

8.1.1948.
T.O.

Fam. Rec. 33

		22/8/	hh	28.	p.9	line	1.			
Rochester	Claston	head	M.M.	35	St.	Elizab.	colour.	angl.	W.2.	tanner
"	Simonette	wife	F.M.	32	4.4.	"	"	"	W.3.	homemak
"	Gloria	dau	F.S.	12	"	"	"	"	W.3.	3.E.
"	Orret	son	M.S.	7	"	"	"	"	W.1.	3.E.
"	Kenrick	son	M.S.	5	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	Derick	son	M.S.	3	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	Hector	son	M.S.	13	"	"	"	"	W.3.	3.E.

Owns 47 acres in 7 parcels. 16 in cultivation, 14 not used, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ grazing, woodland 2 ac. other 2 $\frac{1}{4}$.

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres tomatoes= 21800 lbs. 1 ackee, 4 avocados, 9 coconuts
1 guinea, 1 lime, 18 mangoes, 1 pawpaw.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ peas, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ cassava, $\frac{3}{4}$ sweet pot. $\frac{1}{4}$ yams, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ tobacco=1000 lbs.

1 donkey, 6 sheep, 8 goats, 3 pigs,
1 motor car.

Wave
p. 46.

Claston is the son of Charles and grandson of Simian Rochester. His wife is also a Rochester: daughter of William and granddaughter of Thomas. They are second cousins. The house site Claston bought from Robert Rochester son of Arthur Rochester. This Robert was also a tanner, he got bankrupt, sold the place and went to Panama. Claston is considered "the big man" in the district. He learned the tannery business "right here in Bull Savannah" and for years he used to tann and would go all round Jamaica in his car to sell the leather. Just now he stopped - for this season to tann. It is not such a good business as it used to be. With the imported ready made shoes - it is cheaper to buy them than to make them to order. He has a big cultivation to look after.

Conversion.

Mr. Claston is a seven day adventist. He says he "saw the light" about 4 years ago. Asked how it happened he said just reading the Bible. He found that many things taught in church were wrong. Especially about the Sabbath God said man should rest on the seventh day, and people do it on the first day. "You cant rest before you work." And many people "rob God" from this day. also there are many things which should not be eaten: like pork, some kind of fishes. There are people who try to do it "halfway". But it is not even worth while, because they dont have the full enjoyment (of sinful but pleasant things) and they will not get into the kingdom of God. The Seven Day people - it is not new. Their church is the oldest one, it existed even before Christ - it is the oldest religion.

Mr. Claston came to-day from Mandeville where he accompanied his two daughters (one outside - he has 2 outside children). The daughters went to the seven day ad. school to be trained - one wants to be a nurse and the other will take a commercial course. They will stay there 4 or 5 years - depends how long it takes. This school is supported by Seven Day Adv.

Tomatoes versus
tobacco.

Mr. Claston doesnt plant tobacco. The seven adv. are against smoking, so they dont plant tobacco because they dont want to sell to anybody a thing they consider pernicious. Tobacco - it takes a year and manuring. Tomatoes - you can plant before peas, and after the tomato crop. After that you plant cassava. Tomatoes dont take a field for the whole year, you dont have to make pay tomatoes for the field for the year.

Visit at home. Interv. Claston & Simonette Rochester.
6.7.48.
T.O.

I know both Mr. & Mrs. Claston Rochester very well and had many talks with them on several occasions (see subject files Religion & Family Life).

The house It is one of the biggest ~~max~~ in Bull-Savannah, situated in Green Olive at the southern end of the valley. There are four rooms, a spacious verandah. The kitchen and buttery are in a separate building. In a third building there is a "bath room" concreted. On the other side of this building there is a little room too. There are two big tanks with large catchments. During the drought many neighbours got their water from these tanks. Under a big shed there are arrangements for tanning.

On the verandah there are a few wooden arm-chairs. Mrs. Rochester sits there often with her baby son and sewing. One room is used as a "drawing room". One in which I slept for one night is the bed room of Claston and his wife. Their little baby Earl sleeps with them there. He has a crib. In the third room sleep the girls and in the fourth the boys.

Present household:

	Rochester	Claston head.	M.40	Bull.Sav.	7	Adv. cultivator	&tanner ø
	"	Simonette wife	M.35	"	"	housewife	
outside ch.of	Clast ^m .	Hector son	S.20	"	"	cultivat.	
"	"	Elleine dau	S.19	"	"	at home	
"	"	Gloria dau	S.18	"	"	" "	
"	"	Orrett son	S.13	"	"	at school	
"	"	Kenneth son	S.11	"	"	"	
"	"	Derrick son	S. 8	"	"	"	
"	"	Earl son	S. 5/12	"	"	"	

Claston Rochester, is the son of Charles Rochester and his wife Caroline (nee Dyer) The father's house is quite near and their fields are adjoining.

Old Charles Rochester had only 3 lawful children: Claston, Albert and Isabelle called Mae who married the eldest lawful son of Moses Elliott and lives in Top Bull Savannah. Albert has his own field and house in New Core rest. He is not married yet and spends regularly a long week end with the parents, as he helps the father to cultivate.

