

5.1.1948.  
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 26

22/12/13

Powell	David	head	M.M.	56	St. Eliz.	colour.	angl. Jeh. Witn.	W.2.	farmer
"	Edith	wife	F.M.	60	6.6.	"	anglican	W.3.	homemak.
"	Esther	dau	F.S.	31	"	"	"	X	farmhelp
"	Vincent	son	M.S.	28	"	"	Jehov. witn.	W.3	shoemaker
"	Ivy	dau	F.S.	23	"	"	anglican	X	farmhelp
"	Ervin	gr/son	M.S.	8	"	"	"	X	
Banton	Merlie	gr/niece	F.S.	16	"	"	"	W.2.	none
Foreman	Elaine	gr/dau	F.S.	12	"	"	"	W.3.	4 E.
Holness	Lois	gr/dau	F.S.	7	"	"	"	W.1.	4.E.

13 acres

dep 13

Powell David: owns 9 acres, 3½ in cultivation, 2 not used, 2 pasture, 1½ "other.

0.2 ac. tomatoes = 5000 lbs, 2 coconuts, 5 mangoes, 1 kolanut, ¼ crn, ½ peas, 1¼ cassava ½ sweet potatoes, ¼ yams, ½ ½ tobaccp = 300 lbs. 1 swine, 2 hens.

Powell Vincent: owns 5 acres, incultivation 2¼, pasture 2 grasing 2, other ¾.

tomatoes 0.2 = 2000 lbs, 4 mangoes, 0.3 peas, ½ 0.5 cassava 0.3 sweet potatoes, 4 goats, 1 swine, 2 hens.

Vincent Powell is the secretary of the Bull Savannah growers Association. He is employed about 10 months a year in this capacity, collecting in the season tomatoes at selecting stations, issuing receipts and keeping accounts. He is paid £2 (?) a week. He is a very active member of the Jehovah Witnesses. (See Growers Ass. and Religion).

The career of the secretary of the Association.

Mr. Vincent learned shoemaking from a cousin. He tried to get work in Kingston as tram driver. The doctor told him however that his chest was weak. At that time there was no "house over the driver" and one had to be long hours exposed to sun or rain. He was in Bull Savannah helping occasionally on Saturdays Mrs. Powell with her shop. At that time - round 1934 - she was doing big business. One day some people came on excursion to Bull Savannah. Powell took them to the sea for a swim and showed them round. This "foreigner" asked him whether he knew anybody who could take care of a store. Powell said he would do it and would go at once. He went a fortnight later to Frankfield in the parish of Clarendon. He managed the shop - the owner had 3 more and still some other business. Mr. Powell stayed in Frankfield 18 months. He liked his work and his employer liked him. However it was near the River Minho or Dry River it is called. The house where Powell lived was very near the river and Mr. Powell contracted rheumatism. He came to Bull Savannah for a visit in 1936. "It was a Tuesday morning and on Friday I started to work on tomatoes and worked on them ever since". His employer wanted him to



to young people to make love to each other. So the parents stopped the daughters to go to these meetings. Powell himself met his "girl friend" at such a meeting. He did not exactly meet her there for the first time but it gave him the opportunity to get friendly with her.

An illness in the family &  
Sex morals.

