

27/19/53

Robinson Icema	Head	F.M.	43.	10.8	Farm Labourer	
" Henerde	Son	M.S.	8			50.
" Joyce	Dau	F.S.	6			Ind. Case Hist. 50.

21.1V.47.  
Interview.  
J.O.+ T.O.

An oldish woman was sent by Miss Clarke to get some food. She asked to come and see her in her house. Was interviewed.

Location of her house.  
Family relations and family history.

Mrs. Icema Robinson is a neighbour of Campbell Berris. She lives near-by, in Wilmouth Town.  
Her husband Robinson left her. He "travels around the world." He maltreats her, when brought by Police Constable to pay maintenance to her. She does not know where he is now.  
She married him 19 years ago. Had 7 seven children, but 2 died. Two children stay with her: ~~maxxxxxxxx~~ a boy and a girl. The girl, Joyce, is 9 years old; the boy, Hamford - 11 years. One of her girls, Eda Robinson, is "taken as her own," by George Wiltshire. She stays "as in ward" with Wiltshires. "She is not yet off age. She stopsschool" already. Another child of her, Vincent Robinson "was at a poor house - with his bad leg." The Poor House is in Falmouth. "He is a big young man. Come off age." ~~xxxxxx~~ He left the poor house already, but she does not know where he is and he ~~it~~ makes his living. The ~~oldest~~ eldest daughter, Ivy, ~~xxxx~~ / "Ivy is 21; she is off age." / "went away; she did go to Kingston; anywhere she go to take a little work; she stay with a lady."

how

Family Origin.

He was born in Wilmot Town.  
Her mother was Mendez, but she died young. Her father was Alfred Carter. He is no more alive. She does not remember her grandmother. "I have it in paper, I dont remember."  
She does not know how much land she has. She will show the tax-receipt and we shall find it.

History of the family property.

The land she owns was bought by her husband. He bought it in two portions: first one, and later on the second. The first one was bought from Stewart Carter, who was the brother of her father and the uncle to her. The second one was bought from Jessy Carter, son of Stewart Carter and her cousin. "It was all in the family. He bought the land from Jessy Carter good time ago. He bought it before he married. Then he bought some more. He bought from Jessy Carter and

House.

The house they live in is broken. "Broke down little grass-house." There is a whole in the roof and the rain pours into the room. "If a strom come it capsize." The house was built "good time, good time." She has no money to repair it. Someteimes people help her to do necessary repairs. "Good people come and put a little grass."

Sickness.

She is sick after being beaten by her husband. "I did work hard, he broke me down. He was bad man. He give me lick at this side. Licked me down." She was unconscious - a neighbour came and put her in bed. From that time on she is ill. "I cant work."



Visit 18.10.47.

J.O.

I met Icema Robinson on the road and we went together to her place in Wilmouth Town. She confirmed some ~~information~~ ~~which was given previously~~ previous information concerning her family and added some new details.

Sickly child. Only two children stay now with her. The eldest daughter stays with Wiltshire - she was taken ~~in~~ by them - and with this child she has no trouble. A boy is in Falmouth Almhouse. He has lame foot. ~~Only~~ The girls who ~~stay~~ stays with her is 9 years old. She goes to the school, but ~~lastly~~ not the last days. She was ill. ~~Then~~ Icema Robinson took her to the doctor and prescribed her some medicine /a mixture and pills/ but he said that the chief trouble with the girl is undernourishment. She asked Miss Eda to give her milk /3d. per tin/, but Miss Eda said that the girl must come every day to get her milk on the spot. ~~Is she able to go each day to Miss Eda?~~ And the girl is too weak to ~~be able to go each day to Miss Eda.~~ Could not she get the milk to be taken home? The girl will get all the milk, they will not eat it. I advised her to do as Miss Eda instructed her to do.

On our way to Wilmouth Town we met her sickly daughter, going with a basket and two empty bottles to a shop. She carried a shilling to pay in the shop. Is she going to buy something for then? No, she goes to bring something for a neighbour - they sent her to do shopping. It is not for Miss Icema and her children.

