

C.D. 22, Sbd.12, Household 52.

35 acres p 2.

Robertx

Simpson	Robert	Head	M.M.	70.	St.Eliz.	Col.	Angl.	Farm.	Mix.Gr.	W.3.	Ill.
,,	Jane	Wife	F.M.	70.8.7.	,,	,,	,,	Homem.		W.3.	
,,	Julius	Son	M.S.	38.	,,	,,	,,	Mason		,,	
,,	Cecil	,,	M.S.	32.	,,	,,	,,	Farm.		,,	
,,	Panton	,,	M.S.	30.	,,	,,	,,	,,		,,	
,,	Algonan	,,	M.S.	24.	,,	,,	,,	None		W.2.	
,,	Ida	GrDau	F.S.	12.	,,	,,	,,			W.1	
,,	Eva	,,	F.S.	6.	,,	,,	,,			Ill.	
,,	Tivy	GrSon	M.S.	4.	,,	,,	,,			,,	
Glenrick	Linton	AdSon	M.S.	16.	,,	,,	,,	None		,,	

10

Interview with Robert Simpson.
13.1.48.
J.O.

Family history.

We met old Robert Simpson at the tomato shed in Shaddock Hill. We started to talk about the old times. Who was the first Simpson to settle here in Bull Savannah? He doesnt know. He traces his origin to his ~~great~~ great grand-father, Thomas Simpson. "Him was born here." He was a coloured man. But his maternal great grand father was a White man. "One of my great grand-afthers - on mother's side - he was Scotch, from Scotland. I could'nt remember his name. All his consecutive ancestors were born here: "right down here - Shaddock Hill; my great garnd-fathre, my grand-father and my father - all them married and lived and dead here!"

The first ancestor, great grand-father Thomas, had "a lot, quantity of children." His sons ~~xxxxxx~~ were: Thomas, William, Patrick and Bernard. Thomas, ~~xxxxxx~~ son of Thomas, was his grand-father. His great grand-father had also daughters, but "dont ~~xxxxxx~~ remember much about daughter - "all old generations them scattered Manchester, Clarendon, Plowden Hill - all of them scattered."

His gran-father Thomas had again 5 sons: Augustus, Tom, Robert, Patrick, Isaac. His father was Augustus Simpson, who again had 5 sons: Robert /himself/ and his 4 brothers: William, Salamon, David, Aaron.

History of the family land.

He does not know how big was his great grand-fathers or his grand-father's property. He know that his father had 37 acres. He divided it among his sons and Robert Simpson got 9 acres from his father. He has however 35 acres to-day. "9 acres I got from father and the balance I buy myself."

He bought 7 acres from Charles Harriot, 9 acres from the Gnt Land in Woodland and 12 acres - about 12 years ago - ~~xxxxxx~~ from the Gnt Land Settlement in Duff House.

His father's land consisted of 2 ~~xxxx~~ parcels: 20 and 17 acres resp. The land was divided among all of his sons: "everybody get it."

His family.

Robert Simpson has six sons: Berrisford, Julius, Michael, Murray, Cecil and Algonan. They live around him on his "claim land" - "everyone settled by me." They do not live in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ one common house. Old parents stay in one house, elder sons - each in a house built for him. The land is not divided among them. They can work ~~xxx~~ on the paternal land, but the land is in possession of father. "I pay my taxes for all the land." He has a large progeniture: "36 granpicknies" from all his sons and daughters.

Some of his ~~xxxx~~ sons own small portions of land which they purchaased from their own money. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Some of his sons ~~xxxxxx~~ "bought a little from other people." For instance, Iliah Simpson down in the bottom."

Land acqusitions during his life time.

His land acqusitions were derived chiefly from the Gnt land settlements which were carried during his life time in the area. One of the land settlements was that of Duff House. It was a big property . Probably about 500 acres were sold to people in Bull Savannah from this property only."I think, I believe, it was 500 acres separate from New Forest."

Other land settlement was in the southern part of the area. It included old patents known as Mushett patent and Seaton Patent, extending over this part of the village which is known to-day as Breadnut Wood. Probably part of Thatch Walk was also covered by these patents. There was still another patent, known as Brooks Patent. Brooks patent, Mushett patent and Seaton patent were adjoining together. ~~xxxxxx~~ Nothing is remebered of the old proprietors of these parts of Bull Savannah. No descendants of the original owners are left. With the exception of Mrs. Meyers, a coloured woman, who owned Seaton Patent. She lives now in Malvern.

Robert Simpson's
farm in 1942.

Operated this farmland for 50 years. Has 5 parcels:
5 - 8 - 9,25 - 9, - 1 - together 32,25 acres. Main
source of income: tomato.

10 people living on this farm: 6 males over 14,
1 under 14; 1 female over 14, 2 - under 14.

The owner worked 52 weeks last year, 6 days per week,
9 hours per day.

Number of acres in cultivation: 6,5. Cultivable but
not cultivated: 11 acres. Used exclusively for pasture
and grazing: 10,5 acres. Out of this 7,25 in guinea grass
3,25 in other grass. Other land in this farm: 4,25 acr.

Value of farm: L230; buildings: L85.

Water supply: one catchment.

1942 cultivations: 0,5 acre - tomatoes: 4000 lb.
2 avocados /6 doz./, 1 coconut /40 nuts/, 1 grape,
8 mangoes /262 doz./, 7 pawpaws /400/. 1,5 acre under
congo peas; 0,25 acre under yams /1000 lb./ /20 bushels
of congo peas/.

1 donkey, 3 goats, 2 hens /4 doz.eggs/. 2 swines.

Cassava: 1 acre /3000 lb./. Sweet potatoes: 0,25 acre
/900 lb./.

Visit at home 22.2.48. T.O.

The home, & family.

To-day - Sunday - almost the whole family was near the home. The eldest son Julius was looking after tomatoes below a house in construction. This is the house Algonan is building for himself. From the smaller house appeared Mr. Robert followed by his wife. He was pulling at his pipe, she curtseyed in the old fashion when I introduced myself. A nursing daughter in law and half a dozen of grandchildren emerged to join the company. Only the two twin one year old boys - one with yellow hair, the other with black - were busy at destroying a toy-truck.

