

20.XII.1947.  
T.O.

Fam.Rec. 23.

12/14/1

|         |           |      |      |    |          |         |       |      |                  |
|---------|-----------|------|------|----|----------|---------|-------|------|------------------|
| Johnson | Isaac     | head | M.M. | 35 | St.Eliz. | colour. | Angl. | W.3. | farmer           |
| "       | Marion    | wife | F.M. | 33 | 4.4.     | "       | "     | W.3. | book-keeper coop |
| "       | Jean      | dau  | F.S. | 10 | "        | "       | "     | W.3. | 3.E.             |
| "       | Vern      | son  | M.S. | 7  | "        | "       | "     | W.1. | 3.E.             |
| "       | Basil     | son  | M.S. | 6  | "        | "       | "     | X    |                  |
| "       | Vancliffe | son  | M.S. | 3  | "        | "       | "     | X    |                  |

owns 39 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres in eleven parcels: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 4.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 10, 3, 2, 1,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 8.  
 does not employ labour. cultivates 8 ac. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  cultivable not used, 15 grazing, 4 "other". Value farm and buildings: £250,

cabbages  $\frac{1}{4}$  ac, tomatoes 1 ac = 3,280 lbs, no fruit trees. 11 pawpaws  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  ac corn, 2 ac. congo peas, 3 ac cassava, 2 ac sweet pot.  
 3 donkeys, 2 sheep, 4 swine,

His house and land is situated right behind the factory. He has a "big son" (probably outside child) who has been to USA. His wife is in charge of the coop shop and also is the "death and births registrar". He owns a pick up which goes more or less regularly twice a week to Mandeville. He is also the owner of a little shop in which the coop used to be before it was transferred to the new building.

Informant Isaac Johnson

2.1.1948.

Mr. Johnsons grandparents were from Santa Cruz. His father was born in Alligator Pond and came as a small boy to live with his uncle (mothers brother) Powell in Bull-Savannah. I asked whether it was Geotge Powell No we have another set of Powells here over the Hill (towards Ballards Valley). Mr. Isaac Johnson got all the land which his father had as he was the only child. He bought some also himself : he reckons he has about 24 acres "but not in one piece" (over 39 in census). I asked him whether it is all in Bull Savannah or in place like River Hill etc. "Its all the same Bull Savannah - he said - some give you could say pet names. Sometimes it depends from whom you buy - it is called after that mans name. Or if you give some portion to a child - you call it - to know where you send."

Mr. Johnson is also a tailor. In the little shop - which he lends to Simpson to sell meat ~~xxxxxxx~~ at the end of the week - he has a sewing machine. He explained it was damaged by the hurricane but still gives him good service.

His big son (whom I met a few days ago) was educated in Christiana. Mr. Johnson said he had good prospects (didn't mention what kind). When he came from school there was recruitment for America and he went. He may go there again. Mr. Johnson says there isnt much for him (the big son) to do here. Mr. Johnson himself is rather proud of his status. He said he had "a lot of land", considers himself implicate a "big man".

Origins of locality names.

Interview with Isaac Johnson  
15.6.48.  
T.O.

I have met Mr. Issac Johnson and his wife Marion on many occasions. To-day we had a longer interview.

His wife, and her family

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He married Marion the daughter of Thomas Roach, who lives in ~~Sixxxx~~ Ridge. Marion has many relations in Bull-Savannah and in the region. Boysie Roach who is a supervisor of the packing house is her first cousin. Miss Roach the secretary of the Company is also her first cousin altho she is from Rose Hall.

Marion was the daughter of Thomas with his first wife Alma (Neil), who married many years ago.

Her brother and sister.

Marion had only one brother and one sister. Her brother is Louis Roach. He lives in Christiana where he married the daughter of a bus owner.

Marion's only sister is Doris Wilson who went to America a couple of years ago.

She has at least one half-brother (see F.R.248)

Marion's career.

