

C.D. 22. Sbd. 14. Household 8.

Gordon Harold	Head	M.Cl.35.	St.El.	Black.	Angl.	Ill.	Farme
Rochester Zala	Wife	F.Cl.35.8.6.	,,	Color.	,,	W.3.	Homema
Lee Elsa	StDau	F.S. 11.	,,	,,	,,	W.3.	3E.
Gordon Bula	Dau	F.S. 7.	,,	,,	,,	21.	4E.
,, Vernon	Son	M.S. 4.	,,	,,	,,		
m ,, Aldafane	Dau	F.S. 2.	,,	,,	,,		

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Their farm 1942.

Opreates the land occupied for 6 years. as owner or part owner.

Owms 7,5 acres of land in 2 parcels, 1/2 and 7 ac. resp.

Chief produce: tomatoes.

Employs no labour. Worked 39 weeks, 6 days per week, 9 hours per day.

Total land: 7,5 ac. In cultivation: 2 ac. Cultivable but not cultivated: 3,25 ac. Exclusively for pasture: 2 ac. 1,5 ac. in Guinea grass, 0,5 ac. in common grass. 0,25 ac. - "other land."

Value of the farm: L56. Buildings: L20.

No mortgage.

1 catchment.

Cultivations: Cabbages 1/10 ac. - 300 heads.

Tomatoes 2/10 ac. - 600 lbs.

2 avocadoes. L breadfruit. 3 mangoes.

8 pawpaws. /225 no./.

Congo 1/2 ac. - 2 bushels.

Cassava 1 ac. - 300 lbs. Yams/yellow/ 2/10 ac. - 400 lbs.

Tobacco - 1/2 ac. - 180 lbs.

Stock: 1 donkey. 2 sheep. 1 swine. 3 hens /16 doz. prod., 8 doz. sold lshilling per doz./.

*James p. 8 p. 3*



Tuesday .  
9. 3. 48.  
D. B.

Interview with Mervis Lee. *~ Bula Gordon.*

Present Household.

Harold Gordon - Head  
Zala Gordon - Wife  
Mervis Lee - Dau. to Zala.  
Beulah Gordon - Dau.  
Vernon Gordon - Son.  
Celia Gordon - Dau.  
Artica Rochester - Dau. to Mervis.

Family History.

Mervis' mother was born at Green Olive. Her grand parents were born there too. They were Ann Rochester - ~~the~~ grand mother and Elick Rochester her grand father. Mervis' great grand parents came from Old Top. Near enough to Green Olive. Mervis' father came from St. Thomas. Zala Gordon (nee Rochester) met him while she was in Cuba. "Me father perhaps would marry me ~~mother~~, but he died after he came from Cuba. Me dont ~~know~~ know him at all, he died before I could remember", Mervis says.

"Me father's parents sen' fe me sister Elsa Lee and meself when me father die but me mother wouldnt sen' us. Prefer to stay with me mother. Elsa is not living here. She is staying at with my grand mother, Ann Rochester. Elsa is going to have a baby, that's why she leaves here. For me mother quarrel'pon her."

At this stage Alice Heath says she would like to know what all this questioning is about? She Alice will not answer one till she gets to know that. She was at Mervis' yard cooking for the men at the factory working. Alice will answer any question at her own yard.

Mervis has a child for Micheal Rochester - Artica by name. Mervis and Micheal are not on speaking terms. ~~She Mervis says that~~ Micheal did not treat her good when she had the baby. He left her and went to take another woman. He does not treat Mervis good only "take care of the baby." Mervis says she dont want to have a talking with Micheal. "Any time Micheal is to give any thing to the baby he give it to another person to give me." ~~Mervis says.~~

Mervis was very busy helping to prepare the lunch for the people at the factory. She asked to be excused and Beulah Gordon, Mervis' ~~sax~~sister, who is very brilliant gave the necessary information. Beulah goes to school. She is in 5th standard. Appears to be quite intelligent. Beulah's father Harold Gordon is from Junction.

*Bula Gordon -  
talk with her.*



"Daddy's parents are from Junction . They were born there " Beulah says . " My grandmother's name is Elizabeth Gordon , and Grandfather's Checheman Gordon They come to visit us sometimes , and we go to visit them too ."

Vernon the son to Harold and Zala is sick. He rolls on the ground , with feet in the air. He scartches himself all over . and acts x stupidly ." He was born like that"- Beulah says. He has been to the Doctor . "His nerve is too young " Doctor says."

Occupation .

" Mama has a machine and used to do dressinx making but it never pay her so well. The people are too poor . They cant find the money to pay for work. If you sew a dress it would take about three or four months before it can be paid for . So mother gave it up ~~and is working at the Soup Kitchen at School~~ and is working at the Soup Kitchen at School " .

Father is a cultivator , and is employed at the factory to help to look after the tomatoes. He gets 4/- per day , it pays him very well. " Daddy employs people to work for him , in his cultivation. He plants cassava , potato, tomato, corn, peas , cabbage callalu, yam and tobacco. Daddy sells the tomato to the factory , some of the other things ~~are~~ sold too and some for the home use . Daddy has only a donkey."

