

9.XII.1947.
T.O.

				St. Eliza					
				Blackman					
Perkins	Eli	head	M.M.	40		black.	angl.	X	farmer
"	Ethel	wife	F.M.	35	9.9.	"	"	X	homemak.
"	Vernice	dau	F.S.	18	1.1.	"	"	W.3.	labourer
"	Elsie	dau	F.S.	16		"	"	W.3.	farmlab.
"	Sylvena	dau	F.S.	15	2.2.	"	"	W.3.	none
"	Alphonso	son	M.S.	13		"	"	W.2.	2.E.
"	Gloria	dau	F.S.	11		"	"	W.2.	4.E.
"	Neris	dau	F.S.	9		"	"	W.1.	4.E.
"	Harry	son	M.S.	5		"	"		
"	Orrett	son	M.S.	1.		"	"		
Rochester Jonathan									
		Gr/son	M.S.	9/12		"	"	"	
"	Hylton	gr/son	M.S.	9/12		"	"	"	

16 acres

Under one acre. 1 swine, 1 goat, 2 sheep, 4 rabbits, 2 hens
Value of vegetables £10. 2 avocado, 2 coconuts, 6 mangoes, 1 cashew

Informant Mrs. Ethel Perkins.

This house is in Thatch Walk on the road below the factory. This is the black quarter. On the wall of the kitchen (which is white in the upper half and blue in the lower) a nice blue ship was painted with inscription: "Merry Christmast" and "USA".

Mrs. Ethel Perkins is a very bad informant. Very shy, giggles a long time before answering and gives answers which don't explain anything unless you know already the answer.

Asked what was the name of a little baby who played at her feet she said "Girl Sylvena". It was obviously a boy and from the census it appears it is her daughter's Sylvena boy.

The ship was painted by Alphonso who was not present. Mrs. Perkins gave his age 12 - by census 18.

Eli Perkins was away cutting grass. They planted this year about 2000 tomatoes. 12 people live in the house - that was all I could get out of Mrs. Perkins

Interviewed Eli Perkins.

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D.

Present household

Eli Perkins	Head	78
Ethel do	Wife	73
Sylvia do	Dau.	20
Alphonso do	Son	19
Gloria do	Dau.	15
Nerice do	do	13
Harry do	Son. 1	12
Orrett do	do	10
Dervan do	do.	5

Ethel had just come in with a hamper load of cassava. Shortly after, her self and Gloria started to scrape them and Sylvia did the grating. Ethel said "We have to speculate on the bammies." Sylvia sells them at Alligator Pond. Ethel's cassava crop was off, she had to buy from a neighbouring district.

Sylvia's 3 children live in the same house. Hylton and John Rochester (twins) & father Lyndon Rochester. Lebert Simpson- father Lodric Simpson. The children's fathers look after them.

Linda is now married to Hamelin Lewis' sister. He could not remember her name. Linda and his wife used to live at his wife's father's home. Sometimes he is at his father's home. "Linda don't master his own home. Them live in unity by going and coming up and down."

Family History

Mother Clementina Witter. Father Benjamin Perkins. Mother's mother? "She come from back Red Bank, neither fe him father nor mother me never know of." Father's mother Martha Perkins - nee Rochester. Father's father Benjamin Perkins. "I believe my grand father come from Kingston, so we can't tell about his relation, all the Perkins them roun' here is his son and daughter. My grand mother is from the old Rochester family. Laban Rochester father was to call my grand mother Aunt.. My father was a wharfinger at Alligator Pond, after the wharf break up, him married to a woman from Rose Corner. Them call her Chunie, don' know her right name. Things get bad with him, and him did up here with me till him dead. Him did not married to my mother." Chunie did not have any children by Benjamin.

Benjamin's children ^{with} by Clementina Witter

Eli (Informant). Mestel (d) Cecil (in Clarendon)

Clementina's children by Marrie Sinclair.

Mable(Kingston); Eucal (Clarendon); Roxie living with X Clarence Perkins.

