

Visit at home. Interv. Icy Simpson
22.6.48.
T.O.

Panton Simpson who used to live at the time of the census with his father Robert Simpson (Fam.Rec. 39) and Icy who used to live with the 5 children in her mother's home (Powell Ellen F.R. 134) live now together.

Present Household:

Simpson	Panton (Maury)	head	M.M.	36	B.Sav. Ang.	cultivator
"	Icy	wife		30 9.9.	"	housewife
"	Lodrick	son		15	"	cult.
"	Eukel	son		12	"	
"	Holito	son		11	"	at school
"	Lilian	dau		8	"	at school
"	Elsie	dau		7	"	
"	Aaron	son		4	"	
"	Errol	son		3	"	
"	Caswell	son		2	"	
"	Eniver	son		8/12	"	

The house is situated just below the house of Robert Simpson Panton's father. It is one of the poorest home I have seen in Bull-Sav. Under the thatch roof there is one part with walls - this is the only room where the family lives. The other part has no walls - this is the kitchen. The room is tiny. There are two beds made of rough boards. In the corner a barrel on ~~which~~ it two tomato boxes with family belongings. A few garnemnts hang on one wall. Under the beds a lot of rags. The floor is shiny and spotless.

I came at about 11 a.m. They just have had their breakfast. ~~icyvmsxnxnx~~ Everybody was in the kitchen. Icy was nursing her youngest son Eniver. In a corner Ida Simpson her niece (who stays with the old Simpsons) was shelling french beans. Her baby son was crying on the floor, a horde of children - some of Icy's and some of her brothers in law - swarmed in the moment I came. 12 - to 15 children were round us during the whole interview. They were showing off for my benefit. I gave to the eldest girl a shilling telling her to take the children to the shop and buy sweets. Icy told me that it would help much better if I gave her the shilling. So I gave the shilling to Icy and gave the children 3 d. to go for the sweets. They all went leaving only those who couldn't walk, but in 5 minutes were back. Icy took the swets and distributed them among the children, keeping a few back for those who were not at home. Each child got one. Then they started to fight and pull the sweets from each other mouth. The older children would take sweets from the younger and give it to the dog to leak - to tease the young ones who would yell on top of their voices. Then three small boys climbed the rack under which I was sitting and started to beat a tattoo with their feet on my head. Here Icy interferred

saying it is rude. Then they took the silver paper from an empty cigarette box which I threw and made "silver teeth" with it. The smaller ones were imitating the older. I was afraid they would swallow the paper and told so Icy, who started to extract the bits of paper from one of her son's mouth. The older children started to investigate into the mouths of the younger ones. It all finished with one child being sick, right in the middle of the kitchen. All this time Icy kept quiet, these children's tricks did not seem to ~~be~~ upset her in the least. She interfered only once when the boys kicked my head. "When the little girl was sick she got up slowly and wiped her face with the child's own dress. Icy asked her daughter Lillian to go and borrow a pot in which she wanted to start cook dinner. But Lillian refused saying the pot was too heavy. Elsie - the other small daughter, said the pot was bigger than Lillian. Finally Icy said she will go for the pot herself, as if the children break it she hasn't got the money to pay for it. Amid this children's paradise both Icy and myself had to shout to hear each other.

Icy's story . Icy is the daughter of Ellen Powell and David Simpson. "Him a dark man living overroad." Icy's mother and father were living together . But when Icy was 11 her mother left David Simpson's home and went to live in her old home with her old mother in law, but the old one died". Icy described vividly the parting of her parents: "Him (the mother) put all children before him and go and leave the home". Icy's father was a fisherman and he was that day at sea. "When him come him find the home empty". Here Icy giggled as if it were a good joke. Ellen Powell left the home of David because "him have a next woman, but them (David and Ellen) never quarrel, him (Ellen) leave the home and never go back". When David came from his fishing he followed his cl. wife and children and asked why she left the home "And begg him to come back, but him (the mother) say hm, hm (no, no)" Icy says that she and the other children were sorry they left the father's home. He was a good father and they loved them. "We all blame it on mumma, but him won't go back." All this happened about 19 years ago when Icy was 11, she remembers well that she was at the time 11, because since that time she didn't go any more to school. However all the children would "run up and down" between the father's and mother's houses, but they stayed with the mother. The father, after Ellen left him had three more children with "the other woman" (whose name I didn't get.) Nevertheless the father helps Icy even now, so does her mother. "A good mother and a good father". I asked how they help her. "If me don't have cassava and him have he give me and money too - if him have it." The mother "anything him have is mine, give me all I ask." Icy says her mother lives now alone (I don't think it is exact). Icy sees her every day as she lives quite near.

