

C.D.22. Sbd. 8. Household 36.

Gorden	Rosa	Head	F.S.	45	5.4.	St.	El.	Col.	Angl.	W.3.	homemaker
Lee	Gertrude	dau	F.S.	13		"	"	"	"	W.3.	3.E.
Banton	Hicksford	son	M.S.	9		"	"	"	"	X	3.E.

3

~~His farm in 1942.~~

Has no land of her own. Rents land from Philip Lewis.

04

7.4.48.
T.O.

Informant: Dudley Simpson.

"Rosa Gorden - rents land from Philip Lewis. Him (Rosa) don't have land. Her mother was an idiot. We just call "sanger". (i.e. idiot). Don't remember her (Rosa's mother) right name. Just idiot. Don't know the father."

"Rosa has 4 children. No man should have give her a child. But men are risky. She has children for: Julius Parchment, Wilhelm Lee, Latan Banton. The children - quite collective. (normal)".

Saturday,
April 10, 1948.

Family Record 211.

Ed.F.

INTERVIEW WITH ROSA GORDON

Present Household:

1. Rosa Gordon (informant) -
2. Mavis Powell, dau. 20.
3. Gertrude Lee, " 18.
4. Hixford Banton, son 14.
5. Cicilene Francis, 23 months dau. to Mavis

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

How old are you now Miss Rosa? -"A couldn't & directly ~~say~~ tell you that. I was so small when mi ~~grandparents~~ and parents die that a don't remember a thing about ~~that~~. Miss Ruby Blight who take the census could more tell you about that. When the census was being taken she was living in a room on Jane Perkins land in Top Bull Savannah.

Rosa was born in Ballards Valley. She came to live here ~~XXXXXX~~ a long time ago; came here before the commencement of the war. Why? -"A come spen' time with mi family." The family is Mrs. Eusella Dyer of Green Olive. After she had been in Bull Savannah for some time she decided to stay over.

Her parents

Her mother was Julia Gordon. Your father? ~~XXA~~ -"A can't exactly say who was mi father because mi mother never have perfect knowledge. How was that? -"She was not quite perfect in knowledge about who did that to her, and the one who did that business wouldn't say."

Her mother's death

Her mother died when she (Rosa) was a little girl going to school. Her mother was subject to fits -convulsions. She was then taken over and cared by Mrs. Estelyn Gordon, wife of her mother's brother. She continued to attend school while she was with Mrs. Gordon till she was ~~about~~ in the 4th book.

Schooling:

After school

After school ~~she~~ she learned to wash for herself and for Mrs. Gordon's children. She became more proficient as she grew till she was able to help with laundering the family clothes. She learned to smake bammies also.

With Mrs. Dyer

For reasons she did not name she left Mrs. Gordon's in Ballards Valley to come and live in Green Olive with Mrs. Dyer. (She said as above she came to spend time with Mrs. Dyer.) Mrs. Dyer is the daughter of Clovis Gordon a mother's brother.

Her menas of living

"Life is hard with mi; except (unless) I work I cannot feed. I have no place to work. I am living just as the others do; I try to help myself. I work all about to help myself."

At housework

She has worked with many people. Work was house work. She evaded telling who are some ~~in~~ of the people with whom she has worked; they are "plenty people."

At thatch plaiting

She plaits thatch used for making straw hats: native straw hats. Nobody taught her to do the a plaiting: she used to watch other people plaiting and soon learned to plait too. She sells her plaitings according to the kind of straw used. She gets 2/- per 50 yards for straw plaited from coconut ~~and~~ big thatch straw. For plaitings from silver thatch she gets 6^d per 16 yards.

She stood by a small tree washing, when called on. The washing was being done in a tub. The water in the tub was red with dirt. In the open yard she had a 12 quart size bucket on a wood fire; she was boiling clothes in the bucket.

/outside / A little girl in red plad type dress came to ask for a pair of scissors loaned to Rosa. Rosa sent the child into the house to Mavis. The child returned with the scissors in her hand. Rosa called her wrapped the scissors in a towell and told the child to hold it carefully. ~~Ex~~ She had wrapped the scissors in a towel~~x~~ she explained because she had had her own broken ~~xxxx~~ when it fell from somebodys hand upon stones. She would not like the same thing to happen to the borrowed pair of scissors.