Mrs. Simpson family.

the same people the same family

"I come to live here 48 years ago" she said. She married in 1900. "I was born right down there wherethe house with the big catchment is." She is from the Powell family. "Only uncle George is alive - they were 12 - all dead now." But she remembers all the names of her uncles and aunts: Her grandfather was Joseph Powell the protoplast who came from Rose Hall and settled in Bull Savannah. His eldest son David was Mrs. Simpson's father. Her mother was "Margaret Simpson from Chocolate Hale, but it is the same family here. All the town - she said pointing at the Green Olive and Bull Savannah below - is the same people - the same family - we are all cousins here."

The following are the names of her grandfather's children: David, George, Rebecca, Eliza, Susan, Evelyn, Francilda, Syra, Catherine. Isaac (Turnic's puppy) Eliasha - "died a long time ago when I was a little child, and "another - she died before I was born."

Mrs. Simpson has six sons and one daughter. The daughter married and lives near ~~Vatixvxx~~ Ballards Valley. The sons live all round the parents home. Each cooks separately "every one for himself".

Mrs. Simpson didnt get any land from her father. The land they have now was bought by her husband "when the government man come to collect them taxes - some 45 years ago."

Mrs. Simpson was rather reluctant to give informations, she wanted to hear what J.O. was talking about with her men. Each time I put a question she would make a pace backwards, till we finally found ourselves close to the group of men and then she left the company. She reappeared when we were parting.

The old house which was built at the time they married wa a little below, when the grass grows now. It was "mashed down, house and kitchen and everything" by the 1933 hurricane, and the ~~housevwxixix~~ present house erected.

Interview with Robert Simpson
and his two sons: Berrisford and Algernon.
22.2.48.
J.O.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
Robert Simpson's
family town.

Robert Simpson has shown me all his "family town." His house is not on the old place, where his father's home was. It is a little up, on the hill. His father's home was a little below, in the mangoe walk. Nothing has remained of ~~xxxx~~ the old homestead, with the exception of the old tank, which is of no use any more. It is fenced with bamboo sticks to prevent people from falling down when they wander through the place in the night.

His own homestead consists of one living house and one kitchen. The living house is subdivided into two tiny rooms, ~~xxxx~~ one of them is occupied by Robert Simpson and his wife, another by their son Algernon. He is the youngest son. Lives with his parents. Other sons live in their separate homes.

The nearest house, towards Shaddock Hill road, is Solomon's house. Down towards Rabbit Town there are three separate homesteads of ~~his~~ his 3 sons: Panten, Michael and Berrisford.

There is 7 acres of land around the paternal home. These 7 acres are owned by Robert Simpson. All his sons, with the exception of Berrisford, built their houses on their father's land. Only Berrisford is the owner of 2 acres of land, which adjoin his father's possession. His house is on his own land. However he did not tell me in what way did he enter into possession of this land: was it purchased ~~and~~ or given to him by his father.

In front of Robert Simpson's house there is a house being built by Algernon. Algernon will live here. The roof is already made and the wood for the floor already prepared.

~~in~~ The yard of Robert Simpson's homestead is the meeting place for all his grandchildren. ~~xxxx~~
"Everyday all them is along with me - grandpicknies."

~~xxx~~ His sons work on his land, but "everybody carry their own cookery." Not in their father's home. "If everybody eat here, it would be like a restaurant."

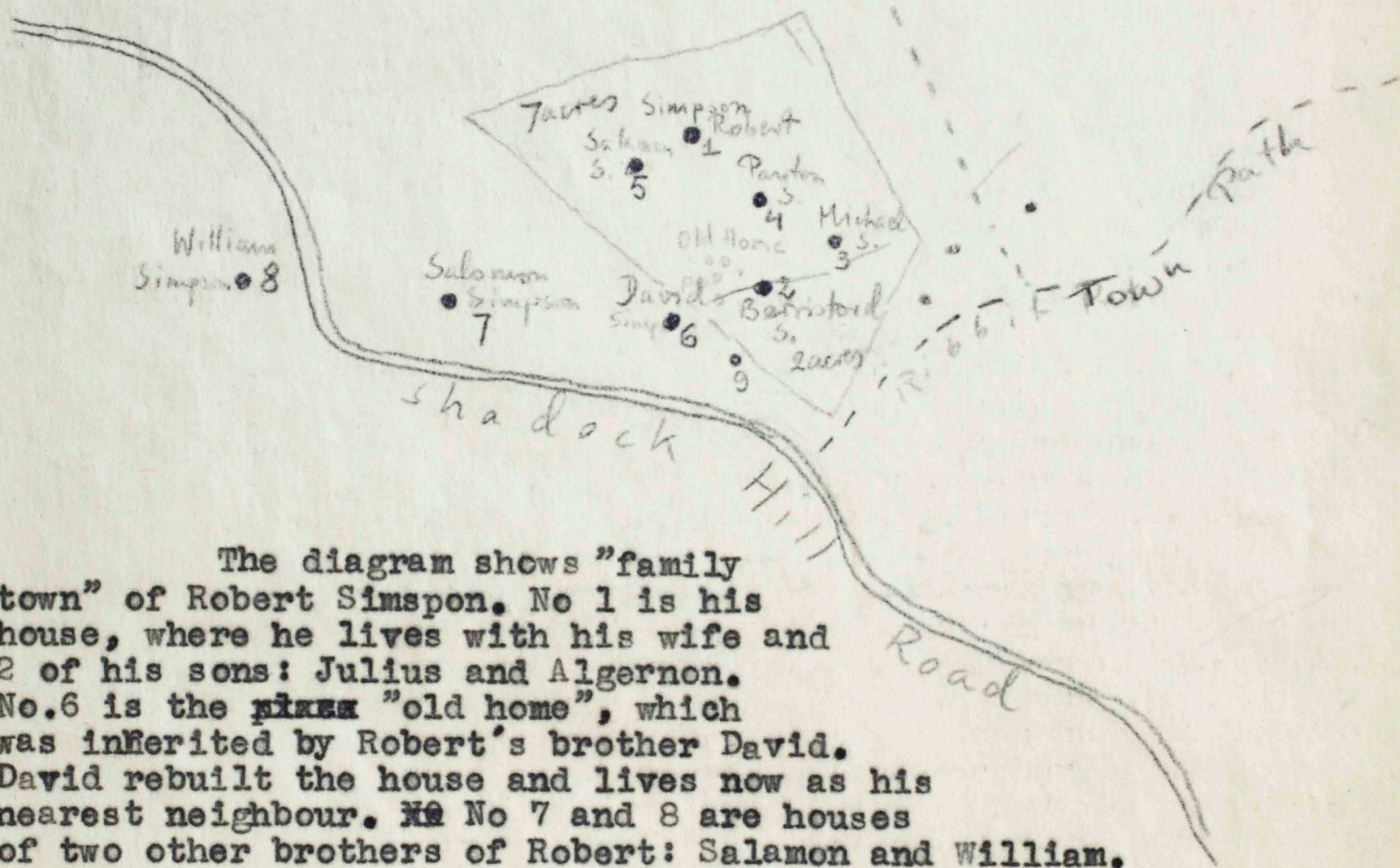
His land.

