

C.D. 22. Sbd. 13 Household 4. p.1. 14.

(21)										
Williams	Daniel	head	M.Cl.	27	Manch.	col.	presb.	X	labourer	
Rochester	Maisie	wife	F.Cl.	29	6.6. St. El.	"	ang.	W.3.	homemaker	
Williams	Moxsy	son	M.S.	9	"	"	"	W.1.	4.E.	
Williams	Berkeley	son	M.S.	7	"	"	"	X	No	
Simpson	Cynthiast	dau	F.S.	4	"	"	"	-		
Williams	Inez	dau	F.S.	3	"	"	"	-		
"	William	son	M.S.	1/12	"	"	"	-		
"	Betty	dau	F.S.	1/12	"	"	"	-		

Now only Maisie Rochester.

rents house for 1/2 per month

under

~~James~~

F.R. 163

X Basil Witter

Wednesday  
31. 3. 48.  
I.D. with Ed.F.

/of

Daniel Williams is in the Mandeville hospital. He was taken there last Sunday because he "caught a bad cold". The cold chokes him up. It was not bronchitis nor pneumonia. She can't remember the name of the cold the Dr. said Daniel has. She has never heard that kind of name before.

Daniel went farm working in America. He stayed there for 3 years. He had. Before he left for America he used to share house and live with Maisy, Rochester with whom he had a number of children. While

While in America he used to send money for Maisie and the children. "But Maisie bruk fence." She means Maisie took on another man. She had a child for this man. One of Dan's friends in Jamaica sent to tell him about that, and he stopped sending money to her.

Maisie now shares house with Basil Witter at Grape-tree Hill. That is the hill under Shaddock Hill. All the children save Cynthia live with her. Cynthia lives with her father who returned from America some time ago. She does not know how many children Maisie has. "She - Maisy has" whole heap a picknie."

Maisie has 3 children for Witter, one of these is only 3 weeks old. She does not know if Maisie will go back to Dan, who now has another girl friend named Zilla Dyer.

Interviewed Maisie Rochester,

Wednesday.  
7. 3. 48.  
I.D.

Present Household.

Basil Witter. Head.  
Maisie Rochester, Wife cl  
Lester Williams  
Inez Williams.  
deCordova Williams  
Betty May do }

Under Lawe

Victoria Jap. Witter.  
Wongseta Witter

Family History.

Parents Annie and James Rochester. Father's father Simeon Rochester. Father's mother Margaret Rochester. Mother's parents, Mary and George Dyer. "Them live just under the Ridge hill.

Maisie was born at Green Olive. She attended the Bull Savannah elementary school. On leaving school she "wen t to sewing. Maisie is now able to make her own dresses. When she was about 20 she went to Mandeville, there she did domestic work. "I work at New Port to', and I was working with Mrs. Williams a teacher at the school here, She gone to England now.

Maisie's children .

Moxy W illiams, Maisie's first child lives with Maisie's father. Cynthia, lives with her father Vincent Williams. The other children mentioned above lives woth Maisie.

Vincent Williams.

Maisie had 4 children for Vincent before she started to live with him. He went ot America in 1944 and re- turned on June 10th, 1947. "First time him use to send money now and then, The dependant money just pay rent. After a year him stop altogether. All I was getting for me and the children was the dependant money, and him did only leave \$1 a month." How did you manage on that? "If it was not for me mother and father, it would be horrible. Me glad me get rid of him, him drink rum, him gamble, him fight, him full of every bad ~~take~~ intrigue. After him come back from America, him was same place here. Him go and live with him Aunt Martha Boomfield. When I asked her about Vincent ~~first~~ she said that they parted before he left for America. That could not be correct as he left her as his dependant and send money for the children sometimes.

give  
"Him Aunt beg me for Cynthia, so me say me a ~~big~~ him a trial. If it was not for Victory and this one father

(this one refers to the month old baby) "I don't know what would betide fe him own them out there." Is Basil fond of Vincent's children? "Him look after them just as his own, him makes no difference between them. One night Basil and me out a piazza there, and him pass and cu'sse me, say a him a feed me. Me noh know what him fe take feed me and fe him hañ' no touch groun' unless him tumble down." What kind of work was he doing? "Him was sideman on truck, He hear since him come back him a work."

Maisie met Basil "same place here." He does shoemaking at Ridge at his sister Edna Dyer's place. He bought a piece of land "Over the Road" from Sam. Gordon of Christiana "just a little shop spot." Basil cultivates 1 acre of land at Logweed "lease from Claston Simpson."