Children of Benjamin and Martha Perkins

Edward, living at Thatch Walk; Nicholas; Benjamin(d); Alexander; Celes Simpson, married and live at Chocolate Hole; Rebecca McPherson, "her husband did go away, don't know if him alive or dead. He is Kingston." Jane, "only hear that she married and live in Costa Rica. I have to say I don't know her, I only hear of her."

xxxx Vernice

Eli and Ethel's other children who are not living ~~at~~ in the home are: ~~Elsa~~ who lives with Crafton Rochester, and Elsa who lives with Martha Brooks. "She is a sickly woman, so she down de with her." Gwendolyn is living at Marlie Hill with Ethel's sister - Mrs. Birdie Christian. She has been there for about 5 years. "That's all the gift we get this side - plenty pickney. It seems to me the poorer you are the more children you have."

Visitors at meal time .

Asked whether friends or relatives shared his meals with him... "Me could tell you no, and yet me could say yes, for ~~the~~ the children visit one another, and when the neighbours children is here them eat, and when our own go there them eat. If a big person is here, we all eat together."

Land.

"Me noh have much, only $\frac{1}{2}$ acre me live on here." He has 5 acres at Duff House. $6\frac{1}{2}$ at Bernet Wood, 3 at Cotton Tree. "I buy this piece from me grand mother Martha Perkins. The land in Bernet Wood was bought from Dorothy Sinclair "far relative on mother side." He is still paying for the ϕ lan at Duff House. It was purchased from the Government @ £3.5 per acre. "I did pay $\frac{1}{8}$ for the start;; suppose you have 40/- and the next man have 10/-, well, you pay all the same. When the land take up first them say you must pay a defintt amount, but that couldn't work. Some year it difficult, some year you can't pay none at all. It rough but wha' fe do, them give we a good time to pay it."

Eli did not inherit any lands. His mother bought 1 acre from Martha Rochester but left it for the 3 Sinclair children. Asked why ~~he~~ she did not leave any for him. "Idon't know. I didn't particular for myself, but the other brother in Clarendon." He does not own any land.

Mable Sinclair's daughter - Lucille Brooks now lives on the land. "I don't know if the land pass over to Lucille or what it be." Lucille is now Mrs. Ferron. She got married a short time ago.

His grand father - Benjamin Perkins had plenty land. "Him dead long time before the old lady, him leave plenty land. The old lady couldn't do better than sell to help herself. The boys did not help her. Edward and daughter in Kingston had land in charge. My father did not get any. Asked why he was left out. "Him did not pursue, it seems."

Crops

Plants cassava and tomatoe. "Tomatoe is the quickest money, when we reap cassava, it can' sell, it jus' to eat, when we look on the little goggo it can' sell. Before tomatoe, we use to sell tobacco, that was the only cash crop. Since tomatoe come in, tobacco get slow. According to the house, you can sell little gongo. We don' think of corn as a crop, we jus' plant little ~~awaxk~~ round the house. Don' cultivate yam to sell. A man with a big family can sell yam. The yam can' even ripe, have to eat it when it young."

"If it was not for season, time would not be bad with us. Sometime work take cassava. Some as long as 6". When we have long drought and season take we, that time the worm breed up." Asked tobasco price. "Used to get simple price for tabasco, all 6d a lb.. When you hear it go to 9d, very few smady catch that, or only the bigger one them."

He was not able to say how many tomatoe plants he had. "Some people plant by the thousand, but me never worry around that way. Only if me buy suckers, then me know how much me get.. I don' count anything I cultivate. I never count up how much I to get, what ever I get, I thankful. He had about 2 square chains in tomatoes. "Gongo and cassava a stand by. I do every little thing, I try fishening sometime."

Fishing

Asked if he ~~bill~~ did fishing? "Still a knock it, but it slow." " He goes fishing Wednesdays and Saturdays. "Work with a young man them call Mully - Buxton Powell. The owner of the boat is Adina Roache niece of Jane Ellington. "Me buy me own pot and set, so whatever it be, is for me alone. She buy pot and give the other men them, so what ever them get, them have to give her half." He gives his services free on the boat "for one man can' do it."

He prefers the land. "but go on sea to earn a little more money, if is even salt t'ing, it can buy. If is say to leave out one, I would have to come back on the land. Two of them help, you don' rely on one."

