

Monday .  
23. 6. 43.  
D. B.

*I/8*

Interviewed Esmie & Lucille Perkins & Birdie Sinclair.

Present House-hold.

	Esmie Perkins	Head	29	
	Her children:-			
<i>a</i>	<del>Esmie Simpson</del>	Son	10	<i>Simpson Esmie 10</i>
	<del>Lippie Simpson</del>	Son	7	<i>Simpson Rethie 7</i>
	<del>Birdie Sinclair</del>	"	8/12	<i>Birdie Sinclair 8/12</i>
			8 months	<i>late</i>
	Lucille Perkins	Sis. to Esmie	24	
	Lucille's children:-			
<i>6</i>	Harry Rochester	Son	6	
	Orrett Simpson	"	3	
	Jeanette Gordon	Dau.	4 months	
	Birdie Sinclair	Sister-in-law to Esmie	(does not know age)	
<i>c</i>	Her children :-			
	Choral Perkins	Son	3	
	Ricardo Perkins	"	6 months	

The House.

It is one of the poorest in the district. It is a very crude building, rather small. It is marvellous to know how the house can accommodate the members of the house hold. Looking in the house there was no sign of furniture any where. All that could be seen was the earthen floor. The walls of the house are an imitation of spanish wall. The roof is thatched.

is/

What served as kitchen is a shed made of coconut leaves with the help of a few little trees that are used as posts. As far as could be seen it ~~was~~ only the fire place and the pot that the kitchen can really hold. The folks who were looking after the meal were altogether in the sun and not in the kitchen.

Two or three yards behind the house that has been described above there is another house ~~in~~ in much worse condition than the former one. There could be seen a bed without a mattress with a bundle of probably old clothes that is used as the mattress. Birdie and her children live in that room, while Esmie, Esmie's sister and their children live in the other house.

The inmates of the house hold.

The mothers and the children were very dirty, their clothes being painted with dirt and mango. The children scarcely have clothes to wear, they go with just a little shirt that can ~~barely~~ barely cover the upper part of the body. Mothers and children look half starved, and complained of hunger all the time I was there. They ate the meal they were cooking and still complained for hunger

after finishing it . One of ~~the~~ Lucille's son is covered with scratches , in his head he has little patches of sores . He is very thin .

Birdie's body is covered with scratches too , on the whole mothers and children are in a most miserable state.

Esmie.

~~She was born with her grand mother Rebecca Rowell the~~  
~~little child when she was grand mother~~

Source of living .

Esmie.

To earn her living Esmie used to trade on fish . She bought the fish at Alligator Pond and would sell to the people of the District . She trades on fish when the tomato crop is ~~off~~ off. During the crop she worked at the factory in the shed , selecting fruits at 2/- per day . She has been working at the factory for quite a few years. At present she is breaking stones for the road at Ridge. She does not know how much she will get for her stones , as they are not measuring as yet. She contributes to the house hold with a little help from Birdie and Lucille when they can afford it . When they cannot she has to do it alone .

Lucille .

She does every "little thing" to make a living . She washes and work in the field weeding grass at 1/- 6 per day . She has not done it for this "good time " . She washes most of the time for Miss Anna Dyer . She works by the day getting 1/- 6 per day . She has a very young baby just four months old , and cannot work as yet. She lives off Esmie for the present .

Birdie .

She lives at Esmie's house ~~free~~ without paying rent . She does not work , except occasionally she washes for any one in the District , which is not very often . She is helped by two of her children's father Lodrick Perkins.

Cultivation.

Esmie cultivates just a small portion of ~~corn~~ corn and peas on the land that she is living . She could not plant more than what I see "because we no did have any more seed , and that can this but feed we fe one day " . She is living on her father's land .

Family History. - Esmie and Lucille .

Leanora Holness called "Coolie" Holness their mother

Lovedey Perkins their father

Esmie does not know where her father is . Her mother is

sick in the hospital "with her kidney "

Her mother's children.

Lovell Byer who lives very near to <sup>E</sup>smie

Lodrick called "Vernon" Perkins

Herself

Lucille Perkins

Clarice <sup>K</sup>oy who is living her aunt Margeret Holness.

Esmie.

Esmie grew ~~k~~ with her grand mother Rebecca Powell . Grand mother took her when she was a little baby . She stayed with her until the grand mother died . "Before me grand mother dead me fall and have Yvonne fe Cecil Simpson . "hen me fall me grand mother quarrell~~k~~ fe the first , but after ward she stop~~pe~~~~k~~". She had her first child at her grand mother's home . She did not live with Cecil for any time . She had a second child for Cecil.

