

Lynch William	Head	M.M. 39	Farmer	Mixed farm
" Setira	Wife	M.M. 36.2.2.	Homemaker	
" Venetia	Daughter	F.S. 12.		
" Alva	Son	M.S. 9.		

Interview  
with Lynch William  
14.7.47.  
J.O.

His master.  
Benjamin  
or Cyril

I met William Lynch moving around the houses of Daniel Griffiths and his sons: Cyril and ~~Griffiths~~ Eric. "Whose is this house?" - I asked pointing to one of the houses. "This is my master's house" - was his answer. I stopped for a couple of hours and he told me his family history.

His bastard  
parents.

William Lynch was not born in Warsop. He was born in St. Elizabeth, where his mother was born and stayed all his life. His father was James Lynch, whose house in on the other side of the Baptist Church. He was a bastard child. "My mother - St. Elizabeth is her home. She never lived in Warsop since I come big. I born St. Elizabeth."

His childhood  
in Warsop.

Still as a child he was transferred to Warsop and brought up by his grandmother, Mary Lynch, the mother of his illegitimate father. "When I come here, I was a small child, 4-5 years. I was living at my grand-mother's home, Mary Lynch." He spent in his grand-mother's home all his childhood.

His marriage.

He married some 17-18 years. He was not regularly married, but has been attached to a girl in the neighbourhood, daughter of Cyril/?/ Griffiths. He left her grand-mother's home and stayed ~~in her~~ with the family of his woman. "I lived ~~with her~~ in my father's home, before I moved to my own. I lived with my father-in-law and with my brothers-in-law. With the father of my wife."

His own property.

He got nothing from his parents. "I am a bastard. James Lynch, my father, give me nothing. I get nothing ~~from~~ from none of my parents. Have nothing when I started to live by my own." "Nothing at all from my own father."

About 10 years ago he bought however a little over 1 stretch of land from his grand-mother, ~~Mary~~ Mary Lynch, and built his own home. Ordinary grass-house. In this way he managed to live on the same ~~property~~ family place, where he spent his childhood, and to have at the same time a home of his own. He paid 14/. to his grandmother for this land. It was "backland" and this was the reason why the price was low. Still he was expected to support his grandmother.

His marriage.

He married his wife regularly /in the Church/ some nine years ago. "9 years since we married. When I married I was strong, I was striving for myself."

His two-family home.

"At that time I was still ~~xxx~~ with my grand-mother. I did not renting any land. I worked the land of my grand-mother. My wife was at my father-in-law house. I marry her before my grandmother die. I built my house and stayed in my house. All the time I visit my wife's home, and I visit my grand-mother's home just the same. My wife took her washing to wash. I worked the land of my grand-mother. I was trying ~~as~~ my best to help her. At that time ~~sh~~ I was strong."

Death of the grandmother.

His grand-mother died 7 years ago. But he got no land from her property. She owned ~~xxxxx~~ "around 5 acres land". She got only this one stretch of land, which he bought previously. All the ~~xxxxx~~ remainder of his grandmother's land was taken by her "lawfull" sons. Nothing was given to the "bastard" grandson.

Successors to the family property.

There were several Lynches who were ~~xxxxx~~ related in this or other way to Mary Lynch, his grandmother, and were expected ~~his~~ heirs of the family property. Only some of them ~~xxxxx~~ inherited this land; others got nothing. Altogether the land passed to William Lynch's uncles. Only lawfull sons inherited the land. Unlawfull grandsons got nothing.

Lynches in Lynch Town.  
James Lynch,  
William "bastard father".

There are following Lynch families living now in Lynch-Town or in its vicinity.  
There is first of all James Lynch, William's ~~xxxxx~~ "bastard" father. He lives with his family on the other side of the Baptist Church. He gets no help from his father and does not expect any. "James Lynch - he wealthy, but he dont help me. He help lawfull, but not bastard. Many a times I ask him to give me land - he never give. Not even promised to give anything. He wont give me anything." Why? "Bad man."

Johny Lynch,  
his pat.uncle.  
Joseph Lynch, Joseph L.  
another pat. uncle.

Johny Lynch, who lives right in the middle of Lynch Town "is my uncle". He is brother of James Lynch. He lives in vicinity of Johny Lynch - "my uncle". Also "brother of James Lynch". he is "very poor, poor-poor". "He live family land, has ~~xxxxx~~ no own land, they dont share the family land". /The land is shared by the successors to old paternal property, but not subdivided./

Renard Lynch.

Renard Lynch - his house is at the bottom of the hill, on which Stephen White's house is situated. "We are two first cousins; but he is wealthy, him go to America, stay in America now." His house does not stay empty now: "a little old lady living here, name Gee /MalaGee/, I dont know the right name, she dont married".

Renard Lynch is illegitimate son of Stephen White. "Renard Lynch's father was Stephen White. His mother was Margaret Dwyer. She was Margaret Lynch, but she married a guy name Dwyer. Him father /Renard's/ is a very rich man and him help him. He send money to his father and his father buy lands for him."

