

Holness Leo	Head M.S.	31	St. Eliz.	colour.	angl.	X farmer.	Fam. Rec. 59.
" Astley	son M.S.	3	"	"	"	X	

2

works on father's land see Fam. Rec. 8 Holness Thā Theodore.

22.2.48.
T.O.

I was invited to the house by Mr. Leo's Cl^r wife Elsie Simpson. Their house is on the "Holness land" some hundred yards form the "Bible church of God." Elsie Simpson has two children: 13 years old Icilda Roy and 8 years old Astley Holness. (Icilda is black, Roy coloured.)

The whole family is Bible church of God. Some four little girls followed me into the house and Elsie Simpson was busy with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ somebody who came to fetch some coffee, so I talked with the girls (see children) (the talk with girls on next pages.)

While I was talking with the children, a young woman whose name I didnt get was sewing a man's shirt. (It was Sunday) Elsie brought two pairs of freshly prssed trousers and hung them on the wall at the head of the bed.

Elsie said she had only two children, but it was hard nevertheless to bring them up. She said it didnt matter how many children you had - it is the same worry.

Bible church of god
i. their life.

She and some women-neighbours who came in the meantime were very glad that J.O. was just now at the service at the Bible Church of God. They invited me to come on Tuesday for the Harvest Festival. They talked a lot about their church activities. Said how nice were the "Pleasant evenings" when children took part sining etc. Mostly girls - they said - were taking part in these children's activities. Elsie has a lovely voice she will also sing in the chorus at a sacred concert organised by the School at the Anglican church.

2

Children 2.

Girls of school age.

Fam. Rec. 59.

22.2.48.
T.O.

Invited to the home by Elsie Simpson wife of Leo Holness I was followed by 4 little girls of school age. The eldest a thin, dark girl was the outside daughter of Elsie Simpson, Icilda Roy, she was introduced by her mother.

I asked the name of the next girl - about 10 years old
"Pansy Elliot"

And what is your daddy name?

"Tom Elliot from Ballards Valley."

Do you live in Ballards Valley?

"No - right here."

What is your mummy's name?

"Sinclair."

And her christian name?

Pansy hesitates: "Norma" - Elsie Simpson corrects - it is Vera. They decide they don't know the little girl's mother's right name.

The next girl's name was "Blossom Sinclair". After she told her name she felt so shy that she ran to the yard from the house to the yard after the effort.

~~What did you~~

Do you go to school - I asked Icilda
"es"

What did you learn last week?

"I never went last week to school."

The mother explained that Icilda had a little cold at the beginning of the week. "And the best days for them children at school is the beginning of the week: Monday and Tuesday" so ~~after~~ the mother didn't think it worth while to send the child for the later part of the week to school.

I asked Icilda and Pansy to sing me a little song.

After they whispered for a long while to each other they started ~~some~~ to say some words, so I took them down. This was the song they learned at the Bible Church of God at the "Pleasant evening" ~~arranged~~ at which children - mostly girls - sing and recite.

The following song was dictated unisono by Icilda Roy and Pansy Elliott:

On, on, on swell the chorus
on, on the morning star
is shining all us

.....

(here something missing
which was included in the
song sung afterwards)

Chikavanx8yv
Fam. Rec. 59

The mighty, mighty save the leads thou way
Glory, glory how thou lasting throne
shalt hossannah, while we boldly march alone.
Faithful sldiers here below
Only 'esus we will know
shouting Allelujah
as we onward go.
A cray of who go up to the in harmony
Light is at our Saviours side
Then haste o haste to conquer every foe
and human hearts in the we go.

I argued that something must be missing in some places, but the girls assured me it was all right and repeated the lines many time. I asked them to sing it. After a while Icilda said she willsing alone. She has a most lovely voice, like a little bell and the song rung fresh and full of meaning in her interpretation.

I asked whether they learn some songs at school. She volunteered to say the words "you can recite it or sing it.":

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth
~~is pressed against the~~ earth sweet flowing breast.
A tree that looks at the God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair
Upon whose bossom snow has lain
Poems are made by fools like you
But only God can make a tree.

What is a robin I asked.
"bird"
Do you know what it looks like? - "No".

I asked Pansy Elliott what she learned at school last week. After a lot of mix finger biting and hiding her face she recited in one breath a little story ~~from her~~ about a little rabbit who felt alone on an island. Elsie Simpson brought the school book and ~~xxx~~ gave it to me to show that the child knew it perfectly by heart.

