

5.XII.1947.

T.O.

12/26/30

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Rochester	William	head	M.M.	57	57 St. Eliz.	Colour.	Angl.	W.3.	farmer
"	Francella	wife	F.M.	52, 13, 10	"	"	"	W.3.	homemak.
"	Tresillian	son	M.s.	28	"	"	"	W.3.	farmlab.
"	Hazel	dau	F.S.	22	1. 1.	"	"	W.3.	none
"	Mavis	dau	F.S.	20	"	"	"	W.3.	none
"	Enid	dau	F.S.	17	"	"	"	W.3.	4 E. stud
"	Lillybelle	dau	F.S.	13	"	"	"	W.3.	4.E.
"	Dimzie	dau	F.S.	8	"	"	"	W.1	4.E.
Roach	Vivian	gr/son	M.S.	4/12	"	"	"	--	

9

21³/₄ acres of own land in 3 parcels: 6 - 7³/₄ - 8, no labour employed in cultivation - 7 acres, cultivable not used 5¹/₂, grazing 6³/₄ others 2¹/₂. Total value farm&house: £250, value of buildings £50, no mortgage

Tomatoes - 0,6 acre - 5600lbs. corn ¹/₄ a, congo 3 ac. cassava 1³/₄ ac., sweet pot. ¹/₂ acr. yams ¹/₂ acr. tobac. ¹/₄ acr = 500 lbs.

3 avocad. 6 coconuts, 35 mangoes, 2 naseb. 3 donkeys, 3 sheep, 2 goats, 3 swine, 5 hens,

Informant Mrs. Francella Rochester.

The house is in Green Olive next to the house of Laban Rochester.

Family, Mr. William is the elder brother of Mr. Laban. William was born in the house where Laban lives now, but the younger son got the paternal house. Mrs. Francella has one married daughter in America - Mrs. Cooper. She went there 9 years ago, married and has one child. Mrs. Francella's son (Tresillian?) went to the States "on contract" three years ago. He plans to stay there as long as possible. Another married daughter lives in Kingston. Daughter Enid is since January in Black River where she is a probationer in the Nursing Home. She will have to pass some examinations in Kingston and practice in hospital before she is a qualified nurse. Mrs. Francella was against her daughter going for nursing. She was twice in the nursing home and did not like the idea. But Enid ever since she was a little girl loved nursing and would always nurse anyone in the family who needed it. Everybody loves her in the nursing home. (see letter no 1).

Tomatoes She is very satisfied with the result of tomato-growing and praises Major Moxsy (see general interviews)

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T.O.

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travels.

Mr. William "ochester went in 1908 to Costa Rica. It was before he was married. At that time many young men used to go to Cuba, Panama and other places. Spence from Ballards Valley (the one who owns quite a bit of land in Little Pedro) went to Costa Rica and made money. "You can call him a rich man, he has a couple of hundred pounds. He went (to Costa Rica) at a time when money was there." However at the time when Mr. William went to Costa Rica things were not so good. "Them have colones, they call dollars, but after you work up one colones is worth one to two shillings. 11½ of them colones to a ~~xxxxxx~~ gold piece 20/6" "It is a swampy place, fever came and trouble me". So Mr. William stayed there only 3 months and came back. He did not bring money "I mush up money" (He spent his own - more than he earned.)

He left Jamaica by boat from Kingston with some friends from Bull Savannah and Ballards Valley. The boat called at many ports: Cuba, Porto Rico and some in South America. Mr. William does not know what countries they were. He remembers only they went ashore and had a drink in a tavern. People spoke spanish there so they had to make signs to make themselves understand. Finally "I couldnt tell you exactly how long it was" the boat came to Costa Rica and they landed in Port Limon. They were "on their own" i.e. they did not go on a contract but paid their own passage and were looking for work for themselves. In Port Limon "contractors" used to look for labourers. "A man contract us and we agree and take chance with that man on the railroad".

Costa Rica 40
years ago.

According to Mr. William at that time there were no roads in the country. Only tracks and railroads. There were large plantations of bananas and the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ work consisted in "falling the mountain" (clearing the ground for plantations) and at the railroad. His first work was to scrap the bridge ~~mx~~ which was over Martina River and paint it afresh. The local people were afraid of doing it as the bridge was an iron construction high over the river bed. "But we used to rivers and sea - we were not afraid". They tied themselves with ropes and did the work. The local people red Indians who lived in the interior "had to come all the same to the market to buy some little things". Those Indians were afraid to cross the bridge. When they walked on it and saw right under their feet the precipice - they wouldnt move. So the ~~xxxx~~ the Jamaican workers would help them with the crossing of the bridge. "We had hard time to get them over that bridge". The Indians would come back carrying ~~their~~ the goods they bought in the town or at the little market. They tie the load with a band and ~~mx~~ the band they support with their forehead, the load hanging behind at their backs. "In this manner they carry big loads." When those Indians would come back they always had some presents "a bottle or so" for the workers who helped them to cross the bridge. In the river bed there were a lot of iguanas "big lizzards - the size of a pussy". The Jamaicans used to kill them. Once an overseer - a Spaniard

he was - saw it and asked them to give him the iguana. He came later and said it was fat and any other time they catch one he would like to have it. Mr. William was rather disgusted with it, lizards dont look to him as animals proper to eat.

