

22/5/79

-1- Case History No 68.

Guy Arthur Head. M.S. 69, Shoemaker

24th April 1947.

E.C.

Mr Guy. Lives alone in a small house on the left hand side of the road just opposite the turning to the Parochial Road to Mount Tappy.

He greeted me in passing. He was sitting at the window chewing a bit of straw. He is a fair coloured man. He said he was an old man living alone. He had a son who had plenty of property here -- his name also was Guy -- but because he would not be obligated to him he would not have anything to do with him. Though the son had sent for him to come back when he was in Panama after he got ill there. The son was his only child. He had not married. ~~xxxx~~ He had had the child outside. He had ~~had~~ made two proposals but had been disappointed both times. So he had decided not to marry. Maybe he was wrong as he might have had someone with him now. Or she might have died. The mother of his son was dead -- she had died long ago. But one proposal he had had everything prepared but there was a storm. He had land worth \$1000 in bananas and cows -- \$36 worth -- 10 cows -- you could get good cows for that price in those days. But the storm came and blew down the trees and killed the cows and he had to break off the proposal. But really why he had not married since was that he had written to England to a --- (name forgotten) for his horoscope. And he had been told that he must not marry before he was 50. Because if he did his wife would die within a few days and he would have great sorrow.

He lived in Guanvale about 6 miles from Falmouth. He had property there. His father was a white man. He was an important man and owned a lot of property. He was the only fair child of his mother -- all the other brothers and sisters were dark. He was fair because his father was a white man. He had a sister and he had left her with the property. It was better she have it than his son who had bad ways and lived a bad life. She sent him something sometimes.

He had been 31 years in Panama. First he had gone and made money and came back and put it in a business. But the business went badly and he lost everything. So he went back to Panama. There he joined the American Police and was in the Police for 13 years. He got sick and spent all his savings on doctors looking

24th April 47.
J.O. + T.O.

We visited Mr. Guy in his shop. It is at noon the same day. The small board house, where his shop is belongs to Mr. Ryland Henlon. Mr. Henlon rents to him half of the house; the other half is ~~now~~ serves to Mr. Henlon himself as his butchery-shop. He told us his biography almost in the same words as in ~~xxxxxx~~ the preceding interview. He is a shoemaker now ~~just~~ just to make his living in Warsop, but ~~xxxxxx~~ he was previously a policeman in Panama and in Jamaica as well and seems to be most proud of this episode in his life career. His mother, who was a common law wife of a white man, could not ~~and~~ afford to send him to school. His education ~~is~~ was stopped with elementary school. He wanted to be educated for better professions. Wanted to be a bookkeeper, an accountant, but there were no ~~xxxxxx~~ means to cover the expenses of his schooling. So he became a shoemaker, a policeman, and a planter.

He boasted to be a rich man in some remote past. ~~xxxxxx~~ His plantation was destroyed entirely by one single storm. In one day he lost everything. ~~xxxxxx~~ At least 800 pounds were invested in his estate and all this ~~xxxx~~ has gone.

He is a sick man now. Half-blind. ~~xxxxxx~~ His eye troubles ~~xxxxxx~~ started when he was in Panama police force. Some boils formed on ~~xxxx~~ his eyes and they were removed by an operation. ~~xxxxxx~~ It was years ago. Now the same ~~xxxxxx~~ trouble starts again.

Interview with
A.E.Guy on 23.7.47.
J.O.

White Ancestry.

"My father was an Englishman, - A Scotchman - from a noble family. I am ~~the~~ son of a Scotch nobleman. I have noble blood, valuable blood in me."

My grandfather - do you know Guy's hospital in London? This hospital is credited to my father's father. My father was the only child. of his parents." ~~That's his first child. He never stayed here~~ "I never knew my father. He left when I was a baby. ~~That's his first child~~ I never see him. He never come back."

