

C.D. 22 Sbd. 12. Household 37.

Fam. Rec. 128.

										coop/	
Holness	Margaret	Head.	F.S.	33	1.1.	St. Eliz.	Col.	Angl.	W.3.	Gardener	
Perkins	Esmine	Niece	F.S.	25	2.2.	"	"	"	X	None	
Holness	Elsie	sister	F.S.	23	1.1.	"	"	"	X	None	
Perkins	Lucille	niece	F.S.	19	1.1.	"	"	"	X	None	
Shiletto	Mildred	dau.	F.S.	11		"	"	"	W.2.	4.E.	
Simpson	Lecine	gr.nephew	M.S.	5		"	"	"			
"	Lloyd	gr.nephew	M.S.	2		"	"	"			
Powell	Kenrick	nephew	M.S.	6		"	"	"			
Simpson	Harry	gr.nephew	M.S.	4/12		"	"	"			
Perkins	Vernon	nephew	M.S.	22		"	"	"	X	None	
Holness	Clarice	niece	F.S.	15		"	"	"	W.2.	None	

||

er farm in 1942.

Under one acre.  
 1 sine. 3 hens=2 doz. eggs.  
 Garden crop value=£10  
 1 ackee = 30 doz. 1 breadfruit= 3 doz.  
 3 mangoes= 160 doz. 2 naseberries=70 doz.

*2 3/4 acres ~~7/4~~ acres  
 see p 6.*

Inform. Dudley Simpson.  
13.3.48.  
J.O.

Esmine Perkins,  
Lucille Perkins,  
Clarice Roy -  
three sisters.

Esmine and Lucille Perkins who in 1943 stayed with their aunt Margaret Holness, left in the meantime their aunt's home. Together with ~~their~~ Clarice Roy, who is their sister by the same mother, but a different father, they live in a tiny ~~wattle and thatch hut~~ wattle and thatch hut in Overroad, ~~xxxxxxx~~ half way from the Bromfield's shop ~~and Ridge~~ to Ridge.

Their family history. Esmine and Lucille.

Esmine and Lucille are ~~sisters~~ full sisters - by the same mother and the same father. Their father was known in Bull Savannah as Lovedee Perkins - he was from Thatch Walk, from the Perkins family. ~~He~~ left the place "altogether" long ago. He "leave away" and when leaving said his family that he is going marketing. "Him went marketing and him never come back - until to-day. Long years ago." "Never come back."

Their mother "was Coolie Holness. She living in Content now, but she was living just beside Ribbit - Logwood we call the place. It was "him / \* her / father, Louis Holness place." Cecil Holness living right there now. She is now with a man in Content."

Clarice Roy.

The third girl is Clarice Roy. Unlike Lucille and Esmine she is pretty dark and ~~very~~ "goodlooking". She is the daughter of Coolie Holness by John Roy, son of Samuel Roy, living in Ridge.

Their childhood.

After Lovedee Perkins deserted his "sweetheart" Coolie Holness and his two daughters, both girls lived with her mother. Clarice Roy also stayed in the maternal home.

"Esmine and Lucille and Clarice stayed the old home until them come up to woman and disobeyed mother and them have pickney. From that nobody response ~~the~~ for them, them feed themself." "Them have to go as the progal and fend for themself."

Their home.

To-day "all of them living together. The land them live belong to them father. Them succeed and build a little cottage. I dont know how them can manage. But since them have got anything, them must do something to help themself. It is the girl Esmine who build a little hut."

Their children and fathers of their children.

None of them married, but "three of them have children."

Esmine and  
her children.  
Their fathers.

"Esmine have around four children. Three by one ~~fx~~ father and one by that old boy Stanford Sinclair." Stanford Sinclair is an albinos nicknamed by the villagers "crotchy-crotchy". "She have one pickney by him and three by Robert Simpson son, Cecil. Him have a house but him rented to Ellis McMorris."

Clarice Roy,  
her child. Its  
father.

"Clarice have one child - by Sydney Simpson. But the father take it. The girl is not responsible for it any more."