Banana plantations.

After the job with painting the bridge he worked at the banana plantations. "First you fall the mountain, the mountains there - level and no rocks". It starts by cutting underbush first but not "troubling" the big trees. Then banana suckers were planted in rows, they wer using small suckers "one feet big". After that they start on the big trees. "For a time you hear only axes, but no tree fall". Then trees were falling: they fell with the smaller ones with which they were entangled by branches. It made a terrific noise. They were left on the ground to rot. The leaves fell and the branches rot. They did not trouble the banana suckers as they were small. After a time you could see the banana grow through the branches of the big fallen trees. "The ground is swampy there so they rot quick". When it come to ripe (the bananas) big heaps were brought near the railway line - there was no other road. If you wanted to walk you had to go by the railway line and jump from one prop to another - "hard walking". Well these heaps of bananas would rot. They either didnt have enough ships to carry them, so they would take "a little from me and a little from you and a little from another one", or they would cut some too ripe ones. "When it come to ripe the place - it stink".

Return

After a short while Mr. William decided to go back home. The pay "wasnt anything much" and he contracted fever. Some of his companions died, some went home already, other stayed. He lived in barracks "W" were 20 - 30 there- you had your little belongings and had to make yourself comfortable." He took his belongings "you didnt have to give any notice" and went to Port Limon. There he went to some "offices to fix me up" and when the boat came he went home. This time the boat went straight to Kingston.

The brother who stayed.

His brother Isiah however, who went shortly before, did not come home. From Port Limon he walked many days, "during the night they had to climb trees, big trees to sleep to protect against wild animals". It was a long walk - "eight days or more", and he settled in Chivaqui(fonet). "I never understand where it is exactly, but it is under the Panama President". This brother used to write to them and to some family in USA. However since 16 years Mr. William did not have any news from him. He knows from the letters the brother "married there a woman and had family". (His son Reginald left in BullSavannah was adopted by the grand parents and got after the grandfather's death the portion of land which was destined for his father). Mr. William thinks that if the brother died "the woman who lives with him would write either here or to America". Mr. William wrote - but got no answer.

William Rochester:

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Christmas customs.

Walk from home to another as friends.

The older men visit "Walk from one home to another as friends - from original". This custom of paying visits on the first day of Christmas was at the time of Mr. William's father and is still observed. Last Thursday (25.XII.) the 20 odd men who were visiting us went to Mr. Williams home, then they went "up the hill to another Rochester" then they went to ~~James Powell~~ Ernest Powell "we call him uncle Penny - you will hear that". In some places according to Mr. William people meet at the rum shop, but he does not like this custom, he thinks it is much nicer to "Walk from home to home". In the homes "some preparations are made" and the visitors "eat and drink plenty". In other places "them all meet at the rum shop and get drunk".

All younger come up with songs.

Another ~~custom~~ christmas custom is for the young people to gather on the Christmas eve and ~~gather~~ at night at different "Towns" of the village (more or less delimited units) and singing and making music walk towards the centre of the village. On their way they visit homes regardless of the hour and get something to eat and drink. This custom is old too- according to Mr. William, "Younger generation come and find it and carry same way". "All younger come up with songs" - "that was also originally".

9.1.1948.
T.O.

William Rochester:

About the boys who go to USA on contract "Them foolish put money - take big drinks and women from all over the world - and go back as labourers".

Thatch. Walk in old days.

Thatch Walk - the old families there were Perkins and Brooks. The whole place was silver thatch. They were all "fishermen fishing and cut thatch and twist rope."

Mr. William can make a thatch roof. The one on his own house is made by himself with some help. "Not every body can do it, you have to learn young people to do it, they don't understand much about thatch." 4 corners of the house are called "hip". The central part of the roof "Rafter" (?) Rich bone.. The hip is the most difficult to thatch.

Theft.