Charles Rochester was in his younger days a fisherman and a rather poor man. ~~However~~ Claston achieved his economic and social high status in the community by his own efforts. For many years he used to work with his cousin Robert Rochester, who taught him tannery. Claston was also doing business for Robert Rochester driving in the truck and ~~selling~~ buying & selling fish, hides etc. When Robert went bankrupt Claston bought his house & land. (a part of which belonged originally to the Sinclair "estate" and was sold by Lucinda Elliott to Robert)

His land. Claston is undoubtedly one of the shrewdest "land speculators" in Bull Savannah. He was the first to understand that with the development of the tomato industry the land will be valued not only according to its productive possibilities but also as building spots. He acted accordingly and bought many pieces which seemed to other people in Bull-Savannah absolutely worthless. For instance the 6 acres he has in Ridge is very stony especially near the road. Claston offered a piece for the Seven Day Adventist Church to be built on. He is building a house next to it which he plans to rent to the people who come to work in the factory during the season. This already creates a kind of centre and improves greatly the remaining part of the land. He told me how foolish people are in Bull.Sav.: they ask exorbitant prices for a little part of their land on which somebody wants to build. It would be much more reasonable for them to make it ~~forvaters~~ possible for others to build (if they can't afford to do it themselves) and in this way the rest of their land would be much more valuable. Claston has certainly a much better understanding of changing land values than professional land speculators in Montego Bay.

He says he has 40 acres in 5 parcels. (I believe he has more): 10 acres of home land, 20 acres in New Forest bought from the settlement, 4 acres in Dunder Hill and 6 in Ridge.

His cultivations. He is a big cultivator and has many partners who work with him on shares. He also employs labour. This year he had 6000 tress of tomatoes, I understand he had still more on shares. 5 acres of cassava and almost the same amount of land under gungoo peas. Corn about 2 acres. He sells a part of his crops. Yams are planted only for home use.

His enterprises. He was tanning untill last Christmas. However he finds that this business owing to the Government controls is not very profitable at present. He doesn't know whether he will decide to keep it up. He wasn't doing any tanning during the last six months. He owns 2 boats which he rents to fishermen: Percival Brooks and Joseph Thomas. He used to have a truck but sold it last year. He thinks of buying one this year. He has 2 donkeys, 1 milch cow, 1 streer and 5 goats.

Claston's children: He had two children before he married Simonette Rochester his second cousin. The oldest is Hector whose mother is Violette Simpson. F.R. 144 The mother of Elleine is Eve Banton from Ballard's Valley. Five children of Claston & his wife Simonette live with the parents.

Simonette Rochester - called Netty - is the daughter of William and Francella Rochester nee Powell. (For her family history brothers & sisters see Fam. Rec. of William Rochester No. 5)

Simonette was "in friendship" with Claston since 1928. She had her first child at her parent's home. They married 4 years after and she moved to Claston's house.

Netty is very fond especially of her only daughter Gloria. She always refers tactfully to "my daughters" but in more intimate talks she speaks of her "only daughter, little daughter". Gloria and Elleine spent a few months from Christmas till Easter in the 7 Day Adv. College in Mandeville. The girls found however that it is "too long to take the full course there, which according to Gloria would last 8 years, after which they would be ~~trained~~ trained for any profession. They came home for the Easter holidays and didn't want to return to the college. Elleine is to take this week some kind of examination. During the girl's absence Netty "fret" a lot. She told me that because of this worry her little baby son Earl wasn't feeling well as ~~much~~ it had a bad influence on her nursing. It is true that after the girls came home Earl, who was a tiny and thin baby improved so much, that I couldn't recognise him after a few weeks.

Religion. About Netty's and Claston conversion etc. see file Religion.

Claston is considered a "big man" in Bull-Savannah. He ranks among the richest: Charles Lewis and the late Emanuel Powell. Claston is very popular with his fellow Seven Day Adventists but not so much with other people, possibly it might be because of his religious practices which are not very popular with people of all other denominations. He plays a great role in the Church and the minister from Mandeville visited him this year on two occasions.

Information from ~~Miss~~ Leo Johnson.
 Interv. Netty Rochester.
 15.6.48.
 J.C. 29.8.48.

Rochester Claston, 40.
 ,, Netty, wife, 33.
 ,, Gloria, dau., 18.
 ,, Orrett, son, 13.
 ,, Kenneth, son, 11.
 ,, Derrick, son, 8.
 ,, Earl, 5 mths. son.
 ,, Elaine, Claston's dau., 19.

*Hector Roch.
 son of Claston
 m. 20*

18 + 1 = 9

Claston Rochester: son of Charles and Caroline Rochester in Green Olive. Half sister: Isodel McCarthy, Shadock Hill. Full br. and sist.: Albert Rochester, Green Olive, Isobel Elliott. Netty Rochester, dau. of William and Francella Rochester, Green Olive.

Became friends in 1928, married and started to share common home in 1934. They have 5 children, all living with them. Claston has two outside children: Hector, son of Violet Simpson in Shadock Hill /nee ~~Rochester~~ Poweel, wife of Euston Simpson/; and Elaine~~x~~, daughter of Eva Burton of Ballard's Valley.

House: 5 rooms, verandah. Kitchen. Garage. Tnnery. 2 tanks. Furn.: 5 tables, 4 beds, 6 chairs, 1 bureau, 1 center table. 1 washstand.

Land: 40 acres in 5 lots. 10 homeland, ~~4~~ Dunder Hill, 20 ac. New Forest. 6 ac. Ridge Hill. All bought: New Forest from L. Settl., homeland from Robert Rochester.

Trees: 3 robins, 7 comm.m., 6 coconuts.

Tomatoes: 6000. Yams: 100 yma hills. Casava 5 ac., congo 4ac. /14 bags/, corn 2 ac.

2 donkeys, 1 milch cow, 1 calf steer, 4 goats.

Has 2 fishing boats, used by Joe Thomas and Percel Brooks.

Weekly spen.: L3. Clothes last year: ab. L30 on adults, L7 on children. Children's ed. L12.

All Seven Day Adv. Claston Roch. Deacon of Sev. Day Adv. in B.S.