Mr. Powell said it wasnt too bad in his case as he is going to marry this "girl friend". He would have married her in Novemeber last year werent it for the illness of his sister. She had typhoid fever and was for 4 months in hospital. It cost the family - her husband, father and himself £ 57. Mr. Powell travelled 17 times to Mandeville to see his sister in the hospital. He never thought she will get through. "She was a fath woman and now - you can lift her like a feather". However the wedding is only postoponed till May - till after the tomato season. He wouldnt have time ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ nor money to have a wedding during the season. But other boys - they run wild. Asked what about himself having his son with him and no wife to it, he explained that when he was young he did get friendly with the girl and she had this boy for him. But since he had only "his fingers" at that time he couldnt marry, He went to Frankenfield and when he came back that girl had another boy friend, ~~xxxxxx~~ He asked her whether she would give him the boy and she did, so they boy - his son - is staying with him. Mr. Powell thinks he is not to be blamed in this instance. He does acknowledge he had girl friends "but never more than one at a time". Not like other young men. He had known ~~thix~~ the here present Mr. Merton Francis (his "secretary") to have six girls at one time. But since he has "seen the light" (Mr. Francis became also Jehovah Witness") he married and doesnt "go wild" any more. Mr. Powell's grand father - old George Powell - he used to be a wild man too. A bad man. Not that he would curse you or ill-treat you - no in that way he was a pleasant man. But he would run after women, having his wife and children. In Mr. Powells opinion a man who is married, who has a wife shouldnt look after other women. Because the Bible says "Thou etc. your neighbours wife". And if you do it would be covetiousness. He is sure he will be a faithful husband. ~~Amixiankxaxx~~ The Jehovah Witn. ~~marryvatx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ go to any man who is a legal marriage officer to be married. It is just to make it legal. "In case I die my children get the property". From the religious point of view they neednt to be married by anybody. Marriage is love. The Jehovah Witn. marry only their cobelievers. It is not a law but it is so. There wouldnt be a common purpose if the wife were one denomination and the husband another. Yes his girl friend is a Jehov. Witn. so is the wife of Mr. Francis. Well Mr. Powell envisages the possibility that he might have married a non Jeh. Witn. but then he would try to go round her and convert her. He is sure he would succeed to do it. Referring to Mr. Francis "wild past (to the account of which the young & handsome Mr. Francis listened with a not unpleased smile)

Theology

I commented however with the Bible quotation about the joy in heaven with the lost sheep. I said I didnt remember exactly the wording as I havent read the Bible in English. Mr. Powell was astonished and a bit shocked. How was it possible! Well I said everybody learned prayers etc. in his mother ~~language~~ tongue. He said that if he learned Polish he would at once read the Bible in Polish. What for? Just to compare. He could sell me a Bible - it costs only 5/-. (I just bought from him a Jeh. Witn. Book "Let God be true". It is nicely bound and costs 2/-) Mr. Powell explained that he doesnt mke money selling these books. His "society" wanted him to have a percentage on it but he refused. He thinks that if you believe in God you will want your brethren to teach about it. For your living you have to work in ~~ex~~ some way, but one cant make money on ones believes. He couldnt get over the fact that I havent read the Bible in English. I tried to convey to him as gently as I could thats it is because really my ~~congregation~~ church wasnt so much for the old testament - more for the new testament. He delivered a long and learned speech about the old testament "There is nothing wrong with the old testament" he concluded and I agreed. He said one should read the Bible. For instance about Trinity. Nowhere in the Bible it says that Jesus, God Father and the holly Ghost were one. It stands to reason: if these 3 persons were one, the moment Jesus died on the cross the world would have been left without God - and thats impossible. Mr. Francis also joined the argument: When Jesus on the cross prayed to God - it was obvious there were two persons. If there were people who would want to behead my husband and he would ask me to forgive them - not to trouble them for what they are doing what would it mean? Just that we are two persons: husband and wife. Jesus, God and Holy Spirit couldnt be ~~3~~ persons in one person - impossible. He will bring the bible for me to buy. It has be translated into 88 languages.

History of Settlement.

The father of his grandfather George was a slave. Soon after emancipation "two men run away from Rose Hall, that was the camp for slaves: Malsam. They run away and hide in case slavery come again. Bull Savannah was in forest then. Those two men were Powell and Senior. They settle right here behind the hill where my Daddy's home is". They great grand father "marry high - marry a brown woman. My father is dark but has good hair. They marry fair women. Powells wer slaves. Elliots were slave-owners. They were from Scotland." Vincents mother was from the Elliot family.

"Brooks came after. They (Brooks) were the same slaves. They (the freed slaves) occupy all the land but it was not theirs. My daddy was a little boy when the surveyor came and surveyed the land. My daddy carry instruments for him.

The farm of Vincent Powell in 1942. (census)

Operates his farmland as owner or part owner for 10 yrs  
owns 5 acres in 2 parcels: 1 and 4 resp.

chief income tomatoes

no labour employed.

works 26 weeks p.a. 6 days p.w. 9 hours p.d.