I asked Icilda what she would like to do after she finishes the school. (She is now in the 4th standard.) "xSentrel" she said, which after much explication turned out to be seamstress. She wants to sew. Her mother said she can make button holes and little panties - they are thought at school. Given 2/- or 1/6 material to make a little thing. Right now Icilda is making at school panties for herself.

INTERVIEW WITH LEOPOLD HOLNESS.

Monday,
June 14, 1948.

Ed. F.

Leopold's present household consists of:

1. Leopold Holness, i.e. himself, 36.
2. Elsa Holness (Mrs.) wife, "about 25," seen but appears to be at least 30.
3. Icilda Roye, 13, daughter to Elsa by John Roye, of Ridge.
4. Astley Holness ~~xxx~~ 9, son to Leopold and Amy Stephenson now dead.

The above household share a 2 apartment house ~~xxxx~~ the building of which was begun 10 years ago by Calbert Elliott. The first room was completed 6 years ago. He went to live in this room then. The other room which was finished save for flooring was not used till 3 years ago when a cement floor was put in. This room is used as a sitting room, the other as a bed room.

All members of the household named were seen on this visit. Seen also were Astley Stephenson and Rebecca Forde. Rebecca is Kennedy's wife (c.L.) She was carrying in her arms, her 18 months baby Catherine Holness. Seen also was Clement Holness previously interviewed. They came crowding around as the interview proceeded ~~and~~ and left only when I told Leopold that I should like to have a private talk with him. There were some children about also.

Born in Ribbit Town on the father's home site, Leopold lived there ~~xxxxxx~~ in one of three rooms with his brothers Clement and Kennedy. The rooms are built apart.

Meeting with Elsa -their marriage:

He met Elsa 3 years ago. They married 2 years ago. She had come to share house and housekeeping with him about 6 months before they were married. They married in Mandeville. His father attended his wedding. The reception was held in Elsa's parents home. Her parents are Preston Forde and Dorothy Brooks.

Mr. Theodore gave Leopold some money to help him with his wedding. Leo. does not remember how much. Mr. Theodor "was the butler at the wedding."

Fathers land holdings:

His father's land holdings consists of $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres around the home site, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Duff House. Leo. cultivates on land around his 2 apt. house. The land he

cultivates on ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ has been allotted him by his father. He cannot say what is the area of this ~~xxx~~ allotment because "it dont measure." This portion of land on which he has built his house and on which he is planting is the portion he will inherit when his father dies.

Apportioning of land

Mr. T. has not made a will: -"Everyone mark out their portion and live on it." He gives MR. T. some of food crops reaped from the land he cultivates. He does that although Mr. T. may have sufficient food of his own. He does the same to his brothers Clement ~~Clifford~~ Clifford and Kennedy. Their sister Amy gets food ~~xxx~~ from him only when she comes for it.

Children:

Many children share meals with Leo. and Elsa. Chief among them are:

1. Pansy Elliott, 10, dau. Vera Sinclair and Thomas Elliott.
2. Comis Holness, niece, ~~xxx~~ dau. to Clement. (see F.R. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~)
3. Other children to Clement -Delsie, Goldie, Vivian.
4. Children to Amy - Princess, Kensie, Blossom, Jeftah, Leo, Elaine, Pamella.
5. Nadia Lewis dau to Vera ~~xxxx~~ Sinclair and Arthur Lewis.

All of the above children come to share meals with Elsa and Leo. every day. They sometimes go to May's and to Rebecca's also, but they do not get something to eat at these other places every day.

Asked why she thought the children come every day, one of the children -Pansy Elliott who had been listening to the conversation said ~~xxxx~~ with a kind of spontaniety -"because we lub (love) ~~ham~~ ham."

The above information in regards the children was given largely by Elsa. After Pansy had spoken, Elsa ~~and~~ beaming, the while, said -" Hear the answer !"

Elsa complained that the children are sometimes rude, and added that she "beat" them when they are. Their mothers never mind that. Asked further what rudeness the children sometimes indulge in, Pansy who was still present volunteered brightly -"Thump one another sir." Elsa added -"they fight and ~~bring~~ carry all kinds of ~~xxx~~ things come throw down in the yard." They get floggings for ~~bring~~ bringing things into the yard because they make the yard untidy with things like old "packie," (calabash) pieces stones and old machettes.