Robert Simpson does not praise his paternal land. "This soil is poor soil." He does not expect as much profit from his tomatoes as he could get had "the season" been better. "The season backward. There is season, but no general season: now and again a little squal." ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxx~~ There is ~~xxxx~~ some "bearing": ~~x~~ "it is a little, but it is not like last year. A little bearing, but not like the last year."

His occupations.

He does no fishing - lives only from farming. "In my young days I used to do it - fishing. I give it up - long time: cant manage it. Too old and sickly."

Robert Simpson's "family town" in Shaddock Hill.



The diagram shows "family town" of Robert Simpson. No 1 is his house, where he lives with his wife and 2 of his sons: Julius and Algernon. No.6 is the ~~place~~ "old home", which was inherited by Robert's brother David. David rebuilt the house and lives now as his nearest neighbour. ~~No~~ No 7 and 8 are houses of two other brothers of Robert: Salamon and William. No 2,3,4,5 are homes of Robert's sons: Berrisford, Michael, Panton and Salamon/called Cecil/. No 9 is inhabited by a relative: "she call me uncle: nobody of importance; live there all dummy and sickly." The land under Robert's compound is 7 acres in size. Only Berrisford does not belong to the father's compound: "me live on a different land - 2 acres."

*why in this
Household?*

Interview with Dudley Simpson and Bradley Rochester.
/chiefly Dudley/.
22.2.48.
J.O.

Robert Simpson's
sons.

Berrisford is the first son of Robert, Julius - the second, Michael - the third, Panton - the fourth, Salamon Cecil - the fifth and Algernon - the sixth. He has also a daughter /the only daughter/ - "she live in Bottom, marry to Eliah Simpson."

Only two of them stay with the old parents: Algernon and Julius. ~~xxxx~~ The remainder of brothers live in their own homes built on the patrimony around their father's home.

Algernon is to succeed the old man. He is building now a house for himself in the old man's yard. Julius, though he is next to the ~~xxxx~~ eldest one, stays still with his father. "Julius is the mason. Right to-day he was concreting the house bottom of Ethel Simpson's home. He make people homes, but he dont make himself."

Berriford lives on his own land - 2 acres. "He get it from his father - the land." Other sons live on father's land. "Michael has no land - get it from his father: around two acres. That 7 acres including for Michael and Panton and Cecil and for the old man home." Each of the sons expects to get a similar portion from this part of their father's estate as was given to Berrisford.

Old patrimony.

"Robert Simpson get his land from his father. It was plenty of land, because Salamon Simpson got from his father and David Simpson got from his father and Julia Simpson - she got from the same estate." ~~xxxxxx~~

These were brothers and sister of Robert. His brothers: William Simpson, Salamon Simpson, David Simpson; his sister: Julia.

William's, Salamon's and David's properties adjoin to Robert's land. They are his nearest neighbours. David retained the old patrimonial center - the place where their father had his home. Other brothers built their houses in the vicinity: Salamon on this side, William on the other side of Shaddock Hill road.

Only David is still alive. William and Salamon ~~did~~ died. Salamon's wife was Francella Simpson - she is alive and stays on the property with Salamon's children. /Salamon's nickname was "Zekiel"/. William died long ago and so his wife: Mary Simpson /nee Dyer/. The old home is occupied now by their daughter: ~~xxx~~ "Urcella Simpson, William's daughter, living there."

"Salamon buy some land - add of his own. David - he succeeded the old home. William get from his father too. It was a big plot of land."

Robert took the major part of the old patrimony, because he paid taxes for it. "Robert took the land and paid taxes /after Father's death/. You must to patronise the land."

Interview with Robert Simpson.
6.3.48.
J.O.

Bull Savannah now
and then.

"We is living ~~here~~ in the hard part of the world. It is pure good study, hard labouring, that we living by. When this new industry come, it show that we can live a little easier. We find life a little better."

"In my father's days it was much even harder. It was no earning of money, very poor, pretty harder. Only a mule, a horse or a cow that could bring a little money. The poor man - him laways was sufferer." ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
"We is living in the lowland - we suffer from the dry. No season."

~~xxxxxx~~
His family life at the start of his career. His principles.

"In those days it was pretty hard - I alone to work for everybody." Still he succeeded and is proud of his success. Proud of his children and his achievements. "Intry to school them and I raise them and teach them and I provide the little land, give them steering them how to live. I teach them and bring them accordingly to how my parents teach and bring me."

His first companion and his marriage.

"I marry 30 odd years ago." In fact, as it was stated by his wief, he married in 1900, almost 50 years ago. I has 8 children - 7 alive, one die. 6 sons and 1 daughter." "One outside child - the first one. Maybelle, the daughter. She is in Clarendon Mountains, living. Mother from Bull Savannah."

The mother of the child was " a woman name Blackie Honess. She die. It was Theodore Holness wife. She married later on Theodore Holness." Her name /see fam.rec. 8/ was Roselle Senior, before she married Thodore Holness. They parted soon after the child was born. "She couldnt get along, we couldnt make life, that's why I leave her."

Story of Maybelle, his first child.

