

C.D. 22, Sbd.8. Household 17.

Rochester Martha M.	Head	F.W.47.6.5.	St.El.	Col.	Angl.	W.3.	Farmer
," Ivy R.	Dau	F.S.21.1.1.	"	"	"	"	None/yes
," Elsie	"	F.S.16.	"	"	"	W.2.	"
Blake L is H.	GDau	F.S. 4.	"	"	"	-	-
," Lloyd A.	Gson	F.M. 4.	"	"	"		
Dyer Arlin K.	GDau	F.S. 1.	"	"	"		

6

Her farm 1942.

She occupies her farm land for 9 years as owner
 The land is in 3 parcels: 3/4, 5, 5 acres each -
 10,75 acre together. Main source of income: tomatoes.
 Works 45 weeks per year, 4 days per week, 5 hours
 per day. Does not employ any labour.

3,5 acres are in cultivation. 4 acres cultivable
 but used. 1,75 under grass and used for pasture.
 Not used as pasture: 0,5 acre. 0,75 acre "other land".
 The value of farm: £95, £30 for buildings.

1 catchment.

Cultivations: Cabbages: 0,2 a. - 420 heads.
 Escallions: 0,1 a. - 100 bund. Tomatoes: 0,2 -
 1084 lbs.

Fruits and nuts: 1 avocado - 2 doz. 6 coconuts
 - 300 nuts. 5 comm.mangoes - 380 doz. 1 naseberry
 - 12 doz.

Corn - 0,25 a. - 1 bushel. Congo - 0,75 a. - 7
 bushels. Red peas: 0,25 a. - 0,75 bushel.

Cassava: 1,25 a. - 1800 lbs. Sw.Potatoes: 0,25 a.
 - 398 lbs.

Tobacco: 0,25 a. - 160 lbs.

1 sheep, 3 goats, 1 swine.

10/2/48
17

Inf. Dudley Simpson

17.2.48.

J.O.

Share-cropping.

Dudley Sipson works Martha Rochester's land on share.
 "I work the land and she get the benefit. She have to help
 me reap - but on her own land."

* "We divide the crop bag for bag. Two share. But
 some time when I work 3 share, you give the owner one third
 and you take two third. When she give you help on it, you
 give him bag for bag. Everything equal - she is quite
 nice."

Her daughtesr.

"They dont work the land - daughters. One is along
 with Cecil Senior, the man who does little tailoring. 5
 children. But the man dont like to work - just little
 tailoring. And he always drinking - always drunk. Drinking
 away what little he earns."

Saturday
morning

Mrs. Martha Rochester is a Seven Day Adventist. Only one of her daughters Aida is also Seven Day. The other two "they didn't join yet."

Mrs. Rochester didn't go to church today because she doesn't feel well for the past few days. She has "pains in the stomach". She decided not to eat anything heavy today and take castor oil tomorrow. She was up - sitting on a chair and playing with the little baby. She was clad in a cotton sweater with long sleeves "to keep warm". I arrived at about 11 a.m. The two daughters: Elsie and Ivy were dressing. Ivy had a pink art. silk slip on, they invited me into the room as I hesitated upon intruding on the toilette. But they didn't mind. Her sister helped her to put a red camisole and on this a yellow dress with ~~pink~~ big blue spots. The girls were using powder profusely and made their hair up into a beautiful elaborate coiffure. I asked where they were going - to church? No. To the factory? No. For a visit - they hesitated but didn't give an answer. Finally they dressed, put "backless toeless" shoes on and said they were going for a walk. Later on Mrs. Martha said they went for a visit - (I do not know what mystery was connected with their going out.) Before the two girls left, Ivy fed her daughter. We talked about feeding babies etc (see children) Later on Mr. John Sangster came but was obviously waiting with whatever business he had for me to leave. I left in the company of the little Arlin as Aida asked me for some aspirins. The child asked who cooks in the kitchen said: "Everybody - mostly Elsie who works in the packing house." I tried to find out how the sleeping arrangements are made, as there are only two big beds in the house. Arlin said she slept with her mother in the first room, but was not able to say how other people were accommodated.

3.3.48. T.O.

Met Mrs. Martha talking with William Rochester who was working at his field near ~~his~~ his house. Mrs. Martha was carrying some escallion and a few tomatoes from her field in Dunder Hill.

Her cultivation.

She said she had her land in three parcels: one round the house, one in Dunder Hill and one "in the woodlands" (i.e. towards the sea in the direction of Alligator Pond. She had a fourth parcel still in another place but she sold it, it was too difficult for her to work it.

"I am an old woman - have no son and my husband is dead" she said referring to the difficulties of working the land. She said she rented out her land on shares to people. One of her "sharers" is Dudley Simpson another one is John Sangster - the young man who came when I paid her a visit the other day. Mr. Sangster cultivates "everything round the house (her house) vegetables and all". Speaking about Mr. Simpson she said "He is a good man - an honest man - he gives

my share - what is mine."

