

20.11.1947.
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 19

22/13/30 (new 12/27) p.6 1.25

Banton Sarah	head.	F.S.	50	7.6.	St. Elizab.	colour.	angl.	X farmlab.
Roden Noel	son	M.S.	25		"	"	"	X farmer
Simpson Grace	dau	F.S.	22	2.2.	"	"	"	W.3. homemak
Witter Elsa	dau	F.S.	19		"	"	"	W.3. none
sinclair Neville	son	M.S.	15		"	"	"	W.3. labourer
Powell George	gr/son	M.S.	7		"	"	"	X no
Powell Doreen	gr/dau	F.S.	1		"	"	"	

Year 2 p.7.

Farm under one acre: 2 pigs, 1 hen, value of vegetable £ 10
1 ackee, 1 avocado, 2 coconuts, 3 mangoes, 1 cashew.

Informant Witter Elsa.

They moved be- A new house in Thatch Walk. Before the family used to
live "here is live in Top Bull Savannah on ~~Banton's~~ land" belonging
the sea breeze" to Banton" (?) It was "max about 1 acre". This land was ~~max~~ 1/2 acre
was bought from Joseph Spencer, who is Sarah Banton's brother.

Sarah Banton gave to each of her children a different
father. The 4 children in census are by diff. fathers. The
fifth is Clemmy Lee, who married a Brooks 9 years ago and
lives in Thatch Walk. Lee hasnt got any children of her own.
(Havent got the story of the 6th child).

Witter Elsa, lives with her mother. Has a 3years old dau-
ghter: Dorritt Neil. This Dorritt spends most of the time
with the married sister Clemmy. Elsa's father - Witter was
from Rose Hall. Elsa works during the season in the factory.
She says she works from 5 a.m. till 7 p.m. and gets for
it 2/3. She sorts tomatoes for the cannery.

Near the house they plant 2000 tomatoes. Elsa is not quite
sure of the amount, as it is her brother who plants them.

The house is only hal-finished - there is one room, and
the other has only a roof and corner posts but no walls.
They dont have enough money to finish it this year. The
kitchen is made of boards - in a separate building.

Tuesday,
Feb. 22, 1948.

Ed. F.
Second Visit

Sarah said she was born in Top Bull Savannah, but came to live on Thatch Walk many years ago. The land she lives on was given her by her brother Joseph Penso.

Her father Charles Bantam left Jamaica before she was born. Her mother Rebecca Powell(d) used to ~~live~~ share house with Benjamin Heathey in Top Bull Savannah.

Her Occupation

Sarah washes clothes and weeds grass for a living. She has been that -"from mi eye deh a mi knee." Said she -"A fimi trade dat," i.e. that is my trade.

Weeding is done for Windward Elliott, and clothes washing for Edith Elliott his wife. She never weeds grass or washes clothes for anyone ~~else~~ else.

Asked if she planted anything she said -"mi, noh plant not'in' nomo than if rain come an' mi have 2 corn mi jami'," i.e. -I don't plant anything but if rain comes and ~~and~~ I have corn I make holes with a piece of stick and drop them in.

Her son plants tomatoes on the land. She house lives in was ~~built~~ built by him. She had previously been interviewed by a lady -T.O. told her everything; does not have anything more to tell.

Interviewed Elsa Whitter.

Tuesday.
16. 3. 48.
I.B.

Elsa is very fond of J.O. and T.O. "I tell you when I see the white lads sit down on the bag and start to shell the peas with me I frighten. When them a talk to me so nice, me just stand up before them a tremble. I don't know when I going to stop talk about them 2 people."

Water problem.

had
Elsa flet sure that we would have/rain this morning. "I put out every thing to wash and the rain never come. I don't sorry for myself so much but is the strangers in the district. We not so bad for we use to it; All this lose dirt. Water is one thing we can't do without, it is the first thing we use in the morning and the last thing at night. Right now I have about 6 frock dirty,. I could not go out to work this week for I want to wash them. Tomorrow I have to go to Rock and get them out. It is nice to wash down there, but it far and the road rough." Elsa had her little girl Boret in her arms while talking. She looked on her and said "Tomorrow I am going to carry you to Rock and scrub you." (Give her a bath

"When we get rain, and everything green and pretty, you can't find a better place than Bull Savannah. As you see we get a little rain, the place look different. After the rain if you come here tomorrow morning you would frighten to see the place. Everything green. Things really grow here quick."

Elsa will be going out to work next week. "I can't wear my good clothes to work for when the tomatoe juice catch it, it cut it like a knife."

Interviewed Elsa Witter & Sarah Banton.

