

Visit at home. Inter. Alma & Doris Sinclair.
22.6.48. Supp. inf. Robert and Icy Simpson.
T.O.

Present household: (according to Alma)

Sinclair	a	Alma	head	F.S.	"about 40"	3.	Bull-S.	} <i>no child seen</i> at home crippled washerwoman odd jobs
"	b	Doris	sister	F.S.	"older than Alma"			
"	c	Jeana	sister	F.S.	"round 30"		(dumb)	
Edward		Eric	son	M.S.	18			} <i>all for Richard & Edward</i>
"		Clissa	dau	F.S.	17			
"		Clifford	son	M.S.	14		(born in the storm)	} <i>Dalson Sinclair</i> <i>Jean Sinclair</i>
Sinclair		Glenrick	neph.	M.S.	10			
"		Catheleen	niece	F.S.	8			
"		Asley	neph.	M.S.	6			
Simpson		David	uncle	M.S.	79		(2 years older than Robert)	

It is a small, delapidated one-room house. The kitchen in a separate all thatch hut without doors.

David Simpson

Before I visited this household I inquired about David - whose whereabouts seemed to me rather elusive - at his brother's Robert Simpson and nearest neighbour Icy Simpson. A few days ago I met David in the household of his nephew Ferrisford Simpson. I was told there that this was the place he had his meals and he "treat it as his home". It is true at that particular time he had his meals there, but it was because he was doing some work for Ferrisford - cutting grass round the house. As a rule David sleeps in his own house a part of which he rents to Cleon Robinson. He has his meals and washing is done for him by his nieces Alma etc. Sinclair.

David Simpson "never marry never have children". All his life he lived with his sister Julia Simpson who "do for him". For his family etc. see F.R. of his brother No. 39. "David him bite for other men woman" said Icy giggling. She also said women didn't want him. "Some do it for money" and she implied David was not so eager to part with his money. His main trade was to "buy goat skin and sell it to tanner" He does it even now. He also does all kind of odd jobs for his family living in the neighbourhood. According to my informants "David can work" although he looked to me rather weak, moving very slowly, hard of hearing and with very slow reactions.

I walked part of the way to Alma's house with her nearest neighbour Icy Simpson. The horde of children was following me and in the yard of Alma there was about half a dozen of other children who greeted the newcomers by shouting and pushing them. Seeing traces of sweets on the newcomers faces they asked me for sweets. But I decided to change my tactics and not to attract them to me with sweets. I told them that I didn't have any more sweets nor money, but if they behaved nicely and were quiet I would bring some next time. There was a bush there covered with big bell-like white flowers. They swarmed on it, picked the flowers and blew into them (like children do with paper bags) and cracked them all around me. They were pushing each other

and rolling in the dust. The two most quiet sat fondly near me and were looking for lice in each other head. Children in Ibbitt Town and this part of Shaddock Hill are exceptionally wild. In the other parts of Bull-Sav. they are very different, polite, kind and unobtrusive.

I first spoke to Doris Sinclair, who was sitting in the kitchen. ~~She~~ One of her feet looks like eaten by an ulcer. Only the heel is left, the big sore exposed. She walks painfully with the aid of a stick. Her face is both old and infantile. She doesn't seem quite "collective" as people say here. She told me she had a number of children, but I knew already she had none. Her sister Jeana who is dumb came after a while. She was working in the garden. She is a good looking young woman very untidy. A third woman was coming and Doris told me it was her daughter. This was actually her sister Alma. I took Alma and we walked towards the house. She stood in the doorway so that I couldn't see the inside. ~~There~~ All I could see was a heap of rags in the corner. *Hammond*

James Sinclair.

Julia ~~and~~ had with ~~Richard~~ Sinclair had 3 daughters & a son. # The three sisters lived all their life in this house. It belonged to their mother Julia Simpson. Julia did not share the house with the girls' father Hammond Sinclair who lived a little below. David Simpson - Julia's brother lived always with Julia, he cooked for him, though he ~~lived~~ in another house. Alma had also a number of half-siblings: Philip Sinclair by the same father. By the same mother: Eric Dyer who is in Kingston and Agnes Dyer who lives in Ridge. Another brother by the same mother and David Powell - Wilfred Powell died.

slept

Alma Sinclair has three children. They all stay with her. Their father is Richard Edwards. I asked her whether he helped her with the children. "Not much since them grow" he said. I asked her why she didn't marry him. "Him take another woman and marry and leave me." "He don't have children by the wife" she added with satisfaction. Her own children: Eric, Elissa and Clifford (Sonyman) don't do anything in particular. She wasn't quite sure about their ages, fixed that of Eric's at 18. Sonyman was "born in the storm" (1933). he didn't know or didn't want to tell me her own age. Finally she agreed - ~~at~~ at my suggestion - that she was "about 40". she was the only one of the three sisters who had a decent and clean dress. Quite possibly she changed for my benefit, as she emerged from the house after I have been talking for a while to her lame sister, in the kitchen Doris (Alma told me) wasn't born with a bad foot, but "it become so when she was a bay". Doris never had any children.

Jeane was born dumb. She had four children, three of whom stay in this household. The fourth one Frederick is staying with the brother James (?) Sinclair. All Jeane's Sinclair children are for Dalson Sinclair who lives in the house below.

I couldn't get from her whether the three sisters and their six children sleep all in the little house. He kept

saying "We live all together, all together". I only think that the older boys may sleep with her uncle David in his house. It is a custom in Bull-Savannah that boys sleep together in a separate house. Girls always stay with the parents in the same house.

Alma wasn't quite sure how much land she had. She showed me a patch of corn and said "That's mine" and another patch of gungoo peas. She thinks it might be one acre or less or more. This land she got from her mother.

Her face was like her sister's Doris both old and infantile - it's a face old dwarfs have. But she is of normal size and mentally is normal too, though rather dull and depressed. (she seemed to me) ~~xxxxxx~~ The household is depressing enough: the delapidated small house, the "dummy" sister and the other crippled and subnormal, the heaps of rags untidy yard and the horde of children noisy and "unruly" aren't a particularly pleasant or stimulating milieu. I wondered how this woman thinks of her future, whether she has any plans or at least hopes. I asked her whether she thinks she will be always living here and what she thinks will be the future of her children. She said: "I live here, I don't know."

Informant Mrs Adassa Sinclair.

D.H.
26.6.48

Gena Sinclair.

Gena Sinclair (Adassa was quite firm that her name was spelt this way) is a deaf and dumb woman. I saw her in the kitchen of her siter-in-law Mrs Adassa Sinclair, where she was cooking some coffee beans. Adassa told me a few items about her. She looks about 33 or 34 years. Her face is a little odd, and the headgear she was wearing accentuated its smallness.

She has had seven children. Only the following are alive

Asley Sinclair
Kathleen Sinclair,
Mansell Sinclair
Frederick Simpson

The father of the Sinclairs is Dalson Sinclair, she cannot remember the name of ~~the~~ Frederick's father. Frederick has been adopted by Adassa, so Gena often comes over to see him.

She gets no help for the Sinclairs but she does know how much that is.

She has been deaf and dumb since birth. She can understand signs, and can make replies but they are not always easy to understand. "She not speak clear like me"