

C.D. 22. Sbd. 6. Household 11.

Rochester	Arnold	Head	M.S.60.	St.El.	Col.	No R.	Ill.	Farmer	
"	Crafton	Son	M.S.38.	"	"	"	"	Farm lab.	
"	Ellen	Dau	F.S.36.2.2.	"	"	"	"	Homemak.	
"	Panton	Son	M.S.30.	"	"	"	"	Farm lab.	
"	Wilfred	Son	M.S.28.	"	"	"	"	Farm lab.	
Holness	Mavis	GrDau	F.S. 2,	"	"	"	"		

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Their farm 1942.

~~They figure in Sch.3 - under 1 acre.
 Stock: 3 swines, 5 goats.
 1 avocado pear, 1 coconut, 1 lime tree /10 doz./.
 3 mangoes, L naseberry /29 doz./.~~

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6,25 acres
 see p. 6,

Monday, 23.2.48.

Ed.F .

C.D. 22. Sbd. 8 . Hpusehold

-2-

Family Record 60

Emily Rochester was born in Top Bull Savannah in the house she now occupies. Asked her age she said -"mi noh know sah," i.e. I do not know. She hung her head sheepishly a she said that.

Family History

Her father Arnold ^{Rochester} ~~Dyer~~ is dead, but her mother Agnes Dyer lives in Ridge, Bull Sav. Both Arnold and Agnes were born in Bull Sav. -their parents also.

The land on which she lives was given to her father by his father. Her father built the house she now lives in, and on his death turned over the house and land to her and his other children. The other ~~2~~ children share the house with her.

Present Occupation

She is engaged at present in carrying tomatoes for Earnest Powell, who pays her 1/6 per box. She carries tomatoes on Mondays only. Last Monday she carried 11 boxes. She has not yet got pay for it. She has been carrying tomatoes many years now for Earnest Powell only.

Emily gave the brief interview in Margaret Roach's yard. Margaret was busy making cassava flour in

wooden mortar, and would not be interviewed. She ~~x~~ laughed aloud when Emily said she was earning 1/6 per box for the tomatoes she is carrying.

Emily proved a poor informant: she is hard of hearing.

Inform. Dudley Simpson.
4.3.48.
J.O.

Sudden disappearance of Wilfred Rochester.

"We had an accident last June. A young boy, a very fine boy, he disappeared. He was Wilfred Rochester. He went down the river to catch crabs. He didnt come back until to-day. Young boy. We had a talk that he was caught by the Alligator."

Rescue expedition.

"All of us we went down. We went up the river in boats, and we searched and we dived. Nothing was found. We had iron hooks, plenty iron hooks, ~~xxx~~ and we draught it and we searched in the mangrove swamp and in the river, in many places, and no sign of him."

"We know he didnt went into the sea. Nobody seen him. But a boy, from Alligator Pond, he saw a shoulder of man in the river mouth. So we had a talk and ~~xxxx~~ we guess that was alligatorb that catch him."

Wilfred Rochester's parents. ~~His~~
Son and mother.
Son and father.

"He was Arnold Rochester and Agnes Dyer son. They didnt marry." They lived separately.

"The morning before he went to the river, he went to the Duff House and ~~xxxx~~ he pull cassava and give to his mother. And he went and say to his mother that he went to look meat - and he never return."

"Crowds pit the river side, weeping and moaning and searching to find his body dead. But couldnt find him."

"And poor father - him getting old and him getting news that his son get lost - him just ~~xxxx~~ look down and never live no time after. Him die. He was the support of the poor father and mother and the poor father just fret on it."

"t was most grievous to us - a young companion just go that way."

"He live - he sleep in his father home, but during the day he stay his mother place. Because his father and mother them stationned two different home."

"All of us move together as brother - and it was sad to us. We dived to the bottom of the river just to get the body and to burry. But there was nobody to find."

"olice - a lot of statements was made, but they ~~xxx~~ couldnt investigate further."

A stranger drowned.

There was also another similar accident in Alligator River. "A straanger ~~xxx~~ drwoned. Police gazetted all ~~xxxxxx~~ around a family to took part in the funeral." No family was found ~~xxxxxx~~ however. So people from Alligator Pond were called by the police to burry the body. "Them dug the sand, put him without ~~xxxxxx~~ the coffin, naked body covered with coconut leaves. A few weeks the river turn herself in the same position and took him out."

Interview with Crafton Rochester, Panton Rochester,
and Vernice Perkins.
30.6.48.
J.O.

I paid a visit to the house, which looked empty. This is an old house - ~~big~~ fairly big, but one room only. The roof looks delapidated and the house ~~has~~ looks as if inhabitable. There is no garden and no cultivations around the house. There was nobody in the house but I noticed somebody in the kitchen. Vernice Perkins was sitting behind the kitchen ~~feeding~~ nursing her 9 months old baby. Her 3 years old Olive was besides her: a bowl with some cooked food was on the ground, but the breakfast seemed to be over. In the kitchen I noticed Emmily Rochester - she was ~~making~~ busy at the kitchen fire. Crafton and Panton Rochester ~~xxxxxx~~ joined as a few whiles later - they were working near-by preparing stones to be taken by the Company truck.

Present household.

Rochester Crafton, head, 36.
Perkins Vernice, 26, his c.l.wife.
Rochester Phyllis, 5, their daughter.
Rochester Olive, 3, " "
Rochester Clinton, 9 months, their son.
Rochester Panton, 27, brother of Crafton.
Rochester Emily, 30, sister of Crafton and Panton.
Holness Mavis, 8, daughter of Emmily.