~~xxxxxx~~ Maybelle spent her life in her father's home. "She stay with me until she leave and go and live in Clarendon Mountains." "Ten years ago she went Clarendon. She was big woman. She had a child before she leave. From Ezra Linton - Ginat Linton his name. He stay with me - all the time."

Her first mate - Ezra Linton.

Maybelle's ~~xxxxxx~~ companionship with Ezra Linton did not last long. They parted. "They wouldnt make living. Young man - him is about wild nature. Him fancy another woman. And then I dont allow him to stay, pull her out of it."

Her next mate - Wilbert Rochester. and his family history.

Her next man, with who she stays now in Clarendon Mountains, was Willy /Wilbert/ Rochester. "His father was Jacob Rochester - from Bull Savannah. ~~xxxxxx~~ Jacob was Robert Rochester brother - theri father was Arthur Rochester." Willy's Rochester mother was from Top Hill. She "went to live with Jacob Rochester, and after

Jacob Rochester die, she marry to a man from Tad Town, living in Clarendon - he is McDonald David, Harris McDonald and Willy McDonald his brothers."

"Wilbert Rochester was the owner of a place in Shadock Hill. He sell it, move out ~~and~~ before this industry formed." That's why he couldnt come back later on, when better opportunities were opened by tomato industry. "Willy Rochester mother living in Clarendon, so he was attracted."

Willy Rochester went to Clarendon first. Maybelle joined him later on. "She is along with him. No children."

Willy Rochester bought some land in Clarendon and now the couple is making living in the new place "cultivating, raising".

's
Berrisford history.

His first child by his married wife was Berrisford. Berrisford was also the first to leave him and start living on his own.

"It is good time. It is pretty 30 years since he leaved me and live on the little piece of land I gave ~~him~~ him. He is something like 50. He is 26 when he leave my home. He could stay with me, but he find himself a man and he tried himself another way."

"Two acre and half I give him. He built his house before I give the land - I was responsible for the land first."

When he left his father's home, he was still ~~un~~ unmarried, though he was "in friendship" with a girl. "He was only in friendship with the same woman she married him after he leave me." They had no child before they settled down together. "They have only later on: six children. Ethel, Sou /girl/, Icilda, Frederic, - the ~~child~~ child's nickname is Rammie /"funny little name"/. "I couldnt tell you the real name - he is 7 years old. The last child is "the baby, little one, him dont have the name yet - ~~xxxxxxx~~ a year around."

fifth

Berrisford's wife.

Berrisford's wife's name is Brumelia Sinclair. Her parents were Philip Sinclair and Retchel Dyer. "Philip Sinclair live in Ribbit Town and Retchel Dyer - she lived in Ridge. But she is away now in Clarendon." Brumelia Sinclair - before she married Berrisford Simpson - "she had one boy by Percival Brooks - Oswald Brooks. He living in Ribbit, with Philip Sinclair, him grandfather."

Brumelia got no land from her parents. ~~The~~ All their land property is derived from the gift of Robert Simpson, Berrisford's father.

~~Berrisford's~~
Father's and son's homes. Their mutual relationships.

It is 30 years since Berrisford hstablished his own independent home. "About 30 years ago that he ~~but~~ built the house, kitchen and catchment - but no attachment to the kitchen"/?/.

He cultivates the land given to him from his father, but not only this portion of land is the source of his livelihood. "He cultivate the same land and other land too." ~~He works also his father's land~~ He works also his father's land in Duff House and other places. He does not work on anybody else's land.

"I dont give any quantity of land, him only work a portion. Him keep for himself everything. Him only give me what him like, but I dont put him any limit of share. He dont quarrel with me and me dont quarrel with him and sometime him present little thing to me. I dont charge him a certain amount. I dont bpund him to anything. I dont press him. Him present me: a little drink to Pappa."

Son's home is a separate home and Berrisford runs with his wife their "own cookery." Father's household and son's household have their meals separately. ~~and~~ But when the father and the mother visit their son and daughter in law, "They may fix up the old man and the old lady as usually."

Friday,
March 5, 1948.

Ed. F.

Interview With Robert Simpson

The old man had been having a few drinks with J.O. and was in a merry mood. J.O and T.O. were going out: the old man's glass had been charged again. Toasting T.O. he said:

If kisses were watches I'd wear two at my side;
The rose of june are not so sweet ~~xxxxxxx~~
As when 2 lovers kisses meet.

In explanation: "There is nothing feels so good, as when two good young lovers kisses meet."

He has settled his sons around him so that ~~xxx~~ when he gets sick or so theye si no need of sending telegrams. to call them.

The talk turned to the people of Bull Savannah - All the "Brown people of Bull Savannah are family All the Black people live in Thatch Walk. The black people in Thatch Walk do not "move together" with the brown people of Bull Savannah. Why? "Because our nature are not the same." How?-"We are not one nature:"-a white man's nature is not like a brown man's; in the same way, the brown' man's nature is not like the black man's. Some of the black people have bad habits ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ -"dem teaf," and ketch bad things;" i.e. they ~~xxxx~~ steal and get diseased (perhaps venereal diseases) "Birds of a feather flock together," Dudley/added.

then alos present/
Thatch Walk

Thatch Walk is not Bull Savannah. He has friends in Thatch Walk (that in answer to a question) but they do not meet save at Christmas time, when everybody visits everybody else.

Here Dudley chimed to say -"Well I have to say I have friends -as a matter of fact I have an uncle there." Who? -Lewis Roach. Lewis' neighbours are Florrie Powell, Rosan Powell and Thomas Heathe. Mr. Lewis Roach is a brown man,- one of the few brown men who live in Thatch Walk.

Do you go to visit him sometimes ? -this asked of Dudley. The old man broke in to say that the people of Bull Savannah do not visit the people of Thatch Walk, nor do the Thatch Walk people come to visit the people in The other parts of Bull Savannah The only time there is an interchange of visits is at Christmas time when they all "meet and have good time and good talk."

The old man Continuing: Nobody works at

Christmas time: they all go visiting one another, -go from one home to another, drinking and having ~~xxxxxxx~~ their "little merriment."

