

P.D. 22/ 5/73.

Saunders.	Howard.	Head.	M.M. 35.	Farmer. Mixed Farm.
"	Ione	Wife.	F.M. 34. 8.8.	Homemaker.
Brissett.	Uris	Step-Dau.	F.S. 16.	None no.
Saunders.	Astley	Son.	M.S. 11.	
"	Maisie	Dau.	F.S. 10.	
"	Sybil	Dau.	F.S. 5.	
"	Herman	Son.	M.S. 2.	
"	Marjorie.	Dau.	F.S. 4/12.	

31st May 1947.  
Saturday.  
E.C.

I was lucky to find both Mr and Mrs Saunders at home. I talked to Mr S. first and later went to the house and talk- (in the field by the road) to his wife. He went into the house to speak "with a dear friend" but later ~~xxxxxxx~~ joined us outside the kitchen. I was not invited into the house.

The House.

The house is a nice, well built (Mr Constantine Watson's work) wooden house consistin of two rooms and hall and a 6ft veran- dah. Length 25' by 10'. The house is built on the slope of the hillside and underneath the back part is a wattle con- struction which is used + was told for storing yams.

Cost of House and process of construction.

Mr S. said "his idea of the cost of the house was about £64." Asked how he arrived at that he gave me the following figures: (He started to build 7 years ago) :-

Boards £19. 2. 6.

1. He first purchased 1500 ft Boards (pitch pine imported) in Kingston from the Rapid Vulcanizing @25/- per 100. The man there was a very nice man and gave him up to £13 credit so he had to pay at the rate of 25/6 for the boards. He repaid the amount owing at the rate of 5/- per month. The man never bothered him.

Truck £ 2. 5. 0.

He paid 3/- per 100 ft for trucking these Boards from Kingston to the road nearest his house.

Shingles 8. 0. 0.  
Truckage 10. 0. 0.

2. He next bought 2000 shingles from a man named Williams at Chudleigh @ £4 per 1000 Truckage on these cost 10/-

Nails 2.16. 3.

3. He bought "extras" : "3/4 of a hundred lbs of nails" @ 3d per lb; 8 "lights" (panes of glass for 4 windows) @ 3d (they now cost 1/3 per light and the glass is vert thin); 4 Frames for windows @ 10/ each; and 4 Locks @ 10/- each. He bought 200 Cedar Boards @ 36/- per 100' for 4 doors.

Windows

Frames 2. 0. 0.

Glasses 2. 0. 0.

Locks 2. 0. 0.

Doors 3.12. 0.

Sills & Posts

~~Blocks~~ 7. 7. 0.

! Blocks 3. 0. 0.

The Sills and blocks u der the house cost : 700' Boards @ 21/- per 100 for sills & posts. These he bought in the "backwoods" (Crown land) and he and his children brought them out, on their head so he did not have to pay anything for the portage. He did not provide meals for the men Mr Watson brought to work with him. The house was built by Mr Watson for £20. He provided meals for the men Mr Watson brought to work with him.

Total. £50. 14. 9.

Materials

Portage:

Building

Porter £20.0.0.

£70.14.0.

See one

bought in the "backwoods" (Crown lands) and he and his children brought them out on their heads so he did not have to pay portorage.

He bought 24 Blocks for under the house @ 2/- each and had to pay 6d each for carrying them to the house.

The House was built by Mr Constantine Watson for £20. Mr Watson provided his own assistants and "the feeding cut out back in the wages i.e. was included in the amount agreed upon and not provided by him.)

The house took 3 months to build. He hurried Mr W. over it as he wanted to get into it.

Half or rather less than half of the front verandah has been made into another room by partitioning the verandah. This was done this year and cost £4.

Land.

House and Land. Mr S. said there was  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land round the house and that he bought it in 1937 from Miss Martha Dixon. It was "supposed to be 1 acre "more or less" and he paid £16 for it on that understanding. He now thought it was nearer  $\frac{3}{4}$  than an acre. He seemed quite satisfied with the purchase and the price paid.