His father stayed in Lower Trelawny - for some years - working as a manager "busher" / on an estate. "He was a rich man, a wealthy man. 300 pounds he was getting in money and all supplies sent to him from England. His parents sent him." But he never had much money, always spending everything he earned and giving away to other people. Was known as very generous. "He was a charming gentleman. No woman could resist him - black or white." "He had twenty two bastard-children, it is illegitimate children. I was his first child."

Negro Mother.

"My mother was Negro." She worked on the estate where his father was the busher. He was as well the first child of his mother. When his father was going to leave Jamaica and go back to England, he wanted to take his first-born child to England and "to educate me to be an English gentleman, as a British citizen." His mother refused to give her first-born child away. He promised to place the child in "an institution", to give it the nurse's care during its voyage and to give him the best education - "it is my first child" - but the mother refused to agree. "No, busher, him too young; ~~him too small~~ him stay with him mother" - was her unalterable answer. Then his father offered another solution for his first-born child. He wanted to endow him with a property of 100 acres or so to be placed under the care of "an agent" and to be passed to his son as soon as he will reach maturity. His mother again refused: "No, busher. Him ~~stay~~ /i.e.the agent/ ~~will~~ steal the property. Him /i.e.her son/ never get it." His mother thought her child's father will stay for ever in Jamaica. She did not expect him to leave her and the child. However, he left in a few months time and never returned. Nobody knows what happened to him. Probably he died soon. "And so I lost both: education and my property".

"My mother told me this when I was young man. "Mother, what a damned fool you were" - I said her. "What a damned fool you were." He did not mind the property, but the education...if he got English education, he could ~~get~~ be a big man, he could get as much as ten times than the property offered to him by his father. "As an Englishman, the world would be open to me." "What a damned fool you were." "Mother cried". I said: "Never mind, Mother. Now you must know only: you are responsible for my fortune and for my misfortune."

End of overseer's career.
Emmigrat-
ion to Pana-
ma.

He was changing his jobs frequently looking for better conditions. At the end he went to Kingston to look for a better job in the city. He got first of all a job in Constabulary Force..It was a white-collar job - always in the office - and he enjoyed ~~his situation~~ his work, but ~~his~~ his salary was very small - only L.3 per month. He tried to improve his earnings working as conductor on Kingston tram-line, but again was dissatisfied with his earnings. ~~They payed~~ He was payed only - as all tramconductors at that time - only 3d. for an hour. ~~He emmigrated to Panama.~~ At last he emmigrated to Panama.

First abode
in Panama.

He stayed in Panama for a couple of years and ~~soon~~ earned a lot of money. He came back to Jamaica as a rich man and decided to try planter's career.

Planter's career.

He bought a property of 15 acres in and went into bananas. They paid at that time 4/. for a bunch of bananas and people could make money on it. He planted ~~exclusively~~ exclusively or almost exclusively bananas. The cost of enterprise was L.135 which ~~he~~ he paid for the land and his cultivations. His bananas looked beautiful and he expected and excellent crop. People admired his plantation and a lawyer from Stewart Town, who also went into bananas but ~~whose~~ whose results were much worse, wanted to buy all his property. He ~~was~~ offered ~~for~~ L.600 for it against L.800 which was the lowest price for which Guy was inclined to sell his cultivations. He expected to get at least L.1000 for the first crop which should be ripe and ready for sale in ~~several~~ several weeks time. A couple of weeks after he refused the lawyer's offer the storm came and ~~destroyed~~ destroyed all his bananas. ~~He was completely ruined.~~ He was completely ruined. "Accept my sympathy" - said the lawyer ~~at~~ when he met him a few days after the disaster - "but I am glad that I did not buy your bananas." "I thank you for the words of sympathy, but I am sorry I did not sell them to you."

