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## Our Legacy

It's dawn, around 5:30am on the third Saturday in August. The earth slowly rolls itself from its slumber as the sun gleefully peaks over the horizon. Internal joy encourages the sun and earth as they know what awaits.... At 6:10am, the sun and earth are at full attention, gently nudging their charges into position, and signaling for night owls their time to rest. The breakfast club of birds; Goldfinches, Cardinals, & Woodpeckers begin their chorus of bird calls and baths, while Bambis and Thumpers graze on the dewy greenery. The environment is always preparing for what it needs. By 7am our world begins to slowly bustle into place; morning deliveries, coffee & donut makers, early risers & fitness enthusiasts, are making their mark. As the day continues some folks are putting finishing touches on grandmother's morning cake recipe, and others are beginning to pack cars and SUVs with cookout essentials. Preparation will always be key to maximizing good times and preserving our legacy.

As you begin to prepare yourself and your family for the reunion, keep in mind space is being prepared for you by your people. Your family delights in your presence and participation each and every summer. Our legacy is made strong by your continued decision to simply show up. We pray you are always eager to do so!

Written by Janée Michele

## 84 Years Ago...

Eighty-four years ago, our beloved grandmother, Ella Brown, planted a seed that would grow for decades. She had a vision; to keep her family connected, no matter the distance or the challenges life may bring.

What began as a simple gathering in her home, filled with love, laughter, and the smell of good home cooking, has grown into a tradition that now spans more than five generations. We are the descendants of this great woman.

In that 1941 black and white photo from the first gathering, could Ella Brown have imagined that one of the babies in her arms, Roy Epps, would become the family patriarch, live an incredible 83 years, and devote his life to civil service? Or that little Ann Nanton, standing behind her, would grow into the matriarch and continue to thrive at 93 as the photo's last survivor? Ella may not have imagined these things, but she sure would have been proud of them.

For us, the reunion is more than just a date on the calendar; it's living proof of her vision. As we gather for our 84<sup>th</sup> family reunion, let us remember that we are a part of something much larger than ourselves. We are the sprouts of that planted seed by our beloved grandmother. We carry her spirit and show up year after year to be a part of this family story she started.

Through this newsletter, we celebrate one another, honoring the sacrifices of past generations, recognizing that our actions shape the future of the next generations.

We invite you to celebrate with us in these pages, the achievements of our family. You are the reason why Ella continues to speak.

Will we see you here next year?



Joseph and Ella Brown  
1961



## Achievements

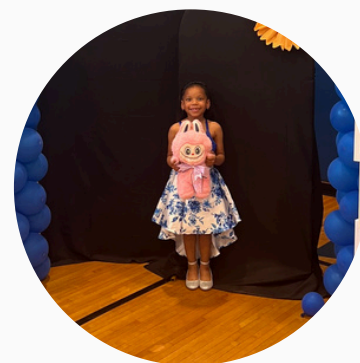
### **Alyssa Claire Jefferson**

Alyssa graduated August 9, 2025, with a BS in Criminal Justice from the University of South Florida. Alyssa is the granddaughter of Audrey Claire Arthur (Brown), great-granddaughter of the late Albert (Perry) and Gladys Brown. Alyssa is the great-great granddaughter of Richard James Brown.

2025

### **Aaliyah Johnson**

Aaliyah graduated June 2025 from kindergarten at P.S. 209 Clearview Gardens School in Queens, NY. She is the great-granddaughter of Elaine Jackson and the great-great-granddaughter of Claude Brown.



### **Elijah Hughes**

Elijah graduated June 2025 from Esperanza Junior High School. He is the grandson of Norma White and the great-grandson of Claude Brown.



### **Jamir Harmon**

Jamir graduated June 18, 2025 from high school, and will attend North Carolina A&T University in the Fall. He is the great-great-grandson of Alice Brown.



## Achievements

### **Jace White**

Jace graduated June 2025 from elementary school. He is the grandson of Norma White and the great-grandson of Claude Brown.



### **Delilah K. Bunn**

Delilah graduated June 10, 2025 from kindergarten. She is the great-granddaughter of Elaine Jackson and the great-great-granddaughter of Claude Brown.