Rent Land.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres adjoining the bought land, are rented from Allsides property.

#### Family History and early beginnings.

Mr S.'s mother is Adina Saunders who is living now with her husband Daniel Green. Mr S. did not so describe himself but I conclude he was an illegitimate son of his father who was named Sinclair and who died when he was very young -- he never knew him. Since he "was without a father" his mother's

Father adopted him and raised him and gave him his name as he had none. His mother was at first living with his father but is now married.

He was vague as any other family.

He had no one to start him and worked from the time he left school till 18 as a Labourer. He remembers well when he first took up rent land. "I was just 18 when I took a acre at Castle on Allsides property." He rented "long time" but 3 years ago he gave up ~~the~~ land (i.e. transferred the tenancy to his brother-in-law (his wife's brother) Ivor Mullings. He now has only the  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre rented here (i.e. adjoining the house) which he took up when his first child was born (who is now 14), and one acre taken over from a man called Adlin who is now in "town" (Kingston).

see of/

The district where his house and land is situated is Wilson alley.

Cultivation. The house is on the edge of a parochial road which Mr S. proudly described as "a four foot road". It is a muddy cart track which in wet weather must be pretty near impassible with a cart. It has been dry for three or four days so that the mud ruts are hardened and deep. I approached the place from a path leading from behind the school).



The cultivations (bought and rented land) adjoin and lie on a slight slope running into the valley so that some of the land is good.

Round the house on the bought land are 4 Coconut trees; 1 Breadfruit; 1 Pear; 3 Ackees; and one mango. Except for the latter which looks old, all the others are young and were planted by him. He said that when he bought it the land was "bare". He has a few very poor bananas on the steepest part of the land, near the house. He has a little coffee (one, one).

Crops. Yams is the chief cultivation but he has also corn and peas. And a little cane. The corn and peas are mostly around the house where they also grow vegetables. (I did not see any growing).

Yams. He has planted about 50 hills of yam.

January. The land is "cut". This January they could not do anything else as "the drought was on. The time was dry -- O, mam, it was dry."

Mr S. employs labour. He says he is a sick man often troubled with asthma and pain in the stomach. He has been to doctor and had injections but they don't give them long enough to clean the blood properly (V.D.?). He cannot do anything more than the planting himself so he hires for all the rest of the work.

Labour. His regular helpers are Mr Philip Campbell (a neighbour) and his son.

Interruptions.

(At this moment a young man passed on the "4 ft road" and greeted him. Mr S. greeted him as "Good morning my dear beloved". After he passed I asked who he was and was told he was "a good friend." The young man went on to the house and sat on the verandah. Mrs S. was with the children (or some of them) seated outside the kitchen shelling peas).

Another interruption occurred when "Hopie" the eldest daughter brought him a note which he asked to be excused and read. He then said to the girl: "Hopie, tell mother to give 5/- for Miss Joe money and tell him times hard -- will send the balance." The child went back to the mother. After about ten minutes further conversation she passed and her father asked her whether she got the money. She said "Yes." He then called out to his wife "You sent a letter? You explain sensible?" To which she called "Yes."

The prices charged for labour are:

3/- per stretch for the cutting. He cut 4 stretches so that cost 12/- plus the meal.

10/- for forking 4 stretches £2.0.0.

10/- per 100 for digging yam holes.

February. Forked the 4 stretches. Same men worked for him.

March. ~~XXXXXX~~ Dug the yam hills: 10/- per 100.

Same men. Used own plants. Cannot afford to buy to increase the cultivation -- too dear.

Yam sticks. Mr S. says if you have to buy you have to pay 20/- up to £5. per 100 for first class Poles, that will last long time. He has not bought yam poles for long years back as he had good ones that lasted. I could not get the exact number of years from him.

