

~~8~~ ~~xxxxxx~~

Visit at home. Interv. Daisy Powell.  
29.6.48.  
T.O.

This is the old house in which Wilfred & Edith Holness used to live. According to Claston Holness and old Sarah Simpson the house and land round it was bought by Wilfred from old Robert Simpson, whose wife Ellen was from the Holness family and aunt of Wilfred.

Claston built a house for himself where he lives with his wife child and nephew Martin Frank.

At present in this house live two separate sets of people. The permanent household consists of:

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Holness Lena head S. 20  
" Alfred brother S. 29  
" Hazan brother S. 15

One room is temporarily rented. There lives:

Powell Daisy S. 26 4 children  
~~Simpson Marvey daughter 11~~  
Hedda Wright " 2/12

*2 persons*

During the day stay there also

~~xxxx~~ Simpson Aston son 12  
" Derrick " 8

The house It is a fairly big house with three rooms. In one room sleeps Lena and Hazan, in another Alfred. In the third room sleeps Daisy Powell with her two daughter. The kitchen is big but in bed repairs and all thatch.

*Holness*

Holness Lena Nobody of her household was in when I came. I got the information about them from Daisy. Lena lives permanently here. She is a friend of Daisy. The brother Hasan doesn't go to school any more as "his time is up". He is learning a trade now: masonry with Julius Simpson. He was out working with Julius. Alfred ~~Simpson~~ came only recently to live with the sister. He used to live for a long time in another parish. He was out working in his field. The house belongs to "the family" but Claston Holness is a kind of "supervisor." Daisy pays the rent to Claston 7/- per month for the room.

I met Aston in the yard and he led me to his mother. She was sitting on a chair holding the baby in her arms. Her daughter Marvey was sitting on the big bed among a lot of little rags. Derrick was amusing himself climbing under the bed and chair on which his mother was sitting. Daisy looked very depressed, although friendly she didn't smile once.

I gave the children a few pennies and told them to go and buy sweets, but they didn't want to go. Marvey said she will buy cashew nuts. She can get a dozen for a penny "I roast them and beat with sugar". I asked Aston whether he would go to the Junction P.O. where there were some registered letters for me. He agreed and after washing, changing and putting a lot of pomade on his hair he went. The younger brother refused however to go with him. So the whole interview was in the presence of those children who were rather naughty, they made remarks, giggled when the mother smoked the cigarette I offered her and finally the girl started to cut her dress with big scissors. She said she didn't like the dress and she will cut it, and didn't pay attention to her mother's apathetic remarks. But they are intelligent children, wrote nicely their names and ages in my note book and became quite tolerable when they gave up showing off.

Lisa

Daisy Powell She is the daughter of James Powell ("Bewan") from Bottom. Her mother was Dyer - a sister of Charles Dyer ~~xxxx~~ who lives now in Green Olive. Daisy used to go to Bull-Savannah school. When Daisy was 15 her mother died and the father married another woman, - Caroline Powell. Daisy stayed till she was 20 in the parental home but she didn't feel happy. She didn't say anything against her step-mother like her sister Turnica (see F.R.6) but rather blamed her father. "Him good, but him rough us".

Daisy had 2 sisters and 3 brothers. One of the sisters Naomi married Claston Lewis and lives in Dunder Hill. The youngest Turnica stays with the half brother Reginald Rochester. One brother - Samuel - died. Dalson built his house next to his father's and lives separately. The only one with the father is Philemore George. Daisy says she is most attached to her half brother Reginald Rochester. He was the outside son of her mother before she married James Powell. Reginald grew up with his parental grandfather Thomas Rochester and his uncle Laban Rochester. However the children use to see each other as Reginald visited his mother. "He is the loving brother" said Daisy "I love him more than my full brothers."

Daisy's love affair.

Soon after her mother's death Daisy became "friends" with the nearest neighbour Eli Simpson. When she became pregnant the father "made a row". However the relation was kept and Daisy expected to get married. In 5 years she had with Eli Simpson three children: Aston, Marvy and Derrick. Those children stayed with her in the parental home. "Eli fell in love with another girl Joint daughter". (The gossip is that old "Joint" Robert Simpson bribed Eli promising to give him land if he marries the daughter. Daisy however didn't mention this story.) "Eli married that girl and I was jealous". When Eli married the other woman James Powell started to quarrel with Daisy. "Him made a row I have too many children." ~~xxxx~~

Daisy leaves the parental home.