2½ acres in cultivation

2 ac. in guinea grass

¾ ac. other

1 catchment.

total value of farm £ 20, buildings £ 10

0.2 ac. tomatoes = 2000 lbs

4 common magoes = 440 doz.

0.3 congo peas = 5 bushels

1½ ac. cassava = 4,400 lbs. 0.3 sweet cassava = 900 lbs

4 goats

1 swine

Inform. Dudley Simpson and Bradley Rochester.  
26.3.48.  
J.O.

David Powell and  
his family.

"Powell David - him marry, but him wife dead.  
One Edith Elliott from Ballard's Valley. Him die  
around 4 years ago."

Their children: "Vincent Powell. ~~Esth~~ Estha -  
a dummy. Ivy - ~~another~~ another dummy. Hilda -  
quite sensible." Gertrude and Carmen - described also  
as "quite sensible."

Only two "dummies" Estha and Ivy are "staying  
in the home." They are not married. "Estha dont have  
any children. Ivy have 2 child. One for David Swaby  
from Rose Corner, one for Arthur Lewis from Dunder  
Hill."

Other daughters are married ~~outside~~ and they  
live in their husbands' homes.

"Hilda marry to this Brown in New Forest. Ger-  
trude - she marry to Claston Simpson in Shadock Hill.  
Carmen - she went to Kingston, marry in Kingston.  
Gertrude and Carmen is twin."

Inter. with Vincent Powell.  
7.5.48.  
T.O.

Mr. Vincent Powell's  
budget and trades.

"Book keeping for tomatoes? - I keep it, and Mr. Charles Lewis and perhaps Mr. William Rochester down here."

"Last crop I spent L9:0:3 and I earned L25.- I keep account of every penny spent."

Mr. Powell had three fields of tomatoes this season:

Budget of cultivations  
/tomatoes/

"In one field I had 2000 tress, in one field 2500 trees. And one field I gave to another person but I stand the expenses. It wasn't a success this field - I got 25/-/probably netto/."

The first two fields are ~~xxx~~ worked on shares. One with Schloss, the other with Senior.

"I have two little books - one with the expenses with Schloss and one with the expenses with Senior."

Expenses for home.

Vincent's sister is doing the home-work. Vincent sleep already in his new home, but he eats at his father's home. He does not keep the accounts of the expenditure for home. There isnt either a definite budget to which his sister would keep. When money is needed to buy necessary things for the home use she asks for the money either the father or Vincent. There are no misunderstanding about it.

"I may give 10/- for the week. The home is run by me and my Daddy - both of us."

And if the sister asked him for L1.- a week?

"I wouldnt give - I wouldnt have it."

His earnings during the  
last three years.

For the last three years Vincent is a salaried secretary of the Growers Association. He works for 9 to 10 months a year and is only paid for the time he works. He does not get any paid holidays.

salaried job

"I was paid 30/- a week the first year, for 9 months. Thats the first  
year . . . . . 54 - -  
The second year it was L2.10 for 10 months 100 - -  
This year - the same L2.10 for 10 months,  
but I got L12.- from the Company for the  
two years /L.12 last year and L12 this.. 124 - -  
L278. - -

cultivating and stock  
aising.

Odd jobs

This is L.278 for the three year from my job and pig." "And I get a little money from tomato

"For two years - except the last - I work every Saturday evening with Mrs. Elliott shop and got 3 -. Its 52 time 3/- for the year. So for two year it was about L15.10."

"During the months I don't work at the factory - those two school latrines I worked



on them and got more than ..... 15 - - -  
 - 6/- per day. "

"And if they keep a dance they come to me to sell drinks and I get 10/- each time. Mrs. Elliott - the last time they had a picnic at school - she used to pay me 5/- a day. She give me the goods at shop. At shop price, and I sold them. I made L 5. "

Mr. Powell said he was giving a little less ~~rum~~ rum and that was the main source of income made at this picnic.

"It wasnt a matter of dishonesty but protection. /Protecting people from getting drunk./

"During these 2 months I wasnt working at the Association I do: masonry, carpentry, shoe-making, planting and rearing."