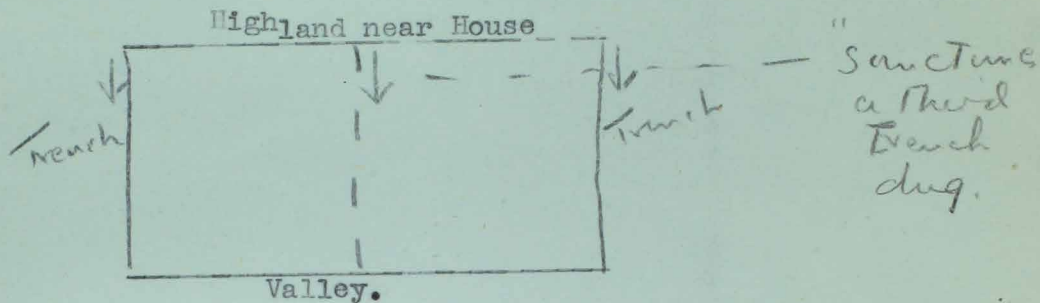
The Yams were planted in March.

He does not have enough land or yam heads to plant from January to March so as to be able to reap yams over the 3 months.

Weeding starts in June.

Corn and Pease. These are planted same time as the yam forking and planted right through the yams. They were all planted in March.

Drainage of land. Mr S. says he digs two or sometimes 3 straight trenches down the hillside to carry off the water. It is not necessary to dig these trenches diagonally as his land is not heavy.



Livestock. A thin and depressed looking cow was tethered in the hot sun in the open below the house -- not near any cultivated part. It was eating cane ~~crash~~ leaves.

Mr S. said he had owned a cow for years. He had started by buying a calf from Mrs Maud Brissett for £6. It was cheap in those days. He swapped this cow for another. He has swapped twice paying the first time £3 and the second time £2 on the old one. He bought the second cow from a stranger in Warsop and the third in Santacruz. He improved with the cow. He rears the calves. He has had about 5 calves. He puts the cows out to Mr Darius Brissett's bull. The charge used to be 7/- but is now 10/-. He sold the last calf for £11.10/-. The calf (about a six month old bull calf) has not been cut. He is going to raise it as a bull. He does not believe in cutting them. "The las t one he cut it set him back a lot".

The cow gives now 3 qts of milk. He milks once a day -- in the mornings. He does not wean his calves. He has no shed for her. He does not keep her on the holding. He is allowed sometimes to run her in th bush on Allsides. Or sometimes a friend allows him to put her on his land. He does not grow grass. He gives her the cane leaves when he cuts the cane. "We cant afford to buy feeding."

lgs.

He has 2 pigs. He bought them in February for 16/- and 14/6 respectively.

Bananas. All this used to be bananas he hears -- on all the rent land. But now we have the Black Spot and the other one -- Panama. They are all killed out.

From the Wife.

Health. Much of our conversation was devoted to health. Mr S. told me he was in poor health which was why he could not fo much in his grounds. He had asthma and his heart troubled him. He also had pain his stomach. His referenceto injections and other facts made it appear likely he had V.D. His wife had been ailing a long time. "And", he said, "she was only a young woman-- she was much younger than he. He had taken her to doctors. She had diabetis and was on a strict diet. But she had a rash



on her face which was "higher than the colour of her skin" so "it show". It was getting worse. He had thought it was ring worm but did I think it might be the diabetis? I said I could not ~~xx~~ say. While he told me, she looked up into his face with great resignation. She told me later she would not live long -- she knew she would not live to see (for instance any result of out work) because she had to die soon. Yet she never was sad for a moment and was always joking or talking even when explaining their hardships. There seemed to be a great depth of affection between them and they made many jokes at each other's expnsse. For instance, when we were discussing the problem of clothing she made great fun of his dandyism -- and told me for all his poorness of dress, now I would have to see him "tomorrow" (Sunday) when he went out. He would be all dressed up. He had two good suits. And one good pair of shoes -- half white. And he spent much time polishing them -- putting white stuff on them -- and if it showed for rain he would take them off. While she told all this he lay on the bank and shouted with laughter. And the children joined in. I asked if he had bought the socks he had on (good woollen ones) in Jamaica and he said no but a friend who had come from American had given them to him to protect the c amps when he got them in his feet. Mrs S. said if he had been to America he would have brought back a "zoot suit".