She next had a child for Stanford Sinclair , ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ She has not lived for any time with any of the children's fathers. She gets the children and that is all . At present she is ~~k~~ living with no one . Her last child is the only one that is getting any support . Her grand mother died four years ago , and since then she has left her aunt's place . Her ~~did~~ not like the way the two sisters were having children "one after the other " in her house . She built a little house on her ~~fx~~ father's land and removed to it . She built the house herself .

Aunt

She did not go to school , "me granny did poor and couldnt manage fe send me . She no did have any help , because him husband did dead and leave him with plenty little pickney".

Lucille .

She also grew with her grand mother . Then she went t stay with Miss Birdie Powell , spending three years there helping to take care of a little baby . She was not paid in cash , she was cared in return for her service . She ~~di~~ did not go to school "for me did sick when me little , and when me better me did pass the age . She had her first child when she was about 18. "Me did little but no so ~~litt~~ little , a because me did sick make me no grow more " .

"When me fall me grandmother , me aunt Margeret , and me uncle Cecil Holness quarrel and me aunt and uncle would a turn me out , if no did fe me grand mother . Them say me did have any right fe go have pickney so soon". The father of her first child is Ronald <sup>o</sup>chester . "Him hard ly wi' mind Harry , and them a rich people , them haven i'

but a the money them no want fe spend . A only now and then him give i' any little thing ! Harry went to his father's yard one and was chased out by some one at the yard . "From that me no send him go backdey ! Ronald is building a shop very near to where Lucille is living . "Perhaps when him finish the ~~house~~ shop him wi' take himfe stay with hom , and that time him wi' sneed him go a school". Ronald has another girl friend , "an' a hit make him no want fe notice me , and because the other ~~fx~~ girl mus'e higher 'an me " .

Like Esmie , Lucille did not live any time with her children's fathers . She had her second child by Clifton Simpson . He supported he well , then deserted her for another girl friend - Clarice Pitter . Lucille's aunt and uncle started to quarrel when she was expecting her second child . She left the aunt's home and went to her sister Esmie's house . Jeanette her last baby is by Ezra Gordon . Ezra has not given any thing to the child since the birth . Seeing that she is so unlucky to have the children, and not getting any help Lucille said "me na have any more , this a the last one (pointing to the baby ) me dey have .

Tuesday.  
29. 6. 48.  
D. B.

Interviewed Lucille Perkins  
& Birdie Sinclair

Paying another visit to Esmie's home , Esmie was not at home . She would be back soon Lucille told me . Lucille was sitting on the ground , her baby in her arms , and the other children sitting around her . She about five or six mangoes that were not properly ripe , and a knife . She was very busy peeling the mangoes and giving to the children while she was eating some herself . She gave some also to the baby four months old . Asked if the baby was eating it ~~a~~ too she said "a the first me dey give him it" which perhaps is not very correst .

the /

The children after finishing the mangoes started to cry . They were hungry , probaly that was their first meal for the day . The children ate/mangoes greedily not allowing even the skin to waste . ~~xxxxxx~~ Lucille was somewhat reluctant to answer when spoken to , however after a while she started to talk in a more friendly manner . Birdie came around the house at the same saying, "hi you cum back cum a look fe we " .

The children.

Lucille feeds her baby on goat's milk , "caan buy the cow's milk . Her sister has a goat for one of her children . Sometimes only the milk is given to the baby , and sometimes it is given cornmeal porridge with the milk . She weaned her first child when it was three years old .

The second one when it was two years . She does not know what time she will wean this one . She does not give her children food to eat until when they are walking . Her first child started to walk when it was nine months .

XXXX

Birdie.-Family History.

Charles Sinclair her father

Rebecca Sinclair her mother

Birdie's children.

			Age
Clarice Dyer	-for	Edmond Dyer	14
George Powell	"	Ramus Powell	13
Gloria South or	"	Phillip South	11
	"	Simpson	
Ivan Simpson	"	" "	10
Choral Perkins	"	Lodrick Perkins	3
Ricardo Perkins	"	" "	6 months

first/

Birdie was living at her parents' home , but they have turned her out of the home . She had her/three children at her parents home , and when she was expecting the fourth one they turned her away . They told her she could not stay in the yard to have so many children , "they cant put up with it anyxlonger " . With that she left the home.

At that time her uncle Sammy Roy was alive , so she went to his home and stayed there for some time . Her uncle died and then she had to leave the house. She had two more children while she was at her uncle's place. Not having anywhere to stay and ~~her~~ seeing that she has a child for Esmie's brother she asked Esmie to allow her to stay at her house . She has been staying ~~in~~ there for a long time now . "Me though go back go ask me parents fe take me back , me no know if them/wi' take me " .

Birdie's children .

Clarice her first child is staying with the grand fath Charles Sinclair. Clarice's father is not supporting her . The grand father has adopted Clarice .