~~He had still some money left from his disaster and he ventured again~~ He had still some money left ~~from his disaster and he ventured again~~ and next year he tried again his luck in bananas. This time his plantation was smaller and again he sustained loss owing to the drought. ~~This was the end of his planter's career~~ He was ruined completely and ~~he~~ with help of a friend from Panama went to Costa Rica. ~~He did like the place and finally landed in Panama again, where he stayed this time for 17 years.~~ He did like the place and finally landed in Panama again, where he stayed this time for 17 years.

His marital
plans.

At the beginning of planter's career in Jamaica when he was still a rich man and expected to get ~~richer~~ still richer, he wanted to marry a teacher from Westmoreland, daughter of the owner of the property wher he worked previously as an overseer. "I proposed, but was not accepted." Her refusal coincided with the disaster which he met in his banana ~~cultivati~~ enterprise.

It It was probably during this period of his life that the mother of his child died. He took the child and carried it to his ~~sister~~ sister. "Care it, I said, this my only child, the only child in the family, care it." When he went to Panama for the second time the child was left with his sister and stayed with her for some years, until it was taken from her and entrusted to the care of another sister of his.

Life in Panama.

He stayed in Panama for ~~17~~ 17 years and experienced many a change. He had good time, when he had ~~job~~ a job, but when he was without job he simply ate his savings and almost starved. ~~xxxx~~ As a policeman he took part in many fights and brawls, at which he mastered the situation by means of a policeman stick made of the hard st weed. He had many love affairs and once was almost killed by a woman who was his friend and could not bear his flirtation with another lady. He put her away, but after 3 months she was back with him. He enjoyed hunting, pleasure excursions and various delights of ~~xxxxxx~~ luxury life at Panama, when on job. He suffered a lot when out of work. 3 times he was discharged from the Police - the last time, a few years before his final return, on suspicion of fraud and drunkenness. In his opinion it was just an intrigue of his superior who could not force him to do servants' jobs. ~~xxx~~ He was very proud and always stressed in various occasions of his life his noble ancestry and his white blood. His last job was in American company, where his work was valued highly. He was dismissed when the vacation has to be made for an American jobless fellow.

Masonic Lodge.

At the end of his staying in Panama he joined a masonic lodge. He is still very proud of his membership in the society. The lodge is very useful. Mebers used to help each other and if some of them was jobless others help him to find a job. They used also to give finacial ~~hh~~ help to their ~~xxxxxxx~~ fellow members who ~~xxx~~ were ill or suffred poverty. Each memebr paid a regular memebrship fee and in case of ~~xxxxxx~~ his death the society covered the expences of ~~xxxxxx~~ the burial. Members could be sure that they will be given a decent burial. They had their ~~xxxxxx~~ meeting place and secret signs through which one memeber could recognize another. If Guy stayed now in Panama he cannot expect any help since he lost his membership being unable to pay membership fee.

Saturday
18.10.1947.
T.O.

-7-

Fam. Rec. 68

penisi m

Mr. Guy says he doesn't get any rent. He wrote to the American authorities but they replied that since he came to Panama on his own will as ~~thus~~ a British subject and was not on contract they can't pay him any rent. *penisi m* "And I gave them excellent service" "I left my government for more money, for a better pay, now I have no rent." People are poor here, they can't pay me. This pair of shoes I have since August and they can't come to pay me. I have trust in this shop and in the other, but not a single penny to-day". He referred to his "book" we have. He wants it to make an entry in it. It is something about a rent. He wants to sell this book to Obrebski. "He is educated, intelligent, he can make good use of it. I can't read now. I don't want foolish people have this book (after his death). They think it is to the evil. But the master (Obrebski) he can profit by it. Most of the time he is sitting in the window of his room reading newspapers. "I can't see the fine print. I am picking only the big letters." He does not walk on the parochial road. "I have no friends there, no interest. I am on the main (road)." *He* wants to come and see Obrebski but is ashamed because he has not got the shilling 0. once lent him. When he shakes hands he always presses with one finger - a masonic sign.