got ~~the~~ most of the lumber off the land he then had in the Cockpit from Government (see (b) below). He cut this himself and brought it out. He cut about 400ft Boards (Broadleaf, Bullet wood and Shadbark) and 1800 shingles (Santa Maria).

He employed a Carpenter to do the building. He was a tradesman. He paid him little little as he had the money -- £8.10 in all. He made about six payments.

He bought imported lumber -- 500ft Boards which then sold for 14/- per 100. He used this for clinker boards on the inside walls. He has to pay 2/6 per 100ft to haul this lumber from Kingston. He bought 60lbs nails @ 2½d per lb. The glaas for the sash windows cost 2½d per light and there were 48 lights (pames).

When the building was going on he paid 6/- for rum for refreshments to the builders and gave them a meal. He did not pay extra for the dressing of the lumber -- that was included in the Carpenter's bill.

To buy the Boards and shingles now would cost much more. If he had had to pay for the hardwood he took off the property, it would have cost, in 1941 14/- to 15/- for the Boards and 25/- per 1000 for the shingles. Now the Boards would cost 50/- per 100 and the shingles 5 per 1000.

Before the house was finished in 1941 Gray lived in his mother's house "just before Miss Heighington's". His mother's name was Margaret Gray. (At his mother's death the house passed to his sister Vashti Hinds and she rents it to Mr Mendez, the tailor, @ 4/- per month. There was some lumber in Mr Gray's yard and some shingles neatly stacked and covered with thatch. He told me he had got it out for this sister who wants to build a proper house on this land. He saw her in Duanvale where she lives week before last. She is not yet ready to build).

Before they moved into the new house his wife lived in her father's home.

Marriage. They were married in 1932. At the Baptist Ch.

Mr Gray's father was born in Ulster Spring but he does not know anything of his family. There is no one that he goes to see in Warsop. His mother Martha Gray (nee Ricketts) was born in Warsop. They had six children -- 6 boys and 6 girls. All these are scattered: some in Panama, some in Kingston. Only he remains at Warsop. And one sister, Ensimeta, who died years ago when she was 18 yrs. The parents are both buried in the little land opposite Miss Eda's where the tailor rents. Arthur Gray died on the 1st June 1938 and Martha his wife on the 11th April 1944.

Arthur Gray. Married Ricketts Martha

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<u>el</u>	<u>Vashti</u>	<u>Balthazar</u>	<u>Zarabel</u>	<u>Letham</u>	<u>Ensimeta</u>	<u>John.</u>
(son)	(Dau)	(son)	(Dau.)	(son)	(Dau).	
nama	M. Seaforth	Kingston	Panama.	Kingston	died in	subject
s	Hinds.	in 1934	Married		Warsop	of in-
	in Duanvale	aged 25.	there		aged 18.	terview.
ime. -	1 child	Govt. Account.				
		Married				
		8 child;				

These brothers and sisters were all from the same F. and M. and all born Warsop. They are not set down according to age.

Land round House: The house is built on a very steep slope near the road (New Road, left hand side) and the square is not used for much cultivation. There are 2 pear trees; he has ~~just~~ planted recently 2 Grapefruit; there is a little cane and some Dandelion bushes for bush tea. Adjacent is William Brissett's cultivation.

(b) 1 acre bought Land at Durham Mountain.

This he bought 1935 from Arthur Gray his father for \$4. It was part of a property of 10 acres bought by his father. 5 acres of it were bought from Mr. Frederick Wiltshire and 5 from Mr. William Beckford. I think it was for the price the land goes for in those days -- 40/- an acre.

Before his father died in 1938 he had sold all of it except this acre he ~~xxxxxx~~ John bought .:

1 acre to Joseph White (living on Allsides) for \$5 in 1935.

2 acres to Eustace Robinson, living on Durham;
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres to Keturah Powell living at Retreat;
 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to James McDonald;
 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to Augustus Cross.

Both McDonald and Cross are dead and "the land falls to their housekeepers, Julian McDonald and Gladys Foster respectively.