The Family: The children living in the home now are all of the 8 living to her, with the exception of Uris who since the taking of the Census has gone to Kingston.

Uris was her child by William Brissett. She went to Kingston in October last year to work. She writes regularly to her mother. She does "domestic". It is very badly paid. Up there they only pay them 4/- a week and although they give them food and a room the money is not enough to buy clothes or anything. And they have to work from 6 in the morning to 9 at night. It is very hard.

The other children in the home are all by her husband and are as follows :

Astley Saunders aged 15. is still at school and is trying to pass his First Year Pupil Teachers' Exam. so that he can get a job. He will take it in July. She would like him to go to Kingston or a town so that he can get something -- anything -- to do. The father, when asked if he would not like him on the farm with him, said that the cultivation could not bring in enoug money. He hoped that he could earn more in a job and keep himself and be able to help him a little too.

Maisie aged 14 or 15 was no longer at school. She had done well but said her mother, she had to take her away to come and help her in the home. ~~Maisie~~ was with us and is a young woman now -- well fed looking and attractive.

Calvin, aged 12, still at school. is reading Fifth Book and have plenty of time left in school so should do well. Asked what she thought Calvin would do after school she said she did not know "what poor Calvin gwine get".

Linda aged 10, also goes to school, and so does ~~Margaret~~ Margaret aged plus (he will be 7 in July) and

I saw Maisie, Linda, Herman and Marjorie. The two



boys had gone to the Crown lands for wood. There was another family joke here -- Mrs S. said if they were caught they would be "put in prison". All the children joined in this joke too.

Sybil Saunders is in Kingston with Mrs S's sister, Eva who is married to a Mr Davis and lives there. She took Sybil when she was 4 years old. Year before last was the last time her mother saw her -- she came down to stay with them.

they were living on and.

Marriage. I asked Mrs S. when she was married and she consulted her husband and it was agreed that "it was in Calvin's period" which she explained further as being when Calvin was in her stomach. Which was 13 years ago, she said, as Calvin is now 12. They were married in the Baptist Church. She was a Baptist. Then looked at her husband and he said that they were not "members" as they cant pay up.

Imogene Campbell, aged 10, is an adopted daughter. Her parents are neighbours -- no relationship. Her parents are Josephine and Philip Campbell. Mr S. said "they were poorer than he" so he did it to help them. It is odd this adopting when they already complain they do not know what to do with the number they have. ~~Ruzziexaxxbaxzxomakkingxaxxdaxxkik~~ She was adopted 3 years ago. About this time Mrs S. lost her last two children -- two boys who died so young they were not named. Mr S. said her sickness was so bad that she had lost the last two. She should n t have any more as it weaken her. The doctor, said Mrs S., had told her she should not have any more. Mr S. said that was all very well but they did not know what to do. In Kingston he heard there was a League to help them But there was nothing down here. So they had to go on having t them. Mrs S. says she suckles her ~~xxxxxxx~~ babies for a year.

Mrs S. said the house was too small for them now. Maisie and Astley was growing up and "they/know shame ~~xxxx~~ I just in trouble now over them because them inna de one room and I carn mek dem take off dem clothes (at night). I doan know what to do wid dem." She would like to send Maisie to learn to cut and sew clothes. Or even domestic. But that was hard work and them dont pay much. And they have to work too hard. When them ge the 3/- a wekk it "cant even buy bloomers". They pay only 3/- "all in Christiana."

Furniture in House. We never went near the house but Mr S. said the furniture was rought. There was one chair the bought in Kingston the rest was local. I said it might be stronger and prettier. He said it was cheaper in Kingston often. Because of the price of the lumber down here. (Mrs Ashman says that the local carpenter charged £50 for a dressing table).