Land.

"The land we live on belongs to Daddy. Its about 2 acres at home , 7 acres in the woods, one in Long acre far down the bottom to go to Little Pedro, and 4 at Junction. Father bought land from Clarice Rochester. Dont how he paid for it. His parents gave him the portion at Junction ."

Rpligion.

There are plenty churches in the district. Seventh Day Adventist, Anglican, Millenium and others . Beulah and her family go to the Adventist church. "Dont know which is the strongest , because many of the members "leave" from the Anglican and gone to join the other churches."

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V know



7.4.48.

T.O.

Informant: Sydney Rochester.

Zala - the wife of Harold Gordon - is the sister of Sydney Rochester. Zala's mother is Ann Josephine nee Francis, primo voto Rochester secundo voto Neil. Zala's father - Alexander Rochester died about 17 years ago.

Harold Gordon is from Junction. He used to live in the house where Reginnald Rochester lives now. When Reg. Rochester came back to Bull Savannah after many years of absence, Gordon built a house for himself on the land he bought from Eglon Rochester. It was in 1942. Gordon started first to build on his land in Junction, but he pulled down the unfinished house and built in Bull Savannah.

Gordon has land in Junction "at the Government settlement in the woodlands" and in Bull Savannah.

"Zala - she marry in 1946. Cecil, my brother, my uncle and Zala - they all marry the same day. It was in July and I went to the States in April. So I wasn't here."

Zala has 6 brothers: 5 in Bull Savannah and 1 in Kingston, and 3 sisters - all three in Kingston.



Friday .  
9. 7. 48.  
D. B.

Interviewed Zala Gordon

The House & other buildings

It is made of spanish wall with roof of zinc . There are two rooms , in each room there is a bed . In the room that is used as a the hall , for furniture, there is ~~scarcely~~ scarcely any to be found . There are two tables , one with a few glass wares , the other with a lamp . There are about ~~four~~ three chairs , and a few pictures on the wall. Mervis was busy sewing in the x hall . A full view of the other room could not be seen , except when glancing in the bed was seen.

The kitchen is not very substantial . It is surrounded chiefly with coconut leaves . There is another building close to the x kitchen , that is used as an ~~outhouse~~ outhouse to wash in, or to ~~put~~ store things in . The latrine too is surrounded with coconut leaves , and is some what offensive , as it is a not a sanitary one .

Occupation

Zala sews sometimes , "but work is very scarce now " . She works at the "soup kitchen now , she has been working there for the last five months . She is paid 10/- per week . She works up to lunch time and then she gets off and "can do any thing else " at home . She does not find it very hard , except when there are plenty children to provide for . Her husband cultivates at home and in the woods . His chief crop is tomato , while the other things such as cassava , peas . yam and potato are for his home use . Now and then he sells a little of his cassava . She could not give an estimate of what her husband plants.

Family History

Ann Rochester her mother alive

Alexander Rochester her father dead

Her mother married again Joshua Kneale

Arthur Rochester her father's father  
Sarah Rochester her father's mother

Nathaneal Francis her mother's father  
Jane Francis her mother's mother

Her mother's children

Her mother has ten children , three sisters ~~and~~ and one brother in ingston , one brother at New Forest and the others live in Bull Savannah .

Her children

Mervis and Elsa Lee are the children of Norman Lee whom



~~SHE-M~~  
she met in Cuba . Norman came from St Thomas , he is dead now . Her other children are for her husband .

Cuba

Her aunt Elsa Johnson , her mother's sister sent for her in Cuba . She spent five years there during which time she worked cooking for men who used to ~~work~~ work in the fields. She used to make plenty money , "but me had to spend so as me make it". She had to pay £2. per month for rent , and to "keep me self it take plenty money". At first she used to ~~live~~ with her aunt , but after wards she went to live by herself . She did not live with Norman in Cuba . It was no special/why she and her aunt parted . They used to live very near to one another after they ~~parted~~ parted . She used to be in Elio in Cuba . Her aunt Elsa is dead now

share house/  
reason /

She came home from Cuba , because Cuba got hard and there was nothing to do.

Her husband

After she came home she met Harold Gordon and they became friends . At that time Harold was living at Junction , then he left Junction and came to Bull Savannah to live. She and Harold lived together at her mother's house at Green Olive . Later on Harold built a house on a piece of land he bought from John Rochester . The portion is 1 3/4 acres . They went to live at the house after it was finished . They were married about five years ago . Her husband's parents are , Lizzie Gordon and Charles Gordon . Both mother and father are alive .

Mervis

She does dress making for a living . Work is scarce now , yet she gets a few jobs all the time . She sews an ordinary dress for 3/- or 4/- and a silk one for about 5 - . When the crop is on she cooks and sells lunches to the people who works at the factory . She sells at 6d or 9d. per plate. Her child Artica is still supported by the father .

