

C.D. 22 Sbd. 14. Householdm 7 p. 2 4.

Keath	Benjamin	head	M.M.	84	St. Eliz.	Black.	Angl.	W.3.	farmer
"	Catherine	wife	F.M.	94	"	"	"	X	homemaker
South	Phillip	nephew	M.S.	25	"	colour.	"	X	labourer
"	Vonriect	nephew	M.S.	3	"	"	"	-	sideman

4
6 persons
see p. 4.

His farm in 1942.

Operates this farmland as owner or part owner for 64 years.

Owens 12 acres in 2 parcels: 5 and 7 acres resp.

Main income from vegetables.

No labour employed. Works 46 weeks p.a. 5 days p.w. 9 hours p.d.

2 ac. under cultivation, 4 ac. cultivable but not used, 3 ac. in grass, 1 1/2 ac woodland, 1 1/2 ac other.

Total value of farm £ 80, of buildings £ 22 1 catchment

12 acres

- 0.2 ac. tomatoes= 1500 lbs.
- 1 ackee=? 4 avocados (2 fruiting)=20 doz.
- 2 breadfruits (1 fruiting) = 10 doz. 3 coconuts = 72 nuts. 9 mangoes= 100 doz. 7 budded mangoes (2 fruiting) = 20 doz. 4 pawpaws= 48 .
- 1/4 ac. corn = 2 bush. 1 ac. congo= 1 1/2 bush.
- 1/2 ac. cassava= 600 lbs.
- 1 sheep, 1 swine,

Friday .
2. 4. 48.
D. B.

Interviewed Adelaide Simpson & Benjamin Heath

Present House-hold

Benjamin Heath	Head	— 89
Phillip South	Adopted Son	- 30 <i>neph</i>
Adelaide Simpson	Phillip's wife (c.l.)	?
Avril South	Son	
Daniel	"	
<i>Vanick South</i>		10

Adelaide is the daughter of Ida Dyer and Hezekiah Simpson. Her parents are from Junction. They are both alive. They are not married but they are living together. They have 12 children. She is 28 years old.

She read to the 3rd standard at school. She was taken from school before she was 15. She had to help at home, as she was the biggest girl for her parents. She helped at home for a while, and afterwards went out to work. She was 13 when she started to work. She did domestic's work in Christiana with Miss Icy Allen working for 6/- per month. She worked also with Adlin Simpson in Mandeville for 10/- per month.

She stopped working after a time and came to Junction to live. After she came home she and Egbert Simpson became friends. She has three children for Egbert. The three children are with Egbert one year now.

Later on she and Egbert parted and she and Phillip got to be friends. She has two children for Phillip. It is three years since she has come to live here with Phillip.

Phillip's Parents.

His mother is Rebecca Roy. He was born in Ballards Valley. ~~Benjamin~~ Benjamin adopted Rebecca from she was 9 months old. Rebecca was sister to Benjamin's ~~mother~~ wife Catherine Heath (nee Roy). Catherine and Rebecca were one father, but not the same mother. Phillip's father came from Junction. Benjamin does not remember South's christian name.

Rebecca's mother was Annie McLawrence from Ballards Valley. Catherine's parents were Catherine Miller ~~from~~ of Bull Savannah and Fredrick Roy of Alligator Pond.

Benjamin is 90 years old. He is very weak and can scarcely work for himself. Phillip takes good care of him. His wife died in 1945, she was 95 years

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old . Benjiman's parents were Benjiman Heath of Bull Savannah and Cicelia Messam of Y. S. dsitric.

Occupation .

Phillip works on Mr Willie Jacobs' truck as a side man . Adelaide does not know how Phillip is paid.

Adelaide ~~as~~ works at the factory , in the packing house . She ~~wra~~ wraps tomatoes at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per box. She has been working there for 6 years . She ~~ga~~ got her job from Mr Forder who used to be the Supervisor in the packing house . She worked in the erection of the factory , carrying stones , and dirt , and mixing mortar.

When the work at the factory is closed down, she washes clothes for a few people in the district . She washes for Mrs Johnson and Miss Lucinder Elliott. She is paid 1/6 per day when she washes .

Phillip has another son by Eunice Lemard . The son's name is Vanrick . Vanrick does not stay with his father , he visits his father sometimes. Phillip is 27 years old.

Tuesday,
April 6, 1948.

Ed. F.

Interview with Benjamin Heathe

Benjamin is 89. He was born in 1859. He shares a single room with his adopted son Phillip South, Phillip's c.l. wife Adelaide and Phillip's and Adelaide's 3 children:

- 1. Vanrick South 10.
- 2. Orville South 2.
- 3. Daniel South 1. *less than 1*

The room

The ~~house~~ was formerly a two roomed structure. The other room was blown down in a hurricane some years ago.

Re Phillip

Phillip's mother:

Mrs.

