

Visit.

8.1.48.
J.O.

C.D. 22. Sed. 13, P. 10, L. 23, (Household 46)

Brooks Calvert	Head	M.Cl. 34	St. Eliz.	Black.	Angl.	Ill.	Farmer
Stephenson Victoria	Wife	Cl. 35	"	Col.	"	"	Homemaker
" David	Broth. in law	M.S. 19	"	Black	"	"	F. lab.
Turner Godfrey	Stepson	M.S. 10	"	Col.	"	W.I.	4E
Brooks Esmilda	D.	F.S. 4	"	Black	"	"	"
Brooks Claude	S.	M.S. 3	"	"	"	"	"

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Interview with Miss Victoria Stephenson.
J.O.

The House.

The house is situated on the Eastern periphery of Thatch Walk, some 100 yards from the path leading into Woodlands. Their homestead consists of two buildings: one living house and another kitchen. I stopped to exchange greetings with two women standing in the yard ~~and started to admire paintings~~ and started to admire ~~the~~ blue paintings of ships and houses on the walls of the kitchen and the house. ~~Miss~~ One of the women explained that the paintings were made by Mr. Calvert Brooks.

The family.

Is she Mrs. Brooks? No, she is not Mrs. Brooks - "I expect to be." She lives with Calvert Brooks already for about ten years. Had 8 children, but 3 died, only 5 alive. The eldest child is the boy - he is 16 years old. He is her child from another union, her's son, but not Mr. Brooks'. Next to him is her girl - 9 or 10 years old. She goes to school - is already in the 3rd standard. She is Calvert's daughter as well. She is followed by a boy - 8 or 9 years old. Other children are still smaller. They came soon - 3 boys between 4 and 6. One of them cried and ~~was~~ tried to escape when older children wanted to bring him to me. He is frightened - Miss Victoria explained - that I will take him to carry him to the factory. They always frighten him when he is unruly that they will carry him to the factory, where he will be put into machine together with tomatoes and "mashed up" or grinded into pulp. That's why he is so desperate about my presence. The boy finally escaped and ran into the fields. We continued our conversation.

Work in the factory. Miss Victoria does not work in the factory. Neither her husband. ~~It~~ But her son - 16 years old - he worked the previous year and went also to-day to work at the factory. Last year when he worked the working hours were from 6 to 6 and from 7 to 7. All the day and sometimes all the night. He got only 2/- per day. He started with a smaller pay - about 1/-, then his pay was raised to 1/9 until it reached 2/- this year.

It is much too little. Her boy is a big man and he must eat a lot. In the factory they pay only money but they give no meals. When her son works at the factory she must carry to him all the meals. They count that 1/- is enough to provide meals for a young man like him, that he is left with 1/- after one day's work. It isn't so. Food is very expensive and ~~that~~ he eats more than for 1/- daily. And again, clothes are so expensive. She brought a pair of trousers which he recently acquired. The material cost 5/6 per yard and 2 or 3 yards are needed for a pair of trousers. ~~xxxxxx~~ Life is very hard here for poor people.

~~xxxx~~

Her family history. She was not born in ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ Bull Savannah. She came here from Tryall, where her father and her family live. She stayed with her father before she came here and joined Mr. Calvert Brooks. Her father is a farmer.

Calvert Brooks' family history. His house and his land.

Her husband - Mr. Calvert Brooks - was born here. He is a bastard child of the late husband of Henrietta Brooks - the house we visited yesterday. As a bastard child he did not get any land from his father. His father died and left all the land undivided. The family land is now owned by his father's wife and his "mother-in-law" - Mrs. Henrietta Brooks. He works on the family land, with his lawful brothers - Arthur and Alexander. He expects that when his mother-in-law will die, he will get ~~some~~ a portion of his ~~xxxxxx~~ late father's land.

The land around his homestead was bought by him. There is 3/4 acre of land around the house. She does not know where the house and the kitchen were built. When she came from Tryall to live with Calvert Brooks ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ she found the buildings as they are now.

their farm.