Meals. They have the usual meal hours. Tea in the morning at about 7 a.m.; midday ~~xxxx~~ or at about 11 a snack for the children; dinner at about 5 p.m.

Morning Tea. They have coffee for tea. Or "bush tea". Sweetened with sugar bought from the shop. And a piece of bread.

"Bush" tea. This is made of either of sirrosy (spelling?) of Jack in the Bush or John Charlie or Wild Parsley.

The children were sent to pick specimen/s of these plants for me. They grow wild everywhere -- except the sirrosy which is cultivated.

Sugar. Mr S. said he made 10 Pans (from 10 Barrells) last year from his cultivations. He had sold it here or in Balaclava.

Shop purchases.

Mrs S. said she bought 1 lb of sugar every Saturday from the shop and  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb every other day, (except Sunday). She cannot buy more at a time because if she did the children would eat it all off. There was much laughter from the children and Mr S at this.

Bread. 3d per day. Sometimes only  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

Milk. They have milk from the cow. When the cow is dry she buys Condensed milk or Coconuts. Coconuts (dry) cost 4d or  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d a-piece.

Pork. Asked what else she had bought this Saturday (today) she said (and this caused laughter too) that she had bought 1/- worth of pork. Herrings were too expensive. (On thinking this over I think she meant salt-pork from the shop -- not fresh meat which would not be a substitute for salted herrings).

12'oclock. At noon the children get some porridge.

Dinner. She would not be shame to tell me that the peas she had been susily shelling all the time into ~~an enamel~~ enamel basin, were for dinner because we have no food except we buy flour. (I saw, however, some yams under the house. May be however they were heads being kept for planting --I was not near enough to note and forgot to ask later when it could be more tactfully done).

Asked if they had anything more before they went to bed, husband and wife and children joined in the laugh which followed her: "Nothing else -- after that we laugh and mek much noise and go to bed!"

Mrs S. said the children helped her in the home and earned a few pence by carrying cane -- a "good fren' ask you" to let them carry it for them.

Clothes. This subject again created much mirth and Mrs S. took off her head-kerchief to show me that it was an old under-slip cut into a square and much patched.

The Wife: In March last she bought her last good dress. She bought it whe she was going into Hospital. It cost 5/- per yd (3 yds) and 4/- to mek because she couldn't mek it. (Mrss ennett, seamptress). She has this one good dress and two working ones, one of which she was wearing. It was neat and clean and much mended. It was a pinafore pattern so that she really had a blouse under a dress.

Shoes. She had one pair on -- good strong boots without laces. They had been made locally by Cecil Smith for 30/- and she still owed him 8/- on them. She had inside "a little old one and when she going out she brush it up with whitening and me look good!"

The Children. They all have 1 good suit or dress and 1 for the yard. She washes the clothes for them on Sunday so that they can go to school clean. They cannot even go to Sunday school



She pointed to the adopted child and asked me to note her dress - it was of strong vluue stuff rather like the ticking one buys for covering feather pillows. She said the material cost 4/- per yd. This girl has two working ones and 2 good ones for school.

Pigeons. I saw a pair of pigeons under the house and was told they were kept by her. But they had not had any young yet.

The Husband. He had on a thinnish khaki shirt and a pair of blue overalls. Strong boots and the woolben socks. He wore a peeked cap.

She said that he had 2 good suits and was very particular with them. The overall he said he bought in February for 8/- and the shirt for 6/-

She said his good suit was nice. It cost 40/- He had had it for 10 years but "him brush it when hi' take it off." It was then she told me that I must look out for him to morrow how smart he would look.

Photographs. They were very pleased when I said I wanted to take the snaps of them and posed before the kitchen and in front of the house.

The view of cultivations from Mr Howard Saunder's house.

Miss A. says Mr Saunders is a healer recharges 3d for a "cure". He has a Balm card.