Their house.

We reached Miss Icema's place in Wilmouth Town. It is situated on the northern boundary of the quarter. It is a small grass-hut, with floor and one window. The house was previously on another ~~at~~ spot. But it was destroyed and ~~renewed~~ rebuilt recently. Almost the whole of the space was taken by a wooden roughly constructed bed, covered with a sheet. There was just one chair ~~in the room~~ /it was rather a tiny short bench/ and nothing more. No table and no trunk ~~in~~ or box to keep family possessions in. A small triangular shelf was hanging in the corner of the ~~room~~ room with one plate, a cup and a pair of spoons ~~on it~~ on it. In front of the house there was a primitive "barbecue" on which some pots and empty tins were placed. There was no kitchen in the yard. A hearth - stone construction was made behind the house - there were traces of fire there and broken bits of pot indicated that cooking is done usually here. Miss Icema explained ~~that~~ that in case of rain the cooking is done inside the house. The walls and especially the ~~inner~~ the thatch-walls of the roof were covered with soot. A newspaper stuck to one of the walls over the bed adorned the inside of the house. The room was clean and nicely swept. There was no disorder inside. ~~On the floor, at the entrance into the room, and on the door~~ black crosses were painted.



Their farm.

The surrounding of the house looked nice and pleasant. There were several ~~many~~ old breadfruit trees around the house and ~~plenty of~~ the ground overgrown with the grass. A ~~bed~~ bed of yams /yellow yams/ was to the left from the house and in the rear of the possession. There were altogether about 30 yam hills over there. Miss Icema explained that ~~the~~ her land is not very big. Just 3 and 1/2 square chains. The yam hills were dug by her 11 years old boy and he also planted the yams. ~~There~~ Nothing was planted in between, but there ~~was~~ were some sweet potatoe plants covereing the ground. To the right one could see some gungee peas. They were to young to bear any crops. The number of bread fruit trees was ~~only~~ given by Miss Icileda as 9. All of them are yellow heart bread fruits and she ~~want~~ does not expect to get any fruit from them before December. ~~She~~ Then they will last approximately till April and only in this season she has some breadfruits of her own. The yellow yam can be harvested from January. Now she ~~has~~ ~~max~~ gets no feed from her tiny plantation. There was also ~~some~~ a tiny coffee grove under the breadfruits. ~~There~~ The land is not owned by Miss ~~but~~ Icema. It belongs to her husband who deserted her and now gives no support to her.

Their family budget.

Miss Icema ~~has~~ is on the Paupers List and she gets 4 shillings weekly for herself and her two children. She cannot work - she is ill. All their expenses are covered from ~~these~~ these 4 shillings. Neighbours help her from time to time and this is how she can manage. She has no crops now and all the sum is spent chiefly on shop-feed.

She ~~was~~ was shopping when I met her on the road and she displayed to me the inside of her shopping ~~max~~ basket /it was a nice new round basket/. she accired it evidently quite recently: last time I met her on the road some three or four weeks ago she carried her shoppings in hands/. She bought the follwing things to-day:

1 lb. cornmeal	5,5d.
1/2 lb. sugar	1,5d.
1 pint of oil	3,0d.
1 sugar head	2,5d.
1/2 beef lb.	3,0d.
fish for	3,0d.
butter for	1,0d.
soap for	3,0d.
salt /1/2 lb./	1,5d.

Together she spent 23,0d. I.e. almost half of what she got as her ~~max~~ weekly relief.

This food will keep her for two days, i.e. Saturday and Sunday. "It is for two days for me and 2 children. By Monday I have nothing."