Present Household

Sarah Banton	Head	50.
Noel Rhoden	Son	35.
Elsa Witter	Dau.	24.
Neville Brooks	Son	20.
George Powell	G.S.	14.
Donald Brooks	G.S.	6.
Dorret Neil	G.D.	4.

Sunday.
11. 7. 48.
I.D.

Sarah's children not living in the home are:- Grace Simpson. Ckemie Books (nee Lee). Ramas Powell.

Sarah has never shared house with a man. "Never lay bed with ~~one~~ a them." I never want to married, because none of them must not have any power over me. Before time, married was married, but nowt now. Good live with (concubinage) better than marriage. If married even a dash 'way now, me wouldn' want it. All the same me couldn' take it; that pass me just like how teeth pass fowl.

always

Sarah said if she were married she would/have to tell her husband where she wanted to go. She would not be free. "Him would have big stick over the door fe beat me.

Elsa does not want to get married as she is not prepared to leave her mother. Before she had Dorret, she used to suffer from "rush a blood". The Dispenser at Black River Hospital, told her she should get married. "Dr. Johnson say; What you telling the child about getting married. Let me tell you, all you have to do is to have a baby. What is the difference between getting married and having a baby.? Dr. Johnson is a plain man; same way him tell me." Pointing to Dorret she said "Is only for health sake, why I have this one. Is she save me life. You think is little money me spend 'pon doctor?"

Quarrel at school between Miss Ruby Blight, Assistant Teacher & Mrs. Ivy Millard wife of the Head Teach

Elsa said Miss Blight had been teaching at the school for a very long time. She taught Mrs. Millard. "Ivy too faisty. Is only because she married to the Teacher and she can wear her big shoes and her clothes. She noh better than any body. She in a eat her cassava like any one a we. You know what fret them, is the little place Miss Ruby go buy. She say she going to put up her own cottage."

Asked how the quarrel started. "Ivy mustbe in charge of the sewing. The children sewing for exam now. Miss Ruby had a piece of print cloth to make a skirt; she was going to pleat it and Ivy say she must gather the cloth. Miss Ruby tell her that it caan take gather, and she just go and pleat it. Me hear that Ivy grab the work from her hand. Miss Ruby never make fun fe cuss her. Ivy shouldn' treat Miss Ruby so. She only do that because she know that /she is Teacher wife.

Miss Ruby and Ivy have them old grudge long time. It look bad though, for the two a them in a malice right now. Teacher Blight have to practically open ivy head and put the lesson in de. Some a them extra up at the school you see. Them change them frock all 3 time fe the week. Miss Ruby must be only change 2 time. You think is today Miss Ruby teaching at Bull Savannah school. From me a little pickney, she a teach de." Elsa has heard that the Millards will soon be leaving Bull Savannah. "Them may as well leave for not a soul and him wife can get on."

Bringing up of children.

Sarah feels that the children of today are ill mannered. When Sarah was a child if her mother had company she had to leave the room in which they were talking. "Have to run go pick up brush wood or something. I tell you when I see them little pickney now, just sit down when big people a talk and take in every word, it gripe me. I know is not so I grow."

cigarettes

Elsa said the children smoked before their parents" "The pickney them use any word that come to them mouth." Sarah said if the parents reared their children properly they would not have ~~skixnex~~ so early. "All the little pickney them a have pickney now."

xx babies

Kind neighbours.

Teacher Blight was very kind to Sarah and her children. Once when one of her children was ill, he gave her money to take the child to the doctor, His wife was also very kind to them. Mr. Millard is kind but she prefers Blight. She feels that Teacher Blight will be sure of a seat in the House of Representatives next year. "Before the tomatoes come in, nobody never know Bull Savannah. You couldn' go anywhere and tell any body you come from Bull Savannah. Them would laugh after you. And you know even now people give against Teacher Blight."

(Caroline should be Clemmie.)

Early one morning, Sarah and Caroline (her daughter) met a woman on the road. Sarah told her to pass the woman quickly as she did not know what a woman could be doing on the road alone, at such an hour. They were about to pass the woman, when she told them she was dying of thirst. She could not get any water at her home. Sarah and Caroline took the woman to the nearest parish tank. She thanked them for their help, and they walked on together. Sarah and her daughter were very far from home. (I do not remember where they were going) At about 5:00 a.m. they started to meet people on the road. "The woman/start to tell them that these 2 young woman save her life. Me feel good now, when me hear the woman call me young. Me wouldn' make her know that is mother and daughter. Me just have to pinch ~~say~~ Clemmie and tell her not to say anything. Sometime you meet people on the road you have to help them. You never can tell what will happen. You may not need the help, but some of you generation may need it.