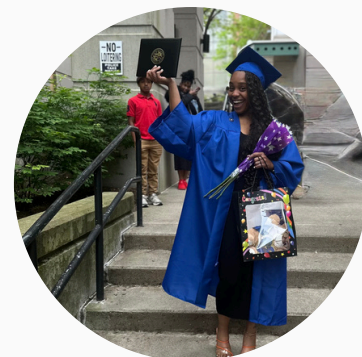
### **Londyn Dismuke-Jackson**

Londyn graduated June 2025 from Hornblower Early Childhood Center's pre-kindergarten program. She is the great-granddaughter of Elaine Jackson and the great-great-granddaughter of Claude Brown.



### **Ashley Nicole Penick**

Ashley graduated May 2025 from CT State Community College with an Associate of Science degree in Nursing. She is the granddaughter of Henry Brown and the great-granddaughter of Claude Brown.





## Achievements

### **Yazmyne Symone Jackson**

Yazmyne graduated December 2024 from Empire State University with a Bachelor's in Education. She is the granddaughter of Elaine Jackson and the great-granddaughter of Claude Brown.



### **Leslye Lopez**

Leslye graduated December 2024 from University of Maryland Global Campus with her second Master's degree in Strategic Communications. She is the daughter of C. Roy Epps and the granddaughter of Alice Brown.

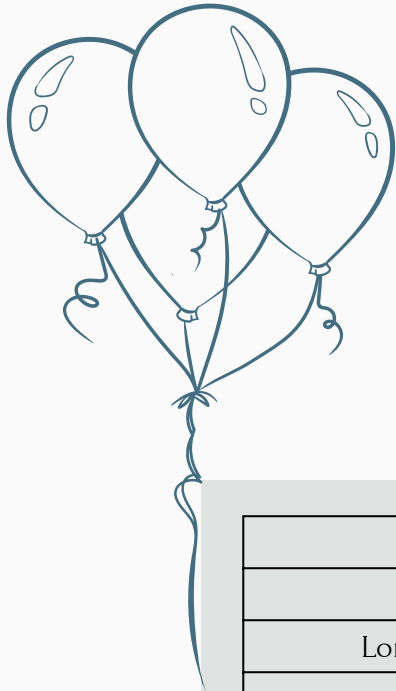


### **Tia Epps**

Tia graduated May 22, 2024 from Salisbury University with a Master's in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution. She is the granddaughter William Epps Sr. and the great-granddaughter of Alice Brown.



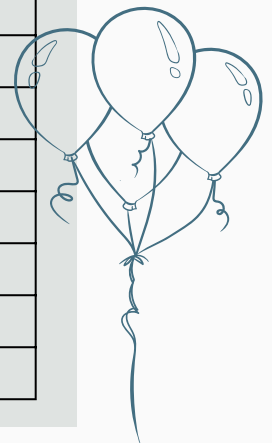
## Milestone Birthdays



### Gladys Brown, 100 Years Young

Gladys will be 100 years young on November 10, 2025. Woot Woot!! She is the wife of Perry Brown, who passed away last year at age 98.

Name	Milestone Age	Birthdate
Nasir Isaiah Gomez	5	February 16
Londyn Dismuke-Jackson	5	August 23
Ava Sheila Brown	5	September 18
Journee Robinson	5	October 29
Najah Wade	10	August 23
Jordan Epps	15	February 15
Jamel S. Wallace	15	May 1
Jayson Epps	20	February 10
Niam Martin	30	January 30
Briana Nanton	30	March 22
Nichet Epps	30	December 10
Lettecia Brown	45	February 6
Salian Guerrier	45	November 10
Jermaine Epps	50	August 7
Diane Wellington	50	October 24
Kenneth Jackson	55	July 19
Leah Arnold	60	June 3
Joyce Ann Reid	80	April 30
Gladys Brown	100	November 10





## New Leaves



**Satori Lee Brown**  
Born June 10, 2025  
Son of Jatique Brown and Imani James. Satori is the great-great-great-grandson of Alice Brown.



**Serinity Tacari Campbell-Brown**  
Born May 12, 2025  
Daughter of Omari Brown and Destiny Campbell. Serinity is the great-great-granddaughter of Alice Brown.