She usually spends on shop-feed over 3 shillings weekly. ~~xxxx/xxx~~ She gave ~~xxxxxx~~ the following items as her weekly food expenses: 1 lb of cornmeal - 5,5d. 1 lb of flour - 5,5d. 1 pint of oil - 2 or 3d. 1 lb. of sugar - 3 d. 1 pint of salt - 2,5d. 1 piece of mutton - 10d./approx. 1 lb./. 1 piece of fish for 3d. One sugar head - 3d. Together it makes more than 3 shillings and the remainder is spent also on feed. To-day she bought some beef - 1/2 lb for 3d. only. It was an occasional purchase - the butcher sold it to her for a cheaper price. It was a bit of cow's mouth, far from being fresh. Its smell poisoned the atmosphere around.

#### Their meals.

Miss Icema could not explain to me explicitly what they ~~eat~~ have regularly for their meals. Last Thursday children had only tea on the morning. Last Friday she managed to give them tea and 1 penny bread to each. She does not cook any meal for the breakfast /noon meal/. Children have usually "a little piece of cane". ~~She~~ She does not eat anything for the ~~xxxxxx~~ mid-day meal; just has "a little coffee". Last Friday she cooked food for the evening meal. She cooked a piece of yam given her by Mrs. Brooks and the boy found in the garden two sweet potatoes, which were added to the yam. To-day - Saturday - children had just some tea on the morning - they did not eat anything to eat; as she had no money to buy bread. Now she will cook for them "a little porridge" - it will be made of corn meal; she mixes cornmeal with the flour and when she has any butter, she will add to it. She has "no milk to put in". Tomorrow /Sunday/ she will make some dumplings /dumbs?/ they are called also Johnny cakes/ made of cornmeal and flour. For the evening meal she will cook a soup: "fl ur with the little beef". She has no potatoes and no yam. She went buy any yam for? "it selling so dear, I cant buy no yams". Last Thursday she cooked for the evening meal "a little two breadfruits". This was all. "you havent ~~xxxx~~ every time to buy evrything." "Not every-morning can find penny to buy bread." "I never ate breakfast - Said Miss Icema of herself - only drink a little coffee. Though the day we eat no breakfast, because we havent. Only if it come to th evening we cook the meal." Each day it is "the same shop-feed - cornmeal and flour".

#### Family possessions.

Miss Icema has only one dress and one shirt: "The govern ment give it to me; 2 piece - ready." There was "no pay" for it. She has one ~~kerchief~~ head-kerchief made of calico. She paid it 1/9d. per yard.

The girl has only one dress. "It is made by the same Miss Carter /her aunt/. 2/ a yard and 1/2 yard of pink. She /Miss Carter/ never charges me. She make it for 9d."

The boy /~~Emrod~~/ has only one pair of trousers and one shirt. She bought material for it paying ~~xxxxx~~ together 3/9d for it and 1/9 for the work.

Both children "have nothing to put on" when their dresses are dirty. They stay naked at home ~~xxxx~~ till Miss Robinson is over with washing and drying.

The boy has one old cap /half torn/ - it was not bought, it was given to him by somebody. The girl's hat is also: "some-body given that."



She has also another new hat, with a ribbon. It has been bought recently. "To-day I went to pay for it 1 shilling". The hat cost certainly more than that. At least several shillings.

Miss Icema got to-day from the Nurse two pieces, each 1 and 1/2 yard, of thick cloth /which is used to make mattresses or pillows/. She wanted to make a dress for Joyce ~~of~~ from that. But Joyce protested: "it's too ~~thick~~". She certainly would not look smart in such a dress.

The list of their possessions is completed with ~~the~~ a pillow and a sheet, covering the bed. The pillow is filled with the straw. The sheet is made of one yard of flanel /for 2/./ and 2 yards of calico /1/9d. per yard/.

19x

Interview with  
the Teacher.  
19.10.47.

Icema's daughter, Joyce, was really undernourished and Teacher instructed her to come ~~every~~ day to them to have lunch at his house. She was given everyday a lunch, ~~in~~ but some days ago stopped coming to the school and to the lunches. He heard she is ill.

Interview with  
Miss Eda.  
20.10.47.