/(the stranger)

xxknow

Elsa said "You see Miss Jane there, we and her live good. If it wasn' she Dorret would a dead. One night she take a draught and she stiff out like board. We have to bawl out. Miss Jane come and rub her up." Sarah ran to Mrs. Edith Elliot, to get help for Dorret. On her return the house was "full a people. Clemmie husband him make up big fire in a kitchen fe hot water. I tell you, you really have to ~~learn~~ learn how to live with people. A noh every body you can live with good though you know. Some people you really caan live with them."

The House.

The house was very clean and tidy. The two beds were well made, ~~and~~ the tables were covered with clean cloths. The cement floor was very very shine. Elsa said cement was much cheaper than board. Cedar, the best board could not be obtained in Bull Savannah again.

Sunday.
11.7.48.
I.D.

Work at the factory.

Elsa said Mr. Burke ~~was~~ was a very hard worker. "And him look out fe we all the time. One day him tell we that we must strike but we mustn' make Mr. Hastings know that is him tell we so. We strike and we get more money. Me was coming right home, and them send call me."

Information from Lillian Powell
who interv. Sarah Banton and Noel
Rhoden on 16.6.48.
J.O. 13.7.48.

Present household.

- Banton Sarah, 58.
- Rhoden Noel, son, 35.
- Witter Elsa, daughter, 24.
- Brooks Neville, son, 20.
- Powell George, grson, 14.
- Brooks Donald, grson, 6.
- Neil Dorret, grdaughter, 4. *Th. W.*

Sarah Banton: Father Alexander Banton /Ballard's Valley/,
mother: Rebecca Heath /Ballard's Valley/.

~~xxxxxxsisterxxxxxxJosephxxxxxx~~ Has only 1 half
brother: Joseph Spencer, living now in Bull Savannah.

Sarah's children:

- 1. Noel Rhoden, father: Charles Rhoden /died/, lived in Th.W.
 - 2. Ramus Powell, father: John Powell, B.B.S. /Overroad/.
 - 3. Witter Elsa, father: Josphe Witter, Prospect.
 - lee* 4. Brooks Clementine, married to Alexander Brooks in Th.Walk.
Her maiden name was Clementine Lee, father William Lee /deda/
 - 5. Simpson Grace /now married in Junction/, father Elgar Sim-
pson.
 - 6. Brooks Neville, father: Luther Brooks, T.B.S.
- and Neville Only Noel and Elsa/live with her. Other children: Ramus on his
own house on his father's land in Overroad; Grace in Junction;
Clementine with Alexander Brooks whom she married.

Grandchildren.

- 1. Powell George, /son of Ramus Powell and Birdie Sinclair in
Ridge Ridge. *outside*
- 2. Brooks Donald, son of Grace Simpson for Albert Brooks, son
of Henrietta Brooks, in Thatch Walk.
- 3. Neil Dorrett, daughter of Elsa Witter for Harold Neil in
Rose Corner.

House, land, farming.

House: two rooms /1 unfinished/. 1 kitchen, 1 latrine.
Furniture" 2 beds, 1 chair, 2 tables. No water tank.
Land: 1/2 acre owned by Noel Rhoden /homeland/ bought in 1930
from Joseph Spencer.
Cultivations: trees: 3 mangos, 2 coconuts, 1 pear, 5 sweet saps,
2 ackees. 3000 holes tomatoes - L10. 1/4 ac. cassava, 1/4
acre corn, some congo.
Animals: 1 pig.

Occupations: Elsa Witter earned in the factory L6 for 3 mnths.
Neville worked for 2 mnths - earned L2.10. George Powell in
3 months time earned in the factory L5.
Spending: weekly: 12/-. L12 last year on clothing. ~~L2~~ L2 health.
Savings: "very little - L5."

Thursday.
29
29. 7. 48.
D. B.

- 8 -

Family Record 19

Interviewed Elsa Witter.
Present House hold.

Sarah Banton	Head
Noel Roden	Son
Elsa Witter	Dau.
Neville Brooks	Son
George Powell	Gr. son
Donald Brooks	" "
Dorrett Neil	" dau.

The house & Kitchen .

The house is a spanish walléd building with thatched roof. It has two rooms . The house is built on Sarah's land . Through one of the windows in the house there were some pillows that were put to ~~gt~~ get some fresh air . All the members of the house hold sleep in the house .

The kitchen is made of coconut leaves and thatch and not very substantial.