I asked her about her health. She said she was feeling better than the other day but still had "pains round my belly and in the back" She intended to see ~~thevxx~~ to-morrow the doctor who is coming on Thursdays to the factory.

17.6.48

D.H.

Visit to the house of Martha Rochester.

Martha Rochester~~x~~ was out when I called, the two daughters, Ivy and Elsie were on the verandah. Ivy had her baby in her arms. Two chairs were brought out, and we talked for a short while.

Ivy told me that she had three daughters. Dean Rochester the baby was eight months old. Bevin Dyer is 4 years, and Arlene Dyer is six years old.

She weans her babies when they are nine months old, and neither of the other two caused any great difficulty. She starts feeding them on milk and porridge when four months old, and a large amount of bush tea. Dean was beginning to sit up at three months, but she has not tried to stand yet.

She is a Seventh Day Adventist, and she pointed out the Church standing on the ~~xxx~~ top of Ridge. She sends the children to Sunday School (She used this phrase herself, although it is not held on Sunday) The service lasts about an hour for the littlest ones.

There are some other children all in the same household.

Lois Blake
Lloyd Blake
Cecil Blake.

All the children get along very well together, and she has not noticed any particular fighting amongst them. They are mostly too young to go to school. Lloyd who is about nine or ten years old is in charge of the sheep they keep around the house. Elsie said with a laugh "Him's the shepherd." He could be seen very energetically running around chasing a frisky lamb in the field below the house.

As I left I passed Lloyd and asked him if he alone looked after the sheep, he said, Yes. He takes them out every morning before he goes to school.

I obtained very little information from this family as they were obviously not willing to talk. They contrived to turn aside or smile at every question I put to them.

The baby looked very fat. She began to cry before I left, as I had to retrieve my pencil she had grabbed. They first brought out a tin of boot polish to distract her, but as that didn't work, they brought out a toy pig coloured bright red, with a slit in the back, showing it to be a money box. There was however nothing in it. The baby was quit happy with this.

Interv. at home Martha Rochester.
21.7.48.
T.O.

I was talking with the children who played near her house under the mango tree. (See F. 26/6) Martha came out of her house and was looking at me. I thought it a good opportunity to check who is living in this "women's house" full of children, since I just got the names of the ones playing with Boula Gordon.

We stood with Martha near the grave of her husband Joseph. Martha said she had a great difficulty in keeping it clean as the children always play on it and dirty it with mango juice and earth. She washes the tomb, now and then. In her husband's days all this field round ~~at~~ the house was planted with yams. He planted them but didn't live till the harvest. When he died the yams withered there was no crop from this field. She never planted yam here, she keeps the place for the sheep to graze.

I complimented her on the fat baby Dean who was also taking part in the game being carried by an older girl. We worked with Martha names and ages of the occupants of her house:

Rochester Martha	head	50	(Miss Martha likes round figures when age is concerned which is a very common occurrence).
" Ivy	dau	25	
" Elsie	dau	20	
Blake Lloyd	gr. son	11	
Blake Llois	gr. dau	11	
Dyer Olline	gr. dau	6	
Dyer Bevan	gr. dau	4	
Rochester Dean	gr. dau	8/12	

8 Lois and Lloyd Blake are twins. They are children of the daughter who lives near Kingston and Cecil Blake. Cecil Blake is the father of the children and not their sibling as D.H. wrote on p.5 of this F.R.

The daughter Aida who was living here ~~at~~ when I first visited this house is working now in Southfield Olline and Bevan Dyer and Dean Rochester are the children of the daughter Ivy. The two elder girls' ~~ars~~ father is Ivi Dyer the son of the neighbour Charles Dyer Ivi is now in Kingston where he is tailoring.

The grand son Norman Rochester - son of Aida and Isaac Rochester stays at present with paternal grandparents Panton and Alma Rochester. I mistook the boy for a girl as he was dressed in a frock long enough to cover his distinctive features. Usually little boys of his age have only a very short jacket open in the front, very rarely nickers.

I believe the household is now recorded correctly. Martha is a much better informant when not in the presence of her daughters.

Informant Dudley Simpson

23.7.48.

T.O. ~~Dudley Simpson~~

"No father and no brother to work. Father died and one brother died. Joseph Rochester had lots of land. She sell some land. Joseph Rochester bought 5 acres from my father (Lionel Simpson) and she sold it to Dorrell Dyer."

Dudley knows her land as he works on shares on her land. Martha's land: "2½ acres homeland, 5 acres savannah beside uncle Peanion (Ernest Powell's land in Haddock Hill). and 5 acres in Ruinate."

"If she did have a man to work the land it wouldn't be hard to her - it is level land."

As Martha has only daughters and no male relative to work on her land, she gives it to neighbours to work on shares: Sharecroppers

Dudley Simpson plants on her land cassava, sweet potatoes and gungoo peas.