Dudley in amplification: -"We the younger boys provide drinks together. How? -Each person go to the shop on Christmas Eve and buy some drink which is taken home, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ shared with visit ors on Christmas day. Do you share drinks with anyone in Thatch Walk? -"Well, we have certain friends y'u know, people like Massa Brooks, Nicholas Brooks, Thomas Perkins and even Clarence Perkins." The young boys play guitars and banjos about the village; they never go into another village -Ballards Valley for instance. He ~~made~~ some ~~xx~~ mention about going into the shops on Christmas Eve To that ~~the~~ old man was immediately opposed: he emphasized "We only go for a walk to the shops and to buy some drinks: everybody send the time goin' from one home to another."

Change of the times:

In past times "it was a hard time" for the people in Bull Savannah. The tomato industry is making it easier here now. -"Only tobacco bush we had to live by in the old days."

not

Family life

He leaves his Parents' house

He did/leave ~~his~~ ~~parents~~ home till he was 30. He was entirely supported by them in that space of time. On leaving his parents home he built a one roomed house of his own. The house was made from American lumber. He had saved the money (from monies his father had used to give him,) to buy ~~the~~ ~~xxxxx~~ lumber for this home. Later he had added ~~xxx~~ a room to the first. Why? -He had no special ~~xxxx~~ reason fo getting his "own little home:" in spite of his leaving his parents home -" a did me duty to them, an' abide by their law;" -in explanation: "The scripture says y'u mus' leave mother an' father ~~xxx~~ an' cling to y'u wife, but it never sey y'u mus' forsake dem." (them)

A story

He believes i can do J.O's business as well as himself; he has a story to tell. He did not tell it to J.O. but he is going to tell it to me; he has told J.O. everything but that little story -a great story; the policeman at Black River had said he should have been rewarded for his great deed.

The story:

There was a boy named Emanuel Powell. One day this boy fell into a deep deep tank filled to the sill with water. The boy sank into the ~~xxxxx~~ bottom of the tank filled with water. to the sill.

A man named Richard Powell dived into the tank. He tried to find the boy. He did not find him. Another man, now dead, dived into the tank after Richard had failed. He failed to find the boy also.

About an hour and a half after the boy had been in the tank, he (Robert) dived in to find the boy. He found the boy, brought him out, and brought him back to life! -What did you do?

- "Tēk him out of the tank; roll him. Asked Dudley - "You didn't suck the water through his nose?"

- "A suck di water through his nose wid mi mouth till the win' (wind-breath) break; he rolled the boy and tended to him, till he began to breathe.

an/ He saved the boy's life. The boy grew up to be a man, -died suddenly only sometime ago, but that was from/ulcerated stomach.

~~Emanuel paid him "much/XXXXXXXXX/for having XXXX saved his life~~ apology"---(respect

Emanuel paid him XXXX "much apology" -i.e. (much respect and attention) for having saved his life. He did not say what were the tokens of respect and attention. He was asked what these were.

Fam. Rec. 39..

Informant: Jane Simpson, and Algonan Simpson partly.
15.6.48.
T.O.

We went together with J.O. determined to tackle this family from two ends: the old Robert and his wife Jane simultaneously but separately. At first the place seemed deserted, the doors to the house shut. Opposite the old house is the new house that the son Algonan builds. Since our last visit at the end of February there was a marked progress in the construction, the spanish walls were ready and the thatch roof finished. Approaching the kitchen from the side we saw a young woman peeping through the doorway. This was the granddaughter Ida. Seeing us she promptly stepped back into the kitchen and in her place a small girl popped her head out. She didn't have time to have a good look at us as a man's hand stretched, took her by the hair and pulled back. Then appeared from the kitchen Algonan. He beckoned towards the kitchen doorway and old Robert Simpson appeared at once one sandal in his hand. Now the small girl appeared and the older one with a tiny baby in her arms.

Chairs were brought and put in the shade against the wall of the new house. J.O. started to talk with Robert, and I engaged in a talk with Algonan.

The building of the house.

Algonan plans to finish his house the next season i.e. the next year after the tomato crop. It lacks still floors, windows and doors, painting etc. I asked him how much it cost him until now and how much he has still to spend on it. But - although he sincerely tried - he couldn't tell me. Accounts are not kept here and it is difficult to estimate as a lot of work and even material is not paid for but gotten in some kind of exchange. He worked on the spanish walls himself but his brother Julius the mason helped him. The thatch is the so called "big thatch" it is the durable variety and has to be brought here from Manchester. There is no thatch of this kind - according to Algonan - in the vicinity of the B.Sav. district. The lime - he has to dig it "in the forest".

Weeding. I asked about his mother and he told me that she was weeding scallion behind the house. I said I shall go there and the girl Ida led me to the field. Mrs. Simpson was very friendly and quite free, not like the first time I visited her. I proposed I shall help her with her weeding. At first she politely objected saying that it will dirty my hands, but we set to work together, squatting between the rows of scallion and moving slowly up the field. After the yesterday's shower the soil was soft and it was easy to pull out the weeds. The ones with stronger roots Mrs. Simpson cut with an old knife and I was offered for the purpose an old broken machette. For a time Ida and the little girl - who was "Babsy" the son Michael's daughter who just came on an informal visit to her granny's home - looked at us, but after a while they left. Ida had some work in the kitchen - as Mrs. Simpson explained to me. I asked Mrs. Simpson whether the girls help her with weeding "She do for me at the home and I do the weeding".

We spent a most profitable time from my point of view. Mrs. Simpson was flattered that I remembered the names and the stories about her children she told me previously and considered as a kindness from my part that I took notes of what she said now. According to her the present household consists of:

	Simpson Robert	head	over 70	(75)
	" Jane	wife	"same age"	(as the husband) (75)
<i>Leutz</i>	" Julius	son	the eldest at home	43
	" Algonan	son	the youngest son	29
	" Salomon <i>-Leutz</i>	son	"He live in my home but sleep there	37
	" Ida	gr. dau	a young girl	17
<i>Linton</i>	Vivian	gr. son	22	(ad. son).
	" Tivy	gr. son	a boy at school	(9) <i>of person person</i>
	Powell Holny	great gr. son	<i>1 year</i>	
	and partly Icilda Simpson.			

