

Bull Savannah Proper.
Burdie Powell. 4.
Interviewed Burdie Powell and Lillian Powell
12.6.48.
L.P.

Present Household.:

							Housewife
Bowell Burdie	head.	W. 60	4.4.L.	Bal.V.	J.W.	RW 4E.	/
Powell Lillian	daught,	S. 28	Ø.	B.S.P	J.W.	RW 6E /	dressmaker

Short family history of Burdie Powell.

Parents

Burdie's father was David Elliott and her mother Lydia Elliott. They lived in Ballards Valley and Burdie was brought up there. Her parents were lawfully married. She had no half-siblings. Her full 4 brothers and sisters are: Michael Elliott - lives in Ballards Valley; Emelin Elliott - lives in Ballards Valley; Alice Elliott in Spaldings and Martha Bolt in Spaldings.

Brothers & sisters.

Husband

She married Ellis Powell the eldest/son of George Powell of Bull Savannah. Ellis died a few years ago.

Children.

Burdie had 4 legal children with Ellis: James, Joseph, Lillian and Leslie.
James married Rose, the daughter of Michael Powell. They live in a house next to the old parent's home.
Joseph married Bertha Holness from Prospect.
Leslie married the sister of Bertha (his brothers wife)
Lillian did not marry and lives at present with her mother.

Lillian Powell.

Parents: see above. 3 full brothers (see above)
Family relationship is maintained with all the brothers.

Emigration and travels.

Joseph Powell went twice to USA in 1943 and 1944. He brought savings for which he built his home and married.

Housing.

The household occupies a two-room house and kitchen.
Furniture: 1 bed, 4, chairs, 2 tables, 1 washstand, 1 sewing machine, 1 gramophone,
1 tank; 1 latrine.

Land.

Burdie Powell owns 8 acres of land in two lots: 3 acres in Bull Savannah Proper and 5 acres in the woodlands. The land was all bought, none inherited.

Economic Trees.

8 Mangoes, 3 coconuts, 4 pears, 30 thatch.

Cultivations:

2 acres of guinea grass,
Tomatoes: 130 holes, net £ 7.
Yams: 20 hills Mosella, 10 affoo, 15 Japanese,
Coco: 20 hills.
Cassava - 1 acre. Corn 1/2 acre, red peas 3/4 acre,
All above except tomatoes for own use.

Live animals.

2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 laying hens, 10 chickens 1 dog.

Trades & occupations.

Lilian Powell does dressmaking; works at the factory during the season. Earned for 3 months £ 10.

Expenditure and cost of living.

Food
Clothes
Books
Travels.

Weekly expenditure for fish, meat and groceries 20/
For clothes Lilian spent for the last year £15 (dresses, shoes and hat) Burdie Powell £ 8 for the same period.
Lilian Powell ~~expended~~ spent for the last year 15/- for books from Watch Tower, Bible and Tract Society.
Lilian Powell spent £3 for travelling to Jehovah Witness Conventions.

Savings.

Burdie and Lilian Powell saved during the last year £ 15.

Religion

Both Burdie and Lilian are Jehovah Witness.

Public function.

Nobody holds any public dignities etc.

C.D. 22. Sbd. 12. Household 11.

Powell Ellis	Head	M.M.65.		St.El.	Col.	Jeh.W.	W.2.	Farmer
„ Ada	Wife	F.M.59.	4.4.	„	„	„	W.2.	Homemaker
„ Aubrey	GrSon	M.S. 9.		„	„	„	W.1.4E.	
„ Eulah	GrDau	F.S.15.		„	„	„	W.3.4E.	
„ Vinell	GrSon	M.S. 6.		„	„	„		

5

His farm 1942.

8 acres
p 2.

Operates this farmland as owner for 39 years
Owns 2½ acres in one parcel.
No labour employed.
works 45 weeks p.a. 5 days p.w. 7 hours p.d.
tomatoes main source of income.
2 acres in cultivation
½ ac. in guinea grass.
~~Value~~ Total value of farm £ 40
value of buildings £30
1 catchment.

Cultivations: tomatoes 0.2 ac= 1.500 lbs.
½ ac. congo peas= 2½ bushels
0.4 cassava=300 lbs, 0.3 sweet cassava= 200 lbs
0.3 yams= 300 lbs
5 goats, 2 swine 5 hens=6 doz, eggs.

Interview with D. Simpson & Por, Rochester

23.3.48

J.O.

ate Powell Ellis.

Powell Ellis is son of George Powell. He died a couple of years ago. He was "the first son of George Powell."

Bardie Powell, his wife.