Lucille and  
her children.  
Their fathers.

"Lucille - she have 3 children. She is 19-20." Is frequently seen moving about the village, begging some food or money to help her children or performing some odd jobs for other people. She is easily recognisable by a man's cap with which she covers her head. She looks ~~Max~~ thin and with sticking bones or, in Dudley's words, "short of something, short of ~~xxxx~~ nutriment."

Her eldest child, "first one - is for Ronald Rochester, Joshua Rochester son."

Next child is by Clifton Simpson. "Clifton Simpson is another father, but Clifton dont own him. Him is Ethel Simpson son. But him live where his father Egbert Simpson living. Him says the child is not his, somebody else must be playing the hum with him. Him doubt the next man."

The next man was Sydney Sinclair, Iliah Sinclair's son.

Third and last child is "for this "Brown Man" - we call him, but him right name is Ezra Gordon. Living right over the road, in Mr. Elliott place, where Ivy Thompson living." he is "working for Mr. Elliott mostly."

/still as a  
child/

"Him born in Ballard's Valley. Him went away to Clarendon - have some relatives in Clarendon. But him wasnt treated so nicely and Claston Simpson took him from Clarendon and bring to Bull Savannah. Him lived Claston Simpson home. After him come down, him turn ~~the~~ man and leave at Claston and come to Mr. Elliott. Find much better." Claston Simpson "raise him until him come a man." Then he went to Florida "on contract" and on his return "set at Mr. Elliott."



A girl by Julius Simpson, old Robert Simpson son. The girl - call her Mary. I understand that she is making a baby again for the same Julius Simpson. Miss Goosy - Miss Mangoose!"(Laughs).

In the home are living at present: Margaret Holness with her daughter Mildred Hiletto and Elsie Holness (sister of Margaret) -with her two children Kenrick Powell and Mary Simpson.

"Vernon Perkins is employed to somebody. Lives in a little cottage beside Esmine Perkins. He is along with the same girl with scarry scares - ugly girl; Birdie Sinclair. Has two children with her. Just recently he built the hut. Before - he living up at Margaret. But since he come to man he leave."

RibbitxTx  
Bull Savannah -Ridge.

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARETT HOLNESS

Margarett Holness is 33. She was born in Ribbit ~~own~~ Town. She owns the premises she now occupies. The land  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres was left her by her father's father Duncan Holness. On it are 2 houses of one apartment each. She shares one of these with a sister and a daughter:

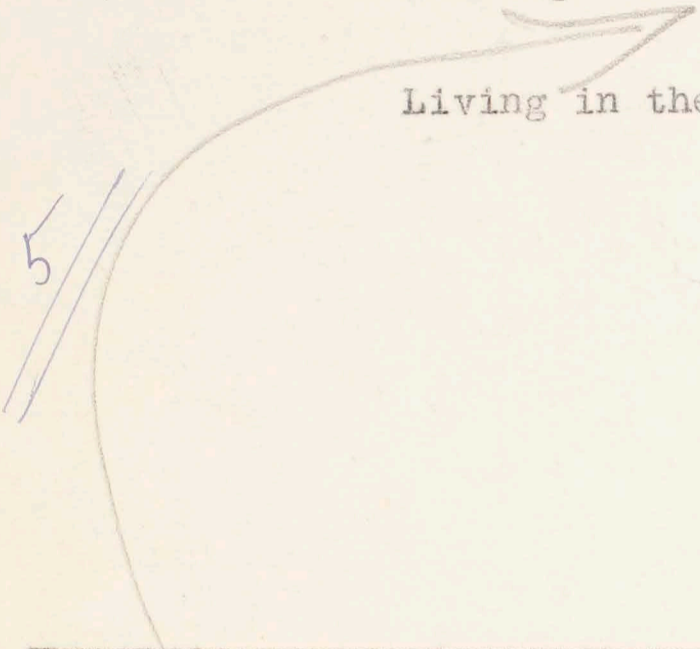
Ed. F.