Maisie was young when she met Vincent. "Him have bad head, and him black." How did you like him then? "Stranger ~~me~~ know deep water. As me start have the children, me would a just like to stick to e one man, but me see me clould not stick to him. Me just jump out of frying pan, jump in a fire, because me still having the picknie them."

xx never

Vincent does not support his children. If Maisie sends them to him for money he curses them. "I don't talk to him at all, but I going to carry him to Malvern, any thing the Judge tell him to give, him will have to give it."

Cella Simpson was Maisie's "middie" "She nice you see, she don't change no definite price. Anytihng you have, you give her." Maisie gave her 5/-. Basil has not slept with Maisie since she had her baby. He sleeps at his mother's home.

Foods not to be eaten for the first 9 days after the ~~ch~~ child is born. "When you in room."

Ripe banana, Melon, pear, pumpkin, "and them say you must not drink the fresh rain water." Maisie was not able to say why these foods should not be eaten.

Weaning.

"Nurse baby for 6 months. When them pull you so them just weaken you, and you have to bawl after them other one all the same."

Birth Control.

Maisie does not want to hav any more children. She has decided to use birth control methods. Will Basil agree? "Whether him ag want it or not, that is fe him business."

Maisie employs Ida Sinclair to help with the children for a month. "I am going to pay her 10/-." Asked

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if she will be strong enough after a month. "Will not be so strong but mother will help. Owing to the tomato crop she could not come before." She feels that the tomatoe industry is the cause of the shortage of food-stuffs.

We heard a sheep bleating nearby, Maisie said that it had a lamb last night and a dog ate it. "All night him hollar, I say look, even the sheep cry for him baby, and look how some woman tough fe them own."

Naming a child.

Victoria Jap was born on the day the war ended. "Just as the bell was tolling." Victoria's "nick" name is "Victory. Wongseta is a spanish name, her brother who is abroad sent that name for the baby.

Housing.

The house is rented from Claston Simpson at 6/- a month, The room is very small Maisie was seated on the bed with the baby in her arms. The 2 windows were closed, there was a heap of rags on one of the beds, and the place was infested with flies.

The children were happy. Victory danced about the room and kept playing with my bag.

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Informant: Dudley Simpson.  
14.4.48.  
T.O.

Daniel WilliamsX,  
his pseudo

"Daniel Williams - when he was here in Bull Savannah he was a bad boy. Go to dance, make fight. Taken to the court. So when going to America he wanted to change his name from Daniel to Vincent."

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Cynthia Simpson.

"Cynthia - she did own as an Albert Simpson Child (she was owned by Albert Simpson as his child) After she (Maisie Rochester) come mature it show it was Vincent Williams (the father.) She was along with two men. When the woman was in family way Albert Simpson support her. But after the child born Albert Simpson draw out and Vincent Willimas draw in."

There was also suspition that Maisie Rochester had a child for Harold Gordon.

"After Maisie had the baby it was for Harold Gordon a black man and not for Williams. They were suspecting but there was no definite proof."

Daniel Williams went to America. He gave Maisie as his dependent and all the time he stayed in America Maisie was drawing the £1 a month as his dependent. Max Williams sent her also more money till he learned she was having a baby for another man.

Daniel Williams go to America. She (Maisie) was taking the beneficial £1 every month. All through she was taking the dependent money he was sending separate money."

"She mad a baby for Basil Witter. After Williams' aunt Martha Bromfield wrote him (about it) he stop the money but not the £1 a month - to support the other chiodren."

Afte Williams came back from America he came to discuss his family problems with Dudley who is his friend. Willaims calls Dudley "old duck".

"Him say 'Old duck what you think about it?'"  
To this Dudley replied: "You love that girl, but that girl break the rule and have a child for a next man." "He (Williams) left her."

"She (Maisie) lives with Basil Witter. He works in Logwood and works at shoemaker trade. His sister is Edna Witter. He (Witter) works at Algonan Dyer home"

Visit to Maisie Rochester

Seen: Maisie, daughter Inez and baby Dean.

18.6.48.

T.O.