"It saves money for my own expenses. Like my shoes /he shows his shoes which look very well made/ I built them myself. Sometimes it takes the whole night. Its the first trade I learned. I never buy my shoes - only may be one pair the best pair."

So during last 3 years Mr. Powell earned - without counting his income from tomatoes and rearing - ~~morethx~~ about L298.-

Building of  
the new house.

This money he spent wholly on his new house he is building.

"Last year I spent everything. I was doing building and the tank. And this year I spent everything. - I have to buy some piece of furniture."

"For last year crop and wages I saved L35 and I spent on the building of the kitchen. The house cost as it is now L210, kitchen L22, and the tank L 50."

The above sums Mr. Powell did not spent actually. He built the tank from the money he borrowed from the Parochial Board, and ~~in~~ in the cost of the house his own work is included at the current rate of 6/- per day.

"All masonry I do myself but I charge it at the current rate. So the cost of the house include my work - 6/- per day."

"The zinc /for the roof/ I bought before I start to work at the Association and it cost L9.- and it is included in the expense."

The L50 for building his tank he got as a loan without interest from the Parochial Board. Had he applied 2 months earlier he might have got a free grant of L10 and a loan of L20.

"To built a catchment you get a loan from the Parochial Board. I get £20 and I have 7 years to pay it. No interest on it. You pay £3 every year and the last year you pay £2. Free of interest. There was a free grant of £ 10. But I was late - two months. Just last year - it was finished /the tank/ in November. I was the only one in Bull Savannah to get this loan. Other - they are afraid of debt. I gave my title as a guarantee - security."

Investing a loan.

"So this money will help me to plant more tomatoes. If next year I can get money for the crop I will pay it off."

Insurance.

Mr. Powell is also the only person in this village to be insured. An agent of a Canadian Ins. Company came but he persuaded only Powell. The scheme is - explained Powell - that he pays £10 a year, for the insurance and £2 a year to insure himself that in case of illness his dues will be paid. After 20 years he gets £200 plus a bonus of £50 - which is accumulated from a bonus of £2.10 a year. In case of his death his heirs get the £200 - any time he dies. After paying 3 years he can borrow from the company to the amount of 2/3 paid for him. Mr. Powell has a very intricate scheme: he plans to pay for the 3 years, than borrow the 2/3 and ~~xxxxxx pay xxx~~ with this money pay his dues to the company for the next two years. Thus for the 5 years he will pay by a sum equal to 3 years ~~in~~ contributions. At the end of the 20 years this loan is deducted from the total £250 paid by the company. No interest is paid on this loan.

Mr. Powell seems to be well acquainted with the intricacies of rates, loans etc. and he certainly is very much concerned to ascertain some security in his "earthly" life as well as the security of his family. He says:

"I wouldn't worry if I didn't have children."

One of his outside children a boy, lives with him, and another one with the mother in Rose Hall. He is ~~xxxx~~ to marry soon the daughter of Michael Powell - probably next month.

Interview with Vincent Powell.  
10.6.48.  
J.O.

Present household:

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Powell David, head. 60.  
,, Vincent, 34. son.  
,, Ester, daughter, 36.  
,, Ervin, Vincent's son, 9.  
Swaby Teddie, grda. of David, 4.

Family history.

David Powell, son of George Powell and Fredrica Powell, first Dyer. David was brought up by his aunt Motie, sister of his father, living in Big Yard.

David Powell had 11 full siblings. Three of them died, 8 are alive. Ellis Powell, dead, lived next house - now his wife and daughter are living in the old place, and also two of Ellis's sons: James and Joseph. Joseph Powell, alive, lives across the road, in close neighbourhood to David. Sarah Griffiths - married in Southfield where she lives now. Nicola Samuda - is in U.S.A. Rebecca Grace - died. Annie Powell and Rosa Powell live across the road, almost in the same yard / but in separate houses / as their old father George Powell. Francella Rochester - married to Willy Rochester in Green Olive. Edith Elliott - married Windy Elliott; B.B.S. Alma Rochester - married Panton Rochester, Green Olive. Annie and Rosa sis not marry, but have children.