Household

Sharing house with her are: 1. Elsie Holness sister. 28'  
2. Mildred Shiletto, dau. 16'

Living in the other ~~xxxx~~ house are:

1. Cecil Holness her brother; age not known.
2. Dorothy Holness "about 23" wife to Cecil.
3. Owen Holness "about 9" son to Cecil and Dorothy.
4. Colin Holness "about 6" son to Cecil and Dorothy.
5. Mervin Holness "about 3." son to Cecil and Dorothy.
6. Fursdon Holness.



Margarett's household consists of 3 other members of whom she said nothing at first for reasons not clear. These additions are:

Wednesday,  
January 29, 1942

Ed. F.

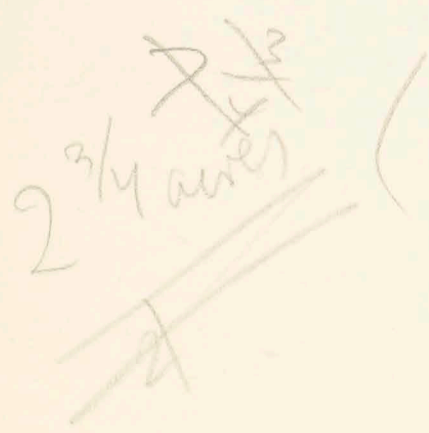
1. Kenrick Powell, 11, son to Elsie for Thomas Powell.
2. Marigold Simpson, 5,
3. Bonrick Simpson, 1/6 year.

Family History

Her mother Rebecca Holness died 6 years ago. Her father Daniel Holness died when she was 8. Her parents had 7 children; 5 of these alive are enumerated in record of Elsie Holness sister to Margarett.

The land

The  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres on which the houses are built was inherited by her father from his father "old Duncan Holness". It was left when her father died for his children. He also left a plot of 5 acres situated in "Runnit," for his children.



Cultivations: Cecil cultivates the land around the house and at Runnit in tomatoes, cassava, french beans, peas, corn, and congo peas and yams. He shares the food crops with ~~xxxxxx~~ Elsie and Herself.

Childhood

"I come to realise a didn't have a father, an' hear

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that he was dead." She was about 8 then. She used to share house with her mother brother and sisters. Her ~~mother~~ mother used to teach her to ~~be~~ "look after dumb things and wash up the dishes."

She use to be told also "that ~~the~~ little girls must not play with ~~balls~~ balls that little girl must play with dolly clothes.

School: She began attending the Hull Savannah ~~Elementary~~ Elementary School when she was 7 and left it when she was 14, ~~and~~ left it in 5th standard.

CAREER

After school -~~XXXXXX~~

"When a was 16, a went to learn dress making with an old lady name Mrs. Beckford. Sh' dead now." Mrs. B. charged her 6/- per month. He a tended at Mrs. B's for one year. Her sewing tuition monies were paid by her mother.

She had gone to learn to sew because her mother wanted her to, and because as well, she liked to sew. In spite of her years training - "a never get any living out of it, a only sew for mi sister (Elsie) an' miself! She did not take in any sewing jobs "because a was not perfect."

At Work: - "A start to earn mi own money when a was about 19 years old. "A use' to get 4/- per month. That was jus' to buy - a doan even know what! Work was domestic work at Ridge for Mr. John Stevens. She had remained at this for about 9 months.

Goes to work in Christiana

"I went to Christiana on the same domestic work. I wer looking job." She did not know anybody in Christiana and did not take any money with her. She had no money to take.

"Is there (in Christiana) a mek life. A was t ere for 7 years. I work at ope place for 3 years, an' at another one for 4 years." In the first job she earned 8/- per month, was fed, an' provided with a room, "but a had to fine mi own linen." 3

She left the first job for the second which paid her 12/- per week. This job was also housework. She was fed and provided with quarters and bedlined.

Savings

She was unable to save any money for her first job, but from the second, she saved £12. She left this job

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m Ed. F.

and returned home because she was ~~xill~~. (Later in the she said this illness was pregnancy.) "They sen' back for mi after, but a was doin' higglering, an' a wouldn' bother go back." She had re turned to B.S. in 1942.