Childhood.

Eli went to Kingston to work, after leaving school. "A cousin name Albert Perkins Mass Ned son, send for me to work, as him was going to Cuba. I go and stay for 2 years, doing garden work." Asked why he returned "Rather to come back home. After I come back home, I hire out and do days work. . After I become a young man, I still knock 'bout, until me able to help meself."

Lessons taught-"Mother teach me to have manners to the older one, and not to hog after ~~people~~ any body. Me granny

Family Record 11.

use to tell me about her life time, and how she live w~~it~~h her parents. Add how she live with her sister and brother and ~~the~~ neighbours." He could not remember any of the stories told him by his grand mother.

"Never get beating much. Only when you trouble them piece a sugar and all that. "

Savings and Debts.

"Can' save. I try to save a few pounds, but when I look fround I see clothes w~~ant~~en" (needed). Sometime you work a little groun' you can' sell anything. If you sell any, you shorten the home. When you earn tomato~~s~~ money you have so much demand, kitchen in want, house in want, children in want. To suit out all a them one time £6 or £8 can' put them through. Smetime you see one id deficiency, you have to run him one month; next month you run another on can't wait to suit them out one time."

He crredits groceries at Elliott's shop. "It help me for when me in deficiency, me r~~un~~ there, if me don' even have money." He owed Elliott £6 and paid up at the end of the tomato~~s~~ crop. "Some time I can' pay in full, but me and them get along very well for them not hard. "

He owes £7 od Duff House land. "When I finish pay that I am not free ~~from~~ ~~tax~~ for I still have to pay the taxed. Have to say I free from bigger debt."

Information from L.P.
Interviewed Ethel Perkins.
15.6.48.

Present household.

Perkins Eli, head, 48.
Perkins Ethel, wife, 43.
Perkins Sylvia, daughter, 20.
Perkins Alphonso, son, 19.
Perkins Gloria, daughter, 15.
Perkins Nerris, daughter, 13.
Perkins Harry, son, 12.
Perkins Orrett, son, 10.
Perkins Dervan, son, 5.

Also Lebert Simpson,
son of Sylvia and Lodrick
Simpson. Age:

There are also 3 children
of Sylvia living in the
house: John and Hylton
Rochester, twins, by Lin-
don Rochester, son of James
Rochester, Green Olive.

Their age is ab.7.

Two eldest daughters are not living in the home: Ver-
nice Perkins /ab.27/ is with Crafton Rochester, B.B.S.
and Elsa Perkins ~~xxx~~ /ab.21/ is with Henrietta ~~xxxxxx~~
Brooks in Thatch Walk. Another daughter who is in at
Charlie Hill - see F.R. p.3. Henrietta Brooks is Ethel's
mother.

House. This a simple one room house. Furniture: 2 beds, 3
chairs, 1 cabinet. All the family lives in this one room.
There a kitchen, a latrine, and one tank.

Land. Owned by Eli Perkins 16 acres in 4 lots. Duff House
- 4 acres; bought from Landsettlement 1940. Marton /?/ -
5 acres - bought from Dorothy Sinclair 1930. Ruinate - 3 acres
bought from Philip Brooks 1935. Buckra /?/ - 1 acre, bought
from Bulla Brooks 1933. Homeland - 3 acres - bought from
Martha Perkins 1926.

Farm. 4 mangoes, 3 pears, 4 coconuts. Tomatoes - 3000 holes,
L.10. 40 hills of yams. 1/2 acre cassava. 1/4 acre corn.
Gungoo peas - "small quantity." 3 sheep, 1 donkey, 2 pigs,
4 hens.

Fishing. Eli Perkins is a fisherman. Has 8 pots, goes fishing
twice a week, earns approx. 10/- per week.

Expenditure . Ethel estimates her weekly expences on food
and "groceries" at 50/-. They spent L.20 on clothing for
the past year for all the household. L.5 spent on health.
Savings - ab.L10 - kept at home.

Religion. All the family follow Jehovah Witnesses.

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*Rochester
Rochester
John Hylton & grooms, ab.7.
age*