"All my living by cultivation. Anybody that doing anything morest damaged by people". Mr. William says that not so much here in Green Olive, but his field down in the woods are greatly damaged by thieves. "They damage me properly". "I loose too much something. You cant find directly who is the thief - because there is plenty of them. Down in Thatch Walk they have plenty of young people carrying things. We could always feed ourselves, we are never out of food - but they reap before you (the thieves) Put you in great distress. I have plenty cultivation at the time - in the woods, plenty gangoo peas, plenty cassava bitter and sweet, plenty corn, but they thieve me. By Christ! you cant catch one, you cant prison one, you cant ~~poison~~ poison one."

Are there any police in the district? little
"When this striking in Kingston them put some/author-
rized(person). There is a little one in Junction. The
station is so far, even if you catch one you dont bother
with it."

The wife (Mrs. Francella) came and complained that they
are so poor people here (It is a convention - a polite
modesty). Nowhere to go for work, nowhere to earn a
few shillings, no employment. Mr. William was of opi-
nion it is better to have own land. "It is so sweet to
go out of the house and walk ~~xxx~~ in own garden." Here
Mrs. Francella told how when she was ill her son took
her to Kingston to see the doctor. She stayed 5 weeks with
her daughter in law. She was disgusted that everything
had to be bought, even coal, and "Not a little place to
pick even pepper". She didnt like it at all. It was for
the first time she has stayed in a city but she told her
daughter in law she wouldnt like to live there at all. She
prefers to stay in the country parts.

Comments on
War in Europe.

Mrs. Francella said "We in Jamaica we shed tears -
had the anguish how you feel". She said she went once to
a place and read in a newspaper how Germans had big ovens
and burned people in them. And the ashes were used as fer-
tilizers. Mr. Williams heard that Germany was taken over
by big powers: Russia, America and ~~xxx~~ England. He
thinks Germany should be taken out of the map because hey
they are too wicked. And the little boy did he stay also
in Poland during the war or was he sent to England?
I told him about the camp where Russian prisoners were
starved to death. "Starved to death - hard life" he said.
He invited to come next day and see his field he is working
on now. "You will see how we get our living. It is not
an easy joke to provide for the family. As hard as war."

House and family.

The best room has no ceiling - a beautiful thatch is
showing. There is a small bed, chairs with cushions on
it. One table covered with glass, another on which 2 bottles
of beer and half a bottle of rum were prepared. On the
walls and on a third round table photographs of the family,
holy pictures and the royal family were displayed. Photo-
graphs of own children and relatives in America. The
(too familiar) picture of Mrs. and Mr. Andrews, of Mrs.
Brown and her daughter (the two sisters of William who
are in America.

There is the picture of Mr. & Mrs. William Rochester and
of their 7 daughters. It was taken here in front of the
house and the daughter took it to America to enlarge.

1. The eldest daughter Simonette married Claston Rochester.
2. The second married McDonald the driver for the company.
3. The third, she "was a bit rush and got an outside (child=)

She was sent to her aunt Andrews to America. There she married (A very smart boy judging by the picture. "He is a Jamaican I believe - sayss Mr. Williams - he was born in Panama and was educated in America, during the war he joined the American army." There are 3 pictures of this happy couple: he in uniform, with the family circle in New York, & with their baby.

4. Enid is learning nursing. She stays in Black River - ad just now went to Kingston to take some exams.
5. Lillybelle is the oldest now staying at home. She went to-day with her uncle Andrews (who is in vacation in Jamaica) to the beach. She came later - very beautiful in her red skirt, white and red blouse and hat and a fashionable bad to match. She is very pretty, behaves "lady like".
- 6 7 Are also at home. All the girls who stay at home work at the factory during the season. There are also some grand children - the one "rush" a really sweet little girl, also an adopted boy. Mrs. Francella said she had only two boys, and one needs boys in the home, so she had to adopt one.

One son is in America "on contract". His picture taken in New York is on the table. The second son is in Kingstn He "joined the army" is in a regiment there. He married in Kingston.

wrong
see below

23.1.1948.T.O.

Cinderellas.

Met Hazel and Mavis "ochester on their way to the factory. They never appeared ~~xxx~~ in their house when we were there on visit (invited). So far I knew only Lillybell, whom her mother always sent to us asking to come to see them, or just sending her greetings etc. Also when there were guests at ~~xxx~~ Miss Judes-our house only Lillybell came. She is always much better clad than her two older sisters, although they were to-day in their best clothes - going to the factory. Girls and women working in the factory always put for the "occasion" their best dresses.

I asked whether Lillybell also works in the factory. "She teaches at school" they said rather proudly. Hazel lost her all teeth. She is expecting a child soon. They work every year at the factory wrapping tomatoes. They can do 50 - 60 boxes a day and are paid 1½ for the box. Sometimes - when the supply of tomatoes is steady they can do as much as over 70 boxes.

Lillybelle career.