Pansy said that she used the calabash as a pot, and the stones to kotch the calabash. They used the kitchen firewall to do their cooking, in the calabash.

Elsa said that the children sometimes make a great deal of noise but that hse does not ~~mind~~ that ~~xxxxxxx~~ and never flogs them for that because they are usually singing and she ~~likes~~ likes to hear them singing.

Monies to Father

Clement gives monays "like 2/- or 1/- whenever ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ he/ has it. He last gave Mr. T. a little money in May. The money "was to buy his drink." He ~~does not~~/give any money to his brothers , but -"anywhere we meet we sport and drink," he added.

/ever

Leopold says he is not a member of the Bible Church of God. He goes to the church regularly however. He is "just a visitor" to the church. None of his other brothers are members to the church although they visit it often. Mr. Theodore is also another visitor. His sister Amy is a member of the church.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ELSA HOLNESS.

Met Elsa carrying a ~~xxxxx~~ scythe in her hand. She said she was going to cut some grass to mulch some 'skellion, ~~and that~~ I could accompany her to where she was going to get the grass.

Thursday,
June 17,
1948

Family History

Ed. F.

Elsa is one of 7 children to her mother Dorothy Brooks and her father Earnest Forde called Preston Forde. These children are -in order of age:

1. Henry Forde "about 26."
2. Elsa Forde, i.e. ¹/₂ -informant. -"about 25."
3. John Forde, -"about 23."
4. Lydia Forde, "about 21."
5. Rebecca Forde -clw. to Kennedy. She is "about 20."
6. Samuel Forde, "about 19."
7. Gernie Forde, "about 16."

It is doubtful that these ages above given, can be correct; she says she is 25, but also gives the age of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Icilda Roye her daughter by ~~xxxxxxx~~ John Roye, as 14. She is sure the child is 14. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ If Elsa's age is accepted as being 25, then she must have been 11 when she had Icilda.

I went with Elsa up into the rocky hillside which is a part of Theodore's holdings. She cut grass from a few scattered roots of guinea grass here and there. She stacked these up in a heap. The scythe was sharp. She used it expertly and with vigour. She talked while she worked, stopping sometimes to explain something in detail.

Elsa grew up with her mother and father brothers and sisters in her parents' home in Bull Savannah. Her parents' home "used to be to the sea parts" of Bull Savannah, i.e. ~~xxx~~ it was in Thatch Walk. She was careful to avoid the name Thatch Walk. The family left Thatch Walker some years ago. Elsa said -"Since we the children come big, wi move from there with wi parents and come to Ridge." She did not say why they had removed.

Her childhood

Her childhood days were "a hard shift," i.e. "time was too hard when we born; we couldn' go to school; them sen' wi but wi couldn' get no food to eat -tiday (today) wi go, tomorrow we don't, s wi couldn't learn."

She used to play games like "Chebb chase" and "ring." ~~Eys~~ Boys did not play at ring with the girls, but they playdd at chebby chase. The boys did not like to play the ring games, they preferred to play games in which thgy "could

run up and down." The boys she played with were "all destant (decent) picknie them." None of them ever tried to kiss her or to make any intimate jokes with her. Had any of them tried to have any intimacy with her she would have told her mother about it.

Relations with her mother.

Elsa's mother used to be very cross with her. Elsa could not ever stay in the house with her. She (Elsa) got frequent floggings for not wanting to go out as directed.

This interview given in the morning, concluded because Elsa had to go to some buyers who wanted some eskellion to buy. On getting within hearing distance of the buyers, she called out to them - "a wey ~~xxx~~ hunu a sey now?" One of the buyers (2 women) replied "a give y'u a 2d. a lb." Elsa said she would not sell for 2d per lb., but that if the buyers wanted to give 3d per lb then they ~~x~~ could go to look at the plot of eskellion. The women agreed to pay 3d per lb for the eskellion, and accompanied by Elsa, went to the plot where they began to take up the plants by the root s. There were a number of plants to each root. One of these was left in the ground. Elsa said that the root left in the ground would ~~xxxxxxx~~ would have other roots growing to it in three weeks time, when another crop could be reaped again. In this way crop fter crop can be reaped ~~xxx~~ from year to year.

at

This visit was made/about 6.00 pm. ~~xxxxxxx~~ It was a meal time. Present in the yard were Leopold, Kennedy, Clement, Rebecca, a woman who said she was sister to Vera Sinclair the mother of Pansy Elliott who is always about Elsa's. ~~xxx~~/the 2 children-son and daughter to Rebecca. I got the impression these people had come to share the evening meal.