~~xxxx~~ I did not insist on ages, as it seemed to cause a lot of trouble to Mrs. Simpson. It took a lot of time, then she changed it and changed again. She seems however rather sure in what order her children and grand children were born, so we kept only to this type of chronology.

Comments on the present constitution of the household.

Julius and Algonan are sons of Robert and Jane and live in the same house.

Salomon is the son of Robert and Jane. He built long ago a house just next to his father's and sleeps there. ~~xxxx~~ At a time he used to rent this house to the chauffeur Ellis Macmurray and his family. However the Macmurrays moved to the house of Francella Simpson across the road. He has his meals at his parent's home and also his washing is done there. This is why Mrs. Simpson said "He live in my home but sleep there" pointing to his house.

Ida is the daughter of the son Berrisford who lives nearby with his family below the paternal home. She was the second daughter of Berrisford. Mrs. Simpson says that she took her to her home since Ida was a baby. The reason for it was, that "I have 6 son and only 1 daughter, she marry very early, so I didn't have a girl in the home and I take her."

Vivian is the son of ~~Robert and~~ Robert's daughter "Maebelle who marry and live in Clarendon and Ezra Linton." This Maebelle ~~was~~ is not the daughter of Jane, she is the daughter of Robert with another woman. Anyhow this outside son of the outside daughter stays now with the grandfather.

Tivy is the son of (Robert & Jane daughter) Jullith and her husband Eli Simpson. I asked to make sure whether the daughter's name was Judith? ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ but Mrs. Jane said "Jullith". Michael

Holny Powell is the son of Ida and ~~xxxx~~'s Powell son. It is a baby less than one year old. Mrs. Simpson expressed her dissatisfaction that Ida had a child and at such a young age. "Bad luck, and so young, too young."

Julius' daughter Mary is about 4 years old "Comme here all the time."

Salomon "He made a home a good time now but he don't marry. Use to rent it to the chauffeur Ellis, He live in my home but sleep there"(In his house). Salomon has many children. Mrs. Simpson said that many children are attributed to him "It's only 3 him own by different women. I don't see them (the mothers) I don't know much about them. And don't know them name." The ~~children of these unions~~ owned children of these unions "Me not see them often."

Alganon the youngest son; has one child. "The mother is Hurtel (?) Elliott. Daughter of Lettice Francis, but father Elliott.

Attitudes towards children.

Asked which child she likes best Mrs. Simpson said she liked them all alike but "Julius best". Asked why Julius was her favourite she answered immediately "Because him have no wife". ~~My other two sons do not have wives either~~, but probably are interested in some women. Mrs. Simpson implicated that Julius does not think about women, he is working. Just now he is working at the factory. "Very good mason" she said with pride.

I asked whom the children obey more: herself or Mr. Robert? "They dread me more I flogged them. Pappa never touch them." Did she flogg her daughter too? "I never had to flogg the girl."

What was the most often the cause of this punishment? She told me that boys like to climb trees. When she used to send them for something to the shop or to neighbours, they would on their way climb tress and "rude" with other boys and would not return quickly home. This she punished with flogging "when them back".

She asked me how many children I had and I said one expecting to be pitied for such a small family as often people in Warsop did. To my amazement her reaction was just the opposite and very vivid: "Its a thousand times a million times better to have a small family, or not at all. No noise, nobody to trouble you. It is hard, hard, so many children. To raise them. I wouldn't weed this scallion if I have no children." I asked her whether she wouldn't feel lonely in her old age if she had no children round her especially in case of sickness. "It's the only thing when you are sick they carry you to the doctor, when I dead they bury me." But she added promptly "I was only once to the doctor once in all life. I fall and sprain my arm." The doctor found her healthy. She implicated that the only reason ~~except~~ for which it is well to have children hardly occured in her life. She did not have use personally of her children. She speaks about her children and grandchildren with affection but she seems to resent that because of them she had to work so hard all her life and has still to work hard though she is over 70. I asked her when she thinks of retiring. She said she ~~would~~ is not thinking of this as she does not want to be any trouble to any one.

Does she cook for her sons who stay with her? Yes ~~xxxx~~ she cooks for everybody with the help of Ida. And who is doing their washing? "I do it and Ida". Do the sons give her something for it? "Give a little when they have, they work hard, poor, we are poor, they have to work hard."

~~Attitudes towards children-in-law~~

Bringing up children.

As mentioned above Mrs. Simpson used to flogg her sons when they were long on the errands she sent them on. I asked her at what age a girl can help in the home. "8, a 8 years old can help" "What can she do? "Can sweep the yard and clean. We scrap here cassava, she do that." At what age a girl starts to cook and what first she cooks "Ten years old, first we ~~make~~ give make bammy". Do boys help the mother? "No - not much." At what age they can help the father? "A boy 10 years can help the father, Can dig holes for planting cassava. We plant plenty cassava. And grass. When they cut grass a boy takes it and carries to the field" (mulches). She estimates that a boy of 10 can be a real help at these tasks.

Attitudes towards the children-in-law.

Mrs. Simpson complained that her only daughter married so early. The complaint was because the house was left with no girl's help in it. But Mrs. Simpson likes her (at least she told me so) son-in-law. "Good man and the same family". The fact that he was from the same Simpson family seemed to add to his quality and eligibility as son in law.

She did not comment about her daughters in law who live as c.l. wives with her sons. ~~In one instance~~ Speaking of the mother of her son Julius' child ~~sister~~ "Bunny" she had nothing against the girl but was very glad her son did not marry her. It seemed however that she did not have anything against the girl personally but she preferred her son to stay at home and centre his interest on parents' home. Why he didn't marry her? "It is not that she is not a nice girl, but Julius hasn't made his mind up to marry anybody."

It is only of the mothers of Salmon's three children that she seemed to disagree strongly (see top p.17) She did not want even to say their names pretending she did not know them.

Own grandchildren and "step" grandchildren.

When counting her grandchildren I asked whether I should also count as her grandchildren Ashton Marvin and Joseph. (They are the outside children of her son in law). She said "Count them all the same, they are like my own." She said that her daughter raised them from they were little. "They wouldn't stay with their mother one day, they cry." She said that to her daughter those step-children were as her own. We counted that with those three she had 32 grandchildren. It seemed to overwhelm her. She repeated she would be better off had she a small family.