I went later to see Mrs Francella to ~~ask~~ find out why the "fate" of her daughters is different. It was like that: "hen teacher Millard came first to Bull Sav. he wasnt yet married and stayed with his mother. "the old lady didnt keep servants - did all the housework herself." ~~xxx~~ During some holidays teacher had to go away for some time and asked Mrs. Francella whether her daughter could stay and keep company to his mother. Mrs. Francella agreed and Lillybell was spending the days there, while for the night an older daughter of Mrs. Francella used to go. When teacher came back he said they liked Lillybelle very much. She stayed at teachers home, and he gave her

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special lessons with the result that she passed very well all extra examinations. She wants to be a teacher and expects to start her professional training next year (there are some difficulties now - I believe she failed at some examination - but Mrs. Francella was rather nebulous about it.)

The teacher "is a perfect gentleman" He was very kind to her daughter - but nothing improper. One cant trust many men with a daughter. But never teacher Millard. He is a perfect gentleman.

February 2nd, 1948 T.O.

More about daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rochester paid us a visit yeasterday and I thought it a good opportunity to ask about their daughters. I tried several times to learn something more about Hazel and Mavis but each time they declined the subject and concentrated on Enid (the nurse to be) and Lillyelle (the teacher to be). "Lillybelle she is teaching - for 2 years now. Paid only a little. She will get a higher pay now. After them pass the 3rd year them can get a little job at the school. Now it will be £ 8 per month. She have to take the whole respo nse of second class. She is a mistress for that class. For two years she got £2:15 or £2:16/- a month. All the day she has to be in the schhol - rain or no rain she has to be there. She improve now. The salary for probationners dont rise a ,long time. I understand the salaries ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ will rise - right up from the soldiers."

I asked how much his other daughters Hazel and Mavis earned in the factory - but he didnt answer and begun to speak about his other daughter Enid instead Enid was a probationner in Black River Hospital "Not much pay - I had to keep her all the time. I understand - she writes me - in Kingston they will get more pay. Kingston is an expensive place - they get a better pay". Mrs. Francella said that there was a letter in which Enid writes from Kingston that she passed the examination as well as her 3 companions. They were all probationners from Black River "sent by Dr. Johnson" Also she met in Kingston "her dear friend from Bull Savannah - she also passed the examination". Enid hopes that after this examination she will get a better pay. Mrs. Francella said that Enid sent a telegram to tell them that she passed the exams, in the letter there were more details etc.

Miss Roy

I attempted once more to get some information about the two other daughters but failed again. Instead Mrs. Francella commented half pitying me that I had only one child. She had 10 of them and still she had to adopt one boy- as there wasnt enough help in the house. Wont I adopt some children - how will I manage with one child only?

Pride of their soil & toil.

Mrs. Francella Rochester:

"They cant get in Manchester what we can get here after mulching. I dont mean ginger but food. It was pure savannah here - pure bush, and we put manure and work it and work it". ~~XXXX~~

"Major Moxsy - when he came here he said: @ I thought I will meet here a pack of bulls and I meet a pack of hard working men."

"In the whle of Jamaica it is said - the best farmers, the best working men are right here"(B.Sav.)

Land is precious,

Mr. William Rochester:

"The land cannot be sold! It is the backbone of my life"~~XXX~~ "We dont rent land. Everybody try to get his own."

Mrs. Francella:

"The only way it (land) could be sold - it is to sell to buy another ~~land~~ land. It become so precicus."

Changing customs.

Mrs. Francella doesnt smoke. ¹⁴either she drinks. She takes only soft drinks. ~~She never drinks anything but soft drinks~~ ~~XXXX~~ "My mother never smoke and we her girls dont smoke, dont drink. In that days to see a woman with cigarette was a shame - she looked quite common. And now I see them white ladies in a shop with cigarette"

William Rochester's farmland in Shaddock Hill. /see next pages,
 The farm was visited for the first time
 on 9.1.48 and shown by William Rochester
 to the interviewer. The diagram of the farm /see next page/
 drawn with the help of Ruel Witter and other
 fellows on 10.1.48. The main interview concerning
 this farm followed only on February 1st 1948.
 Interview with William Rochester./assisted partly by his wife/
 1.2.48.
 J.O.

Rochester's farmland
 in Shaddock Hill,
 Green Olive and
 Woodland.

William Rochester's farm in Shaddock Hill is 8
 acres big as he says, but ~~probably it is only 7.75~~
~~acres. /according to the census data/~~. It is only
 one part of his total farmland, which consists of two
 parcels more: one in Green Olive, where is his house,
~~and~~ - this ~~ix~~ counts 6 acres, and another in Woodland,
 /a parcel of 8 acres/.