/There were also

Interest in what Elsa was cooking induced her to offer some of the meal. I did not realise ~~she~~/intended to offer some of the meal, till it was too late to get away without causing undesirable friction. The food served on a tab;e in the house, consisted of a bowl of red peas soup, some cornmeal dumplings in a plate separate, and a piece of dry-fried fish served without any gravy. She said she had hurriedly fried the fish for me; this implied perhaps, that the family was not then having fish with the soup for dinner.

Most of the members of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ group already named were in the kitchen when I left the yard.

INTERVIEW WITH XXXX ELSA HOLNESS CONT'D.

Friday,
June 18, 1948.

Ed. F.

Beginning of her friendship with John

John was one of her childhood playmates. She used to play with other girls, at ring games in his yard, which was ~~xxxx~~ next door to hers. He used to coge and look on while she played with the other girls. He never joined in the ring games, but they played together at chebby chase.

His advances: He had used to "put question to mi, an' tell mi how him love mi, and that if I would frien' with him him woulda marry mi." She had agreed to become his friend after such persuasion. She had been reluctant to enter into the friendship with him, because she was afraid of her mother.

They cohabit

sex

She had relations with John about 7 weeks after the date of the commencement of their friendship. (She was very positive about this length of time, but did not say how she managed to recall its length so exactly.) This was the first time she had ever had sex. She hated the experience and "get frightened" because of "first cause." She means by "first cause," and was "frightened," "because it was the first ~~xxxx~~ man ~~xxx~~ mi ever put miself with."

I
in bed

It happened/at home. Nobody else was there. It was night/time. He had always been "putting quasetion" but she had been "putting him off." She had consented at last however, and agreed to meet him at his grand mother's home, on a night named. Nobody else was at home that night, because there was a "set up;" somebody had died.

She had been so afraid of her mother -feared so much that she would become pregnant and that her mother would discover that she had been having sex relations, that she had not quite knbwn how she had managed to consent to sharing the relationship: -"Mi didn' know that could happen to mi, but he say he know." " She enjoyed her relationship the second time.

Becomes pregnant

About a year after she had begun to have intimate relations with John, she became pregnant. She had been sharing relationship with John once per week or so, and had continued to enjoy the experience. Her enjoyment would have induced her to share the relations more frequently, but she was afraid of her mother and father.

Mother's reaction to Pregnancy

Her mother quarreled with her when she found out that e she was pregnant. He mother found out - "because a begin to throw up." (Throw up = vomit)

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"A wouldn't eat plenty things a use to eat." She ask mi what happen to mi, an' mi tell her mi feel bad; sh' did know (what was wrong with her) but she only ask mi fi ask sake."

"She sey to mi, 'a who do that?' an' mi tell her. Her mother had used to notice she she was inclined to be friendly with John and had used to disapprove. Her mother's nagging and quarreling went on for about a month after the pregnancy had been discovered.

Her father's attitude: Her father had quarreled also. He had said he did not like the ~~xxx~~ match. -"He sey the boy have too much 'oman," i.e. woman "all over the place." She told her father -"After the thing happen mi caan do nothing again."

Attitude of John's other girls

John's other girls had tried to pick a quarrel with ~~hm~~ her. Chief among them was Coolie Pence who now lives in Commer Pen. Coolie Pence (probably Spence) "quarrel sey is fi him man, an' that a mus' leave her man, an' mi tell her mi naa leave, because mi lob (love) him an' the man noh married.

Fights with Coolie: -"Mi an' sh' fight! Wi fight because she want to tell mi word out a di way, an' mi don't like it. ~~xxx~~ Sh' cuss mi mother -cuss bad wud (bad wud=bad words) an' mi box her. Wi hold up one another an' fight. Mi noh know which one a wi beat, for none of us never fling one another, but mi tear up her clothes, so a mus' be mi beat."

Elsa's mother heard about the fight afterwards and quarreled. She told her mother -"the low wud wey she coolie tell mi, an' that a have to fight a couldn' kelp it."

