

Francis Charles	Head M.M. 28	St. El. col.	Ill. Farmer
Ida	Wife F.M. 26.2.2.	,, ,,	Homemaker
Heath Alice	Mother F.S. 65.6.5.	,, black	none
Elliott Leonard	Broth. M.S. 18.	,, ,,	farm lab.
Lesta	Nephew M.S. 9.	,, col.	no

Under one acre: 1 swine, 1 goat, value of garden produce £ L.4., 1 ackee, 1 coconut, 7 mangoes.

Interview with Alice Heath.
26.1.48.
J.O. + T.O.

Her homestead.

We stopped at Alice Heath's place. Helped her to peel gungoo peas and had a talk.

The house we stopped at is the house where Alice Heath lives with her son, and next house is where ~~her~~ another son of hers, Charles ~~Francis~~, lives with his wife. The house on the top of the hill is Caroline Heath's house. She is not her sister. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Just a cousin. First cousin? Alice Heath conceded reluctantly.

Her family history. Alice Heath was born in Bull Savannah, in Thatch Walk: "right here, right in this place." This is her family place. But it was not her father's property. The land was her mother's land.

Her mother was Gordon. She does not remember what was her Christian name. ~~Her father was poor man - he came to live on her mother's land.~~ When they died she inherited the maternal property.

She had no brothers, but "plenty" of sisters. "Plenty, plenty sisters. Them live to the windward side. Them don't stay here. One is in the mountains. Me alone here." "We all is not one father - me and my sisters. Them scattered. So me is one that live here."

Her children.

She had 6 children: two daughters and four sons. "Two of my daughter die." Of her sons, one died, one left the place and "two live with me".

Two sons who live with her are from different fathers. One is Leonard Elliott, the younger, another Charles Francis. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Leonard's father was Sutter Elliott. He came from Ballard's Valley. Was a "poor man". Had no land. He lived ~~xxxxxx~~ with her till his ~~xxxxxx~~ death: "he die here, ~~xxxxxxx~~ right in this house."

Francis Charles lives in the next house. He is married. He is ~~xxxxxxx~~ no relation to Merton Francis. She does not get much ~~xxxx~~ help from these two. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Their "assistance is simple, very simple. That's devilish work - them don't pull to nice. No, Mam, no help." She intimated that it is her daughter-in-law who is to be blamed for this. She cannot replace her late daughter, who died "11 years since." "Them have two picknies."

The younger son, Leonard, stays with her. But there is also little help from him. Cant be ~~xxxxxxx~~ compared with her late son, who died one year ago. He did not stay with

Alice Heath

X
X

her, in the maternal home. Lived separately. But he was all the time helpful to her. ~~He~~ "He was my father, and he was my brother, and he was my husband, and he was my sister, and he was my pickney. He did that whatever woman could do to me. Me sick - he come and put my foot, wash it too. ~~If~~ Him went to the beefstall, bring ~~meat~~ beef meat - half a mamma. Him went to the wood, -him gathere some bundles of wood - half a mamma. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Ever thing - half a mamma. Him wasnt in the home."

"Cecil Elliott his name. Him live with a woman." Died last year, after a short illness. Got "pain in the belly - it was Saturday night - Monday him dead." He was carried to the hospital in Mandeville and on Monday the telegram came bringing message of his death.

He was ~~xx~~ "big man" when he died. Very helpful. "Other picknies are not so." Still "if I hadnt picknies I wouldnt have anything to put in my mouth."

Her son Leonard is not the only housemate in her house. There is still a "grannie". Elliott Lesta. He is "my son's child. - Eustace Elliott. Him scatter, go away - Bog the place him call. Him dont work for me, dont send for the little pickney."

"The pickney is 13 years - big boy." Who is his mother? "A female live over the road - Hellen Rochester her name. Arnold Rochester her father, Agnes was her mother." She went with her son Eustace, but refused to take care of the child when Eustace left the place. "Him said no business her." The grannie lives with her and works for the house. "Him work, him come right now."

Her farm.

Her family land consists of 1 acre and 3 perches. It is the land which around the house. The land which she got from her mother. "My father never give me one. This is my mother own. Father live on the Top Side. This is my mother site. My mother was Gordon." Neither she got anything from her husband: "Elliott - him dead long time. Him live here with me. Didnt have anything. Poor man."

She has very scanty cultivations on the land around her house. A part of the land is resting. There was a small garden of tomatoes /probably about 500 plants/, but the plants "they dont come on and what happens not a socker. I have no pan to water. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Them all die."

She has also ~~xxxx~~ a small garden of yams and some gungoo peas. Her cultivations are very poor. Everything gets dry and dies out. "Devil's work" - she intimated. She really does not care for the cultivations around the house on her own land. "Not a land me have to work. My son work some other places. Him work on share, him plant other places you could get water." His partner for ~~xxxx~~ whom he works on share is "same Elliott Cyrus".

