

C.D. 22. Sbd. 8 Household 33

Roye	Wilbert A.	Head	M.S. 47	St. El. Col. Ang. W.3.	Farmer
"	Esther	mother	F.W. 98 13.9	" "	X Retired
"	John	brother	M.S. 36	" "	W.2. farmer
Anderson Jacob	xgexren nephew		M.S. 16	" black "	W.3. none

His farm in 1942.

Operates this farmland as owner or part owner for 1 year.

Owns $4\frac{3}{4}$ ac. and rents $74\frac{3}{4}$ ac from Esther Roye his mother. The whole farmland is in 3 parcels: $46\frac{1}{4}$ - $28\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ ac. resp.

Main income from tomatoes and cassava
No labour employed.

Works for 46 weeks p.a.

12 acres in cultivation, 13 ac. cvable but not used, $19\frac{1}{2}$ ac in guinea grass, 4 ac in common grass, 6 ac. in pasture grass, 8 ac. of woodland used as pasture, $14\frac{1}{2}$ ac. of woodland not used as pasture, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ac other land.

Total value of farm £ 395 $\frac{1}{2}$ buildings = £ 25.

1 catchment.

0.2 ac. cabbages = 510 heads, 3 ac. tomatoes = 20000 lbs.

3 ackees=150 heaps, 3 avocados=6 doz.

3 breadfruits=12 doz, 16 coconuts=960nuts

2 limes=40 doz, 30 mangoes=479 doz, 2 naseberries = 98 doz, 25 pawpaws= 350 no.

6 cashew nuts=6 $\frac{1}{2}$ quarts.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ac corn=4 bush, 2 ac. congo peas=18bush.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ac. red peas= 3 bush, 3 ac. cassava=

6100 lbs, 1 ac. sweet pot.=2500 lbs.

$\frac{1}{2}$ ac. yams=2000lbs, $\frac{1}{4}$ ac. coffe=160lbs, 1 ac. tobacco=1200 lbs.

1 dokey, 2 sheep, 10 goats, 1 pig, 1swine.

6 hens = 21 doz. eggs, 10 rabbits.

Interviewed. Wilbert Roy.

Present Household.

Thursday.
22. 4.48.
I.D.

Wilber. Roy Head.
Noel/ Porter ~~Boarder~~ Partner.

"Noel work on my land on share. I find him materials and him work on the land! Noel lives in the same house with Wilbert. He does not pay any rent.

Family History

Mother Esther Roy, Father David Roy. Mother's mother Ellen Simpson, Mother's father Liney Simpson. "My father mother was living at same old home, where Bereta/living down there." Father's mother? "Don' remember grand parents on father side."

Wilbert's children.

Mrs. Mavis Witter living at Ridge, Clifton also married is living at Ridge.

Esther and David's children: Mrs. Miriam Hanson, now in America. She has been away since 1924. Mrs. Ida May Anderson, has been in America since 1920. Ida came to Jamaica in 1928. Miriam has never been back. William, father of Charles Roy is in Costa Rica, He has been away for 42 years. Mrs. Esteline Senior, living in Bull Savannah. Mrs. Maria Millerat Portsea, Isaac, a teacher at Merriwood school, Edward at Top Bull Savannah, and Informant. (Wilbert)

Wilbert's mother died in 194⁴ when she was 100 years old.

Land

"We have plenty of unshare land up to now." This is me father's old home." He died in 1902. Wilbert's mother used to live in the house he now occupies. She did not make a will. The house and the land surrounding it belongs to Wilbert. (I do not remember acreage) He owns 2½ acres "across the road" given by his mother before her death. 2½ acres at Foster's land, bought from brother Isaac. "Bought out brother ~~share~~ claim" Wilbert bought out Isaac's share of land which was left by his mother. Bought 5 acres form Government "off Gibraltar" This land was bought in 1922 for £7. "Would pay £100 for it now."

Handwritten notes in blue ink:
4 3/4
2 1/2
2 1/2
5 1/2
4 6
6 6 3/4

"Have 46 acres in the wood unshared. You see me father bought it from a person and did not get any title for it. In olden times people take up land and claim it, and there was no title. The Government send out surveyor and measure it, and me mother had to buy it back

back

and she get a title. Just like the land that I buy, it was me father claim, it was not on taxes, and I buy it over from Government."

"Where Bereta live was bought by my mother, but it was given over to David." Hardly any work is done on the 46 acres ~~1/2~~ in the woods "get grass from it for mulching purposes."

Wilbert had 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres under tomatoes for the past crop. He had 18,000 trees. Owing to the drought the tomatoes did not do well. Asked if he had more plants than last year. "The industry improve, and as it improve, we plant more and more. Last year we did not plant half the amount!"