All these sales were made in 1935 at the same time and the land was all sold at the rate of £5 per acre.

200/

Crops grown:

$\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Yams (i.e. $2\frac{1}{2}$ stretches) 200 hills. It is planned airy". In between the hills he will plant gungo peas and potatoes.

Last year he only planted 150 hills. They ate a lot of these yams and sold the balance for £4 (yellow yams which fetched 18/- per cwt.)

Yam heads: We save all the yam heads -- not only the best ones. To enable him to increase the number of hills this year he has had to buy 2 cwt @ 16/- per cwt. (N.B. If this means that he saved 400 head from last year and they save all their heads, it would be a possible clue to the amount consumed in the home).

Labour or Help from Neighbours:

Don't afford to hire. "What we does is to get neighbours to help. We work hand to hand. Help them and they help us."

Two neighbours, John Williams (see C.H. 99) and William Brissett (who soon after this joined us) whose cultivation adjoins the house site) helped him with his two elder sons -- Sydney and Wesley.

Seasonal Planting:

lined from this stage by Mr William Brissett. Planting season for Yams February to March. For food supply during this planting period they plant last September potatoes which are reaped in March.

Last year he had about a $\frac{1}{2}$ acre planted "through" i.e. through the yam cultivation. After eating all they need he expects to get about 40/- for the part of the crop he sells. He estimates this as 300 lbs to 500 lbs and he will get 8/6 per 100. On account of the drought earlier in the year it was a poor crop.

The peas they will eat.

(c) $\frac{1}{2}$ acre Rented on Allsides: (on the southern part of the property. It is about 1 mile from here. He began to rent it in 1932. It was bare land then. It is on a steep slope.

Crops: $1\frac{1}{2}$ squares in sugar. He grinds at Mr Boy Bailey's mill (He is the husband of Mrs Wallace, then call him boy them dont know his right name). The sugar boiler or the owner of the mill is called "the contrivance man" and the mill itself "the contrivance". Bailey's Mill is on Allsides but he lives on New Road.

In addition to the 1/4 for the draught and the 1/- for the use of the copper he charges 3d per barrel for the dropper. If you have your own pans you can

Cane

would not have to pay this. But "who has own pans wont lend it for nothing." Droppers (pans) cost 6/- per dozen and they dont last much more than a year.

Last yr. got 4 Barrels equal 4 tins

These Canes were planted by him when he first rented the land in 1932. Since then he has only supplied roots as necessary.

atoes.

as.

obages

Potatoes for the rest of the land, with between the ~~rows~~ banks peas. The pease were planted in March but are poor through the drought. They are dry now (for picking). He will plant peas again in July -- June is not a good month "the seventh star is vert hot in June". Asked to explain this expression they did not know what the 7th star meant.

He will be planting cabbages in June. Only about 25 roots to eat "as we cant get fish". He will again plant cabbages in August. Just little little.

Livestock: Has a pig which he keeps at the house and a goat which is on the other bought land.

Pig: bought last year June in Warsop for 20/- Raising it to sell to butcher. It is usual for them to buy at 9d per lb and sell at 1/-.

Goat: Bought last year August for 14/- No kids yet but has been put out. Will try to raise the kids and will use the milk.

Bees: The only man who keeps Bees in Warsop is Mr Brown in Wilson Valley. Honey sells at 9d per pint. Anyone can tell you who is the Mr Brown who keeps Bees.

Clothes: At the end of the interview Mr Gray asked if I was not going to ask him about ~~de~~ "de raiment". He said he had two suits and two sets of underclothing -- ~~xxxx~~ drawers (here Mr Brissett corrected him and said "under pants") and merinos. (I noticed that under his shirt he wore a pyjama jacket). He last bought a suit in December. He buys one suit a year which then becomes his best and the previous best one his working. He has only 1 pr boots. He bought it in December last year for 22/- at Albert Town. He has no other.

P.S. I noticed while we were talking on the verandah that there is a bed in the sitting room.

Gray wearing a white cotton shirt, clean but much stained; khaki trousers much patched and bare feet. She in a clean working dress much patched.
