

The Henderson Family History Part 3- Appointed to Queen's Counsel

The next child of Roland and Euphemia Henderson is Roland. He was born on February 25, 1928. On August 8, 1950, *The Windsor Daily Star* printed a detailed writeup for his wedding to Delores Browning, daughter of Joseph and Gladys Browning. The article reported "On Wedding Trip East by Motor – Henderson-Browning Nuptials Followed by Motor Trip East – Tall candelabra holding burning tapers and palms and gladioli formed the background in the British Methodist Church Sunday afternoon for the 4 o'clock ceremony which united in marriage Miss Delores Browning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Browning of Assumption street, and Mr. Roland Henderson, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henderson of Assumption street. The Rev. Iliad H. Edwards officiated at the ceremony, and Mr. Oscar Simmons of Detroit sang 'Because' before the ceremony, Miss Janette Woodcock of Detroit sang 'The Lord's Prayer' and Mr. Melvin Simpson sang 'I Love Thee' at the signing of the register. Mrs. Wahnita Moxley Howe played the organ, and Mrs. Louis Rock, the piano. The bride, given in marriage by her oldest brother, Mr. Ernest Browning, was beautifully gowned in white satin, the bodice fitted, with long sleeves, and a draped neckline embroidered in seed pearls, and the full hooped skirt edged in rose pointe lace. Her veil of net and lace was held in a crown, and she carried roses, gladioli, stephanotis and orchids.

TEN ATTENDANTS – Mrs. Velma Vincent, as her sister's matron of honor, wore pink organdie over dusty rose taffeta, with bands of pink lace through it, and her bonnet matched, and she carried a shower of gladioli. Miss Lorraine Browning, another sister, as maid of honor, wore blue organdie over blue taffeta, with a matching bonnet, and carried gladioli, and the bridesmaids were in white organdie over pastel shades, Miss Freida Parker and Miss Betty Lou Small of Detroit, in white over pink; Miss Betty Ann DeShields and Miss Jean McCurdy of Amherstburg,

in white over green; Miss Barbara Wilson and Miss Harriett Chatters, in white over yellow; and Miss Margaret Whited and Miss Dorothy Richards, in white over lavender. They all wore flowers in their hair to match their bouquets. Little Elise Harding, the bridegroom's niece, wore white, organdie over blue taffeta, with a matching bonnet, and Mitchell Elliotte carried the ring on a lace-edged satin pillow. Mr. Warren Henderson was his brother's best man, and Mr. Roland McLaughlin, Mr. Tom Shadd of North Buxton, Mr. Louis Milben [later Dr. -1st physician for NASA], Mr. Wilbur Dungy, Mr. Waynord Shreve, Mr. Alger Coates [later Pastor A.M.E. Church], Mr. Howard Watkins and Mr. Robert East were the ushers.

RECEPTION FOLLOWS – A reception followed in the school room of the church. Mrs. Browning wore for her daughter's wedding a dark gray crepe and lace dress, with navy accessories, and a corsage of Talisman roses, and Mrs. Henderson was in dark green, and also wore roses. Assisting at the reception were Miss Illa Harrison, Miss Vivian Nall, Miss Lorraine Phillips, Miss Jackie Milben, Miss Delores Milburn, Miss Glendora Watkins, Miss Barbara DeShields, Miss Cecile Wright, the Rev. W. Harrison, who was toast master, Mr. Nelson Harrison, Mr. Archie Ball, Mr. Herman Jacobs, Mr. Layton Thompson, Mr. Charles Golsby, Mr. Oscar Simmons, Mr. Fred Kirby and Mr. Carl Langhorne. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson left later for a motor trip east, going as far as Buffalo by boat, and planning to go on to New York and Washington. On their return, they will reside on Curry avenue.”

The Windsor Daily Star also shared one of Roland's accomplishments on October 9, 1957. The article reads “CALLED TO BAR – Roland Thomas Henderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henderson, 1255 Assumption St., has been called to the bar at Osgoode Hall. Mr. Henderson is a graduate of Patterson Collegiate and Assumption University. He is married with one child. At present he is practicing in Toronto.”

On October 29, 2020, The *Toronto Star* printed Roland's obituary which says

“HENDERSON, Roland Errol Thomas In Loving Memory of a True Gentleman and Scholar
February 25, 1928 - October, 24, 2020. Born in Sandwich, Ontario to Roland Percy Henderson and Euphemia Moxley Henderson, Roland was the middle child in a family of 10. After an active and rewarding life, he died peacefully on October 24, 2020 at age 92. Predeceased by wife Dolores Browning Henderson, survived by children Holly Henderson (Colin Sahadath), Heather Henderson (Dario Gritti), grandchildren Chelsey and Clayton Sahadath, siblings Warren Henderson and Gloria Jean Brantley, and many nieces, nephews and friends. Roland married his childhood sweetheart in Windsor, Ontario in 1950 and moved to Toronto. In 1957 Roland was the 2nd Black Canadian to graduate with an LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School [along with Lincoln Alexander], practiced law for over 45 years and became a QC. He became a Deacon of the BME Church in Toronto. He was a founding member and President of the Toronto Black Business and Professional Men's Association. One of the most articulate people you'll ever meet, he encouraged all to achieve their very best through example. The ultimate gentleman, with a kind and polite manner, he was also absolutely the best husband (over 60 years), dad/granddad who loved his family intensely. His many friends, acquaintances and his family will miss him, among them George Clarke fiancé of Chelsey and Clay's dear friend Samantha Stanway. A brief, Covid-19 style private gravesite viewing and ceremony will take place at Westminster Cemetery in North York on Thursday, October 29th.”