George does not stay with his mother . He is with his grandmother Sarah Beccy at Thatch Walk . Sarah is his father's mother .

name/

Gloria and Ivan <sup>S</sup>impson are children of Phillip South, but Birdie said his "right/~~xxxx~~axis Simpson and not South " . Gloria is staying with Mrs Lily Lewis . Lily took ~~her~~ her from the mother to stay wiht her . The works for Lily and Lily cares the child .

Ivan too has been staying at Mrs Jane Dyer for the last seven months . Jane took him from the mother . He is sup-

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
ported by Jane .

Charal and Ricardo are with their mother . Their father maintains them ~~x~~ all the time .

a house belong-  
ing to

Lodrick Perkins father of the last two children used to live at Clifton ~~oy's~~ . He has removed to Cross Roads to live there , and to work for one Mr C Crammer . Mr Crammer is the husband of "Limpie" Dyer , and Limpie is cousin to Lodrick . ~~Limpie~~ Mr Crammer is crippled and cannot work so Lodrick will be working his land for him . It may be done on partnership , Lucille who told the story does not know how he will get his pay . Lodrick used to help Esmie and Lucille well before he had his children . "But since him have fe him we caan look fe him help we so much now."

Clement Holness

While talking to Lucille Clement passed through the yard . He stood for a while gazing intently at me , withew out saying a word . He gave a grunt of disgust and then started off again . Reaching the gate he stopped and turned towards us in the yard . In a commanding tone he shouted to me , " you no know me , you no know "Grandey" ? Not knowing neither of the two he said , " ahow unno (we) mean fe dey walk ~~xx~~ up and down every day dey bury people name in a book and no know them name . Me tired fe see unno , no say we dislike unno , bu we tired fe unno ask we the heap a question . If unno fe ask we so much question gi' we something out a wha' them dey pay unno and then we ~~xx~~ wi' talk and full the book " .

Clement begged for some thing and he got a cigarette on getting the cigarette , he started to talk more ~~pleasantly~~ friendly and quickly invited me to come to his yard one evening . He will have more time in the evening to talk ~~to~~ "and gi' you a long story" .

Esmie's attitude.

Esmie who was just coming from Mrs Hilda Dyer's home where she was helping to prepare corn to make lunch for the men working on the road . Realizing some one was at her yard she got very cross and started to cusse . "Me no have no time fe answer any dam question , me have me business fe do , me no have any time . When you fe answer question you fe ha' you ~~beez~~ belly full . And you na get any thing out a this heap a question . Every day the dam question , question . Any body come ask me question must ha' fe pay me fa me ha' fe full me belly fe sit down fe chat . Yesterday me spend whole half day dey answer question , me ha' something fe do more 'an fe answer question."

Thursday .  
1. 7. 48.  
D. B.

- 7 -

Family Record 10

### Interviewed Lucille Perkins

I paid another visit to Esmie's home , she was not at home , but had gone to help prepare the corn at Mrs Dyer's for lunch for the men on the road, working . Lucille said she does it every day. She is paid by the day . She- Lucille does not know how much she gets for the day . Esmie does not take her money until the end of the week.

Lucille was in the same position as on a previous visit, sitting on a box at the door with the children around her . Again they were crying for hunger . Harry her first child had a penny in his hand and wanted to spend it . The mother told him to take it "and go down a Miss Jane go buy mango". Harry did not obey .

To earn her living too Lucille ~~pk~~ plaits straw . She buys the straw at Alligator Pond or the new market (that is Top Hill ) , at 6d per dozen . When the price is good she ~~k~~ can sell at 16 yds for a 6D , but sometimes the price drops to 4½d or 3d for 16 yds. She sells the straw ~~kk~~ at her house "people pass all the time and ask for it " . She ~~sk~~ has not done straw plaiting for "this good time " . When the straw are kept for a long time they become red and cannot be sold easily .

During Major Moxsy's time she used to work for him weeding grass and attending to the tomato , by putting them on stick. She was paid 6d per day. She has not done any weeding lately . She does washing most of the time now , when she happens to work .

### Attitude to the children

Asked who chastised the children when they are naughty . Lucille does not chastised them "for them no rude , if you come dey and no see them you can hardly know say pickney live ya . A little time after Harry and Orrett were playing with the baby in the mother's lap , each of them wanted the baby to himself . They started to hit one another , the mother immediately took her hand and gave Harry three or four hits in his head that sent him falling to the ground .

Harry started to cry and ropl in the dirt . The mother took a bit of twig and gave him a few more strikes . That made Harry cry louder , the mother in a jeering manner said to Harry "wey you no go home to you Pappa , see you Pappa shop dey wey you/go sell corn meal and flour in dey. See some body in dey wan' serve//go sell them wha' ~~th~~ them want% " . (the shop has nothing like goods , just the frame of it is there) .