His wife "Birdie" Powell is still alive. She is living in old house on the land which Ellis Powell got from his father /George Powell/.

~~That's children~~
Their children.

Ellis and "Birdie" /she figures in the Census under the name of Ada Powell/ had only four children: James, Joseph, Lilian and Leslie.

Leslie Powell.

1. Leslie Powell - "him marry and living now in Prospect. The girl is from Prospect too.

James Powell.

2. James Powell lives just besides his mother's place. He owns the shop. "Living just over there, right at the shop." Him marry a girl from Bull Savannah - Michael Powell daughter, Rose Powell. He got his land from his father Ellis Powell.

Joseph Powell.

3. Joseph Powell. "Him marry a girl from Prospect - Bertha Holness."

Lilian Powell.

4. Lilian Powell - "she living in the home right now, she dont marry."

Story of Leslie Powell and Joseph Powell and their wives from Prospect.

Leslie Powell was the first who went to Prospect and found a wife ~~there~~ there. He was followed by his brother, ~~the~~ Joseph Powell, who married his wife's sister.

"Leslie Powell was clerking in a shop for Arnold Sinclair. in Propsect. Him met the girl down there and him marry. And after Leslie leave the shop, Joseph was working in the same shop for Arnold Sinclair. He met now Leslie Powell's ~~wife~~ wife's sister. So that two brother marry to two sieter."

"Arnold Sinclair - him die now." ~~Arnold Sinclair~~ He was murdered by his ~~servant~~ servant. "Arnold Sinclair having a servant boy that sleeping with him, the boy knew that him have a little money. And one night that Sinclair was gone to bed, the go and call him and just as him come to the door the boy fetch him a blow and he fall to the ground. And him went in and pan him with a dagger knife and cut him throat. And took away all his money. And hide him out - took a bus and went to Kingston. Well, detective pick him right of the bus and carry him back to Prospect where ~~he~~ do his job. And lock him up. Him try in circuit and hang. The name of this boy was Eustace Whitley from Prospect. Young boy - over 20. Hit him a blow with iron and after him fell, cut him throat and pan him over with a dagger."

"Arnold Sinclair - him was a good man. Father to all, trying to help everybody, give him a start and a foot. Him never worry with the woman, never keep a girl friend. Only boy friend. His boy friend was the same boy. X That was the end."

Grandchildren of
the house.
Eulah Powell.

Eulah Powell who is found in Census Sch. 1943 as living in the household is daughter of Leslie Powell. "Leslie Powell daughter from his wife from Prospect. She living in Prospect now" with her parents.

Aubrey and Vinell.

Aubrey and Vinell Powells are James Powell's children by Eva Dyer. "Eva Dyer was their ~~father's~~ mother - the girl he was along with before he marry Rose Powell. ~~xxxxxx~~ He got these children before he marry." Eva Dyer ~~was~~ is Bradley Dyer's ~~xxxx~~ sister.

F. R. 107

Visit at home, interv. Burdie and Lilian Powell
20.7.48..
T.O.

I went many times to this house during the few last weeks and found it always empty. To-day Mrs. Burdie - as she is called - was in the next house that of her son James. Seeing me coming she came quickly. She is a small thin woman cheerful and kind and ~~rusty~~ makes the impression of a little sparrow.

She told me she has been away for two weeks visiting her oldest son Leslie who lives in Logwood. His wife was sick and Burdie went to stay there to help with the children and housework. She hasn't many responsibilities in her own home as she lives only with her daughter Lilian.

Present household:

Burdie Powell	widow	60
Lilian	dau	28

Burdie Powell is from Ballards Valley. She told me that over 40 years ago Ballards Valley was a place much livelier than Bull Savannah. People from Bull Savannah used to go there to shop, to church, to dances and races. Ellis Powell came to Ballards Valley to do some business and it is how they met first. Burdie had two sisters and two brothers. The brothers stayed on the family land in Ballards Valley, the sisters went to live in Spaldings. One sister and one brother were dumb. "It run in the family"

Burdie says that when she came first to Bull-Savannah to live "This place was dark, only this road" (parochial to Shaddock Hill) The house was built by her husband at the time they married.

The coconut palms round the house ~~they~~ were planted "for the children" - each child got its tree which was planted by the father at the time of its birth.

Burdie and Ellis had only 4 children. All the three sons are married. James and Joseph live nearby on the paternal land with their families. Leslie - the eldest who is now 40 - married in Logwood where he bought land. The only daughter Lilian lives at present with the mother. Lilian spent a couple of years in Kingston where she worked also also learned dress making. I met Lilian on many occasions. She is a very intelligent and sensible young woman. She tries now to go to the States with the help of her aunt Nicola Samuda who has a hotel in Boston. She applied for a visa saying that she wants to study there dress designing. Owing to immigration restrictions it is not easy to get somebody as "family" but students of all kinds are granted visas easier. I have never heard about any children of Lilian. Mrs. Burdie told me "she don't marry but she don't worry about husband".