Icy had by the same mother and father the following siblings: Joslyn, Ida, Pooney and Marion Simpson, (It is not quite clear to me whether Pooney and Marion are the same person or two different.) By the same mother she has two half brothers: Herbert and Joseph Dyer. They are the sons of Algonan Dyer. Her mother had still another child: Ernest Powell, whose father was Emmanuel Powell. All these children were brought up together with the mother. The Simpson children for a time with both the mother and the father. Ernest Powell grew up with his mother. "Since him grew up he go to Many" (Emmanuel Powell his father

Icy went to school only "for a year or so", but even when she went to school she did not attend it regularly. I asked her what she was doing in her childhood. "In mother home and father home - up and down, do a little work ~~in~~ and running here all about." She seemed to have a childhood very much alike her own children. Without suggesting it I wanted to find out whether she considered her childhood hard and I put a few questions concerning her conditions in those days. But Icy ~~never~~ not once said it was hard. When she needed something and it wasn't in the mother's home she would go and try at her father's, or some relatives & neighbours. Its true she asked me to give her the shilling instead of giving it to the children, but not once she complained of her present conditions, which - compared with other people's in the district - were very poor. She was all the time in good humour, laughing often and easily.

Her children: "I have 6 children in my mother home" said Icy. She started to share the house with Panton only three years ago and since then she got 3 children more. Her first child was born when she was 15. This was Lodrick who is 15 years old now. I asked her how she met Panton. "He laughed "We all live together, run into this home and that home." I investigated further. Icy did not know Panton when she was at school. "Him much older, didn't look at me, don't know him at school". I asked when Panton did look at her. She laughed again. She first knew him when ~~she~~ her mother left David's home and they came to live in this neighbourhood. "Him much older." Icy said she didn't have any boy friend before "So me have the first child for him". (I couldn't grasp what was the inner logic of it) ~~but with the same ~~mother~~ Almost every year Icy had a new child coming. "When she was pregnant with the first child, she felt at the beginning very sick, couldn't eat. But after the first 4 months she felt better and could ~~work~~ work. The delivery was easy and all the subsequent deliveries and pregnancies were easy. Icy is proud of her health "Never go to the doctor once in my life."~~

Of all her children she loves most Lodrick. "I love them whole lot, but I love Lodrick the mostest because you have feeling for the first." Icy says that Lodrick, Eukel and Holito ~~help her a lot~~. When I asked in what they help her "Them carry water all the time." Lodrick worked at the packing house during the season that was "big help". Only Holito and Lilian go to school. She had to "stop from school" Eukel, couldn't afford it.

The land. Icy said they didn't have "really own land". ~~Aigmax~~ Panton was working on shares or renting land. Also the son Lodrick works "for people". Right now Panton was "in the woods". She expected him for dinner. This reminded her that it is about time to start cook the dinner and she asked to be excused as she has to go and borrow the pot. She was going to her sister in law the wife of Berrisford Simpson. She was sorry I haven't met all the family and asked me to come on a Sunday when "them all" will be at home. She also reminded me to put one of her son's name Errol and not "Many" as her mother-in-law told me. Icy thought it very funny that I should think the child's name was Many. She laughed a great deal about it.

I told her I would go with her as I intended to visit the house were David Simpson lived. On our way she told me a few things about David Simpson (which I include in his F.R.) "We call him here-Massa De' or Jim." Her father in law Robert Simpson is called here "Joint" because he is small.

We parted and she went to Berrisford's home while I went to David's home. Unfortunately all the children who could walk followed me. They carried also the 8 months baby whom they would pass ~~from~~ to each other. The baby yelled and I was afraid it will fall and get crippled for life - but it didn't.

Thursday .
8. 7. 48.
D. B.

Icilda Simpson Interviewed

Present house hold

Panton Simpson.	Head		(does not know age)
Icilda Simpson.	Wife c/1	30	(looks like 35)
Lenoard Simpson.	Son	15	
Entie who is			
Eucal Simpson.	Son	12	
Hulleto Simpson.	"	9	
Lydian Simpson.	Dau.	8	
Elsie Simpson.	"	6	
Erron Simpson.	Son	5	
Errol Simpson.	"	4	
Caswell Simpson.	"	2	
Ennevor Simpson.	"	7 months	

The house .