Her washing through She went in search /of some brushwood for the fire beneath the bucket. She returned with an armful she got from premises across the road and belonging to Mr. Charles Lewis. She helped the blaze under the bucket with ~~xxxx~~ more fuel.

Near the fireplace (there is no kitchen) and hanging from the branches of a shrub, were a number of tin cans.

Lying in a basket in the open yard were some old enamelware plates, some spoons, and a can or too. Near the ~~Basketxxxxxxx~~ basket were an 8 quart size (gallon size) ~~xxxxx~~ iron pot, and near that a dutch pot of similar capacity.

The room

is rented
 The room/ from Phillip Lewis, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ neighbour,
~~xx~~ for 3/- per month. Of Phillip she said - "Him don't
 deal with mi hard." The room measures 9ft. by 8ft.
 (about 3 ~~meters~~ meters by 2 2/3 meters.) The floor
 is of cement while the roof is thatched. ~~ix~~ There
 is one small window measuring about 24 inches by 18
 inches (60 c.m. by 45 cm.) and an only door.

In the room were a single size wooden bed cover-
 ed with a white sheet, and a kind of contrivance like
 a table. On top of the latter was a kind of a suitcase.
 The room was a s tidy as it was bare.

The window was closed; it would appear it is e
 never opened. ~~xxxx~~ On its outer ledge were a cassava
 sieve, a half used cake of palmolive toilet soap,
 and two ~~ix~~ match box size pieces of brown laundry
 soap. In the cassava sieve was a piece of bamm~~y~~,
 and near the ~~xxxx~~ pieces of soap a 6^d.

Mavis is deformed about the legs; she waddles
 about awkwardly. While the interview was in progress
 she washed plates forks etc. Later she took some
 water in a small wooden tub, and proceeded to scrub
 the concrete floor of the room.

~~xxxx~~ Merton Francis is the father to Ci~~sc~~ilene.
 He supports the child. He sends the money -never
 brings it himself. Mavis was wearing a cotton
 frock; her mother also.

There was some thatch lying in the yard. Rosa
 said she had bought it. She always has to buy the
 thatch which comes from the heart -is the youngset
 shoot of the plant. When this shoot is cut out
 another grows in its place. She did not say how
 much she had paid for the shoot she was then allow-
 ing to quail in the sun.

There were a number of old pieces of bedding
 lying on rocks rear the house. This would seem to
 suggest that some members of the family sleep on
 the concrete floor on the pieces of clothing seen.
 There were pices of sackcloth -jute type coarse
 cloth, lying among the pieces of clothing.

Information from Leo Powell.
Interv. Rosa Gordon.
18.6.48.
J.O. 29.8.48.

Present household.

Gordon Rosa, 49.
Lee Gertrude, Rosa's daughter, 20.
Powell Mavis, " " 23.
Banton Hixford, " son, 15.
Francis Ellen, Mavis' daughter,

Rosa Gordon: is from Ballard's Valley, ~~was raised~~ Her mother: Julia Gordon, father unknown. She was brought up by her aunt in Ballard's Valley. Rosa Gordon had 5 children, 4 of them alive, 3 staying with her.

Lee Gertrude: her father is late Willaim Lee /in Top Bull Savannah?/.

Powell Mavis: her father is ~~is~~ Manny Powell /Emanuel Powell, dead, from Green Olive?/. Francis Ellen, Ellen's daughter, is outside son of Merton Francis in B.B.S.

Banton Hixford is outside son of Laban Banton in T.B.S.

Hilda Bromfield, - is another of her children, living now outside of the house, in Top Bull Savannah. Her father is /was?/ Julius Bromfield.

Ersy Francis - the child that died. Father: Eli Francis.

House: 1 room. She rents this house from Philip Lewis, pays 3/- monthly. ~~from~~ They spend ~~sh.~~ 15/- weekly on food. Other expences cannot be estimated.

Hixford Banton is described as cultivator supported by mother". Gertrude Lee and Mavis Powell are Anglican.