

Browning Family involved in Harpers Ferry – Part 2

The children spoken of in this 1951 article are Delores, Lorraine, Velma, Ernest, and J. Lyle. Delores, the youngest, graduated with a business degree and was a secretary at Sterling Automotive Products, later working for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. She also married Roland Henderson. Lorraine, at the time of the article (1951), was one of only a few Black dental laboratory technicians in Canada, which was quite an accomplishment. She previously worked for Dr. Roy Perry, a Windsor dentist, but quickly realized her talents as a laboratory technician. Velma attended Patterson Collegiate and the O'Neill Business College, and was the assistant manager of Zinke's Shoe Store on Griswold Street in Detroit. Does that store sound familiar to any of our readers? She also married a war hero, Thomas Vincent, who was killed in action during WWII. Velma was also an active club woman, who was the president of the Amstead Club and the president of the Can-American Club. She was pretty active in the community.

Ernest, the oldest of the Browning children, was a graduate of the Windsor Vocational School and was employed with the City of Windsor. In a *Windsor Star* article, "Ernie recalls the good times," it states that Ernie's "45-year tenure with the city is thought the longest on record." Forty-five years. Wow! He started his career with the City of Windsor in February 1935, collecting garbage with a horse-drawn wagon. The article also says that "Before he retired last March, he had done 'just about every ... job imaginable' with the public works department ... He moved lawns, drove trucks, swept streets and retired a 'building maintenance' worker – a jack-of-all-trades." He also headed up a company that specialized in precision grinding and was the only African Canadian doing this work in Canada in the 1950s. Ernest's company held contracts with Windsor hospitals and was responsible for keeping surgical instruments razor sharp. There's still more to come next week in part 3 of the Browning Family History.