Emigration.

Now and then we spoke about her family and village news. I told her uncle Peny expects his daughter to go soon to America to Mr. & Mrs. Andrews. Mrs. Simpson said she had also relatives in America. One was her niece Mae. She is the daughter of Mrs. Simpson's sister Lilia Powell who married Nicolas Powell and lived in Exton. Their daughter went to America "She go first to do domestic work but trained to be a nurse. She worked in a hospital. She marry to a man there but he died. The man was Cruize but he died." They don't have any children. Mrs. Simpson does not think her niece remarried as "She was Cruize and she is Cruize still so she dont marry again." This niece went to America over 12 years ago. She writes to her mother and from her Mrs. Simpson knows the news. Another relative in America is also a niece. She is Zelavina the daughter of Michael Powell who is Mrs. Simpson brother. She went to America two years ago. Mrs. Simpson does not know what she is doing there.

Bush medecines.

While we were weeding Mrs. Simpson was showing me all sorts of herbs, telling me their names and uses. "Speak not" is very good for "bush tea especially for stomach ache." "Bunchy weed" is only good for feeding pigs. After pulling this out she would throw it at an adjoining plot where only grass grew. This weed will take root again. The pigs eat it fresh. In one corner there were a few tufts of thyme. This she would leave. It is good "to roast meat". She picked a few tiny leaves and gave me to smell the fragrant herb.

It was 12.30 when she decided to go home. We did not quite finish to weed the plot but she said she will do it on the next day.

The men were sitting under the mango tree. Under another tree a big fat pig was tied on a rope. The lunch was obviously waiting. ~~so we soon went home.~~ Little boys - sons of her son Berrisford stopped there on their way back to school after lunch. Before we went away Mrs Simpson insisted that I should wash my hands. I wanted to follow her into the house to spare her the trouble of bringing water, but she insisted both on washing my hands and that she would bring the water. After a good while Ida brought a basin of water with a new ~~piece~~ cake of soap and a towel. I performed the ablutions with all the children staring with interest at me. After which we departed as obviously everybody was eager to get the lunch and so were we.

Interview with Robert Simpson and Algonan Simpson.
~~15.6.48.~~
J.O.

We went together with my wife to visit Robert Simpson and his family. On our arrival Robert Simpson with his son Algonan emerged from the kitchen. Mrs. Simpson was not at home. She was in the field nearby weeding escallion. Both Robert Simpson and ~~Algonan~~ Algonan were ~~my~~ also busy with weeding all the morning. They started their work at about 7 and continued till now /ab.11/, when they came back to take ~~xxi~~ a little rest. Father was weeding one of cassava fields near the home and son another one further up, the hill.

We all sat in a narrow belt of shade under the new house ~~being built~~ in construction. I was offered a chair, father and son were sitting on the ground with their backs leaned against the wall. Conversation was rather difficult. Answers had to be drawn out by questioning again and again. Robert Simpson was far from being as easy and informative as when he was at our place on a visit. ~~xxxx~~ With Algonan it was a bit easier. They both joined in conversation supplementing each other's answers.

Father and sons.

I asked ~~xxxx~~ Robert Simpson who of his sons is the best cultivator. ~~xxxx~~ He ~~xxxx~~ glanced at me with suspicion. "All of them are good, all of them equal." Each of them knows the work and does it properly. What about Berrisford who ~~xxxx~~ is known not only as a good cultivator, but is also one of the few men in the district who ~~xxxx~~ keep milk cows? The face of of Robert Simpson brightened with a broad smile: "Berrisford - yes. Because he has more brains, he has brains. And he is older than the others."

Each of them started their career of a cultivator under him and was taught by the father. Algonan said that he started to go with father in the fields when he was 7 and at this age he already was helping his father. Robert explained that at this early start the work of the boy consisted in "cutting some bush or planting cassava stick, a little weeding." None of them could help much at the beginning, but ~~xxxxxx~~ between ~~xx~~ 10 and 12 they usually gain enough experience and dexterity to be of real help. Not until later on they start to make their own independent cultivations on the plots shown ~~xx~~ to them by father and earn their own money.

Algonan made his own cultivations for the first time when he was about 20. He planted some tobacco, cassava, congo. He got for his first tobacco ab. L. 12. ~~xxxx~~ Part of his food crops were sold, the bulk was used by the household. ~~xxxx~~ He did not share his money with the father - used it to clothe himself.

Michael established himself independently "a few years" ago - about 6 - when he built his own house and moved to this house taking his c.l. wife ~~xxx~~ with him. He has some land of his own - 5 acres in Dunder Hill. He did not inherit this land - he bought it. How much he did pay? In fact, he did not buy it. It was his wife's land. She got it from her father, a Witter, who in Cuba or U.S. And as the land is hers, so it is his also. He went to-day to this land to do some planting. The land is overhill - in Dunder Hill.

Michael's household consists now of 8 persons. His c.l. wife is Doris Witter. She is from Fairfield, where her parents lived. She had one child by another man before she went with Michael. All their children /excluding the first one of Doris/ live in the parents home. Their names and ages were given by Algonan, since old Robert was not able to remember them. Duan - 9, ~~xx~~ Ivy - 8, Luline - 7 or 6, Glenrick - 5, Babsy - 3, Emmeline - 18 mnts. ~~the~~ Last child according to Robert has no name, "dont baptise" as yet. But Algonan remembered that it is Emmeline. This is the last of his sons who established himself independently - "built his house, then marry." It should be noted that the ages of children as given by these informants differed considerably from Census - ~~xxxxxx~~ according to Census ~~xx~~ 4 first ones should be now ~~xx~~ 12, 10, 8 and 6y.old.