Elsa Lee

Zala's second daughter is not living at her mother's house . She is living at Jane Brown's house , she has to pay 2/- per week for the house . Elsa has a baby for Douris Roy, and that is why she had to leave her mother's house . "When she fall Mr Gordon no did like it , him vex with her , for him no did want them fe go have any children in that kind a way so him wouldnt put up with her fe stay in the house " . Gordon was displeased when Mervis got pregnant and had her first child too " , but him get back please with Mervis now " so that is why Mervis is still there , "Him may get back please with Elsa too " .

Beulah

She is going to school , reading in the fifth standard . Her mother may send her to Kingston to stay with one of her



aunts , her mother's sisters , "but me dont know what her father gwine want her fe x do yet . When she finish a school we wi' have fe decide wha' to put her to ". Beulah helps at home when she does not go to school , and Mervis is teaching her to sew , "but she won' sew neat " .

Aldafane

She goes to school , and Celia and Artica Rochester are very small and stay at home . Vernon is still sick , without a hope of getting better .

Behaviour of the children and what they are thought

on/ During the time spent there the children were all in a gay mood . They climbed in the mother s lap , they hid behind the doors . They jumped on the bed , and climbed/~~XXXXX~~ the chair , and ~~XXXX~~ crawled under the chair & I was sitting on to get from one side of the house to the other . To get them to stay still the mother sent them outside , but by the time they were out they were in again .

Not succeeding in keepingh them quiet by sending them out, she played with them x for a little while . That also failed , she x playfully hit them , but that made them more gay , as they took it for a joke.

When they are naughty the mother or the father chastises, chiefly the mother, Father talks more than he flogs . The ~~XXXXX~~ father and the mother take active part in teaching the children good manners , "them head hard and sometimes them won' take it " . Mervis does her little bit of teaching , she teaches the smaller ones their prayers .

The children are thought to use the "chimney" from they are two years old . Aldafane can wash herself up , but Celia cannot do it by herself . Her mother has to help her ,



Information Supplied by Lilian Powell  
who interv. Harold Gordon and Zala  
on 17.6.48.  
J.O. 12.6.48.

Present household.

Gordon Harold, 46.  
Gordon Zala, wife, 42.  
Lee Murvis, daughter to Zala, 20.  
Gordon Beulah, daughter to Harold and Zala, 12.  
Gordon Vernon, son " " " " 9.  
Godron Adelphene. dau. " " " " 8.  
Gordon Cella " " " " 6.  
Rochester Arteca, daughter to Murvis, 2.

Parentage.

Harold Gordon : father Charles Gordon, Junction, mother Elizabeth Gordon, Junction. He has two brothers and four sisters by his parents: Boy and Stafford Gordons live ~~xxx~~ in Junction; Dorcas Gordon /Mandeville/, Edith Gordon /junction/, Minna Edwards /Ridge/, Bell Barrett /Mandeville/.

Zala Gordon. Father: Alexander Rochester/dead/ and mother Ann Rochester /I voto/, Neil /II voto/. Her bro- / and Cecilthers: Sydney, Charlie, Bradley and Arthur/live in Green Olive, where also her mother is living now; Ishmale - in Kingston. 3 sisters: Curdell Plummer /in Kingston/, Estella Jakes /Kingston/, Rebecca Rochester /Kingston/. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Zala went to Cuba where she stayed from 1925 to 1931. Her first c.l. husband was Normann Lee from St.Thomas. She had two children for him: Murvis Lee living with her in her present home, and Elsa Lee who is ~~xxxxxx~~ living at Jane Brown's ~~xxx~~ home. She had also one boy for Canova Rochester, son of Nicholas Rochester and Margaret Rochester in Green Olive. Her son Lodrick Rochester lives in his own house on his fathers land.

For Harold Gordon, whom she married, she had 4 children, all all stying with the parents.

Murvis Lee. Murvis Lee has one child for Michael Rochester, son of Aaron Rochester in B.B.S. The child ~~xxxxxxx~~ Arteca Rochester is with the mother.

House, land, farming. This is 2 rooms house. 1 kitchen, 1 latrine, 1 fowl cub. Furniture: 2 beds, 3 chairs, 2 tables, 1 sewing mac ine. 4 persons in each room. There was no water tank previously, it is being made now.

Land: owned by Harold Gordon 8 acres in 2 plots; 1 acre homeland bought from Eglon Rochester, 7 acres woodland in Duff House bought from Land Settlement 1940.

Trees: 3 mangos, 2 coconuts, 1 pear, 1 breadfruit.  
Cultivations: 100 hills yams, 1/2 acre cassava, 1/2 acre congo. No tomatoes now.

1940

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Animals: 1 pig, 1 donkey, 1 cat.

Occupations: Harold Gordon is a cultivator. His wife -  
housewife at home. Murvis Lee - dressmaker, earns ab. 5/-  
weekly from dressmaking.

They estimate their weekly spendings at 30/-. Spent ab. 214  
for the past year for clothing for all the household.

School: Murvis Lee left school at 5th standard. Bulah  
Gordon is in school - 5th stand. now. Adelphene is in the  
1st stand. Vernon stay at home - he is crippled.