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After having finished the elementary school Marion went to Bethlehem college. It is not quite clear to me whether she was a teacher or not.

Marion used to work in the office of the Company. After some changes have been made in the personnel she was offered to run the coop shop. She stays there all the day long, sometimes goes to Kingston for the goods. They have to keep a maid. She is Valerie Simpson a young girl.

Isaac's children, and names of their mothers.

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~~His children~~ Isaac says he has 7 children: The eldest Lewellyn Johnson with Lettice now Mrs. Claston Roye Leo and Curl (girl) Johnson with Turnica (Nangy) Powell. Jean, Vern, Basil and Vancliffe with his wife Marion.

Story of his children and Isaac's attitude towards them.

1. Lewelyn Johnson. His mother is Lettice daughter of Horatio and Maria Powell. She is married now to Claston Roy. Lewelyn is about 24 now. When he used to go to school he stayed with his father's mother Mauda Johnson. Afterwards he quarrelled with his father and went to live with his mother and step father. He is a cultivator now. He had not long ago a brawl with a boy from Ballards Valley, stabbed him with a knife and the boy died. This is what Isaac told me about him: "My oldest son is Lewelyn Johnson. He stays with his mother now, at Claston Roy home. Lewelyn - he is on the rough side. He stayed with me all the time going to school. That is with my mother. I didn't have a home at that time. After his time was up I put him with a mason that was in the factory to learn the trade. But he wouldn't stay. To tell the

Truth

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we disagree. He was on the rolling side and I tell him and he wouldn't have it. He went to stay with the mother. He is cultivating now. Hard worker. He comes to see me all the same

2. Leo Johnson. Isaac seems to be particularly proud of this son. He awlays takes the opportunity to talk about him. Leo Johnson is 23 and is the eldest child of Isaac and Turnica called Nancy Powell. Leo stayed alternatively in his mother's and his paternal grandmother's home when going to school. After he has finished the elementary school his father sent him to Christiana where Leo stayed for 3 years there in the Homewood Training Centre where he learned cabinet making. He left this school 2 months before the final examinations as he got an opportunity to go to the USA on contract. He stayed there 18 months and brought with him £190 savings. He keeps a part of it in the bank and for about £60 he bought cabinet maker's tools and lumber to start his business in Bull-Sav. ~~Isaac Johnson told me~~ Leo Johnson lives now in the household of his ~~maternal uncle~~ maternal uncle ~~Leo Powell~~ Leo Powell together with his mother Nancy Powell. He set his work shop in the little building which belongs to his father on the road from school to Top B.Sav. next to teacher's cottage. I have seen him often in the coop shop talking with his father's wife Marion. He is a tall, strong good looking boy, very quiet and very intelligent. Isaac said about him:

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"Leo, he settle in trade now. Him and I can have a little discussion (friendly talk of interest) All the time he was at school he stayed with Nancy or our home, whenever he feel he come and stay with us, - in both homes. After his time at school was up I sent him to school, Homewood school to Christiana to training. He got an opportunity to go to America. He bought his tools now, the other day."

3. Curl Johnson. She is 13 now and stays with the mother. "I have a little girl - Curl, stays with the mother Nancy".  
4,5,6,7. "I have four more with Marion. The oldest she is in the 3rd year a girl and 3 boys." This daughter Jean is 16, the boys' ages are: Vern 13, Bazil 12 and Vancliffe 9.

Speaking of his children he wouldn't answer directly which one he prefers. However from what and how he said it is clear that his favourite is Leo and he is also proud of his daughter Jean. The relations with the eldest son Lewelyn though friendly are not so close.

The two "wives."

Mr. Isaac was living at least for a period of time simultaneously with Nancy Powell and Marion his present legal wife as Leo is older than Jean and Jean is older than Curl. Furthermore Nancy had for him 6 children, but 4 of them died. However the two women seem to be very friendly. Nancy Powell is seen often at the coop shop where she stays talking and helping Marion. Mr. Isaac refers to the both women without embarrassment and I couldn't yet detect any difference in

respect or sentiment. (For Nancy Powell see F.R. 40).