Shaddock Hill parcel is described by Uncle Willy
 as "my farm" - he regards it as the most important
 part of his farmland. His activities center on this
 farm and he spends all the days - with few exceptions
 when he goes to visit his fields in Breenut Woodland -
 on his Shaddock Hill possession. History of the Shaddock
 Hill farm is connected with his family history and with
 the tomato industry in B.S.

History of his farm-
 land. *(before*
father's death).

He started his farmer's career early, still ~~xxxx~~
 before his father died and before he married. He worked
 during his father's life on his father's land in Green
 Olive and Breenut Wood.

He acquired land in Shaddock Hill in 1908, when
 he was still living in his father's home and working
 with him. Then he bought 5 acres of land "from the
 Gnt." The sale was on installments. He paid "10 shil-
 lings on a 5 acres per year - L5 in ten years time
 for the plot of 5 acres". Costs of survey were ~~xxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxx~~ "not included in it".

Then he bought "the opposite piece" adjoining
 this plot "from the cousin. It was one of my cousin
 old claim - his father give to him ~~xxxx~~ that piece and
 he sold me". It was "next year" after the purchase
 of the plot from the Gnt - 1909. He says that his cou-
 sin's ~~xxxxx~~ "old claim" was 4 acres in size, but the
 whole place is estimated at 8 acres. "The whole place
 - it 8 acres."

After he paid 1st installment for the Gnt land,
 he went "then to Port Lemon - to earn some money and
 build a house." The trip was 'nt successful: "No money
 there - only fever and salt water. No money - come
 penniless."

He came back "so distressed" - went with L10
 from Kingston to Port Lemon and brought back only part
 of the money ~~xxxx~~ which he took with him.

Continued page 11

Albert Holmes

Charles Dyer

gungoo
peas
(+ corn +
potatoes)
1 acre

"in bush"
restingland
2 acres
or more

McCotly

old 2 acres

young guinea
fruit trees
sheep grazing

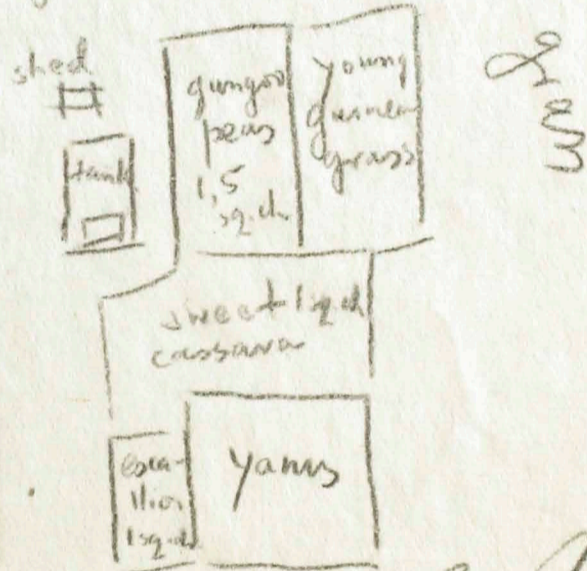
Josel
Dyer

Josel
Dyer

young guinea grass
1 acre

cassava (bitter)
1/2 acre

tomatoes
3/4 acre



Hubert
Witter

resting land no bush

Euston
Simpson

Simpson family

William's Rochester farm land
in Shaddock Hill (8 acres - or 7 3/4)

So his plans of building new house for himself had to be postponed. "I Stayed with my father - this home" / where Lahan and his family are living now / . Then "about 1910" / or perhaps later / he gave up the idea of building a totally new house - "I took old house - the one I am living now - I thatched it, did all the mason work. It was no time ~~xxxxxxx~~ - I get married.

"We married 2nd January 1913" - adds his wife. "A child come 26th. We married 2nd one and the child come 26th."

"After we married" - continues Uncle Willy - "I lived on father's land. Not freely - you had to give some support to him."

But As long as his father was alive, Willy Rochester lived in Green Olive and cultivated ~~xxxxx~~ - to support his family - his father's land in Brennut Wood. "When my father was alive, I carried my cultivations over there." The land was chiefly in guinea grass.

His homestead was at the same place where it is now. It was composed of a "living house", built in 1910 - "I repaired the old house - only little room, ~~xxxx~~ repair the top and put the thatch." "A Sleeping room" was added ~~xxxx~~ some time later. "A kitchen - built at the same time". There was an old tank on the spot, which was "built over" by him in 1912. He married "a little before". "It finished up the Christmas and we married in January."

History of his farm after father's death.

"My father - 1927 he died. He leave in the will 6 acres for me. 6 acres here and 8 in Brennut Wood. From father's death I started to cultivate ~~xxxx~~ both ends: Brennut Wood and Shadock Hill."