David has also one outside brother - Percival Powell, son of his father and Henrietta Reynolds in Th. Walk. Lawful Powells do not maintain family relationships with their bastard brother.

David's wife was Edith Elliott, daughter of Thomas Elliott. Neither David nor his wife had any ~~children~~ outside children before they married.

David had 6 children by his wife. Vincent and Ester - who is dumb - stay at home with the father. All the rest are away.

Hilda - married Mr. Brown in New Forest, stays with her husband. They visit frequently each other.

Carmen is in Kingston, married to Mr. Davy. Any time Vincent goes to Kingston he stays with his ~~sister~~ sister. He carries always some presents of food.

Ivy is living in Dunder Hill with her c.l. husband, Arthur Lewis. She had two children before she went to live with Arthur Lewis - one by a Swaby in New Forest, another by Arthur Lewis. Swaby's child stays with the grandfather? she is Teddy Swaby, 4 years old.

Gertrude lives in Shaddock Hill with her husband Claston Simpson.

Vincent Powell

Vincent Powell lives with his father in the same household. He built his own house and tank and in ~~fact~~ near future is going to establish his own home in his father's yard.

He is in close contact with his brothers and sisters. Visits them, helps some of them /Gertrude, when she was ill/, etc.

He is not yet married, but is going to marry Cislina Powell, daughter of Michael Powell in B.S.P.

Previously he was along with two other women with whom he had 2 children. His first girl was Grace Simpson from Thatch Walk, daughter of

She had one boy for him. The boy, 9 years old, stays with him. His name is Ervin.

His next girl friend was Daisy Hendricks from Rose Hall. He met her in Bull Savannah ~~where~~ where she came to work in the factory. ~~He~~ She had one boy for him. The boy, Elaine Powell, years old, stays with the mother. He helps the mother to raise the child. Visits them from time to time, sends money and gifts.

He did not marry any of his two girl friends because he did not intend to marry them.

Ester Powell.

Ester Powell is dumb. She had no husband and no children.

Teddy Swaby.

Teddy Swaby is son of Ivy Powell, daughter of David. Ivy Powell lives now with Arthur Lewis in Dunder Hill, Teddy's father is David ~~Ramark~~ Swaby from The father supports the child. The child is raised by his aunt Ester and by the grandfather, David Powell.

Emmigration.

David Powell travelled abroad to Cuba about 1920. He saved some money, built the house from it.

Vincent Powell went in 1935 to Clarendon. He stayed away from the home for two ~~year~~ years. Worked in the shop as the clerk. Saved little money - bought shoemaker's tools for it.

Housing.

There are two ~~existing~~ living houses in their yard: one for David, another for Vincent. David's house has 3 rooms. The house is ~~furnished with~~ well furnished: 4 beds, 2 tables, 4 chairs, 1 cupboard. David's house is shared by him, Ester, Ervin and Teddy.

Vincent's house has 2 rooms, ~~the~~ tin-roof. Is only half furnished: 1 bed, 2 chairs, 2 tables, 1 bureau, 1 china closet. He shares his house with Boysie Roach, his friend and lodger.

Family Record 26

Other buildings in the yard: 1 kitchen, another kitchen for Vincent in building. 2 tanks, one for David, another for Vincent, at his house. 1 latrine.

Land.

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David Powell and Vincent have their separate lands. David has 9 acres in 2 plots: 4 acres in B.S., 5 in Woodland. All 9 acres bought - nothing inherited. One piece, in B.S., was bought from old Senior. Another, in Woodland, from George Powell, his father. David rents no land, cultivates only his own land.

9  
4  
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13

Vincent's land consists of 4 acres in 1 plot in Woodland. ~~xxxxxx~~ This plot was a joint property of his uncle Joseph Powell and his father. He ~~xxxxxx~~ paid for two acres of this land to his uncle Joseph; 2 acres belonging to his father were given to him.

Economic trees.

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There are only few fruit trees on their land: 2 common mangoes, 1 green shin. L coconut palm. They have also a lot of common thatch in Woodland - about 150 trees. Dont sell it, keep for own use only.