Source of living

Sarah is a constant washer for Mrs Winty Elliott. She does grass weeding for Mrs Winty's husband also . For the washing she is paid 2/- per day , and 2/- per day for weeding the grass . She is employed by the Government to weed the "School Garden". She does not know how much she gets for weeding it . She has been weeding the garden for about three years now. She goes to Mrs Winty every day to work .

tx Elsa works at the factory during the crop , and the two sons are both cultivators , working forthemselves, and for other people on partnership .

The land.

Sarah has half acre and a few chains of land . Her sons cultivate on it, but not very much .

Sarah's children alive.

Clemmie Brooks (nee Lee) married and live in Thatch Walk . Her father was William W Lee . He is dead

Elsa Witter who is staying in the home with the mother. Her father is Joseph Witter , and is living at Cross Roads.

Grace Simpson living at Morningside with her boy friend Norman Jacobs .

Adolphus Powell who is also called "Ramus". He is the son of Hubert W Powell . Adolphus is living at his own house. at "Over Road."

Neville Brooks who is the son of Luther Brooks .

Noel Roden whose father is Markas Roden , his father is dead.

Sarah's children at home.

Elsa grew with her mother. At school she read to the 6th standard . After leaving school she did not go to work , but went to sewing for a month and had to stop as she "could not keep any health". Her mother did not allow her to go and work . Her father used to support her well , "and even when me go and look for him now him give me something ".

Her father is getting "feeble now ". Elsa is keeping better health now since she has the baby . The father of the child is Harold Neil at Rose Corner . Elsa and Harold were friends for about three years , but their friendship is broken , because Harold wants the child , but she will not give her to him . "Me believe mother's care a the best fe her and is the one . If the mother even poor , the mother's care is the best thing fe them pickney."

"Him a man and him can care it , him have one sister wey him want it fe her fe give to , but me na give him. Him buy clothes carry fe her , and through me wont give her to him, him carry back the clothes ? Harold is supporting the child otherwise . Harold is displeased with her because "him have one 'nother girl and one day showed me a girl and me go a Alligator Pond , and one a Harold sister/tell me that a that girl and Harold a friend now . Some body mus'e tell this girl that a me have the baby fe Harold . Me see her dey look 'pon me , so me ask her wey the hell in dey look 'pon me fa! Me no have on nothing fe you , you caan keep Harold for me no want him , but you caan stop him from min' "D" (Dorrett- that her child's name) If a 6d him have 3d a fe "D", or anything him have half a hit a fe "D" so you no look pon me ".

The girl whoever she was did not reply to Elsa , but complained to Harold when he came home . Harold hearing about Elsa's conduct with his common law wife came up to Bull Savannah to Elsa and inquired of Elsa what right she had to interfere with his present c.l. wife . Elsa who seem to be a "bully " did not mind it much and told Harold to tell the girl " not to look on her any way she see her ".

She has a constant k job at the factory & working in the Cannery at 2/-9 per day and 2d per hour for the over time . She does not work when the crop is over except when she breaks a little stone and that she does not do very often , as she has to look after the home work , and the children ; for her mother is scarcely at home .

Noel Roden

Noel has a girl friend , she is Hazel Ellington from Thatch Walk . Noel and Hazel do not live at one house . Hazel has two children for Noel , the children are Annette Roden and Kathleen Roden . The children are with their mother , the father supports the children with money and food .

Noel has a small cultivation at home on his mother's and he plants with "Winty" Elliott on partnership , getting a half of the crop when it is reaped . He plants tomato , cassava , yam and corn . He was sent to school but "him bad and wouldnt learn . Him is a bad brute , him hide a bush and wouldnt go . If him no kill me mother she na dead again " .

Noel supplies his mother's home with food and with money .

Neville Brooks

He does not have a girl friend that Elsa knows of . He plants for himself "a little " on his father's land at Top Bull Savannah, and "a little" on his mother's land . Some times he works for Winty Elliott , weeding or planting . He gets 2/-6 per day with feeding , or 3/- per day and he feeds himself . Neville left school in the 4th standard . His father gives him any thing when he has it

George Powell

Is the grand son of Sarah . His father is Adolphus Powell (see F. R.) George has been living at his grandmother's place for about ten years . The grandmother took him when he was quite a baby and "raise him " . He was sent to school , but he would not go . He works at the factory during the crop "doing any little thing that him can manage " . He helps his uncles in Noel and Neville in their cultivations . He is supported by his grand mother .

Donald Brooks

Is the son of Grace Simpson and Albert Brooks . His mother is at Morningside . Sarah his grand mother took him from his mother . He has been staying with his mother about three years . His father is supporting him .

grand /

Dorrett Neil

She is the daughter of Elsa . Dorrett is about 3 1/2 years old (See file 26 - Children for details about Dorrett.) / Donald Brooks and George Powell)