

P.D. 23. S.D. 20. Household 57.

McHayle, Harold.	Head.	M.Cl.	28.	Farmer.	Mixed Farm.
Frazer, Ursulla.	Wife.	F.Cl.	25.	7.2.	Homemaker.
McHayle, Louise	Dau.	F.S.	7.		
" Apollos	Son.	M.S.	6.		

16th May 1947.
E.C.

The McHayle house is a small one on the slope of the road on the left on New Road. It is next door to the very superior one of the Stanford Smith's. Acutally the site was bought by McHayle from Smith in November last year -- $1\frac{1}{2}$ stretches for £80. including the house.

I saw both Mr and Mrs McHayle, was invited into their very nice little sitting room and there we talked, he sitting on a chair opposite the one I was offered and she on the floor with the child. In the corner of the otherwise well-furnished room was a rather incongruous barrell. I asked (much later) what was kept in it and was told by Mrs McH. that she had had peas drying in it.

Harold McHayle is a young man and much given to laughter and smiles. She looks older than her husband. The Census data is that at 25 she had had 7 children and lost 5 of them. She is a farmer and was very knowledgeable. She gave much of the information which follows and often supplied information over which he was in some doubt. She is, as are so many of the wives, quick to see what you want to know, and gives it to you more deftly and factually than sometimes do the men. (With the exception of farmers like Napier.) She reminded me in this respect of Mrs Percival Davis.

This is another case where the Census Definition of these wives as "homemakers" is quite incomprehensible. They work along side their menfolk in the fields. But there is a distinction between the work they do and what the men do. The wives -- or this wife -- I was told, do the weeding of the grass round the plants, do the planting of the cassava and the sticking of the cassava.

Land and House: This is one stretch and a half. I could not see what was on it as we were inside, but I was told there was coffee, Bananas, 4 Breadfruit trees, (2 bearing and 2 young, both on the land when they bought it), 2 pears, 4 Ackees (to verify this the daughter, Ursula, was sent out to "look"), 1 Coconut; a Broadleaf (lumber) "nearly ripe for felling. For vegetables are plants cabbages and "long peas". The kind was not known by name so Ursula was again sent out to bring in one to show me. It was like a string bean but about 8 inches long and very thin and inside was a small round bean. I do not know it.

Livestock: Donkey: bought in December 1946 for £4.10.
Fowls: 6. The eggs are eaten.
No goats or pigs.

Rented Land: (1) One piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre on Allsides;
(2) One piece 1 acre rented from Napier Dixon @ 24/- per acre not too good land, hillside, in Wilson Valley near Durham. Napier has two acres here. The other acre is rented to Charles Swaby.
(3) $\frac{1}{2}$ acre bought Land in Wilson Valley bought about 7 years ago from Hartnell Gager for £7.10. It was there

that he and his wife first lived in a thatched house before they got this. They had now pulled down the thatched house. They showed without saying anything definite their pride in this purchase and the achievement of a nice home.

Crops.

- Yams. 1) The $\frac{1}{2}$ acre at Allsides has been rented by him for 14 years. Last year he rested this land. He had nothing out of it except the cane which was there. There are $1\frac{1}{2}$ stretches of cane. This year he has started planting yams again -- he has in 100 Banks (yellow and a little negro) He expects to get £5 from this yam. He is still planting. At the planting season he has to get "help" i.e. hire Labour. He pays 2/6 per day and themeal. For digging yam holes they work by the task -- for the 100 hills you pay 9/- plus the meal. You get 7-800 lbs for the 100 hills. But when you sell to the Speculators you have to give them 120 lbs to the cwt -- i.e. 20 lbs "brortar" on every 100 lbs. It used to be 40 lbs they demanded. They have to give the people they sell to in the market over-weight.
- Labour. He is still planting. He will reap these yams next March.
- Cane. Cane. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ stretch has never been replanted since he took over the land 14 years ago. He only weeds and supplies. Last year he cut 5 Barrels. He grinds at Mr Darius Brissetts mill. Carries out the cane on the donkey. Then pays 1/- per barrel for the Mule drawing; 4d per B. for feeding the mill; and 1/- per B. for the use of the copper for boiling the syrup.
- Vegetable and Pulses. He grows there also congo and red peas and cabbages.
- 2) The 1 acre from Dixon. Asked when he started to rent that the woman replied :you got it 8 years ago. He pays 24/- rent. It is on a hillside. It has on it 1 Breadfruit and about 6 mangoes. The landlord does not claim the right to reap these -- he has them when they are bearing. The land was bare common when he took it (except for the trees). Last year he planted there: 2 stretches sweet potatoes and $\frac{1}{2}$ stretch of corn. The potatoes were planted in December and can be reaped now. We shall eat them. Not sell. The corn was planted in February and will be ripe in August. Every year he throws up a half it to rest.
- 3) $\frac{1}{2}$ acre owned in Wilson Valley (where they used to live). This was bought 7 years ago. When bought it was "bare common". Last year they had in it 40 Banks yams and $\frac{1}{2}$ stretch of cane. They have there 2 young mango trees and have planted about 6 pear trees.
- Praedeal Larceny. They tief out 17 hills last year. And, the wife added, he had just paid man t go plant it! This was said without rancour and both were laughing. Every year dem go steal. Every year dem tief out you head (i.e. the yams heads -- which are needed in the planting season). Every time when it come on to crop time dem tief de yam but "dem will hardly tip down over de yam hill so steal it" (i.e. they will no usually bend down over the yam hills and open them to take out the yams. He is a Member of the J.A.S.

Labour: I never worked for wages last nor yet this year. But I do sometimes. (I think he meant that he used to when he was first beginning). I work in the Lowlands with farmers who plant corn -- to weed and cut grass. Wage rate is usually 2/- to 2/6 Has never worked on the Lowlands sugar estates.

Allsides rent: Mr McH. said the rent was heavy and she volunteered that they owed rent -- at first this was said to be 30/- 1but then 20/-. Dem wont wait. When yo owe dey go dere and dem level you -- chop you tings." I was startled and said you mean they would cut down your cultivations? They explained that before Sir Archibald when Mr Bobbie Greaves was manager they would do just that -- or take out your heads (yam heads) and sell dem. But now they would not do that but they went round and took a machette and make a chop in a banana stem or a cane or something to let you know them level you. When you is levelled you has 3/- put on to the 9/- you owe."

U.S. Labour. Mr McH. was with the Farm Labourersthats went to U.S. ~~xxxx~~ a year last March. He was in New Jersey 6 months with War Man Power. Working on bums. (i.e. Bombs!) His compulsory savings amounted to £47. He had other savings towards the home they are living in and he put them together and bought the house and land on his return.

Family History.

Mr and Mrs McHayle were married June 4 years ago. The date was first given as five years ago, by the husband. She corrected him: it was later than that because, pointing to the little boy playing on the floor beside us, "when I marry de little bwoy de in my stomach and his not yet 4 years."

Mrs McHayle was Fraser and her mother and father both de -ya (are here).

It was agreed that I should return to have a talk with Mrs ~~Kras~~ McHayle on matters that interested us women on another day. A very pleasant little home and an interesting pair. The girl is "at Miss Ma's" and there were more nice tributes to these good ladies kindnesses in the village.