Land and means of subsistence.

The land left by Burdie's husband Ellis Powell consists of 8 acres. Part of it was from Ellis' father George Powell and part bought from Charles Holness. This land is not yet divided among the children. Joseph and James work the land jointly. They work also the part which eventually will belong to Leslie, who doesn't however ~~any~~ get anything from this land, as that portion goes to the up-keep of the mother. Lillian doesn't work on the land.

The "food" is supplied by James and Joseph and also occasional cash. Leslie gives also a few shillings from time to time. Lillian earns money by ~~xxx~~ sewing, ~~working~~ ~~xxxx~~ she keeps also poultry the white Leghorn which hatched from eggs given her by her cousin Vincent Powell.

The two women cook separately in their kitchen. ~~xxx~~ When Lillian goes to America one of the children of James will stay with Burdie -(i.e. sleep at night) to "keep company".

The house

It is a two-room house kept in good condition. From what I could see from the door way where we stood talking the furniture is simple but also in good condition. The mother and daughter share one bed. Between the house and the kitchen there is a sort of table-rack in the open where pans and plates dry after being washed. Near the kitchen there is a small "Hen house" made of sticks. A big bush with pink flowers grows near the house. Mrs. Burdie says it started to grow when the house was being built and nobody knew who planted it. She likes the flowers "Like to look at it."

Mrs. Burdie complained about her eyes. They are growing weak and look like swimming in water. Nothing is done about it as everybody considers it is an old age ailment.

When we were parting Mrs. Burdie did something which astonished me greatly and what happened only this single time during all my stay in Jamaica. We shook hands and then she tried to kiss my hand. She didn't do it in any servile way; all the time we were talking freely and she knows we are good friend with her daughter and her sons. Neither there was the slightest suspicion of begging on her part. He is a simple cheerful soul and perhaps it was a habit she had in her very young days when dealing with white people. I do not know. Of course I prevented her from doing it and we kissed each other on the cheeks. He is a dear old soul and after meeting her I could see her influence upon her two sons who also ~~xxx~~ seem not to have any arriere pensee and have this "lovingly" attitude which I ascribed formerly to their intensive religious life. However I am rather inclined to think now it was the home influence, as not all the members of ~~xxxxxx~~ the congregation of which they are chief members (Jehovah Witness) display the same character.

Inform. B Lillian Powell.
12.6.48
J.O. 20.8.48.

Present household:

Burdie Powell, 60, widow.
Lillian Powell, daughter, 28.

Burdie Powell: father David Elliott, mother Lydia Elliott, in Ballard's Valley. She has 4 full brothers and sisters: Michael Elliott and Emeline Elliott are in Ballard's Valley, Alice Elliott and Martha Bolt - in Spaldings.

Her husband, Ellis Elliott, was son ~~son~~ of George Powell. She had 4 children with him, all alive. Lillian is staying with her, James and Joseph live in their own homes in B. S. close to their mother's place, Leslie Powell is in Logwood.

Lillian is unmarried, has no children.

Land, house, farming.

House: 2 rooms. Kitchen. Latrine. 1 tank. Furniture: 1 bed, 4 chairs, 2 tables, 1 washstand, 1 sewing machine, 1 gramophone.

Land owned by Burdie Powell: 8 acres in 2 lots. 3 acres in homeland, 5 acres woodland. Homeland was bought from George Powell, her husband's father. Woodland was bought from Charles Holness.

Trees: 8 mango trees, 3 coconuts, 4 pears, 50 thatch, 2 acres g. grass.

Tomatoes: 150 holes, L7. 45 yam hills. 20 cocoes. ~~XXXXXXXX~~
0,5 acre cassava. 0,5 ac. congo. 3/4 ac. red peas. For own use only.

Stock: 2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 hens, 6 chicken, 1 dog.

Occupations: Lillian does dressmaking. In the season she works at the factory. Earned during 3 months this year L10.

Spending. 20/- weekly for meat, fish, groceries. Lillian spent L15 for dresses, shoes, hat for the past year. Her mother spent ab. L8.

Books: Lillian spent 15/- in the last year on books from Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. Spent L3 on travelling to Jehovah Witness conventions.

Savings: they saved ab. L15 for the past year.

Religion: both active in Jeh. With.

Education: Burdie Powell read till 4th stand. Lillian left school in 6th stand.