**Christopher Azai Johnson**  
Born April 2, 2025  
Son of Eric Johnson and Yazmyne Jackson. Christopher is the great-great-grandson of Claude Brown.



**Nathan Yasin Noel Hardware**  
Born March 10, 2025  
Son of Muriel Gomez. Nathan is the great-great-grandson of Claude Brown.



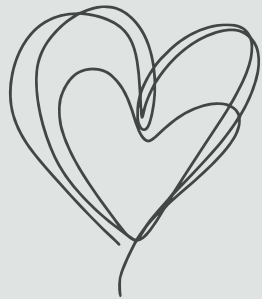
**Grayson Hunt**  
Born January 11, 2025  
Son of Michael Hunt Jr. and Shanellys Felix. Grayson is the great-great-great-grandson of Alice Brown.



**Amani Rose Prince**  
Born September 7, 2024  
Daughter of Jenell McMillon-Prince and Joshua Prince. Amani is the granddaughter of Sharon & Darrell McMillon and the great-granddaughter of Edward & Dorothy Spencer.

## Weddings and Anniversaries

Congratulate the Newlyweds!



Jermaine and Tasheen Epps

August 10, 2025



Jennifer & Craig Archer  
25th Anniversary  
January 15



William & Betsy Epps  
30th Anniversary  
May 14 (last year)



## Fallen Leaves



**Cynthia Janet Nanton**

Cynthia Nanton passed away on June 21, 2025. She was the daughter of Ann Nanton.



**C. Roy Epps, Jr.**

Roy Epps, the firstborn son of Alice Brown and Clarence Roy Epps Sr, passed away on March 12, 2025. He was the second-to-last surviving member of the original family reunion photo.

### **C. Roy Epps, Jr.**

Think about this for a moment: a young man from the Bronx, who is not especially or extraordinarily tall, is vicious on the basketball court. The eldest of his father's children and fourth in line of his mother's, Roy was strong, focused, and damn smart. Fascinated by plants, he left home to study biology and chemistry in college, until the Army drafted him. How dare they! I'm sure he wasn't too happy about that, but he served his time, then launched a career as a chemist. He soon found that lab work wasn't his thing, so he pursued a more fulfilling career in Urban Development with the Urban League of Greater New Brunswick, where he worked for 57 years. Whoa! Roy had found his calling.

Despite his Bronx roots, he and his two younger brothers took all their kids camping every summer. No cabins, no toilets, no TVs; just tents, trees, and mosquitoes. Eeeeeek! It was the best!!!

Roy worked hard at the League and, with his hands, rebuilt dilapidated buildings. He lived fully, beat the odds, traveled widely, and loved deeply. He had a strong, quiet presence, was well respected, admired, and deeply loved.

Roy, that young man from the Bronx, was a leader, mentor, patriarch, and incredible father and grandfather who left an incomparable legacy behind. He had four children, Leah, Nalik (Roy III), Leslye, and Camara. May we each carry on his legacy in our own way.

We love you, Daddy, GP/Grandpa. Rest easy, now.

Written by Leslye R. Lopez

## Businesses

### JNicole Events

Jenell is an event planner and is available to plan your next special moment.

Jenell McMillon Prince  
[www.jnicoleevents.com](http://www.jnicoleevents.com)  
[@jnicoleevents](https://www.instagram.com/jnicoleevents)

### Jasnell Creations

Sharon has been creating one of kind unique jewelry for over 15 years. She has created a Men's line named after her father, Edward A. Spencer. It's called E.A.S. Collection...For Sir.

Sharon Spencer McMillon  
[jasnellcreations.com](http://jasnellcreations.com)  
[@jasnellcreations](https://www.instagram.com/jasnellcreations)

### Next Day Access

Next Day Access offers a wide variety of mobility solutions and accessibility products, including wheelchair ramps, stair lifts, grab bars, vehicle lifts, and chair lifts.