John: "He sey mi wasnt to fight neither, too, for him ~~x~~ noh married; him is fi anyone. She agreed with John.

Own reaction to Pregnancy

He (John told mi that something happen an' ~~xxx~~ I sey I know." He told her that about a month after they /had shared the /initial relationship. He did not say why he thought she was pregnant, but she believes that was because he knew she was not menstruating.

First reaction: "At first a was frighten' to miself. A feel bad." John aside, she told no one else. -"A fine out about the belly about 1 month after it happen, an' tell John that mi father goin' run

mi out o' the house."

John told her then - "Mi wi stan' death fi y'u! him caan run y'u out." A diin' feel so bad after him sey that an mi heart kinda cheer up a little."

John's children then already born

John at that time already had 3 children. They are:

1. Bernit Roye with Zemina Dyer.
 2. Aldith Roye with Tilly Sinclair.
 3. Kathleen Roye with Coolie Pence.
- He did not share house with any of these girls.

John treatment during her pregnancy

"Him give mi everything, -something to eat and some thing to buy clothes." He came to see her frequently. Her parents dod not quarrel about these visits made sometimes in the night sometimes in the day. She had no sex relations with him after she found she was pregnant, "because a was young an' frighten'" she said.

The baby's delivery

The baby was delivered by Mr. Cella Simpson who lives in Shaddock Hill. Mrs. Simpson charged 5/- for the ~~xxx~~ delivery. Elsa paid this money herself.

On her arrival to deliver the baby Miss Cella ru bed her down with Bay Rum, -"tie a string tight round mi waist, and wipe mi down in boiling water, an' then she 'nint' ('nint' = annoint) mi down with castor oil.

Elsa had the baby on the floor. Miss Cella spread some old cloth on the floor and instruct d her to have it there. She was put to sit in a half reclining position and told "not to strain," herself. The baby having arrived, she was given some rum in hot mint tea with rum in it. She fell asleep after that.

Period of Confinement.

She remained indoors for nine days after the baby's ~~xx~~ arrival. She did not stay out of doors beyond 2.00 pm. for about 6 months after the baby was born. After the six months period she began "to tek night coal (cold) i.e. she came out into the night cold after the six ~~mon~~ months period. She had remained indoors because her mother had told her she should.

John's attitude to the baby

John came into the room only on the ninth day. -"He don't go where 'oman have young babies. Sh' mus' come out a room first." He din not hold the baby; -"Him

Family Record 59.

sey him don't hold young baby, but after the baby begin to sit ~~round~~ 'round, him hold him.

The break with John

She broke off ~~with~~ her friendship with John after the baby's birth: -"as mi people them never like it, mi never continue with it. A tthat for one mek him ~~never support-the-child,~~ wouldn't give the bayy nothin'."

He has never given the child -Icilda, anything, nor has Icilda ~~has~~ never asked him for anything. Elsa too, has never asked him for anything for the child because it has vexed her to see that he is able to give support to the child but is refraining from doing so because she refuses to remain one of his girl friends. She has done everything for the child; -"A mi christen her an' sen' her to school," an' everything.

Present attitude towards John

She still loves John, but would not have any/^{Sex}relationships with him now because she ~~does~~ does not want "to have 2 man at the same time; -that mek trouble." This is the only reason she does not have relations with ~~another~~ man, other than her husband.

Influence of ~~her~~ religion

Asked what influence does ~~her~~ church have on her having sexrelationship other than with her husband, she said -"It say that while mi husban' ~~is~~ alive, a mus' not take anybody else, but after mi husban' is dead, a can take somebody; a believe that is right."

girl

While she was John's/friend, that is before the baby arrived, she never had relations with anyone else, although there were other boys ashe liked well enough and knew well enough to have had sex relations with. She did not like the "ups and downs" in the sexual relationships and friendships, with more than one male.

Churches attitude to her pregnancy

She had used to go to the Anglican church. When she found out she was pregnant, she did not return to the church because -"a diin' feel well in mi mind; mi mind was a lit le trouble' an' mi didn' feel so bright as what mi use to."

This interview was given in the garden some distance ~~f~~ from the house. Elsa was planting ~~xxxxxx~~ was replanting some eskellion. ^{the} previous planting had been washed away by the rain.