He also plants cassava and french beans. There are several coffee plants very near to the room door. They were planted before ~~they~~ ~~were~~ born. "Almost every year I plant coffee, but them don' come. Coffee can' stan' much dry."

Childhood

Born in Top Bull Savannah. He attended the Clonmel School in St. Mary where his brother used to teach. He also attended Merriwood school in St. Elizabeth. "Spent 4 years there, then come back home and leave for republic."

Travels

^a
"Went to Cuba 19 16, first voyage. Come back 1918. In the same year travel again back to Cuba. Come back home 1920. 1922 went again, Was there till 43. Come home 1943. Country get broken down and bad. My mother pay my passage out she send for me through the Jamaica Government!"

He went in the other room and appeared with 2 letters and a railway ticket. The letters dealt with his repatriation to Jamaica. Copies attached. The railway ticket was the one he used on the train the day he left Santiago. Wilbert wrote to his mother telling her of conditions in Cuba. He was having a hard time and she decided to send for him. His mother was also lonely at home and he was the only unmarried child, and he would be able to stay with her. "The others come and visit all the time, but they can't stay, they have their own home."

"Is through Major Moxy why I come out. Themoney alone could not get me out, but Major Moxy was in touch with the Colonial Secretary, and all those people. And the Roy family was the biggest support for the tomatoe industry."

"I was a naturalised Cuban. After you live in the

country a certain number of years you get naturalised. To have right claim as a Cuban and to be able to get work in the country; you have to get out naturalisation papers. Plenty Jamaicans do it, but I would not do it. You have to abandon your nationality. If I did get out papers, they could not send for me."

"Strangers don't get land to purchase, but if you work for a company they give you land to work, for they did not have enough work to support the natives. We have to work to support ourselves."

When Wilbert left Santiago, he was not paid for his crops. He got only 2 days notice and the owner of the land was away in Cuba. "If he was there he would pay me for it. Since I come home here I write him but I don't hear from him." ~~Every~~ in connection with his ~~the~~ repatriation were paid by his mother "Hotel reservation, passage, up to train fare." He travelled by plane.

All bills

Strike in Cuba.

"The whole entire Cuba was on strike." Why? "Them strike for shorter working hours and more pay. If you work them beat you." During the strike Wilbert was working on his cultivations. "You only get 2 or 3 hours to work on you cultivation. American had estate there and them take out machine from factory and send it to Florida, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The rich man them who ~~was~~ could afford it turn in cow in the fields and eat out the cane. That for one, cause the hard time in Cuba. The strangers could not work, for the natives would not allow them to work. Is just like Labour Union in Jamaica here, if one party strike and the other work, is a riot. ~~One~~ When the strike is on, away from the hours that they give you. You could not even be found in the field, taking up food to eat."

Repatriation of Jamaicans in Cuba by the ~~the~~ Government

"The Government send home plenty people in/1930." Asked why he did not come home then. "I did not want to come home so, and things was not so bad with me. From '36 on, I could not get work. Even you cultivation natives would come in and take whatever them want. Can't say anything for the Cuba Government back them."

Deposit before leaving the island

"The first time I travel, I lodge £2 with the Treasury. When I ~~go~~ return ~~of~~ them give me back £2.19. The last time I went I lodge £5. When I come back I get £4.19." Why lodge the money? "As a deposit that if anything ~~it~~ happen to you, you could get that money, and come back home."

Sent for brother

When Wilbert went to Cuba the first time he sent for his

brother Edward, who worked for a while in Cuba and returned home.

Marriage.

Wilbert did not ~~marry~~ get married because he did not meet ~~the~~ good women in Cuba. "Women that go from Jamaica to Cuba, not the right type of women for anybody to married to. Jamaican women over ~~the~~ there don' work hard fe them living, republic all over them don' bear good name. I never propose, or make up me mind to be a native, and it would be hard to take a Cuban woman out here.

Prostitution.

"Cuba Government don' have anything against ~~prostitution~~ it. (prostitution) The greater portion of the natives is their way of living.

Correspondence among relatives

xxx tell

"Me brother in Central America write to Isaac sometimes, and him send the letter to me, , and I ~~talk~~ the others about it." Wilbert hear from Isaac nearly every week.

Religion.

Wilbert was a salvationist. "But ~~a~~ backslide/. Can' be half and half salvationist. If you arre a salvationist you must be true hearted; for you have to testify to the people."

~~xxxxxx~~ Eula ~~xxxx~~ Niece ~~xxxx~~ Daughter ~~of~~ David Ray.

Letter from Eulalie - Niece. Daughter of David Roy

496 West 158 St.
New York 32, N.Y.
Apt. 51.

Hello! Uncle Bertie,

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ How are you? I sincerely hope fine. It has been quite a long time since I haven't written to you, and you must be wondering what has happened? It's this, these few months/were very busy / going back and forth on the job, which makes it difficult for me to write as often as I want to.