Interview with Dudley Simpson
26.1.48.
J.O.

Simpson knows Alice Heath . Her nearest neighbour is Harold Gordon. But ~~fix~~ this is - as far ~~xxxx~~ as he knows - another family, not ~~xxxx~~ the family of her mother, who was Gordon too.

Her late husband Elliott is not from the Bull Savannah Elliotts. He was from "black Elliotts" in Ballards Valley. There are many Elliotts, black and "white". This was from the Black ones.

Saturday.
13. 3. 48.
D. B.

-4-

Family Record. 48.

Interview with Leonard Elliott.

Leonard shares house with his mother, Alice Heath, and Lester Heath his nephew - a brother's son. He was born in Thatch Walk. He is 19. His father Thomas Heath died 8 years ago.

School.

He went to Bull Savannah Elementary School and left in 2nd. book. He could not go ~~farther~~ - a further as his head could not take it. His parents were very poor and were unable to supply him with books. "Dat dey time no 'tan' like now because you can plant little tomatoes and get little more money."

He was fortunate in getting the slate that his father used at school. He was so careful that he never broke this slate. Me no ha' education dat me fe ha' me pen and book in a me han' like you. The lines hard, machette a fe me pen". (I have not the education so that I can have my pen and book in my hand like you. My line is hard, my machette is my pen. " Would have liked to be a tradesman, but did not succeed, because he did not put his head to it.

He prefers cultivation, he can have food for himself and his mother. He wanted to go to America on the Farm Workers Contract, but he was not successful. He has it in mind still to go if he can get the chance.

Music.

Leonard loves music quite well and wants to be a competent musician. He is learning to play the guitar. He can play a few popular tunes. He has no guitar. When practising he uses Herbert Lewis' guitar. He does not pay Lewis, only borrows it. Sometimes he plays at dances along with Hamelin Brooks and Gold. The dances are kept in Tessie Senoir's shop at Bull Savannah.

Playing at a dance Leonard is not paid, as he is not the leading musician. The most he gets is a few pence to buy his cigarette.

He has not a girl friend. He thinks to marry a woman is giving oneself trouble. Women will make men hang. If he is to get a wife he wants a young girl and not a hard woman. Asked what is a hard woman he said "One who is advanced in years". He would not like another man to look on his girl when he finds one. It is likely he will eventually end in trouble, if another man looks at her. Up to now he has not seen any girl he could marry. He thinks most of the girls are rude and bad. "As you go out she goes to another man".

Occupation.

Leonard is a cultivator. He plants yams, peas, cassava, corn and tomatoes. He has 4000 roots of tomatoes this year. When the crop is good and the season strong, that is when the rain fall is plenty, the tomatoes can pay well. This year the crop is not so prosperous, the sea-

At least
23

girl friends

son is not so bright . He works at the factory sometimes but not this year. It does not pay him well . He cannot save. The most he can do is to purchase clothes out of the money.

Religion .

As a child Leonard went to the Anglican church, but thinks his heart is the best church. He does not now attend any church. Some of the people who attend church are not better than himself , Because most of them go for mere curiosity , spending the time there in observing what each other wears.

Lester.

Lester , his nephew, is the son ^{of} Biltice Rochester and Heath . Does not remember Heath's christian ~~name~~ name . Alice Heath, Lester's father's mother adopted him from he was a baby. Biltice Leater's mother is not "very sensible " . Asked what he meant by that he said" she does foolish things and acts silly. Heath, Lester's father has never maintained ~~him~~ Lester . He owes everything to his grandmother and to himself . Lester is 12.

Wednesday .
16. 6. 48.
D. B.

-6-

Family Record . 48.

Interviewed Alice Heath .

Alice's parents were Roslyn Williams and Elikk Heath . Her mother died when she was quite a ~~XX~~ little girl . She grew with her sister Henrietta Heath . Her parents were from Bull Savannah . Her father did not marry ~~er~~ her mother , and they were not living together in one house . Her sister Henrietta stayed with her until she was a "big enough gal " , then Henrietta went away into ~~X~~ Manchester mountain to live . Her reason for going was to seek forwork .

After Henrietta left Alice was left on "her own to ~~gx~~ the world " . "Me stay alone and fight life till me could help meself" .

Her first boy friend was Matthew Smith from Top Hill . Alice loved Matthew very much , "me love him like me love God" . Matthew and ~~A~~ Alice were friends for one year and eleven months , "and-you know him never ask me how ~~x~~ old me is , and never tell~~X~~ me that the white of me ~~x~~ eye is red " . (that is though theywere moving for so long as friends Matthew ~~x~~ never asked her to indulge in any sexual intercourse) . "As there is a God above , him never take any step with me " . Every night Matthew would pay a visit to Alice , but he never slept at her house , he went away after spending a few hours with her .