Stanley Lynch.

Stanley Lynch is another illegitimate son of James Lynch. "Him my brother. We two bastard sons. He is different mother, not the same, but also unlawfull." His position is however much better. "He was taken by old good lady, Mrs. White. The old lady died and left him lands. She was no relation to Stephen White." And no relation to Mrs. White who lives on the top of the hill eastwards from the Mission House. She left him "good amount of land. He is about to leave to live in Mount Happy". He sold his land near the parochial road to Mount Happy to Augustus Napier from Allsides and intends to move to Cockburn. "He has some land in Cockburn, plenty of land. He got it from the old lady."

The old lady "took him as a child." She took also a girl who was from St. Elizabeth and brought two of them, Stanley and the girl, as her adopted children. She left the land to Stanley and added the girl to it. The girl is "suckly". There is another girl living in Stanley's house: "two of them stay in home". The other /"Mummy" ?/ is Stanley's wife. "They dont marry yet, but they live together".

Grandmother's land subdivided among successors.

When his grandmother died, "her sons took all the land". "Before she die, she promise to give me. I was looking for something, but her sons took everything: Joseph, John, Fred, Roebert. Then took the land, them took all-all. Around about 5 acres of land. Only one stretch me." He could not prevent this. "I could do nothing. For me is the grandchild, and them is lawfull sons."

James Lynch did not participate fully in the succession "James never got anything, for him - he leave and go alone by himself". After a while, William admitted that Lynch got a piece of land from his mother's succession. "He got a piece of land at the bottom of the hill and sell it to a stranger. Renard Lynch bought it from James. He is an uncle to him, he call James Lynch uncle." But, as far as I could understand, all the familyland remained still undivided - all the successors use it and share in common, but they did not cut it into separate possessions. Only James Lynch is excluded from this collective family ownership.

William Lynch's farm to-day.

Except ~~besides~~ his one stretch on land under his house William Lynch is landless. He rents only 1/2 acre of land in Crown Land, from Miss Fan. He pays her 10/ ~~per year~~ yearly.

He plants some yams and cassava on this spot. Last year he ~~planted six~~ had some 70 yam-hills; this year "I buy and try to put 100 hills." He has "couple of roots of banana" at his house and "a couple of root of cane". This is all his cultivation.

His living.

How he does make his living? ~~max~~ "Sometime I go around and work for a better man and get 2/., and sometime cant earn at all." ~~My wife work~~ "My wife work for nobody." Brothers-in-law? "They dont help me." Father-in-law? "Him dont help me."

His work. What was he doing last week? Working for somebody? "No, working for nobody - the same place, my own premises." To-day/Monday/? There was "nothing to-do." To-morrooe? "My own little gardening." Wednesday? "Just the same, same position."

His health. In fact, he cant work now. He is ill for about 5 years. "I looded my health, I cant do nothing for myself, I am sickly." What a trouble with him? "Sickness - in my head." "I was working and got a fall in Cockburn." He hurt his head and back, went to a doctor, but the hospitals were overcrowded at that time, he could not get the admission. Doctor gave him some medicine and told him that his nerves are overstrained from work. This happened 5 years ago. "To-day I am down."

He is not able even to work his own land. "All the good people help me all ~~xx~~ around." Now he got also some "some dreadfull pain in my stomac".

His family. His family consists of 6 persons: himself, his wife and four children. ~~He~~ His oldest girl, 16 years old, does not stay with him. "him is not in Warsop; in Mandeville, working - domestics." "3 months since she left". ~~xxxx~~ A week ago he got ~~xxxx~~ letter from her. She works still in Mandeville as servant. She did not stay previously in Warsop with the family; was in St. Elizabeth with her grandmother and his mother.

Icent Lynch is his another daughter. She also is described as "the oldest". She is 17 years old and goes to the school. His son, Alva Lynch, is onyl 14 years old. He also goes to the school.

The youngest child is a boy 8 years old. His name is Kenneth.

How they make living? William Lynch was very vague about how do they manage to make their living. He does not work, his wife does not work, his children do not work. They rent 1/2 acre of rented land and one stretch of their own under the house. His father-in-law does not help him, neither his brother-in-law. But he was found wandering about his family-in-law place and described this place as "his master's house".

Religion. Education. William Lynch does not belong to any church. His mother was Anglican, his paternal family are all Baptists. He is illiterate. He went to the Baptist school when he was a boy, not only on Sundays, but learned nothing. "I go by week, but I never took an education." His children go not to the school, but they do it irregularly. "One week they go, another week they stay home. Take up little water, doing something in the garden."

Adventists. I asked him about S.D. Adventists in his town. He was very much impressed with Adventists services here. "great multicutte" coming to the service in the local meeting house on Saturdays. "A great multicutte of them last Saturday." "Sometime around fifty." "Great multicutte." The meeting houses is not however belonging to the Adventists. This is the meeting house of the converted people.