At higglering

She bought fruits like paw-paw, tomatoes, water-melons naseberries and musk melons, and other things like eggs, eskellion, and hat thatch, in Bull Savannah and and the areas around. She resold these these things in Kingston in the Coronation Market.

She started this business from th savings she had made from the Christiana job. The "higglering Business was profitable "but expense' for the truck (for transportation) was plenty. Y'u could hardly save anything."

She believes she lost money in this business because she started with £12, but wound up with only £8. She spent this amount "in the home."

After higglering

She now works in the factory packing house during the tomato crop time. She worked throughout the last crop. She earned per week between 14/- and 30/- per week -14/- in a poor week and 30/- in a good week

Savings: Investment

She saved £3 from her work at the toato factory. Bought 4 goats with this money. She still has the goats. Two of the naimals have one kid each. These are not/big enough for sale.

/as yet

Mildred Hen. daughter

She had Mildred for George C. Shillette of Christiana. Her pregnancy was the cause of her return home from the 12/- per week job she had had in Christians. She was 21 when she became pregnant. (She is sure Mildred is 16: she should then, be 37 now, instead of 33 which is the age she gave.)

Own attitude to pregnancy

She was not ~~pregnan~~ frightened when she found out she was pregnant. George C. knew she was pregnant without her having to tell him. She does not remember what he said to her when thay talked over the matter because that is "such a long time ago."



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Ed. F.

M. Mildred was born in the Mandeville Maternity Home. George C. came to see her 4 days after the baby was born. He had paid the maternity fees and had also given her the money with which she had bought the requisites for the baby.

In regards George C: -his attitude to the child

George C. had relatives in Christiana his home town, but for reasons she did not name, he boarded in the house she used to work in. He "was a big man to himself." He could not for this reason, be reprimanded by anyone. None of his relatives in Christiana came to see her while she was in the maternity home.

She returned to Bull Savannah when her baby -Mildred was 6 months old. She had stayed with friends over the 6 months period she stayed in Christiana.

George C. gave her a weekly amount of from 8/- to 10/- ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ He went on vacation to America shortly after her return to Bull Savannah. He wrote to her from America. Sent monies too. That was about 14 years ago.

He continued to send monies -support monies/ <sup>for</sup> Mildred till she was 14. He sent the money monthly -10/- per month. She did not say as from what time he began sending 10/- per month instead of 10/- per week.

Her present inter/course with Males

She does not now have a boy friend. Said she: -"A caan bother with Bull Savannah man them; them noh treat y'u good. Mi caan bother with them."

Religion

She attends the Bible Church of God. She is not a member of this church because she is not baptised. She believes in the church however, and attends the night services only. She has not the time to go to the day services.

In regards Mervin Holness

3 year old Mervin looking extremely thoughtful and sad, hovered around Margaret throughout the interview. This child is extremely thin. I certainly would not have known it was as much as 3 years old had I not been told so by Margaret. He has a large head and his limbs appeared rather atrophied.

He never spoke. He just kept looking on. He went to Margaret and rested his head on her legs. She took the head in her hands, and scratched out some dandruff /

Interview with Elsie HolnessHousehold.

D.H.

2.7.48

Margaret Holness	Head	33 years
Elsie Honess	Sister	28 years
Mildred Shillette	Daughter	16 years
Kenrick Powell	Nephew	11 years
Marigold Simpson	Niece	3 years
Banrick Simpson	Nephew	2 months

6

I met Elsie sitting on the floor of the new house they are building. We went and sat down under the tree where there were a couple of chairs. Elsie, is small and toothless, and looks far more than her 28 years. I was not concerned about her family history etc. as she had already been ~~xxx~~ seen by E.F. I therefore concentrated on her children.

Her Children.

- 1) Kenrick Powell. 11. years His Father is Thomas Powell
- 2) Marigold Simpson 3 years Father - James Simpson
- 3) Banrick Simpson 2 months Father - Julius Simpson

Her Relationship with her children's fathers.