Well, how is the season out there? are you still getting rain? I understand that you are trying to improve the island by building hotels, constructing roads and etc. Did they finish the road passing by our house as yet? It's quite a long time they have been working on it.

How is your foot?

Let's talk about you and your family: Does the corn bother you still? It's a shame'. I didn't mail you the cure for them, don't give up I am going to surprise you. What about the baking, did you give that up? I hope not; Those buns, "em, eh, I haven't taste any like those since I been here; they are very delicious! Is Thelma going to school still? will you please tell her that I will write to her as soon as possibly? it is not that I forgot her why I never wrote, I still remember every one and hope write as I can make it. By the way! Lloyd and Aunt Jane wrote and told me that you have a plot to sell, and you would like to know if I will buy same. Yes! I will be del ighted to buy it since it is for sale; but frankly I don't know where the land is situated: So here is what you can do; write to me as quick as possible stating the details concerning the land the price offered, and if you are serious about selling it; in the mean time you can make out the titled deed and mail to me and I will send money. I am writing to Aunt Jane also to ~~write~~ talk things over with you and have everything arranged, is it obvious?

I think I have to make it short; enclosed you will find ~~\$3~~ three dollars \$3.0 take that for your pocket money. Have you seen my picture? If not ask Aunt Jane to show them to you, I will mail you one as soon as I take another pose.

Best regards to every body, kiss the children for me, and take good care of yourself.
Lots of love and kisses XXXXXXXXXXXXoOOOOO.

From,
Your loving niece,
Eulalie.

ADIOS!

496 West 158 Street,
New York 32, N.Y.
Oct. 29th, 1947.

Dearest Uncle Bertie,

How are you? I sincerely hope that this letter find you in the best of health as it leaves us at present thank God.

Your letter I had received and should have answered it before now but unfortunately I had to delayed it, as I have several others to get off my hand.

All contents were carefully ~~not~~ noticed about the land which you wanted to sell me. By the way! in your letter, you stated that it was $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres to be sell in-cluded Berita's 2 acre which amount to that: but after I had received one from Aunt Jane saying that Bereta had refused to sell her 2 acre. It is ~~not~~ clearly understood that I will be buying $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres instead of $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres which is £26 twenty six pounds.

Well ! this is what you ~~do~~: have the land survey, and after the title is mane out you can mail it to me at your earliest convenient: The money is already mailed to Nana to pay for the land: it is also make out in your name, so that it would be no difficultie to cash. Please noticed carefully? This is the sum of £26 twenty six pounds that's after cash, which is \$106 one hundred and six dollars with the commission will amount to that, now, if you don't understand it, write to me and let me know . I had promised to pay the man who is going to do the surveying,, so kindly let~~me~~ know how much is the cost.

About the picture and the other things I will let you have same for Christmas. I am so glad Thelma is in Kingston I do hope she get through. Is Enid still going to school?

Best regards to every one. Cherio ! hope to hear from you soon.

(sgd.)Eula.

Leeds,
Santa Cruz P.O.
26th May 1943.

My dear Grannie,

I am sending you this note with the hope that it will find you much relieved. I must tell you that our sincere prayers will keep you and give you the courage and bravery to fight this life's battle with fortitude.

Its a long time now since I saw you last dear granny, but I am only praying and hoping that God will keep you and keep me, till we meet again. I am conscious that there will not be that great separation till I see you. During the interval of absence one from another, many great and sad things have happened, - the saddest of all being the loss of our dear and loved one - we know not for what reason the loving Jesus has taken her, but my only consolation is that we hope to meet in the blessed beyond - And when the folks at home sent to tell me that you were ill, I made every effort to see you in the Easter holidays, but the thought of passing Ballards Valley where the saddest event in my life occurred made me shiver; further more granny, I certainly would not have liked to meet you with a sad heart, because my duty and mission should be to comfort you in your illness -

You have been and you are still - as long as your life will be prolonged more than a mother to us all. We hope (if God spare our lives) to tread in your blessed and glorious footsteps, and to follow your worthy example. Dear Grannie, don't forget that we are going to see you again. Yes if not on earth then it will be in that happy abode where there is no pain, no sorrow, no weeping!

~~Lead~~

Lean fast on Jesus my dear and carry Him with you - Remember He will never leave you nor forsake you. There is nothing that can be compared with that Heavenly Mansion where there is eternal happiness. My Best love to you, Uncle Bertie, and Junior -

Yours ever the same,

(Sgd) Rose.

~~This letter was written by~~

Wilbert Roy.

Central Ave
East Falmouth
Box 242
Cape Cod Mass U.S.A.
May 26. 44.

Dearest Bro.