Matthew meant to marry Alice , so he started to build a house for her sake . "Me was the fabric for all the family (favourite forthe family). Just as they were settling "to make life " Daniel Christopher from Bull Savannah came and askedher to be friends with him , "and break up her life with Matthew . Man can do bad things to woman fe yield them to ~~x~~ them , for me no did like Daniel , and me find meself liking Daniel . Matthew wey me did love , me start to hate him , and me mind this turn from him so " . "Man too trickery , a forceration make me ~~xx~~ and him get entangle " .

Daniel started to visit her at her hose and asked her to do the thing with her , she refused , but he forced her , "Me start fe ~~x~~ hallar , and risk 'k gainst him and cry . Me never cry hard enough fe any body hear me , for it would a look bad . Me fight 'gainst him but me could'nt get wey from him , so a compeltion make him get ~~x~~ it " .

"Him do no good fe me more than give me the two pickney" . When she had the first child Alice and Daniel, were like Isaac and Rebecca (that is they were so loving with each other) . When she had the second one , he left her , "and brush him batty and never come back no more " . He disowned

by/

the second child , and went away to Costa Rica . Daniel's mother Catherine Roy took the first child Alice had for Daniel . The other was left to the care of Alice . Alice does not remember how long she and Daniel were together . Her two children for Daniel are Bela Osborne Christopher and Eustace Christopher . Bela is in St Thomas , and Eustace is in Bogue .

man/

After Daniel went away Theodore Francis and Alice got in . "That dey ~~time~~ time a did wild ~~time~~ time , as one/leave you another come and ask youfe friend with them . As you give consent them come a you yard come live and start fe work fe you . Little after you find you and them caan 'gree , as that happen me turn them out . Alice has one child for Theodore , a but as they could not live in peace " me no make him tan fe me have more pickeny ~~for~~ fe him , me run him wey . Theodore never maintained his child by Alice .

who/

The baby was born x on a Saturday morning , after it was born the "grandey" went to tell the father/~~xxxx~~ was sitting outside that she gives him joy for his son , but the father was vexed , and did not reply . After a while he stepped in the house , and Alice in the bed turned her eyes to look at him , all he did was to step out again . Alice never saw him again till after three months . She had it very hard during those three months , she had to come out before it was time for her to do so , to do the things for herself . She had no one to do anything for her , "a that for one make me lose me health and get sickly " .

He came back one night three months after , "but me run him" and he went away to live in the mountain . He returned home after a time , and took sick and then he died . Her child for Theodore is Charley Francis . She had to support Charley all alone , as the father did not make good .

Her next man friend was Thomas Elliott from Hatch Walk . "Me couldnt do better x than friend with him when him ask me ~~xxx~~ ata a did me one and me did wan' help , so ~~xxxx~~ me consent " . Thomas went to live with her at her house . She had three children with Thomas , two are dead and one is alive . The one alive is Lenoard . Thomas cared she and the children well , she cannot complain , he cared her better than all the others . He is now dead , "him dead when him son them could a bury him " .

Child-rearing .

After a baby is born it is nursed on the breast and given "bush tea " for a period of about three to four months . After that the chief feeding is porridge

made from cassava ~~starch~~ starch . During the time when baby is getting porridge , it is being breast fed at the same time . The porridge is made thin for the sake of baby . The baby is fed on the breast for one year the longest . Some babies are weaned before they are a year old .

After porridge the baby is given bamny and "fish soup", until ~~it is~~ it is big enough to eat the meals prepared for the family .

If the baby ~~is~~ "belly hurt~~s~~ we give them surrusy (sir-rasee) . When the baby is teething , it has to bear the pain as there never was any thing to soothe the pain . "That dey tie~~n~~ we never know 'bout teething powder , so all we give them is the breast fe suck . That time we no wean baby till them finish teeth , for it sick them and kill plenty " .

One of the chief baby sicknesses is Whooping Cough . "When fe me baby sick with it me never give them any ~~tk~~ thing , them stay till them better . Me hear that fe make soup with rat and give them is good , but me never give fe me children the rat . Me hear that to tie a piece a red cloth round the neck , good fe stop the coughing . When fe me children them have it , ~~me~~ me tell them when them coughing them must shut them eye", as shutting the eyes will prevent the eyes getting red . Two other children's ailments are Measel Measles and Chickpox . "Me no know no remedy for that more than fe keep them close when them have it" .

Relationship between mother and son .