They don't keep any cow. Just a couple of goats, a ~~xxxx~~ sheep and some "piggies". ~~xxxx~~ Mr. Calvert planted some tomatoes this year, but the drought came and the ~~xxxx~~ plants were burnt. They wait for the rain to repeat the planting. It is very hard to them - they have no water, no water tank. If they need water they must beg their neighbours. The land is not fertile enough here in Thatch Walk.

Asking for help.

At the end of my stay Miss Victoria asked me whether I will be able to help them. Perhaps with water - they ~~need~~ need water and they have no means to provide it. Also with the house. Their house is so tiny - one room only for all the family. If it would be possible to get some help to build a bigger and better house. Some people are able to manage, other people are not. Those who cannot manage themselves need help. When I left the yard ~~xxxxxx~~ children started to shout from a distance asking me money.

His farm in 1942.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Calvert Brooks figures in the Census 1942 in the Farm Sched. No 3. His farm consists of a portion of land ~~is~~ under 1 acre, 2 swines, 1 goat, 2 sheep, 2 hens. He produce 1 dozen of eggs in 1942. Produced garden products for L5 during the cen-~~sus~~ year. Had 1 ackee tree /6 doz./, 1 avocado pear /8 doz./, 2 coconuts /18 nuts/, 7 mangoes /96 dozens/, 1 cashew /6 dozens/.

Information collected by Lilian Powell.
Interv. Calbert Brooks.
15.6.48.
J.O. ~~15.7.48~~.

Present household.

Brooks Calbert, 36. Head.
Stevenson Victoria, 26, c.l. wife.
Turner Godfrey, Victoria's son, 17.
Brooks Perlle, daughter to Calbert and Victoria, 10.
~~Sandra~~ Brooks Claudie, son, 8.
Brooks David, son, 4.
Brooks Albert, son, 3.
Brooks Amy, dau., 5 months.

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Family history.

Brooks Clabert. Outside son of David Brooks /late husband of Henrietta Brooks/ and Elizabeth Powell /Thatch Walk/. His siblings by both parents /full siblings/: Dacosta Brooks, /Adelaide Brooks /Junction/, Rodella Brooks /Mandeville/. He has through his father ~~two~~ 3 half-nrothers living in Th.W.: Alexander, Albert and Arthur Brooks, and 5 ~~sisters~~ halfsisters: Maria Burke, Iris Brooks, Ethel Perkins - in Thatch Walk, and Ethlin Brooks /Kingston/ and Burdie Brooks /Plowden/. Also 3 half sisters through his mother: Laura Sinclair /Rhatch Walk/, Jemima Sinclair /Spaldings/ and Morelda Sinclair /Port Sea/.
Stevenson Victoria. She is from Ballards Valley. Her father /dead/ was James Stevenson, her mother ~~live~~ ~~is~~ Rebecca Stevenson. They were married. She has three full frothers: Claude /Kingston/, Charles /Ballard's Valley/, David /ballard's Valley/, and 3 full sisters: Icy Dyer /Junction/ and Doris Peart and Cinderella Morris /Maghotty/. Her first child was by a ~~fr~~ Turner from Tryall. The boy stays with her.

//T^hatch Walk/

House. ~~ex~~ Living house is one room house, thatch roof. 1 kitchen. No tank. Furniture: 2 beds, 2 chairs, 1 table. No tank.

Land. Only 3/4 acre of homeland bought from Alic Bent in 1938.

Cultivations. Treed: 6 mangoes, 12 sweet saps, 1 cashew, 3 coconuts, 2 pears, 2 sour saps, 2 pommegrnates, 2 ackees. Tomatoes: 1000 holes, L10. Yams: 60 hills. Cassava 1/4 ac. Congo - 1/4 ac. Sweet poatoes.

Animals. 2 sheep, 1 hog, 1 donkey, 3 hens, 1 dog.

School: Perlle and Claudy go to school, both in 3rd stand.