Cultivations.

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Tomatoes: David planted about 2000 trees last season, his net income from tomatoes this year was L.24. Vincent plant 5000 trees in 3 plots, but he shared with his partners who work the cultivation. His share in money was L.24.

Yams: David's yams - Mosella 20 hills, Affoo 26 hills, Tawya 24 hills, white yam 10. Vincent's yams: shared with a partner in 50%. Tawya 50 hills.

Cassava: David's 3/4 acre. Vincent's - 1/2 acre.

Gungoo peas: David's 1/2 a. - this year crop was 8 bags. Vincent's - 1/2 acre.

Red peas: 1/4 a. for David, 1/4 a. for Vincent.

Escallion - only for home use, a tiny plot.

All food crops are only for home use. David plants a litt tobacco for his own use.

Live animals.

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They raise 1 mother cow and calf, shared by David and Vincent. They have also one goat for Ester, 1 pig for Ester and 2 hens for Ester.

Vincent has 34 fowls /leghorns/ gets 4 eggs each day from them.

Besides Vincent has in partnership with another man 1 sheep and 1 beef cow. He bought both the sheep and the cow and passed it to the friend to raise it. When sold, Vincent will get back what he paid for the animals and the profit will be shared in half.

No fishing is practised by this household.

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#### Other occupations and trades.

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Ester works at the factory in the packing house in the season only. Works for about 3 months earning in average 5/- daily.

David Powell is tomato selector for the Association. Last season worked for about 28 days at 5/- per day.

Vincent Powell - secretary of B.S. Tom. Growers Association. His salary - L.2.10.0 per week for 10 months in the year.

Vincent Powell is also shoemaker and mason. ~~His~~ He works only for himself however, or ~~for relatives and friends~~ occasionally for some relatives or friends in exchange for some other service.

#### Expenditure.

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They spend in average weekly: 4/- for fish, 8d. for kerosine oil and 2 d for matches. Buy beef for ab. 3/8d. every Friday. Besides Vincent spends weekly about ~~xxx~~ 5/- for cigarette - 7 packs of 4 Aces per week.

Clothing. This year Vincent spent about L.20 on clothes for himself and Ervin. Chief item: suit for L.10 - for marriage. Shirts, underpants, merinoes, trousers material for shoe cost another L.10.

Ester spent about L.12 on dresses and shoes and underwear.

David - he does not know what his father spent on clothes - it was not much.

Teddy's clothing is paid by his mother.

#### Health.

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Nothing was spent on health in last 12 months by David. Vincent spends regularly 2/3 monthly on Astma Remedy all the time. Besides he spent on his sister Gertrude who last autumn was ill /Typhoid/ about L.10 - on helping her and paying his expenses when visiting her in the Mandeville hospital.

#### Gifts.

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No money was given in last year by the members of this household to their relatives and family in gift. Gifts are given only in kind. Vincent gave to his sister Gertrude 2 leghorn fowls. Besides money is spent on sweets to sisters' children any time he visits them. Some presents to his sister in Kingston are given every time he goes to Kingston and stays with her. This are presents of food: a box /cartboard/ consisting of yams, sweet potatoes, gungoo peas, escallion, peppers and bam-mies.

Little was spent on drinks: drinks for Christmas time cost about 15/.

Vincent spent last year 12/- on books from Jehovah Witness Society.

Savings, investments.

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David and Vincent bought last year a cow for L.10 - from "tomato money". Besides Vincent bought a cow and a sheep - paid L.14 together.

L.54 was spent by Vincent on building his tank. He spent also L.11.2.4 on insurance. Lent to friends L.14 free of interest.

Vincent has some debts also: owes to Parochial Board L20. - loan to assist in building the tank.

Religion.

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All the family belong to Jehovah Witness.

Public functions etc.

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David is on the Board of Management of Tomato Growers Association in Bull Savannah /called also Committee of Directors/. He is also director of the Bull Savannah Consumers Coop.Ltd.

Vincent - secretary of Tomato Growers Association in Bull Savannah. Director and Treasurer of Consumers Cooperative. Public Minister of Jehovah Witness in B.S.