Algonan is only now building his house in front of the old one - in the same yard. When the house will be ready they will vacate the old house and move - all of them-into the new. Then Algonan will repair the old house. ~~xxxxxx~~ The old house will be inhabited by him. Old parents will stay in the new one. It is much bigger than the old house: big room and big hall. The old house is shaky and small. It is because it was rebuilt from the first house which Robert Simpson built ab.50 yeras ago for himself ~~xxx~~ and which was "mashed up" by ~~the~~ storm 12 years ago. ~~xxxxxx~~ In all the district only a few houses escaped distruction. It was "wonderful desolation - everybody must have loose house" and he ~~xxxxxx~~ rebuilt his house "hurriedly-to get shelter." That's thy the house is no good and must be totally repaired after the new one will be ready. Algonan is not married as yet. "Him is with me" - was old Simpson's explanation. But when his house will be ready he will marry. He has a girl friend - she is Hurtel Elliott, daughter of Lettice Francis. Lives just over the hill.

Neighbours and family.

 The house which Algonan builds has already walls ~~ready~~ - now the floor is to be made and chiefly carpentry. ~~Max~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ Algonan pays the expences of the building since the house is for him. He paid L.14 lastly only for carpenter's work. A Simpson from Dunder Hill did this work - it took him 2 weeks. But he had also 2 apprentices with him. Masonry was done by Julius, Algonan's brother who stays in the home. Did he pay anything to Julius for his work?

Both father and son laughed ~~haxkixx~~ heartily. The question seemed very funny to them. "To Julius? No, nothing to Julius Julius did it beacuse he did it for his brother. "They are brothers, they love each other" - explained Robert Simpson.

Making the roof ~~stixne~~ was not paid either. ~~snixthexxexx~~ Neighbours helped them. Six men came and worked together and in one day the ~~xxxxxx~~ thatching was finished. Three meals were served to them during the day - tea, breakfast and supper. They drank also two bottles of rum - two quarts of rum. People who took part in this work were: Theodore Holness, Calvin Simpson, Berrisford Simpson, Eli Simpson, "the old man here and myself" - said Algonan pointing to his father. ~~stixthexxexx~~ After the supper when they were drinking rum they sang hymns. Not ordinary songs. "We not so interested in wordly songs, ~~xxx~~ so they sing a few song from a hymn book" - explained old Simpson.

Children and grandchildren.

According to Algonan the only occupants of the place as now are: himself, His parents, his brother Julius and two grandchildren of the old man: Viant Linton and Tivy Simpson. Viant Linton is son of Maybelle, Robert's outside daughter, by Ezra Linton, with whom she was in friendship before she married to Clarendon. Tivy Simpson is outside child of Julius. ~~Haxixx~~ "He is my grandchild" - said Robert Simpson - "I brought him up." The same was said about Tivy Simpson who came just from school and disappeared in the kitchen, where Ida, Berrisford's daughter living also in this house, was busy with preparing ~~the~~ breakfast. Robert Simpson stretched his hand towards Tivy Simpson: "This was also brought by me." Any other grandchildren living with the old people? Algonan's answer: "A lot of grandchildren, but they move around and come back to their parent home." As to prove ~~his~~ what he said two Berrisford's boys dropped in the kitchen on their way from ~~xxixll~~ school - they stayed only a while and they ran towards Berrisford's ~~xxxxxx~~ homestead. Little Babsie, Michael's daughter, was moving all the time between Michael's and grandfather's yards.

Interview with Glenrick Linton
18.6.48.
T.O.

22 yrs.

I met Glenrick in the kitchen of his uncle Berrisford Simpson. There were beside him 5 adults and 9 children of all ages so the moment was not propitious to talk about intimate family matters. Glenrick said only "I am the son of Robert Simpson's daughter who is away". He did not mention his father, but it was perhaps because he wanted to explain to me why he was staying at his maternal grandparents home, so he mentioned his mother as the link and cause.

He was eager to tell me about his economic achievements and from it it could be seen that there was a lot of companionship with his uncles. "I help my grandfather to work the land. Algonan, I and Cecil (Salomon) we work my grandfather's land, we help him. Julius - he is more the mason, he works out." He was also very proud of his grandfather who in spite of his age is able to do hard work. He told how his grandfather just recently extracted stones in the wood "No work too hard for him".

Glenrick Linton got £25 for his tomatoes this year. He planted these tomatoes on a field which ~~was~~ belongs to his uncle Cecil. "He give me the land and I work it. No, didnt charge me." Glenrick did not have to give anything in return for the permission of planting his tomatoes on Cecil's land. For these £25 Glenrick bought 2 acres of land below Albert Simpson near the Lease Land. These two acres he bought from his uncle Michael. It suited Michael to sell this plot in order to buy a 5 acre plot in the woodlands. Glenrick was very proud of having his own 2 acres, he does not intend to build yet. "Just work it and buy more. It is a good land for garden, plenty level."

Inform. Dudley Simpson.
21.7.48.
J.O.

~~Suzuki~~ We paid several visits to Cecil Simpson's house - never found him in. His father /Robert Simpson/ omitted him in enumerating the members of his household, but according to Dudley Cecil ~~xxxxxxx~~ lives still with his parental family. His house stays now empty - Cecil ~~xxx~~ sleeps only here. He has his meals ~~xxxxx~~ in the old home - with the rest of the family. He can be hardly found in Shaddock Hill as he spends days in Duff House where he has his cultivations.

"Cecil Simpson - he is around 27. He has a girl friend in Chocolate Hole, a young girl, one Simpson. She is Chilly Simpson, daughter of Son-son Simpson in Chocolate Hole. He has no children with Chilly. His friendship with Chilly is recent one. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ Previously he was with Hazel Rochester.

Inform. Robert Simpson.
~~Suzuki~~ 31.7.48.
J.O.

Robert Simpson, Cecil's father, who came to say good bye to us, confirmed Dudley's information. Cecil has his meals with the rest of the family, if he is at home. He sleeps ~~xxxxx~~ however in his own house which is only half finished. The house was built on a spot ~~xxxxxxx~~ shown to Cecil by his father. ~~Robert Simpson~~ I could not get however from Robert Simpson an unambiguous answer as to the ownership of land on which ~~xxxxxxx~~ Cecil's house is built. The land is for his sons, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, ~~xxxxxxx~~, but Robert Simpson is responsible for the land. Cecil cultivates in Duff House, on the land which Robert Simpson bought - together with his sons - from the Land Settlement. ~~Robert Simpson~~