Daisy felt very unhappy in her father's home and also was jealous of her lover's wife. She decided to leave Bull-Savannah. She had an uncle in Mandeville in the police force corporal Dyer. This uncle ~~xxxxxx~~ promised to help her. She went to Mandeville and stayed for a while with the uncle who found her employment as a bar maid in a chinese bar. Daisy worked there for 3 years. The owner however decided after that time to close the bar and use the place for enlarging his grocery. Daisy lost her job. For  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ~~xxx~~ she worked in another place. At the bar she used to get 15/- a week, but she made about £1 more weekly from tips. "Men that come and drink would give me 1/- or 6 d. so it wasn't bad." ~~xxxx~~ Daisy saved this money and after  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years in employment she had £20. She opened a little shop in Mandeville as she couldn't find any other employment. The licence for the shop with her photograph stand on the table as a sad remembrance of her failure. "People didn't pay - there are people they take and don't pay." After half a year Daisy had to close the shop. She rescued about £ 10 from this business.

The second lover and the fourth child.

While Daisy was working in the bar she met a Mr. Wright who "works in government office". They became friendly and Daisy became pregnant. She had to close the shop anyhow as it didn't bring profit only losses and decided to come to Bull-Savannah to have the child. She came here in February and the child was born in April. Daisy doesn't expect Mr. Wright to marry her although he is not married. She doesn't expect either to live with him in the same home. She let me understand that Mr. Wright is of a superior class. He gives her £ 1 monthly to support the baby.

While Daisy was in Mandeville the children stayed with their father. In the meanwhile he had children with his wife. But Daisy says the wife Julith treated her children "good".

When Daisy came to Bull-Savannah to have her child she didn't stop at her father's house. She doesn't feel happy in that house, as the old man is "rough, he treats us rough". Daisy rented that room for which she pays to Claston Holness 7/- monthly. She had the baby in this room and Cella Simpson was the grandy. For a few weeks her sister Turnica stayed with her, but now she returned to Reginnald's home where she stays. Daisy took her elder daughter from the father. The two boys sleep at the father's house but spent the day with the mother. Lena Holness does the cooking for her, sometimes they cook together. "I like cooking with her" said Daisy when I asked whether it is not very uncomfortable to have to share the kitchen. Lena doesn't charge Daisy anything for the cooking. They are friends, although Lena is by 6 years younger. They became friendly when Daisy was still at home and living in vicinity they used to see a lot of each other. But Daisy has to "find the food". Sometimes her father would give her some. "He is not a bad man, if he has food he give, but nothing else." Lena can't get cassava to buy and there is no flour in the shop. She mostly eats cornmeal and oats.

#### Plans for future.

~~Jankpa~~ wants to go back to Mandeville in September. She will take with her the two daughters. The boys will remain with the father. She plans to rent a room in Mandeville. This will cost £ 1 per month in town or 16/- shillings if out of town. She wants to send Marvey to school and take a little girl to look after the baby. Daisy will look for a job. She thinks that she will have to spend for the four of them 12/- a week for food alone. Her father used to send her some food "once in three months but nothing much" so she doesn't think she can count on any help from him. Neither Eli Simpson will help her with the daughter. "He is poor and has a lot of children with the wife." Daisy will have to send something from time to time for the boys.

Daisy prefers to stay in the town than in Bull-Savannah. "Nothing to do here. And in town it is much easier with the market. You can't get here anything. In the town they have a market, you can buy a little vegetables and all you need." She doesn't feel lonely in the town. She has her uncle there. She heard lately he will be transferred to some other place. But there is a cousin and she has friends.

I asked Daisy why she is taking the daughter and not one of the boys with her. "Boys them tough" said Daisy. "He couldn't give - or didn't want to - any reason why she was taking the girl. Marvey is ill now. A few weeks ago she got "fever wouldn't eat". Daisy sent Marvey's urine to the doctor and he sent a mixture for malaria. She feels better now. Daisy I asked Marvey whether she could help her mother in anything. Marvey says she can cook. When I asked what she can cook she giggled a lot and said gunggo peas.

The room Daisy's room looked rather different from other rooms in Bull-Sav. It was clean enough but rather untidy, the powder puff and a plate with the rests of some food in close vicinity. Piteous items of "town luxuries". An enameled pail for dirty water, some fibre suit cases cracked and with broken handles, a few flashy dresses on the wall, a pair of smart shoes in a corner of the table. The rags on the bed on which Marvey sat were used to put under the baby but somehow without success because it would wet Daisy's frock. But Daisy didn't mind it. He seemed not to mind anything at all. The children were happy and noisy, they played with the baby. Daisy said they loved it very much. Marvey said: "The baby with the ugly name". I asked who gave the name. Marvey touched her mother's head and giggled, "She give" and Marvey together with Derrick laughed derisively.

Why the younger sister left the home.

Looking round the room I asked again whether it wouldn't be easier for her to live with the father in whose home there are only 3 adult people. "No, can't stay there. He is a good man but rough." I asked why the youngest girl Turnica left the father's home. "Him make her work too hard". What did he asked her to do? "Bring food from the field, yams. She refuse." The girl went to her half-brother and the father doesn't help her because he wants her to come back home. (see F.R. 6 and another version of Turnica's leaving the home).