John Sangster he got £ 3:5:0 from the tomatoes he planted on her land.

Artie - son of uncle Usine (Isaac Sinclair from Ridge) plants on her land gungoo peas and sweet potatoes.

Sidney Simpson (son of Ethel Simpson) plants tomatoes.

Women's work

Martha works as a selector at Linton's shed. The daughters work at the factory. Elsie works in the packing house. Ivy worked there too but not this year, "she had a baby couldn't manage." Previously she was a supervisor in the packing house.

Ida is now in Southfield, working with Dr. Johnson. Helps when he makes inoculations. She used to work at the factory too. Dr. Johnson - he is the brother of the Dr. Johnson from Black River.

T.O. 17.6.48.

Martha Rochester 8.

Interviewed: Ivy Rochester daughter.
L.V.P. 14.6.48.

Present household:

Rochester	Martha	Head.	F.W.	50	6.5.	Exton.	33.	Advent.	W.4.	Housew.& cult.
"	Ivy	dau.	F.S.	24	3	B.S.P.		No rel.	W.5.	domestic
"	Elsie	dau.	F.S.	20	--	"		"	W.3.	in factory tom.
Blake	Eloyd	gr.son	M.S.	11		"		Advent.		at school
"	Louise	gr.dau	F.S.	11		"		"	W.2.	at school
Dyer	Arline	gr.dau	F.S.	6		"		-8--	- - - - -	- - - - -
"	Bevin	gr.dau	F.S.	4		"				
Rochester	Dehe	gr.dau	F.S.	8/12		"				

Family History.

Martha Rochester lawful daughter of George and Sharlot Myers. Sharlot Myers was nee Davidson. Martha has no half brothers or half sisters. Her siblings are: Oscar, Nathaniel, Wilfred, and Endly. (brothers) and Josephine, Har Florry, Elvy, and Roda - sisters. They all live in Exton. Roda lives in U.S.A. and Josephine in Ballards Valley. All the rest in Exton. Two sisters died. In all she has alive 4 brothers and 4 sisters, and 2 sisters dead. No relations are maintained with them.

Her husband Joseph Rochester died in 1933, after a long 5 years lasting illness. She was "kept" for a time by Moses Elliott.

She had 6 children. The only boy died. Her 5 daughters are: Josephine, Ivy, Aida, Elsie, and Evelyn.

Josephine married (?) a Mr. Cecil Blake from Kingston. She is at present working as a bar maid in Panton. Her two children are staying with Martha Rochester.

Evelyn is with the tailor Cecil Senior. They have 5 children: Kenneth, Ronald, "Johnson", Eric and "Fie".

Aida is at present in southfield at work. She has a 5 years old son with Isaac Rochester son of Panton. Isaac is at present in U.S.A. on contract.

Ivy and Elsie are staying with the mother at home. (see below)

Ivy Rochester daughter of Martha and Joseph. She was brought up in her parents' home. She has 3 children: the two older with Ive(?) Dyer, she does not want to tell the name of the father of her last baby. She stays at home doing domestic work.

Elsie Rochester daughter of Martha and Joseph. Was brought up in her parents' home. She has no children. Works in the season as wrapper in the packing house.

Arline and Bevin Dyer daughters of Ivy Rochester and Ive Dyer who lives now in Kingston. The children are supported by the grandmother Martha. Dene Rochester is the daughter of Ivy, father's name not disclosed. This child is also supported by the grandmother.

Rochester

Lloyd and Louise Blake are children of Josephine/and Cecil Blake. Both children are adopted and supported by the grandmother.

Housing. One dwelling house consisting of two rooms and verandah. furniture: 4 beds, 2 chairs, 2 tables, Both rooms are slept in. One kitchen in separate building. 1 latrine.

Land : 10 acres in 3 parcels. All land owned by Martha Rochester. ~~Two parcels~~ One parcel is round the home, one near the home in ~~the~~ Hill and the third in the woodlands. Only one acre was inherited and the rest bought. The home lot was bought from Joe Witter, the woodland lot from Brooks. There is one acre under cultivations and one acre under guinea grass.

#Dunder

Economic Trees. 2 common mangoes, 2 grrenskin, 1 naseberry, 1 atocado pear, 25 coffee, All fruits are used for home consumption only.

Cultivations. The land is not cultivated by Martha and her daughters by rented on share crop. The lot round the house is cultivated by John Sangster and the one in Dunder Hill by Dudley Simpson. Tomatoes: 2000 - Martha's share £ 5, ½ acre congo peas, corn, some vegetables.

Live stock 4 sheep.

Expenditure for clothes about £6 is spent yearly for each adult and £1:10:0 for each child. Expenditure on entertainment on Christmass £ 3. On education £ 1. They have no savings.

Religion Martha and the children belong to the 7 Day Adv.

Public functions. Martha is a deaconess in the Adv. Church.