Lucille was very pleasant to day . She said in quite a friendly manner , "you caan find Esmie home all them ya

no/

time , and perhaps she no gwine come back quick fa  
she car' one him pickney .I' better you come back a even-  
ing that time she wi' dey ya , or you can come back one  
nither day when she dey home



Informant Dudley Simpson.

2.6.48.

J.O.

Dudley Simpson added some details concerning Esmie Perkins, Lucille Perkins and Birdie Sinclair.

All these three girls are in a way one family. Esmie and Lucille are sisters, Birdie Sinclair is along with their brother Vernon /called also Lodrick/ Perkins.

They live in two huts. One is inhabited by the sisters, another by Birdie Sinclair, Vernon Perkins and their children. Their hut was built by Vernon Perkins. Previously Birdie Sinclair used to live in one hut with Esmie and Lucille, but when she was "making a baby" for Vernon Esmie "could not tolerate" ~~maxxin~~ it /giving birth to the child in their ~~hut~~ crowded hut, "so Vernon had to put a hut for her."

Esmie Perkins had together ~~xxxxixxxxx~~ 4 children: 3 for Cecil Simpson, Robert's son, and 1 for Stanford Sinclair, Charles's son and brother of Birdie Sinclair. Three Cecil's children stay with her. And also Stanford's child - a baby.

Lucille Perkins has 3 children: one for Ronald Rochester, Joshua Rochester's son; another for Clifton Simpson, Ethel's son. The third /4 months old/ is for Ezra Gordon, living nearby in Windy's ghouse in Logwood.

Birdie Sinclair's children: the first for Edmond Dyer - the same that was along with Edna Sinclair, daughter of Philip Sinclair in Ribbit Town; this child - Clarice Dyer is staying with her grandparents, Charles and Rebecca Sinclair. Next child was George Powell - for Ramus Powell, son of Sarah Banton and Hubert Powell /Overroad/. This child is staying with his grandmother, Sarah Banton. Gloria South was for Philip South, grandson of Benjamin Heath. Philip South is living with the old Benjamin, but his daughter Gloria ~~xxxxixxxx~~ is probably staying with the mother. Dudley does not know anything about Ivan Simpson, son of Birdie. Her two last children are for Vernon Perkins, brother of Esmie and Lucille.

Esmie and Lucille have another brother /half-brother, Lovell Dayer. His ~~father~~ father is Annas Dyer and he is living in his father's home.

Fathers of all these children living in this compound are: Cecil Simpson, Ronald Rochester, Clifton Simpson, Stanford Sinclair, Ezra Gordon, Ramus Powell, Philip South and Vernon Perkins.

Dudley estimates the fathers' contributions to the maintenance of the children very low. "They get a little - sometimes a basket of cassava, sometimes 6d or a shilling" - never regularly. Cecil has also other outside children and he is a poor man. Stanford Sinclair "gives more support." Lucille Perkins is described by Dudley as "sufferer": "Ronald Rochester dont support and Clifton Simpson -

poor condition and having some children." He is along with a girl living in Wilbert Bent's home. "The girl have one child and making a baby now." Also Ezra Gordon who works for Windy Elliott is in a simlra situation. He does not earn much and has "a girl in the same Wilbert Bent house with a baby for him." Dudley Simpson seems to take the sitauation of these girls and their children quietly and with little sympathy: "life is how you make it."

He ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ told us an interesting story how Cecil Simpson managed to master a difficult situation into which he has been brought in by his love affairs. Besides his 3 children with Esmie Perkins he has also 3 children with Doris Sinclair, sister of Stanford Sinclair and ~~his~~ daughter of Charles and Rebecca Sinclair. /He was also in friendship with Hazel Rochester, but the child is for Bradley Rochester, not for him./

Esmie Perkins tried to get her alimony rhrough the court. "The girl took him 3 times to Malvern - he always run away from the summons." Once it happened that both girls - Esmie and Doris - went together to ~~xxxxxx~~ the court "with 6 children" - "he had to run away."

He ~~had~~ escaped any consequences having had help of and Obeahman. "The only way he could get rid of it - he went to Maroon Town in the Cockpit and he have a talk with a man, a scientist. He put it to the man - his case - and the man said he would help him. Charged him a ~~xxxxx~~ cartain ampunt. When the summons draw in Malvern to serve on Cecil Simpson, instead of the summons to serve on Cecil Simpson the man in Maroon Town draw it to him: go to Maroon Town - he just took every one and so he helped him. It cost him little money." How much - Dudley was not able to say or guess. Any how it was less than if he had to pay maintenance. The usual maintenance money is 2/6 each child every week - it would be 15/- a week. This according to Dudley no man ~~af~~ can stand.

NB. For other details concerning Esmie and Lucille Perkins see Family Record 128 p.2,3.