# MEMOIRS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY. VOLUME XIII. 1918. FOLK-TALES OF ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS

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Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society. Volume XIII. 1918. Folk-Tales of Andros Island, Bahamas by Elsie Clews Parsons

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## **ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS**

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## MEMOIRS OF

## The American Folk-Lore Society.

VOLUME XIII.

1918.

# Folk-Tales of Andros Island, Bahamas.

BY

ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS.

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1918.

#### LIST OF INFORMANTS OR WRITERS OF THE TALES.

- 1. Alfred Oliver. About 35. From Mastic Point, Andros.
- Bertie Eugene Leander Jeremiah Rolle, schoolboy at Nicolls Town, Andros.
- 3. Sam. About 12. From Nassau, New Providence.
- Aunt Inuna. About 70. From Mastic Point, Andros. A kinswoman
  of Alfred Oliver. Born on Andros, but spent several years as a
  child in Nassau. She got her tales from her grandfather, an immigrant to Andros from Caicos, Bahamas.
- 5. Henry Spence. About 35. From Fresh Creek, Andros.
- Alice, a girl of 15, whom I found stopping at Woods Cay, a cay
  having but one house on it. Alice's cousin, an adult woman at
  home at Behring Point, Andros, is the source of her tales.
- John Edmon. About 60. From Mastic Point, Andros. Born at Nassau, New Providence, but long resident on Andros. He got his tales from his mother. She was born in Africa.
- 8. David G. H. Richards, schoolboy at Nicolls Town, Andros.
- Irving McFee. About 13. From Mangrove Cay, Andros. One of the chief sources of his tales is Rafalita Rolle (see No. 10). Some of his tales also show the influence, I surmise, of Pa Black (see No. 22).
- his tales also show the influence, I surmise, of Pa Black (see No. 22)

  10. Rafalita Rolle. About 25. From Mangrove Cay, Andros.
- 11. Lizzie Richardson. About 40. From Grantstown, New Providence, a suburb of Nassau. Step-daughter of Jack Armbrister, a "Congo," and she and her family are referred to as "African people."
- Andrew Simms. About 70. From Fresh Creek, Andros. Born at Love Hill, Andros. He got his tales from a native of Love Hill.
- 13. Tom. About 15. From Nassau.
- 14. E. D. Hanna. About 34. From Long Cay.
- 15. Benjamin C. Farquharson. Age 56. Born and bred on Watlings.
- Louise Tracy. About 33. From Mastic Point, Andros. Kinswoman of Inuna (see No. 4).
- 17. Eleanor Martin. About 12. From Mastic Point, Andros
- Samuel L. Bowleg, schoolboy at Nicolls Town, Andros. "Billy Bowleg" was once the vernacular on Andros for the Seminole Indian immigrant.
- 19. Delphine Williams. From Acklins.
- 20. A girl about 20. From Grantstown, New Providence.
- 21. Janet Ferguson. About 15. From Inagua.
- 22. Pa Black. About 70. A Jamaican who has lived many years at Mangrove Cay, Andros. At the beginning of a tale he will talk slowly, if requested; but as he goes on, his excitement increases, he moves about, and his narrative is so rapid, that only his main points can be taken down. Hence the appearance of abbre-

viation towards the conclusion of some of his tales. The people of Mangrove Cay consider him their star story-teller.

23. Lucy Rolle. About 30. From Andros. 24. W. S. Bowleg, schoolboy at Nicolls Town, Andros.

25. Jim, hack-driver at Nassau. About 30. The evening he drove me to Grantstown, he came into Lizzie Richardson's (see No. 11) house,

and became quite as interested a story-teller as the others.

26. Jennie. About 20. From Grantstown, New Providence. 27. Alec Smith. About 50. From Mastic Point, Andros.

28. Recca. About 30. From Mangrove Cay, Andros. 29. Mary Kargel. About 68. From Fresh Creek, Andros.

30. Irene Hepburn. About 30. From Mangrove Cay, Andros. Born and bred at East Settlement, Andros.

31. H. H. Finlay. From Bannerman Town, Eleuthera.

32. John Richardson. About 14. From Grantstown, New Providence. Son of Lizzie Richardson (see No. 11).

33. Jacob Rolle. About 28. From Mastic Point, Andros.

34. Drucilla Taylor. From Wilson City, Abaco. 35. Marion Hurlbut. From Grantstown, New Providence. She came . from Jamaica in infancy.

36. Maude Hepburn. About 30. From Mangrove Cay, Andros. Born and bred at East Settlement, Andros.

37. Boosie Butler. From Mastic Point, Andros.

38. John Eve. About 50. Born in the Bermudas, he was taken as an infant to Turk's Island, Bahamas. At seventeen he went to Abaco to live, and twenty years later to New Providence (see p. x, note 1).

39. David Taylor. About 30. From Fresh Creek, Andros.

40. Obediah Spence. About 14. From Nassau, New Providence.

41. Vivian Albury, schoolboy at Nicolis Town, Andros.

42. Jacob. About 13. From Mangrove Cay, Andros.

43. Frank. About 12. From Grantstown.

44. Lillian Rolle. About 30. From Mastic Point, Andros. She and her mother born and bred at East Settlement, Andros.

45. Woman about 45. From Grantstown, New Providence. Born at Nassau, Grandfather from Africa.

46. John. About 20. From Grantstown, New Providence.

47. Ann Wolfe. About 20. From Fresh Creek, Andros.

48. Mary Tracy. About 14. From Mastic Point, Andros. Daughter of Louise Tracy (see No. 16).

49. John Richardson, Sr. From New Providence. Father of John, and husband of Lizzie Richardson (see Nos. 11 and 32).

50. Jennie. About 12. From Mastic Point, Andros.

51. Tom. About 15. From Calabash Bay, Andros.

52. Mary. About 15. From Mastic Point, Andros.

53. Zilpha Rolle. From Mangrove Bay. 54. Rosa. About 12. From Mangrove Cay, Andros.

55. Bertha Anderson, schoolgirl at Nicolla Town, Andros.

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