Miss Eda knows well Icema and her family. Icema had a child years ago - it was an outside child, a boy. She married a Daniel Robinson, ~~who~~ for whom she had 4 or 5 children. Daniel Robinson did not like his wife's outside child. He illtreated the boy. When he was 5 years old, Miss Eda took the boy and he was staying with them. He was sent to the school and was the most promising pupil. They planned to send him to the secondary school and a friend of them promised to take all the trouble of ~~fix~~ preparing him to the examinations and ~~fix~~ing him in the school in Christiana. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Unfortunately his mother and his father checked this plan. One day, when Miss Eda stayed away from Warsop, Daniel Robinson came to their house /it was still at the Mission House/, took all the boy's clothes which were being dried after washing, and persuaded the boy to go ~~back~~ back to the parental home. He had some goats and wanted the boy to look after them. The step-father did not change a bit. He continued to beat and illtreat the boy. ~~xxxxxxx~~ The boy ran to Christiana and worked for other people. Icema came to Miss Eda asking her to take again the boy to her house "just to sweep the yard", but Miss Eda refused.

Robinsons' oldest child was a girl. Her name was Ivy. She stayed with Teacher Dyke, for whom she worked, but teacher Dyke complained that she was a ~~xxxxxxx~~ nuisance. The girl ran away from Warsop to Christiana, where she was roaming about until she found a man with whom she lives now.

They have also a boy, who is syphilitic. He has lame foot, a cripple, and stays in Almhouse in Falmouth. All the family is syphilitic.



Icema was known as a very careless mother. Miss Eda remembers how ~~was~~ once ~~wix~~ walking near her house she unexpectedly came across one of her little children, lying ~~and~~ in the bush, ~~xxx~~ and dying. The child was left without any protection; it was swollen and beaten by ants, dirty and stinking. It was a little baby. It died a few days later on.

Now only 3 children of her stay in Warsop. The eldest, Eda, is with Goerge Wiltshire. She is not a pleasant girl, always ready to intrigue and tell lies. Recently she brought two chickens for the sale to Miss Eda. One of them has a leg eaten by mungeese. They refused to buy two of them, but were ready to buy the healthy one. The girl went to Wiltshires and told a story ~~about the chicken~~ which made Wiltshires to feel offended. They went the same evening to Wiltshires, because they wanted to buy the chicken, and ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ so they learned what was said by the girl. Mrs. Wiltshire said that it is not for the first time that the girl causes them trouble by her lies.

Miss Eda refused to give to Icema tinned milk to be taken home with her. She is convinced that the woman eats herself the milk. She asked the girl to come every day to them when going to the school or coming back and to have her glass of milk on the spot. The ~~xx~~ girl ~~want~~ had ~~xxxx~~ her ~~xxxx~~ lunches with the Teacher, so she could come also every day to them. But ~~ix~~ this evidently did not suit Icema, since the girl was stopped from going to the school ~~ix~~ and to the lunches at Teacher's house.

Icema Robinson.

"Icema is a schemer" - said Miss Eda. They know her well in Warsop. She is laways going around among the neighbours and begging. ~~xxxxxx~~ They dont like her. /~~xxx~~ people in Warsop/. Icema's real name is Delila and she is known under this name in Warsop. Her maiden name is Carter and she belongs to Carters' family. Her parents died long ago. She had 2 brothers and two sisters. One of her brothers married Wilhelmina Carter, another either died or left Warsop. Only one of her two sisters is alive. She is married to Claudy Ratty. There was still another child staying with this family: Isaac, her sister's child. He also left Warsop and is ~~xx~~ now in Christiana "knocking about".

Delila's husband was neither a good husband nor a good father. He used to beat and maltreat his wife as well as his children. He was imprisoned after having committed some theft and taken to Falmouth. Hence he got his nickname "Dan Falmouth". He left Icema about 9 years ago. Nobody knows where he is now. He does not give any help to his children.