Phillips mother/Rebecca South, nee Rebecca Roye, was adopted by Benjamin when she was 9 months old. Rebecca now dead, was sister to his ~~sister~~ wife Mrs. Catherine Heathe. Rebecca grew up with himself and his wife till she was a woman. He sent her to school when she was a girl, but did not sent her to learn to do anything after she left school; in spite of that she was able to make her own dresses -"she could cut and make any sort of dress and yet never go to learn sewing." She had Phillip before she was married to South whose Christian name he does not remember. Neither himself nor his wife quarreled with Rebecca because she had a child before she was married. They did not quarrel because they had given their consent to Rebecca's friendship ~~with~~ with South.

Previous to her marriage to South Rebecca had used to live in a room which ~~was~~ one of his sisters had left on his land, when she went to Port Limon. This sister had died in Port Limon. Rebecca had shared the room with any male companion. This room had got too "shaky" however and Rebecca had had to leave it and return to share his 2 rooms with himself and his wife.

Rebecca's courtship.

Rebecca's association with South had come about as follows; South met Rebecca. They talked. South came to ~~his~~ house to ask his permission to ~~be~~ being friends with her.

Said Benjamin: -"Him spoke to me because I was the master of the yard. Girls always give us a sign before such things. The sign on this occasion was that she cleaned the house twice one day instead of once as ~~was~~ usual. She clean' in the morning, and then in the evening again. A said to my wife, -what happen that Rebecca claening house two times today one? It mus' mean something!" To Rebecca he said -" Rebecca, why y'u clean house ~~today~~ two time today one?" Rebecca told

him - "A young is coming here." ~~Maxdidxxxx~~ Alight was what he said then.

South Arrives:

/woman

"In the evening the young man came into the yard. He was a fellow a ~~know~~ before. A ask him if is mi him come to or is mi wife. Him say (say) that is a young ~~lady~~ that live in the yard that him was talking ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ with."

He

Benjamin Challenges: On hearing that, ~~Benjamin~~ told South - "Well sa, perhaps the footing y' u come ~~here~~ on perhaps a wont agree with that. A ask him if him have a home. Him say, - 'not exactly, but a jus' begin to settle.'"

Here Benjamin added in explanation - "Y'ou know sa them young man love sweetheart life." (c.l. marriage) He was firmly resolved that he would not any "sweetheart life living." Explaining what he means by "sweetheart life" he said - "Sweetheart life is living together be- for them married: some doe ~~xxx~~ living together an' never married."

South agrees to getting married:

He told South - "If y' u see the ~~girl~~ girl an' you like her, an' you want to take her make a wife, a will marry you in mi own home, until y' u can do better. Him was quite agree'."

Having spoken to South and assured himself that the man meant to get married he allowed him to come to shere house with himself his wife and Rebecca. They all occupied the same room. The other apartment was the hall. No one slept in the hall. Sometime after South came to share house with Rebecca, she became pregnant. (As already stated, neither Benjamin nor his wife quarreled with ~~xxxxx~~ Rebecca. That was because they knew she would be getting married and had had his permission to becoming friends and to get married.)

Rebecca becomes pregnant.

Phillip the child born to Rebecca and South was about 2 years old before they got married. In keeping with his promise, Benjamin began to buy up things like "married clothes, and things," for Rebecca. "The man was fixing up himself" in the meantime.

His parents

Benjamin's mother was Mrs. Cecila Heathe, nee Messam; his father Benjamin Heathe. Cecila and ~~Rx~~ Benjamin had 3 boys and 5 girls. He is the only one of these 8 children alive. He inherited his father's home, and ~~xxxx~~ 4 1/2 acres on which the ~~house~~ house was built but he sold the premises to David Roye. He did that when he was in need of some money. He did not say ~~xe~~ when that was.

His children

Phillip (adopted son) aside, Benjamin had only one ~~child~~ child - Daniel Sterling. Daniel was not his wife's child. His wife had no children for him. He had Daniel before he was married. Daniel went to ~~sea~~ ~~in-1904~~ Panama in 1904. He used to write home from Panama, but has not been heard of now for some time. Benjamin believes he ~~has~~ has died.

His wife

Catherine his wife, used to do "speculation," on bammies and fry-fish at the Junction Market, and at Alligator Pond.

His wife also used to help nurse sick people. He said with some feeling - "Oh sir there is a reward in heaven for her. She was a blessed soul. A told her to follow Christ footsteps and do good on earth. ~~on~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ Sometime for two three weeks a don't see her." She would go to "nurse sick people in all districts Ballards Valley, Chocolate Hole, Rose Hall, Alligator Pond and even Port See." Some people called her Aunty Kate; she was generally known as Bull Savannah Mumma. (mother)

She never made any charges for her services: - "Never charge a penny. Sh' jus' lef' it to the goodness of the person who call her ~~xxxx~~ - whether the person who is sick dead or recover them could give her a treat." Sometimes got presents like aprons headkerchiefs etc. Sometimes she got money. He did not seem to want to say how much money.

The Junction market.

The market at Junction began in 1914. It broke up many years after. He cannot remember just when, nor does he remember what was the cause of the breaking up. "It was really a horse market. Horses mules donkeys and pigs - any animal that y'u have y'u could get sell there. A sell many head a mule there, but now a get weak and can't do nothing. If ~~didn't have~~ a didn't have that boy (Phillip) in the yard, and this young lady (Adelaide) a don't know what a would do.