There is strong unity between Alice and her son Charley but at certain times there is no unity between Alice and Charley's wife Ida . Alice does not know the reason , but sometimes Ida will just stop speaking to Alice and stop visiting her home without any real cause . Charley visits his mother all the time , and offers her a little cassava or yam now and then . He does not help to support her "Lenoard is the support-ance fe me for him work .

Ida's daughter Edith visits Alice even when her ~~methe~~ is acting strange with Alice . When Edith visits Alice she is heartily received by Alice , and she is always offering Edith little presents , such as a mango or a portion of her meal , or a potato or any thing she has and she knows that Edith would like it , she ~~fx~~ offers it .

As near as they live sometimes for a year or more they do not visit one another . She has spoken to her son about it , but he does not know what is wrong with Ida, and cannot make it better .

J.O. 2.6.48.

Present Household /as in the record/

Heath Alice, ab. 70.

Elliott Leonard, her son, gave his age 19 ²⁴ /~~24~~ by Census/
Elliott Lesta, Alice's grandson, 13. /15 by Census/

Interview with Dudley Simpson.

3.6.48.

J.O.

I had a talk with Dudley Simpson about Alice Heath, her children and her men. He gave me interesting information supplementing D.B.'s interview of 16.6.48 /p.6 ff./

In the first interview I had with Alice Heath she told me ~~that~~ that she had only one child, Francis Charles, ~~max~~ by another man than her c.l. husband Sutter Elliott. ~~By~~ In the interview with D.B. ~~she~~ she was more outspoken about her men-friends. The first was Matthew Smith /no child/; the second Daniel Christopher /2 children - Bela Osborn Christopher and Eustace Christopher - this one was disowned by Daniel/; Theodore Francis /one child - Charles Francis/; the last one Thomas Elliott /= Sutter Elliott/ her c.l. husband who lived with her in Thatch Wall for a number of years.

Dudley Simpson gave me still another story.

Alice Heath was along with four men besides her c.l. husband, Thomas Elliott. Her men-friends were: Charles Rowe, living now in Thatch Walk; old Benjamin Heath - he is still alive and living in Th. Walk /or rather in B. B.S./; Cecil Christopher - he was living previously - before he emigrated - in the same place where Benjamin Heath lives to-day/; Theodore Francis - he was ~~an~~ outside son of old Charlie Francis /Sarah Francis' late husband/ by a Kelvin Richard; she had no children with Thomas Elliott who lived with her as her c.l. husband.

~~Her~~ Alice Heath's child by Charles Rowe was Cecil Elliott - her beloved son that ~~she~~ died. For ~~Ben~~ Benjamin Heath she had two children: Loretta - her beloved daughter that died, and Leonard w- living with her. Two children for Daniel Christopher went way: Bela Christopher lives somewhere in St. Thomas, Eustace Christopher in Elam /?/.

She had no children for Thomas Elliott but Thomas Elliott adopted all the children that stayed with her: "he took them and adopted." "Every one is a pappa" - commented Dudley - "as old custom say: call me pappa and do me no harm." She could pretend when speaking with us that all her children were by Elliott as he is no more alive and "dead man tell no tales." But everybody knows how it was with her husbands and children: "These things keeping in nub shell. Old time people say "there is a pip in the dice meaning that is a lot secret that is not divulged to you."

Information from Lilian Powell. Family Record 48.
Interv. Alice Heath.
18.6.48. -10-
J.O. 25.8.48.

Present household.

Heath Alice, 54.
Elliott Leonard, 24, son.
Lester Christopher, grandson, 13.

Alice Heath: Father Alec Heath, Thatch Walk. Mother Rosa Gordon, Th. Walk. ~~has~~ Has one half sister Henrietta Heath living in Manchester. Rest of her /half/siblings: "unknown." Had 6 children, ³ are alive.

Leonard Elliott. His father³: late Thomas Elliott, who was her c.l. husband. ~~has~~ Leonard has two half brothers Charlie Francis and Eustace Christopher. Eustace lives in Boage /?/, Charlie in Th. Walk. Leonard has one child: Delphin Elliott. The mother of the child is Thelma Neil, living in Green Olive. The child is with the mother.

Lester Christopher is son of of Eustace Christopher. His mother is Helen Rochester, Green Olive /?/. He has one half sister, Ruby, by the same mother and unknown father. Ruby lives in Green Olive. Lester was "grown up and cared by grandmother, Alice Heath." Lester never went to school, is illiterate.

House, land, farming etc.

House: 1 room. Kitchen. Furniture: 3 beds, 1 table.
No tank.

Land: owned by Alice Heath, 1/2 acre, inherited from "old parents."

Trees: 3 mangoes, 4 sweet saps, 1 ackie.

Cultivations: 300 tomatoes, £6. 50 yam hills.

1 pig.

Weekly spendings: 20/-. £10 spent last year on clothes for the whole household.

Religion: none.