All three of these men continued to contribute to their children's upkeep. She does not see Thomas Powell, or James Simpson very much, and does not 'live' (have sexual relations) with either of them. Kenrick goes to see his father who has a house not far from Elsie's home, and his father is very fond of him. She does not try to stop him going at all.

Julius Simpson, the father of the baby is the man that she is really living with now. He comes to visit her in her house. He lives up at Shaddock Hill and it would be too far for her to go and carry the baby. He works all the time at the Factory, and so she sees him almost every day, as he comes home via the main road, and cuts across through Ridge to her yard, and then continues on the where he lives. He is very good about the baby, as he is very fond of it.

James Simpson does not bother much about Marigold very much, but he sends things for her sometimes.

Her means of livelihood.

She lives with her sister Margaret Holness. They own 1 acre of ground that the house stands on, and she does a lot of the planting and weeding for this. Margaret

D.H.

Holness is her sister, and she does some outside work. Elsie does also do some day work occasionally but she cannot do this with the baby so young. She digs and plants yams and cassavas and such like produce, and it is enough for them to live on.

Her Pregnancies and Confinements.

For all her confinements she had Miss Cella Simpson. Each time that she discovered that she was pregnant she went and visited Dr Maize to see if she had developed any kidney trouble, which would involve her going on to a special diet, and other difficulties. He never found anything wrong with her, or any signs of future trouble before the baby should be born, so she was able to eat everything as usual.

She did not suffer any particular trouble during the pregnancies, except from some sickness at the start. However all the babies caused her great trouble. She kept telling me that she had a hard time with all babies and that for each one she was in labour for two whole days. It did not seem to get easier with each succeeding babies because this last one was just as bad as the others. She had never called in the doctor for the actual confinements.

Miss Cella had charged her 5/- each time. Miss Cella she added was a good woman, and she charges as little as possible, and only charged people what she thought they could afford.

When the baby is born she does not feed him herself straight away, she waits at least a day before giving him the breast. Meanwhile the baby is fed on bush tea, and warm water. She nurses all her babies herself.

Feeding and Weaning

She does not wean the children until they are a year old. Up to that time she does not give them anything solid. After that she gives the porridge and condensed milk. None of them were too much trouble too wean.

Training and Upbringing.

She teaches her children to be obedient ~~xxxxx~~ When they are rude or tell lies she gives them a flogging.

Kenrick helps a little in the fields at the digging and weeding that Elsie also does. She will not expect the little girl Marigold to help her in the house until she is about fourteen years old.

Children are not able to really wash themselves and keep clean until they are about 12 years old. Marigold can now wash her hands and faces but she does not do it very well by herself.

D.H.

From four months on babies do not need nappies. She leaves them naked. She trains them to use the Chimney from about this age by just holding them out every morning, and they learn to be clean quite quickly. The little girl Marigold does not need any supervision in this respect, she is quite clean and well trained.

Schooling.

she sent

Kenrick goes to school. At first she said that he went every day, but after said that she said him fairly often, but not all the time. He always comes home for his dinner, as she cannot afford the school dinners

Additional Information about the baby.

The baby was brought out while I was talking to her and she proceeded to feed him. He is a very large baby for two months old. She said that they had just weighed him, and he turned the scale at 16 lbs. He is very fat and healthy and has a very fair colouring. Unlike most of the other babies around he has a perfect skin with no bites or spots, or prickly heat marks. She said that she always wrapped him up when he was sleeping by himself, i.e. when she was not actually carrying him.

She feed him whenever he is hungry, as she believes that is best. He has always been a big baby, he was born very big, and that is one reason why she had such a bad time with him. His father is big she added.

see end of interview

She does not like the children to play much with other people's children, and so she encourages them to stay within their own yard. They play with the Thompson children in the two adjoining households, hers and her brothers Cecil Holness they did not need to stray.

All the children are fond of the baby, and they all get along together.

(This appears to be quite true as the children here, consisting of a lot of small boys up to ~~and~~ 8 years old, are always extremely cheerful and I have never heard them quarrelling or fighting.)