It has one room that has been completed , the family lives in that one room . The other room is surrounded with coconut leaves , and is used as kitchen . There is a fire place made in the kitchen , and a piece of board is arranged a few feet up to serve as a kind of table . A pot was on the fire place and a few plates scattered here and there in the kitchen . The kitchen has earthen floor .

The room that house the family is made of spanish wall , and the whole is thatched . There is a very large vine to the back of the house , and all around the house there is corn and gungo peas planted , all belonging to Icilda , and Panton .

Washing hair.

Icilda was busy washing Lydian's hair , she finished the hair then gave it a chance to dry , from the rays of the sun , and not using a rag . When she believed it was properly dried she started to comb the hair , after oiling it with either coconut or "engine oil". While combing, the baby was in her lap . Not finding it convenient with the baby in her lap , she shifted the baby to Lydian who was at this time weeping for the hair . The hair was being pulled by the mother to get it free from the tangle after washing .

Source of living .

Panton cultivates , "and me help him fe cultivate too, fa all the corn and peas that you'd dey look 'pon dey now a me and Lenoard and Eucal plant them . Me take machette and wedd up the place , and them help me dig the hole , and we plant the corn and peas". At that time Panton was sick and could not work . She cultivates a large escallion garden also . Panton plants sometimes 1/2 acre or more of tomato . He works on his father's land , but

does not pay rent to his father . They plant on the home land , on land x at Duff House , and on a place they call "Lease land". Panton's house is built on his father's land.

Family History .

Ellen Powell her mother alive

David Simpson her father alive

Her mother's children x* for David Simpson are :-

Icilda Simpson
Marion Simpson
Wilbert or
Jocelyn Simpson

Children for Lyndon Dyer :-

Joseph Dyer
Harbert Dyer

For "Manny Powell :-

Ernest Powell

Icilda's children :-

Lenord

Her first son Lenord has finished at school and is now at home . He helps his father with the cultivation , "and him out a road dey now dey bore rock stone . "hen the crop is on Lenord works at the factory carrying the tomatoes in boxes to the shed . "But him a 15 year now, him dey turn big man now , him caan do that any more . Fe carry the tomato in a box caan help him . "him have fe look fe plant himown tomato next year".

"Me hear that them dey get 1/6 a box fe the big stone but me no know how mush them get fe the little one ".
Eucal is stillin school , "but him no did go today , him mus'e out a the road to dey work pon the stone"~~tee~~ Eucal helps his father in the woods with the cultivzation when he does not go to school .

Hulleto and Lydian go to school , the others stay at home . Elsie will be starting out to school after the August x Holidays . She will be seven years then .

Her first boy friend .

Icilda's first boy friend was Panton . "But Mumma never know , for she never see we talk . A adv antage take a me make me have any pickney the time when me have

pickney . Mumma use to go a market a Mandeville . She leave Thursday , and no come back till Saturday evening . That time a only me and the other little pickney th them dey a yard . That time me mother did leave me father yard . Panton did live same place ya and him know when me mother f gone a market . When him know that the pickney them gone to bed , him come a me yard , "him never call me whan him come , only come in !"

"Him always ask me fe do it , but me tell him no fa me mother wi' know , so him mark the first night when Mumma gone fe ~~an~~ market and him come . Me try fe fight gainst him , but me couldnt manage him far him stronger 'an me . Him tell me that one a we fe have dead left the other fa him na go without him get it . So him over power me and get it . Him always come and stay with me after that , but no every ~~right~~ week , and every time him come him do it".

"All that time me dey fret that me mother gwine know . Me find out that some thing happen to me , but all that time me mother ~~is~~ no find out yet , for me wash me clothes every month same way , fe make Mumma no find out" Her mother did not find out that she was pregnant until she was in the sixth month . "Mumma start fe quarrel and cuss , and drive me way from the house . Me no know wha' fe do me gwine a bush and bawl . Me tell Panton that me mother find out and dey quarrel ".

Panton went to the mother and told her that it was he who had interfered with her and he would be responsible for her , so with that her mother stopped the quarrelling . Panton is the first man she had ~~an~~ intercourse with , "and from that me and him dey to gether . Me and no other man ~~axe~~ never have any dealing , and me no have no outside pickney , neither him . When we work plenty money we gwine married for the two a we make fe one another ."

a sexual /