His chief cultivations were however in ~~xxxx~~ Brennut Wood. / "8 acres from father: 1 acre to itself and another 7 acre" /. His 8 acres in Shadock Hill were "only savannah land - scarcely cultivated; I worked a little cassava over there; and I had no guinea grass there." "No great cultivations: a little gungoo peas and a little cassava."

He moved with his farming to this land only when he started to cultivate tomatoes. "It was only when I ~~xxx~~ started to cultivate tomato." ~~xxxxxxx~~ At the start of the tomato industry he cultivated the new crop either in Green Olive or in Brennut Wood. Shadock Hill ~~xxxxxxx~~ was still a "savannah land." "Had you been here 12 years ago - describes Uncle Willy shadock Hill at that time - "and you had travelled that end, you look at the land and you call it a desert. No good."

His Shaddock Hill farmland was "8 years ago taken under cultivations of tomatoes." "5 years ago I worked the garden and the guinea grass as well." The tank was built "5 years ago almost." It cost him £30, "not including all material."

Similar change as on his land in Shaddock Hill has been brought by the tomato industry to all the area in 10 years time, "since we started to cultivate tomato." "Very strange - because many people said they couldn't work at all. Many wouldn't even take the seed."

Lay-out of his Shaddock Hill farm.

His farm on Shaddock Hill has been developed to its present state in 8 years time. The lay-out of the farm is shown on the diagram /p.10/.

Out of 8 acres of the whole area about 3 acres /perhaps 2,5 to 3/ remain uncultivated. Southeastern corner is in "steady" bush, northeastern - ~~shixfixxx~~ partly in bush. This is the land which stays resting to be taken under cultivation in future.

3 acres are in guinea grass - 1 acre in the Western part of the plot in young guinea grass, 2 acres in Eastern part - old guinea grass. There is a number of fruit trees /3 or 4 coconuts, pears, naseberries etc/ more or less in the center of the farm. Here sheep are tied to graze on the guinea grass land.

The most important item is "tomato garden". It occupies an area of ab. 3/4 acre. Rochester does not know how many tomato trees are in it "I never count them", but he estimates them at 5000 plants. He planted this year also "Mr. Kemp" variety destined for England. Does all the work in his tomato garden himself - he stays here from early morning till evening busy all the day. His tomato garden is exceptionally well attended. He looks after each plant and uses his own methods of "keeping moisture".

Adjoining to tomato field is 1/2 acre of bitter cassava /Hanson and catch thief/. His gungoo peas field is in the northern part of the plot. It is 1 acre large. Sweet potatoes and corn were planted in between.

Near the tank there ~~xxxxxxx~~ is a number of smaller plots: one /1,5 sq.ch./ under gungoo peas /younger than the big field/; a small field of young guinea grass /about the same size/ adjoins to it. Then there is - below these two fields a field of sweet cassava - ab. 1 sq.ch. or slightly more. Still lower - there is ab. 2 sq.ch. of yams. A sq.ch. of escallion is attached to the yam field.

Yams: "Japanese yam, white yam and yellow yam, /Afoo/ and Taa yam. ~~Ng~~ This is like Afoo, but much harder. Akso Mosella."

Toamtoes: "I never count them. As I told you, I plant tomatoes, I never count them. I don't go to the trouble to count."

Tomatoes are his only cash crop this year. He did not plant any tobacco last year. It does not pay. Or it did not pay previously. Now the price is good, but he failed to plant any tobacco.

Other plants are for home use. "I sell a couple of shilling but not frequently." How does he plan his food crops to meet needs of his family? No calculations ahead. "You plant as much possibly as you can. You never know how will it grow. Soemtime more, some time less. You never know."

During the war he planted more ~~xxxx~~ escallion. "I used to work when my son was here 1 sq.ch. and 1,5 sq.ch. Now since my son is gone, I am trying only to keep the little breed on. We use it in cooking. If you have too much, you sell some. Now the price is good, but I cant work as much.

Cultivations on the remainder of his farm land

He has also some cultivations on other parcels of his land: in Green Olive /at his house/ and in Brennut Wood. He plants there chiefly gungoo peas and cassava, but has also a tomato garden in Brennut Wood. This garden is "no good" and he expects little profit from it this season. We didnt go into the matter and postponed the analysis of the remainder of his farmland for some other interview.

Land values.

Willy Rochester paid for his land in Shaddock Hill £1 per acre about 40 years ago. I asked him what would he ask from me had I intended to buy from him 1 acre of this land now? His answer: "You would to pay me One Hundred pound an acre. Cant sell this land. It is a backbone of the life now. And so many lives that prompt from this land. We more prefer to buy the land than to sell. Because some have not sufficient land to work it. You had to pay me Two Hundred Pounds for it."