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Family history.

Crafton, Panton and Emmily are full brothers and sisters. Their father was Arnold Rochester, son of old Artur Rochester. Their mother ~~xxx~~ is Agnes Dyer. Their mother did not marry their father. She lives now in Ridge with one of the daughters. Their father died about one year ago after the death of their brother Walfred. For other particulars of their family history see: Family Record of their mother, Agnes Dyer, No 123.

~~Crafton~~ ~~xxxx~~ started to live with Vernice Perkins in 1940 but only after the death of his father he took her to his home. Before that he was along with another woman - she was Vernice Powell from Comma Pen. He had a daughter with Vernice Powell. She stayed with the mother. Vernice Powell after she had child for him married another man - a Cane, also in Comma Pen. His daughter is now about 15.

~~Vernice Perkins~~ is daughter of Eli Perkins and Ethel Perkins. Her family live in Thatch Walk. For further particulars see Fam. ~~his~~ Rec. 11.

Panton is not married. Has no girl friend.

Emmily Rochester, Panton's and Crafton's ~~sister~~ sister,

is single. She had two children: one for Eustace ~~Christophers~~ ~~Christophers~~ Elliott, son of Alice Heath in Thatch Walk. The boy, Lester, who is now ab. 18 years old, stays with his grandmother. Another child, Mavis Holness, 8 years old, stays with the mother. Mavis is not sent to school. Her father is Kennedy Holness, favourite son of Theodore Holness in Ribbit Town.

Conversation was rather difficult. Crafton is known as "slow in speech", besides both brothers hurried to return to their work at stones. Factory is collecting now stones to build new buildings. They pay 8/- for a truck load. Everybody regards it as a good bargain and so all Bottom Savannah was busy with breaking, carrying, heaping and loading stones on the ~~the~~ truck which was coming to their place now and again.

Panton and Crafton are cultivators. They do not work for anybody else and don't practice any special trade. Their homestead is very poor. There is no tank at their yard and they get water from their neighbours, chiefly from Uncle Moses. 3 mangoes are all their fruit trees. Their cultivations last year: 3000 holes of tomatoes, £30. 36 yam hills, Cassava ab. 1 acre. 1/4 ac. corn. Some sweet potatoes. 1 sheep.

Their land: 1,5 acre homeland around the house. This they inherited from their father, who again got it from his father Arthur. All the land ar und belonged to Rochesters and they are surrounded by other Rochesters, their relatives.

They have also 4,75 acres in Duff House - inherited from their father. Their cultivations are both here and in Duff House. This was said to explain to me why there are so few cultivations around the house.

Their plans. Both Crafton and Panton told me that they plan in near future to build separate house for themselves. Crafton is going to build his house in Duff House - the place they call "ruinate", where other people from B.B.S. move now. Panton plans to build his house nearby on the old homeland. This is the reason why they do not repair the old house. This house with ~~the~~ a portion of land around it will be left to Emmily who will live her alone. As she is rather incapable / "not so collective" / they will support her anyhow.

Herbert Moses Elliott's commentary. I asked Uncle Moses on my way back about this family. ~~Crafton and Panton~~ Both brothers - according to Uncle Moses - are poor cultivators. Wilfred, who was drowned last year, was the only one that knew how to work. He was chief support to the family. Panton and Crafton are no good. Their plans of building new houses for themselves are known to their neighbours. Crafton is building new house already for 7 years. It was seven years ago that he bought lumber for this purpose. Panton only plans, but does nothing about building his new home.

Information from Leo Powell.
 Interv. Crafton Rochester and Vernice Perkins.
 15.6.48.
 J.O. 27.8.48.

Present household.

Rochester Crafton, 36.
 Perkins Vernice, 26, c.l. wife.
 Rochester Panton, Crafton's brother, 26.
 Rochester Emily, sister, 30.
 Holness Mavis, Emily's daughter, 8.
 Rochester Phyllis, Crafton's and Vernice's dau., 5.
 " Olive, " " " " 3.
 " Clinton, " " " " son, 9 months.

Rochester Crafton - son of Arnold ~~xxxxxxx~~ Rochester /d/ and Agnes Dyer /Ridge/. His brothers and sisters: Panton /living with him/; Wilfred /d/; Delsie Rochester, B.S.; Curdell Rochester /Ridge/; Ruby Rochester, Marlie Hill; Emily Rochester /living with him/; one half sister through mother is Merry Stephenson.
Vernice Perkins is daughter of Eli and Ethel Perkins in Thatch Walk. See F.R. 11. They are in friendship from 1940.

Crafton went to U.S.A. in 1944. From his savings: "buy rum and give woman."
 House: 2 rooms, thatch roof, ~~xxxxxxx~~ 1 kitchen wattled.
 Furn. 2 beds, 1 table. No tank.
 Land: 6,25 acres in 2 parcels. 4,75 in Duff House, 1,25 homeland. 1,5 cult., 1 ac. in g.grass, 3,75 in woods.
 Trees: 2 robins, 1 common magpie.
 Tomatoes: 4000, £30. 46 yam hills. 1 ac. cassava, 1/4 ac. corn, 1 sq. chain sw. potatoes.
 1 sheep.
 Spendings weekly: 25/-. Last year on clothes: £12.
 Crafton is Jeh. Witn., ~~xxxxxxx~~ and so Vernice. Panton - Bible Church of God.