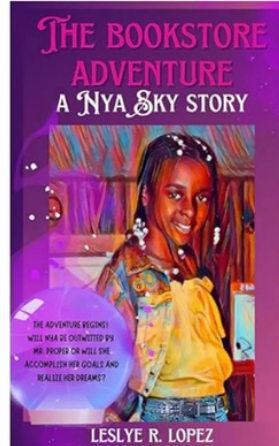
Owner: Jason Williamson  
Website: [nextdayaccess.com](http://nextdayaccess.com)

### Universal One Publishing

Build a quick and easy website! Domain names, hosting, website builders, and email marketing. 24/7 technical support.

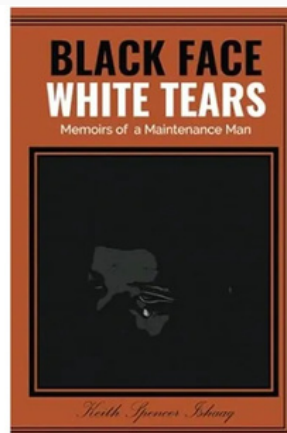
Leah Epps Arnold  
[UniversalOnePublishing.com](http://UniversalOnePublishing.com)  
[@universalonepublishing](https://www.instagram.com/universalonepublishing)

## Book Releases



### The Bookstore Adventure: A Nya Sky Story by Leslye Lopez

Leslye's debut children's book, "The Bookstore Adventure: A Nya Sky Story," will be released later this year. The story centers around Leslye's secret childhood desire to live in the Manhattan Barnes & Noble Bookstore. Visit her website, [www.leslyerlopez.com](http://www.leslyerlopez.com), for book release information and dates!



### Black Face White Tears: Memoir of a Maintenance Man

A book written by Keith Ishaq Spencer  
Released on October 19, 2021  
Keith Ishaq Spencer  
[Available on Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)



## Trivia

Guess the Cost of the Item	1941	2025
Bacon (Pound)		
White Bread (Pound)		
Coffee (per Pound)		
Eggs (Dozen)		
Milk (half-gallon)		
Round Steak (Pound)		
Sugar (Pound)		
New Car		
Gasoline (gallon)		
Gold (per ounce)		
Single Family House		
Movie Tickets		
First Class Postage Stamps		
Rent (Single Family Home)		
Average Annual Salary		
Minimum Wage (Federal rate, per hour)		

## Trivia

A Look at 1941	Date
What day of the week was August 16, 1941?	
Name someone from the original family reunion photo who was born in 1941.	
What day did Germany invade the Soviet Union?	
What day was Pearl Harbor?	
On what day did Franklin D. Roosevelt sign Executive Order 8802, which forbade racial discrimination in the defense industry?	
On what day did the US and Britain declare war on Japan/US enters World War II?	
On what day did Duke Ellington and his Orchestra first record "Take the 'A' Train" written by Billy Strayhorn, at RCA Studio in Hollywood, California? It goes on to become his signature tune.	
When was Walt Disney's animated film "Dumbo" released?	
When was the tradition of playing an organ at a baseball stadium started?	
When did Tom and Jerry first appear under their own names in the cartoon "The Midnight Snack" by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera?	



Trivia Answers

- Answer: Saturday
- Answer: Clarence Roy Epps Jr. or Elaine Jackson
- Answer: Jun 22 Germany invades the Soviet Union
- Answer: Dec 7
- Answer: Jun 25
- Answer: Dec 8
- Answer: Feb 15
- Answer: Oct 23
- Answer: Apr 26
- Answer: July 19

A Look at 1941

- Car - \$925, \$49,740
- Sugar - 6 cents, \$1.54
- Round Steak - 39 cents, \$5.81
- Milk - 27 cents, \$4.03
- Eggs - 40 cents, \$3.78
- Coffee - 24 cents, 8.13
- Bread - 8 cents, \$1.86
- Bacon - 34 cents, \$7.10
- Gasoline - 19 cents, \$3.31
- Gold - \$33.85, \$3,370.89
- House - \$6,900, \$369,147 - \$446,766
- Movie Tickets - 25 cents, \$10.53
- Postage Stamps - 3 cents, 78 cents
- Rent - \$32, \$2100
- Average Annual Salary - \$2,050, \$62,192
- Minimum wage - 30 cents, \$7.25

Guess the Cost

Go to  
BellBrownFamily.com  
to submit your updates!