Land prices in the center of Bull Savannah are still much ~~higher~~ higher. Even before the factory was built this land are valued higher than the remainder: "the people striving here to buy land to build shops before. But since the factory is here, £50 now for the square chain - only a shop spot - ~~that~~ that's the price. The land that connect with the main road is very valuable. You ~~xxxxxxx~~ cant get for less...." ~~xxxxxxx~~ He didnt finish the sentence. And at the center "where higher folks are coming, where the town /is ~~xxxx~~ now/ you can sell it for any price."

"When Major Moxsy buy this land - it was to live and die here. Major Moxsy's home - he buy the land from Mrs. Johnson for £7." To-day this land wont sell for 10 times as much. "Any price". In 1940 a small part of churchland was takeb under road - ~~xxxxxxx~~ and the reimbursement of it value to the church was paid on the estimate of the price which would be paid at this time. He was asked: "what was the cost of the land here before the ~~xxxxxx~~ factory was built"? "I tell him: it is not less than £100." Eventually this small piece of land was paid by the P.W.D. £.15.

23.2.48.
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 5.

New grand
children.

Hazel has a baby boy born two days ago. (see children Nol p.4.) Mrs. Francella doesnt seem to be thrilled with it though the boy is big, fat, pink and has "beautiful hair" (straight) She told me her daughter in America Mrs. Cooper has a second child. A daughter this time. "The ~~first~~ first is a boy - so she has a pair now." Mrs. Francella did not expect the birth so soon- she was the day the child was born in Mandeville. Mrs. Simpson the "grandy" was called to assist. When four months ago the eldest daughter of Mrs. Francella - Mrs. Claston Rochester had her baby the nurse was called. I stayed for half an hour there, but though I made some hint concerning the child's likeness - no mention of the father was made.

No name for the child was chosen yet. Hazel said she would be grateful if I gave her a name for him.

Interview with William Rochester.
13.6.48.
J.O.

William Rochester and his two sons in Kingston and U.S.

William Rochester works his land himself. None of his sons stays with him. One that joined the army during the war is in Kingston. He was recently discharged from the army and took a civilian post in the camp. William does not know what is the nature of his job or how much does he earn. He lives in Kingston together with his wife. Has two children with her. William does not remember names of his daughter-in-law and of his grandchildren by her.

Another son, Tresilian, is in America. Went as farm labourer ~~xxxxxx~~ "n contract." He is already 3 years in America. Will stay probably longer. He has no grievance to his son for staying away from him and not helping him with his work. Tresilian can make in America big money. He had some doubts about ~~xxxxxxxx~~ his prolonged absence from the home and wrote to William asking him his advice: whether to stay longer or to return now. William refused to make the decision for him. He wrote to him saying that he himself should know better what to do. He should compare conditions of living here or in America and see what he can profit from staying in U.S. So he advised him to follow his own decision.

Tresilian, before he left for U.S. had a girl friend. William does not know whether he keeps in contact with his girl and whether he will return to her. It is his business. But he does not think he ~~will~~ will be or is faithful to her. He certainly ~~will~~ meets in U.S. other girls and makes friendships with her. You can never expect that a young man who stays away will keep to his former girl friend.

Inspite of having no other ~~xxxxxx~~ farm help, William does not employ ~~xxxxxx~~ labourers. He prefers to do all his work himself. Labour is too dear nowadays. A man asks for 6/- per day and must be properly fed. Two meals are served to the labourer: tea with some biscuits in the morning and breakfast consisting of food, rice, peas and beef or other meat. "You must do your best for them. You must satisfy." High ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ cost of labour is due to the season. With last rains people got chance to secure ~~xx~~ their cultivations. ~~They~~ Everybody is in a hurry doing "a little cultivation." If no other rain will come in short time it may be to dry ~~is~~ for planting. Now is the proper season for weeding and planting to make crops catch before "the dry".

Even people in Thatch Walk are busy with cultivations. Though some ~~xxxxxx~~ young men in this district are idle and could be hired, William Rochester does not intend to employ them. They are not good workers and there is no

help from a man who ~~isnt~~ dont know the work. Besides they cant be trusted. You leave them in your fields and go away for a while and in the meantime they steal the crops.

William does not know whether his son Tresilian will come back to the father's home after his return to help William with the work. May be he will build his own house and will have enough money to buy land and establish himself independently.

Visit at home. Int. Francella Rochester.
14.7.48.
T.O.

I pass this house every time I go North or N.E. from our cottage and Mrs. Francella is very friendly & chatty.

There are two living houses. The main one consists of three rooms. The third room is an addition. It is a very small room and in that one Hazel sleeps and had her last baby. The second house is smaller and has one room only. Both are thatched and the lower part is painted blue. No verandah. Kitchen and buttery in separate building.