His occupations. Mr. Johnson has an extensive cultivation. He used to do tailoring. He bought in 1946/47 a pick-up which is called "George Washington". He takes passengers from B.Sav. to Malvern, usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays. However these trips are not very regular. During the tomato season he converted his pick up to a truck and carried tomatoes to sell to Montego Bay and Falmouth from the B.Sav. district. This seemed to be a rather profitable business. His pick-up almost invariably breaks down and one is never sure when it will return. Mr. Johnson has not got a driver's licence. till a few months ago Clifford Roye was driving it. They quarrelled however and at present Mr. Johnson has a driver from New Forest. Johnson drives it also at times : "To see what I can do to get a licence." Usually ~~neither~~ neither he nor his wife are at home which seems to be run by the daughter Jean. At least she usually answers when I call there. The mother spends all the day at the shop and Mr. Johnson goes in the pick up. His attitude towards his children in general:

"The older (Lewelyn and Leo) can look after themselves. The younger - all I can do is to work and do my best. That's my investment."

Present Household:

|         |           |      |    |
|---------|-----------|------|----|
| Johnson | Isaac     | head | 40 |
| "       | Marion    | wife | 37 |
| "       | Jean      | dau  | 17 |
| "       | Vern      | son  | 13 |
| "       | Basil     | son  | 11 |
| "       | Vancliffe | son  | 9  |
| Simpson | Valerie   | maid | 15 |

+ Johnson Golden.

D.H.

4.7.48.

Local rumours about Marion Johnson

I asked today why the Co-operative shop in the village run ~~ferxtm~~ by Mrs Marion Johnson had been closed for several days.

Mr Bourke of Jamaica Vegetables Ltd with whom I was speaking, and who appears to be well informed as to local happenings gave me the following story, telling me that he had no means of knowing the truth of it, it was merely what had been related to him by local people.

The story went that Marion has been carrying on a liason with Mr Davis of Manderville, who is part owner with Mr Johnson of a truck. They are partners and the Davis is Johnson's best friend. Davis was staying for quite a while in Johnson's house, Miss Roach was moved out because he needed the room. It was then these rumours started. They have been going on for months now, but nobody has bothered to take much notice. Last week Mrs Johnson said that she was feeling ill and would have to go in to Manderville to see the doctor, as that was the only way she could be sure of getting better. She went to Manderville and has been staying there for over 5 days. It is reported that she is suffering from gas or "wind". It is thought by some people that she is extremely ill, and this may be the case. The rumour now goes amongst some people that she is not really very ill, but has gone to stay at Mr Davis' house, and is not staying at all in any nursing home as is being given out.

The likelihood of this story is not very great. Mr Davis is married, (I met both at the Thomson wedding) and does not live alone.

15.7.48.

T.O.

I was present the other day when the wife of Charles Roye and David Powell had a talk about Marion Johnson. They were indignant that she left the shop unattended and locked with the goods most needed especially by Mrs. Roye who is a baker and needs flour. There was no hint however about the staying of Marion in Mandeville being of a romantic character. Mrs. Roye said Marion was ill and suffered a lot. Her husband took her to Mandeville where she was for a day or two in the nursing home and stayed afterwards with the Davises who live near the hospital so she can easily get there to see the doctor etc.

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I heard that Johnson has still another child whom he didn't mention to me during the interview of 15.6.48. p. 2 of this F.R. It is his youngest son Goldin who lives in the home. How he could have forgotten it I don't know. He gave me first the number of his children and then we proceeded to their respective mothers and to the ages of children. I have to investigate whether Goldin exists or not.

Information from Lilian Powell,  
who interv. Isaac Johnson on 21.6.48.  
J.O. 20.7.48.