Yours came safe. I was glad to hear from you I am
not very well at present We can't be always well. I suppose,
that's life. Who did Morris married to, what about your son
he must be quite a man now. Oh yes I would like very much for
you to go and live at my home, until I come and then you could
stay with me as long as you want to stay when I can I will send
you the money to Build the oven at my Home. I think you ought
to ~~wait~~ do very well their the sement can still stay then they
only rent one Room ~~of~~ I understand Daughter will tell you all you
would want to know I will also ask Leslie to go then and see if
every thing is alright the way he leave them I know he had taken
good care of the place while he was their you ought to make a
better living their I will make a trip as soon as I can be good
to your dear self, write soon and tell me all about the Place when
you see what it looks like I can not Do no fixing now as I am
all tied up Hear with Bentley away. I Just can't bear to think
that mother is gone. what does the place look ~~like~~ without her
it must be aful strange there without her. please give my love
to all at home. God Bless with you until we meet.

From your living

Sister.

Glenroy
Ipswich P.O.
23/8/44.

My dear Bertie,

I had planned coming down for the holidays but
owing to many little things to get thro. I could not make it.
Anyway I am hoping to drop in one day soon and will let you know
when I am coming.

About what you wrote I have not heard anything from Marie
altho. she had promised to let me hear from her. That I suppose
will be fixed o.k. when I come down. ~~When you get home~~

How did the storm affect you? We this end did not meet
it so badly. Not much damage altho. the wind was very high.

I think the truck from here will be coming to Southfield on
Saturday. If you could arrange to send some mangos & lobsters
& fish for me I would be very glad. I could send you some
corn and maybe a few pieces of yams.

Let me hear how everything is moving that end now. I had
expected Dalwood but he never turned up. Much love to all the fa-
mily.
Yours loving brother
(Sgd.) Isaac.

Wilbert's repatriation.

British Vice Consulate
Santiago-de-Cuba
March 20, '42.

No '44

Duplicate handed W.R. Roye for delivery to Alien's Officer
Kingston Jamaica. Original by ordinary mail.

Sir,

Further to my despatch No 38 (Ref.J 148/19/42) dated 13th
March, 1942 regarding W.R.Roye) I have the honour to inform
you that the special party emplaned here ~~at~~ this afternoon for
Jamaica.

/ tne
The total amount expenditure in his repatriation amounted
to £\$43.0031 and the sum of \$2.69. being/balance of \$46.00
(U.C.6y.) sent in for his repatriation has been handed to me in
accordance with Mr. A.Rupert Moxsy's letter dated 1st September
1941. copy of which was attached to your despatch No. 75.
(Ref. 1979/41) dated 27th the Oct 1941.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,
L. Heydock Wilson.

British Vice Consul.

~~~~~  
Original letters seen by I.D.

Interviewed Wilbert Roye

Monday  
10. 5.48.

I.D.  
/Herbert

Brother's children.

His brother Herbert who is in America had a daughter at "Bethlehem School. He/had to pay £60 a year for her."

Wilbert helps Bereta's children. "I give them boots and books and clothes. Even before the father died, when they want books, slate, pencil, them come to me, them don' go to the father, now it worse."

Source of income.

His main source of income is his land. "Gave out the land and get ~~income from it~~ benefit from it." I don' do much work, only me little garden work. Not that I couldn' do something, but I get accustomed to the outside world, and all the lifting of the load, and all that, can' do it. Raise me pig or cow or  $\delta$  2 head a goat. Can' have cow now through the dry weather and it better to use the grass for the cultivation. Tomatoes pay better!

& gongo

French bean/crop.

1 quart french beans yield a bushel. The beans bought for planting cost 2/- a quart "and we may have to sell for 1/3. The beans ~~get~~ spoilt very easily. "If it fumigate, it wi' keep, but it not good to plant, - wont grow."

This year gongo crop poor. Rain was poor through last year season. Land room ~~poor~~ small so cassava crop poor. After take out cassava, I have to plant tomatoes, so no space for gongo peas."

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While at school Wilbert ~~kiked~~ was very fond of arithmetic. He did not "study" when he left school.. His father sent him to do tailoring. "I was coming on well, I could make me own trousers, but I jus' give it up. I had a Aunt in Savlamar and I go there to her. She was a baker and I learn the baking."

Division of land

Wilbert would not tell how the land which was left by his mother was divided among the children and grand children. I overheard a conversation between Charles, John and Claston Roy concerning the land. They were not at all satisfied. Charles said "Make him stay de don' know that collection wi' bury him, with all him a ~~gaw~~ go on wit'." They felt Wilbert was ~~un~~fair. Charles said Isaac should not want any of the land "him rich a'ready." Isaac is a retired teacher. Charles said afterwards "After all him entitle to it, is his share."