Observations. Elsie is suspicious but not unfriendly. She does not appear to have a very high order of intelligence, and every question had to be allowed time to sink in. People did not come up to where we were sitting very much, and the children were playing endless varieties of games, such as running around chasing each other, climbing the mango tree and trying to push one another off, and so on. They did not bother very much about me, apart from flashing grins every now and then when they came near our chairs. When they were up the tree, Elsie

D.H.

complained that they were bad, as they were forbidden to climb the trees, but she did not do anything about it stopping them.

Errata

children who live in the next house down in the valley. She added again, that as there were a lot of children

Family Record 128.Interview with Elsie Holness

Thursday,  
July 1, 1948.

Ed. F.

premise  
Elsie was born on the/~~land~~ she now lives on with ~~her~~ the household of her sister Margaret Holness. (See record of Margaret). She was in the yard washing when seen at first, but went for her baby soon afterwards. She fondled the baby and fed it from her breast during the talk given under a naseberry tree in the yard. She was wearing a pair of male type brown shoes

Elsie is somewhat deformed. I have not ascertained what was wrong with her. She has very large scars about her ~~skin~~ legs and thighs and on her hands. She also has ~~xxxxxxx~~ few or no teeth at all. The corners of her mouth were broken, and red.

Family History

/Her sister Margaret gives her father's name as Daniel and not Lewis.

Her mother Rebecca Holness had with her father Lewis Holness ~~six~~ 8 children: / Both ~~children~~ parents are now dead. Those of the children alive are; -in order of their ages not given:

1. Panton Holness. He is in Cuba. He has not written home for a long time.
2. Leonora Holness, called 'Coolie'; she is in The Blad River Hospital. "Sh' gather water roun' her heart." She has been living in Content.
3. Mrs. Isobel Powell. She has married Thomas Powell and lives on her own premises "Ove the 'oad."
4. Margaret Holness. Margaret is about 37. Elsie shares house with Margaret's household.
5. James Holness. He is in Portland. He writes to Isobel only.
6. Cecil Holness. He shares a room on the premises with his wife Myrtle. He was not seen.
7. Elsie Holness, i.e. herself.

Her Childhood.

She grew up with the above named members of her family on the premises she is still living on. She cannot remember anything, she was taught to do by her mother, cannot remember anything she was taught when she was a child.

School: She attended the Bull Savannah elementary School from she was 7 till she was 14. She left this school in the 1st book. She attended school irregularly, because  $\frac{3}{4}$  "Mi father dead, an' mi mother never have it."

After school: "After school mi learn to do every little thing: -wash dirty clothes, an' learn to sew. She taught herself to sew: -Mi dad nothing else after that, only si dong, an' if mi get anything fi mi

Interview with Elsie Holness

eat it."

Ed. F.

Her children: She has 3 children:

1. Kenrick Powell 11, son to Thomas Powell of Over Road.
2. Marigold Simpson 3, dau. to Casdaily Simpson of Shaddock Hill.
3. Bonrick Simpson 2 months baby, son to Casdaily Simpson also.

~~The~~ Her conjugal relations

Thomas was her first boy friend. -"He meet mi at mi home." She was about 16 then. He did n ot write ~~XB~~ "because wi six one another often."

Mother's attitude to her friendship

Her mother objected to his coming to her house. Still Thomas continued to visit her at her mother's when her mother went out to work. He mother "Use' to go out alll about go weed grass."

Her Pregnancy

"A feel bad, -a caan tell y'u how bad; y'u woulda ha' fi feel that y'uself. She suspected that she was pregnant and then went to Dr. ~~mais~~. The doctor confir med her fears.

On the same day she came back from the doctor, she t told her mother she was pregnant. Her mother did not quarrrel with her. She added -"Sh' couldn' quarrel because it mek fi done.

~~On~~

On almost every visit to this household, I have seen a girl fo about 17 or 18 named Clarice, and who says she is a niece to Margaret about the yard. Clarice denies however that she is a member of Margaret's household. She denies that she lives on the premises. She has not been named as a member of any of the 2 households on the premises, and displays a hostile attitude towards being interviewed.

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