Present household:

- Johnson Isaac, ~~41~~ 41.
- Johnson Marion, wife, 37.
- + Johnson Jean. dau. 17.
- + Johnson Vera, son, 13.
- + Johnson Basil, son, 11.
- + Johnson Vancliff. son, 9.
- Johnson Golden, son 7.
- Simpson Valerie, servant, 15. /domestic/

Johnson Isaac: father Samuel Johnson /d/, mother Maudann Johnson /living in the same house but separate household/. Isaac has no brothers and sisters.

Johnson Marion: father Thomas Roach /Outer Ridge/, mother Alma Roach /d/. 1 Full brother: Louie Roach, Christiana; 1 full sister: Dotis Wilso, U.S.A.; 1 half sister, Bricks F Roach, Outer Ridge.

Valerie Simpson: daughter of Egbert Simpson ~~from~~ from Chocolate Hole /not to be mixed with Egbert Simpson in Logwood/ and Adelaide Simpson in B. Savannah. Valerie has 2 full sisters: Deita and Thelma Simpson, living in Junction; and 2 half brothers: Arvil South and Daniel South, both living in Bull Savannah.

Children of Isaac and Marion. Isaac says 5 children in the house are by his wife and himself. But according to him he has only 4 lawful children and 6 outside ones /perhaps Jean was born before they were married and hence is counted as "unlawful" child/.

He says that he has 6 outside children but gives details only about 4 of them.

Isaac Johnson's outside children:

1. Leo Johnson, by Nancy Powell. Lives with the mother.
  2. Curl Johnson, " " " " " " " " " "
- For these two see "Fam. Rec. 40".
3. Louie Johnson, whose mother is Lettice Roye in Top Bull Savannah. Louie Johnson stayed for a time with his father but was driven out after a brawl with a Ballard's Valley boy who lost his life in this fight.
  4. A Johnson, whose mother was G. Gale in Tryell /she is daughter of Preston Gale in Trayall/.

Travels: Isaac Johnson went in 1944 to U.S.A., spent 6 months, no savings.

House, land, cultivations.

Dwelling house: 4 living rooms, zinc roof. Occupies with his family 3 rooms. The fourth room occupied by his mother Maudann Johnson /see Fam. Rec. 181/. Furniture: 2 beds, 1 cabinet, 1 table, 6 chairs, 1 foot machine, 1 beaureau,

Other buildings: 1 kitchen, 1 latrine. 1 shop /not stocked, used as butchery shop by Caletus Simpson and his brother on Fridays, and as the work shop of Leo Johnson, Isaac's outside son, who is the cabinet maker./.

1 garage.

Land: Isaac Johnson owns 45.5 acres in 10 lots. Homeland - 6 acres, bought from L.S. in 1904 /probably by his father/. All rest "woodland" - also bought in 1904 from "the Govern ment .

Trees, 50 mabos, 2 pears, 1 grape, 2 pomegranates. Cultivations: 10,000 holes tomatoes - crop failed. 300 hills of yams - diff. varieties. 1 acre cassava, 1/5 ac. congo.

1/4 ac. corn, 1 acre red peas, small amount of sweet potato

Animals: 1 donkey, 2 milch cows, 2 calves, 1 steer, 2 pigs.

Occupations. Isaac is "van owner" /co-owner, runs his "George Washington" to Mandeville 2 a week and to Black River /1 a week/. Has no driving licence, employs a driver. "Not much earned for the past year.

Marion Johnson is a clerk in the Cooper. Store. "Salary very poor."

Spending: 50/- a week for meat and groceries. Clothes for the past year for all the household: £80. £10 spent on education of children. Nothing on health. No savings.

Religion. Marion Johnson belongs to the Angl. Church.

School: Isaac left the school at 6th stand. Marion passed 3rd year T.P. exam. Jean passed 3rd year T.P. exam. Vern ~~xxxxxx~~ and Basil are in the 6th stand., ancliffe in the 3rd, and Golden in the 1st.