It is a very small and poor house on the road do Dunder Hill below Kermit Lewis's shop. In front of the house on some sort of "verndah" stood Masie with her baby in her arms, over two pans with washing. Masie has a pleasant quiet face was porrly but neatly dressed. The baby is beautiful, fat and has a clear skin. She had a tiny pants tied under her tommy - as little girls wear here- and a pink dress. We went into the room. The pink material must have been acquired in great quantity as the two beds were covered with the same material. Between the beds stood a tin pan in which were 3 pillows covered with the same material. Masie put the child into this pan and put under her a piece of cloth of the same pink material. She herself sat on a wooden low box and - urged by me not to interrupt her work - started to sew on a hand machine which was on the bed. I sat on the other bed. There were no chairs in the room, a wooden safe and a trunk filling ~~xxxx~~ it completely.

Customs concerning babies.

From time to time Masie would turn to the baby which was behind her. She changed the clothes, which were wetted by the child and put the pillow against her back, so the baby sat. I asked her whether it wasn't too early to make the baby who is 3 months old to sit. She explained to me that she teaches the girls to sit when they are 3 months old. With the boys it is a month later, as boys develop a bit later than girls. She does not yet teach the baby to use the "chim-mey. "To use chimmey - about 5 months, when the baby can sit, when you can hold him out ". She wears both boys and girls between the 6th and 7th months.

The god-parents. She told me that the baby's name is Dean. (She told Miss Dale on a previous occasion that it is Wongseta.) The baby is not christened yet. "We don't christened before 6 months - when the baby can sit". She told me that when it is a girl there are two god-mothers and one god-father. In case of a boy there are two god fathers and one god mother. For little Dean " Caroline Powell asked for it" The second god-mother will be the father's mother "Granny Witter". "Masie did not ask her mother to be the god-mother of this baby as the person has to belong to the church "You have to be a member of the church" Maisie is anglican.

Bathing the baby. She told me she bathes the baby every morning "early in the morning, but to-day cold, may catch a cold" She did not bathe her baby to-day. ~~xx~~ Yet the baby looked quite clean. A number of pink pieces of cloth - which looked like the baby's napkins - were drying in the room on a string under the ceiling. But there wasn't a bed smell. The room looked very poor ~~xxxxxxx~~ but very tidy considering the possibilities and its size.

Other children: The only other child (out of her 8) present was

Inez, she also was cleaner than children at home usually are. On the safe a little doll made of gray cloth was lying. I asked whose it was. Maisie explained that it was Victory's. The name of the doll was Patty. Victory did not want any clothes for it. "She likes her baby naked". Inez also had a doll but Victory tore it up. "They quarrelled about it." Maisie said that all her children except Moxsy who stays with her parents are staying with her. She gave me their names: Moxsy, Lester, Cynthia, Inez, Willy and Betty Williams and Victory and Dean Witter. She looks as if she expected another child. We just started to talk about Basil Witter. Maisie said he works as a shoemaker and comes home only for the night. The subject did not go any further as Mrs. Macmorris with her 3 children came to join us.

Relations with her parents: Maisie said that her parents "help with the children all the time" and her eldest boy Moxsy who is 12 stays with them/. Maisie said she learned sewing with her mother. At her time they did not teach much sewing at school. Now they teach more, but still the girls are too small to understand. However later on when they start to sew it comes back to them so the school teachings are not wasted. The dress Maisie was sewing now is "for an old lady - overroad, that's why the sleeves have to be longer. My sleeves wouldnt be so long".

Present household:

Witter	Basil	head	31
Rochester	Maisie	wife (c.l.)	36
Williams	Lester	step son	12
"	Cynthia	step-dau	10
"	Inez	step-dau	9
"	Willy	step-son	7
"	Betty	step-dau	7
Witter	Victory	dau	?
"	Dea	dau	3/12

(I am not very sure about the accurancy of the ages Maisie gave me. I saw later on Moxsy he must be round 14. I understand Victory is ~~older than Betty and Willy~~ younger than Betty and Willy, and she looks certainly more than 7, she can spell, which is unusual here for a child of less than 7).



From the record.  
9.7.48.  
J.O. 13.7.48.

Present household.

Witter Basil, head. Ab. 32.  
Rochester Maisie, c.l. wife, ab.35.  
Williams Lester, Maisie's son, ab.15.  
Williams Cynthia, Maisie's daughter, ab. 10.  
Williams Inez, " " " " ab. 9.  
Williams Willy, Maisie's son, ab.6. ! twins  
Williams Betty, " " " " !  
Witter Victoria, dau. of Maisie and Basil, ab.3. 9  
Witter Dean v.Wongseta, 4 months.

One of Maisie's children, her first born Moxsy Williams, stays with her parents, James and Annie Rochester /see Fam.Rec.18/.