Present household:

- Rochester William head 64
 - " Francella wife 57
 - " Hazel dau 27
 - " Mavis dau 25
 - " Lillybelle dau 19
 - " Dimzzie dau 14
 - " Hiacynth gr.dau 4
 - Roach Franklin gr.son 3
 - Rochester ? gr. son 5/12 (last baby of Hazel)
 - Holness Julius ad. son 12
- Sleeps only: Smith Barbara gr.dau. 12.

William Rochester is the son of Thomas and Julia Rochester. He is the elder brother of Laban Rochester. For parentage etc. See F.R. 1.

Francella Rochester is the daughter of old George Poweel and his late wife Frederica. See for sisters and brothers etc. F.R. 51.

Francella and William married 35 years ago and had the following children:

Simonette (Netty) 38 married Claston Rochester. Imogene married Ellis McMorris. She is 35. Her outside ~~xxx~~ daughter Barbara Smith sleeps here, but spends the day with the parents. When the new house of McMorris will be ready, Barbara will live with the parents (day and night).

Tressilian 34 is in U.S.A. His daughter Hiacynth stays with the grandparents. Tressilian didn't marry the mother of the child.

Cradwick is married and lives in Kingston.

Hazel stays at home. Has 3 children by 3 different men: Franklin Roach with Boysie Roach; another one with Samuel Powell; and the last one with Bradley Rochester. ~~The x p a r v e h i t a v s e a m s v t o x h a v e v d i f f i c u l t i e s v H a s u l x i s v~~

Mavis 25 I believe she has also an outside child but I don't know where it is.

- Lillybelle 19 pupil-teacher at B.Sav. school
- Dimzie 14 the youngest child.

Information from ~~William Rochester~~ Leo Johnson.
 Interv. Francella Rochester.
 15.6.48.
 J.O. 30.8.48.

Rochester William, 64.
 ,, Francella, 57.
 ,, Hazel, dau., 27.
 ,, Mavis, ,, 25.
 ,, Lilybelle, ,, 19.
 ,, Damsie, ,, 14.
 ,, Hyacenth, grdan, 4.
 Roach Franklin, grson, 3.
 Holness Julius, ad.son, 12.

*+ 1 Angel's last baby.
 10 persons.*

Rochester William: parents Thomas and Julia Rochester nee Simpson. Half brothers: David /d/, Thomas /d/, Doveal /?/.
 "Rest not known." Full: Laban /Green Olive/, Isaac /d/,
 Isaiah, May Brown /U.S.A./, Zala Powell /B.S.P./, Alicia
 Andrew /U.S.A./, Rebecca Lynton /Dunder Hill/, Alice Mor-
 gan /Comma Pen/. Relations maintained with all except Isa-
 iah. nee Dyer

Francella Rochester, daughter of George and Rose Powell.
 Married in 1913. Full brothers and sisters: Joseph, ~~Russell~~
~~David~~, David, Ellis /?/, Rosa Powell, Annie Powell,
~~Edith Elliott~~ - all in B.S., ~~Rebecca Grace~~ ~~Sarah Griffiths~~ ~~Nicola~~
 la Samuda ~~Rebecca Grace~~ in U.S.A., Rebecca Grace /d/. Sarah Griffiths
 who used to live in Southfield lives now with Edith Elliott.
Their children: staying away from the home: Netty Rochester
 38 /Claston's wife/, Tresilian Rochester - in U.S.A., Crad-
 wick Rocheester, 32 - in /ingston, Doris Cooper 29, Enid
 Rochester 22, Imogene McMorris, B.S., 35.

Hyacenth Rochester is outside daughter of Tresilian. Her
 mother is Enda Holness in Lititz. Hyacenth is adopted by
 grandparents and supported by father.

Roach Franklin - son of Hazel. His father is Boysie Roach.
 The child ~~is~~ supported by father.

Hazel Rochester has two other children by two different
 fathers. Refused to tell their names. They are: Samuel Po-
 well /son of Michael Powell in Green Olive/ and Bradley
 Rochester, son of Annie Weil in Green Olive.

William Rochester went in 1907 to Lemon. No savings brought.
 House: 2 houses, 3 rooms, another - 1 room. Kitchen. 2 butt
 butteries. 2 tanks.

Land: 22 ac. in 3 lots. 6 at home, 8 savannah, 8 woodlad.
 6 ac. inherited from the father, rest bought from the Gnt.
 2 bombays, 4 comm.mangoes.

Animals: 2 donkeys, 2 pigs, 3 sheep.

Mavis works at the factory. Lillybelle is teaching in school.
 Demzie in school.

All family is Anglican.