Benjamin walks with a slight forward stoop: he is remarkably preserved for his age. He was wearing a pair of sandals made from an old motor vehicle tyre. His clothes were well-worn, but clean and whole.

Monday
April 19th, 1948.

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Ed. F.

Interviewed

INTERVIEW WITH BENJAMIN HEATHE.

Benjamin was planting red peas called french beans on the land from which he had taken off his crop of tomatoes. The space was about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. The tomatoe plants lay in heaps around the garden. The sticks used in the tomatoe crop lay heaped under the mango tree. It was about 2:30 p.m. Mr. Ben had been planting since morning but was giving up then, for the day, because his back was aching. To plant the beans, he had been bending from the waist. For his age his vitality is marvellous. He had planted about 2 sq. chains of the area. He remarked he is going to pile together the old tomatoe stalks and burn them.

Major Moxy

Asked he " You know that gentleman name Mr. Moxy? Is him bring tomatoe come here. Oh! its a blessed thing him bring here. The smallest child can earn a little money from it."

Career

Benjamin shared house with his parents until to the time of their death. It was after they had died that they got married.

School: " I spen' mi whole school years in school. At our growing up age them was not particular about age. Any time you parents can manage them sen' you." (to school) He does not remember at what age he left school.

After School: he was a fisherman and a cultivator. He learned to cultivate before he became a fisherman. He cultivated "everything" - sweet potatoes, cassava, and tobacco. He sold almost all the tobacco, but, said he, "a couldn't sell all the food. We have to save some of that to eat. We couldn' sell out weself. He cultivated on the land he now lives on. He did that alone; whenever employed any help.

At Fishing: "When I start fishing, I was a big man. If I was having children I would have plenty by that time."

He has never owned a boat; he has always worked for some one. He had his own fish-pots.

Those for whom he used to work were:

- 1. Horatio Powell of T.B.S. Horatio is dead.
- 2. Johny Powell of Alligator Pond; -also dead.
- 3. Gabriel Stephenson of Top Hill; deceased.

The only fisherman for whom

- 4. Charles ^{Rochester} ~~Stephenson~~ of Green Olive. Charles lives in premises adjoining Mr. Laban Rochester's.

Charles is the last fisherman for whom he fished.

He never fished on the half. Said he, " I always fishen 'pon mi own dependency; a buy mi own tackle." He had 4 fish-pots; was never allowed to fish with more than 4. -The captains of the boats did not allow.

Some of the crew "hands" with whom he used to fish were, on the Horatio Powell boat:

- 1. Thomas Elliott of Thatch Walk.
- 2. Bingham of Thadd Town.
- 3. William Lee of Top Bull Savannah.

With Johny Powell:

- 1. John Roye of Alligator Pond.
- 2. Augustus Forde, of Alligator Pond -father of his(Ben's) wife.
- 3. Fedrick Roye of Alligator Pond.

(Note: Johny Powell was an Alligator Pond fisherman.)

Ben does not remember who were the "hands" who used to work with him on the Gabriel Stephenson's boat. Those who worked with him on the Charles Rochester boat were:

- 1. Simeon Rochester of Green Olive. Simeon was Charles father.
- 2. Uriah Sinclair of Comm~~o~~ Pen.

The boat captains, their names underlined as above, were in each case owner of the boat they captained.

re

give Conditions/~~his~~ his sales: He always sold for cash; never did any credit; he had no need to ~~any~~ credit. -"You have more fish buyer than y'u have fish to sell-then, supply them. Y'u have to sell plenty for a 6d to', but fish was plenty."

Fish were not then weighed. Everybody sold catches "by the string." Fish "was plentiful: a that time fish dey!" (That was the time of plentiful fish) He had no special customers. He sold to anybody.

He ceased "fishening a good time now -sbout

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now. He used to have as many as 4. One of the 2 heads he now has, is a mother sheep. The other is a lamb born to the mother sheep. He will sell the lamb. He always does that; -the mother sheep ~~isxxxxxxx~~ has lambs fairly often. "People" who buy his lambs take the animals to Kingston where they sell them to butchers.

Servicing the ewe: When he wants to have his ewe serviced he borrows a ram. He always does that. Whose ram? -"Issac Johnson's." Issac never charges for ~~the~~ this service.

During the talk Mr. Ben smoked comfortably from a home made pipe. He used home grown tobacco. He did not ~~make~~ the pipe; he bought it, but had lost the original pipe stem, and had had to substitute ~~the~~ a bamboo stem for it. The pipe bowl is made from a local wood -the root of a tree Ben said. He wears dark glasses, but his sight is good.

Drawn from the record.
J.O. 14.7.48.

Present household.

Heath Benjamin	x/66xx/96	by xCensusx/	89.
South Philip,	adopted son,	/31 by Census/.	
Simpson Adelaide,	Philps c.l. wife.	28,	
South Vanrick,	their son,	10.	
South Orville,	,,	,,	2.
South Danile,	,,	,,	1.

6 persons

For the family relationship see the record.