Elise adds that Roland spoke Spanish and did really well as a lawyer. Delores, according to Elise, was the first Black woman hired as a secretary for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Delores also worked as a secretary at Sterling Automotive Productions in Windsor and the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Next came Euphemia 'Joyce'. According to Elise, Joyce worked at Bartlet McDonald and Gow Department Store on Ouellette Avenue as the elevator operator. She married twice. The first was to Lavell and then to Walderman Travers. Euphemia Joyce's obituary appeared in *The Windsor Star* on March 6, 1963 and said "TRAVERS, Mrs. Walderman Euphemia, 32, of 1328 Goyeau St., Windsor, died Saturday at Hotel Dieu Hospital after a brief illness. Mrs. Travers was born in Windsor and lived here all her life. She was a member of Sandwich Baptist Church. Surviving are her husband, Walderman, parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland P. Henderson, two sons, Lawrence and Steven, five brothers, Roland Henderson of Toronto, and Robert, Warren, Wallace and George Henderson, all of Windsor. Also surviving are three sisters; Mrs. Morris (Ruth) Harding of Windsor, Mrs. James (Ruby) Williams of Detroit, and Gloria Jean Henderson of New Jersey."

I was only able to find a few pieces of information about Joyce's brother Wallace. His obituary from *The Windsor Star* from June 23, 1997 states "HENDERSON, Wallace Quentin (Mike) – 64 years, on June 20, 1997 at the Windsor Regional Hospital Met Campus. Predeceased by father Roland (1963) and mother Euphemia (1958), sisters Ruth (1991), and Joyce (1963) and brother Edward (1943). He is survived by his sisters Ruby and her husband James Buckner, Belleville, Mich., Gloria Jean and her husband James Brantley, Newark, N.J., brothers Robert and his wife Anne, Warren, George and his wife Barbara, all of Windsor and Roland and his wife Dolores of Toronto. Also survived by many nieces and nephews, great and great great [sic]. Mr. Henderson worked at Steve Paris, Charles Shoe Clinic and the Norton Palmer Hotel during the course of his life. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and sang in the Men's Choir for many years." Elise also states that Wallace worked for a shoeshine company, but could not recall which one.

Wallace's sister Ruby is the next child of Roland and Euphemia Henderson. According to Elise, Ruby was an executive secretary at J.L. Hudson's Department Store in Detroit. She was married twice. Her first marriage was to James Williams and second to James Buckner. Ruby married James Williams, son of David Williams and Rochell Mobley, on August 31, 1956 in Lucas, Ohio. They had two children, daughter Janice and son Craig.

As mentioned, Ruby married a second time to James Buckner. Elise shared that Ruby and James ran Hitsville at Motown in Detroit. When they retired, Ruby and James moved to Belleville, Michigan where they owned a horse farm.

Ruby's brother George was married to Barbara Jean Freeman, the daughter of Odessa Robbins Freeman and Lloyd Freeman. He worked as a draftsman in Windsor and worked as a City Planner for the City of Windsor. Elise also shared that George was an ambassador for the Casino and did extremely well in business. George passed away on November 29, 2014 and his obituary says "HENDERSON, George M. - Passed away peacefully into the loving arms of his Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus, on November 29, 2014 at the age of 77. Beloved and cherished husband of 57 years to Barbara Jean. Devoted and loving father of George Guyan "Guy" and Valerie Lynn Henderson Davis and her husband Richard. Treasured Poppa "Pop" of C'Aira Rae Nicole and Richard Alan Davis. Predeceased by parents Roland (1963) and Euphemia (1958) Henderson. Predeceased by siblings Edward Henderson (1943), Joyce Traverse (1963), Wallace "Mike" Henderson (1996), Ruth Harding (1991) and Robert Henderson (2014). Survived by siblings Warren Henderson (Judy), Roland Henderson (the late Dorothy), Ruby Buckner (the late James), Jeannie Brantley (James). George leaves to mourn a host of nieces and nephews. George was a retiree of City Hall. Special thanks to the wonderful nursing staff at Huron Lodge-Poplar Unit for their care and compassion during George's short stay."

George's wife Barbara Jean passed away several years later on November 22, 2023. Her obituary says "Passed away peacefully into the loving arms of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on November 22, 2023 at the age of 86. Beloved and cherished wife of George M. Henderson until his death on November 29, 2014. Devoted and loving mother of George Guyan "Guy" and Valerie Lynn Henderson Davis (Richard). Precious and loving nana of C'Aira Rae Nicole Richards (Jared) and Richard Alan Davis as well as her great-granddaughter Alaia. Nana to her canine companions Lilly and Cana. Predeceased by her parents Odessa Robbins Freeman and Lloyd Freeman, and stepmother Grace "Mama Grace" Freeman. Survived by siblings Gary Lee Freeman (Tracey), Douglas Freeman, and Francine Freeman. Godmother to Keith Harding, and Daphne Davis. Dearest cousin of Judy Mulder, and close friends Joan and Cecil Smith "Smitty", Judy Gilbert, Nancy Gibbons and lifelong friend Toni Harding. Barbara leaves to mourn a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. She was a retired medical secretary of ENT Doctors - the late Dr. Oleksiuk, Dr. Sherun, Dr. Lan and Dr. Berez as well as at Metropolitan Hospital, and Dr. Hershey. Barbara was a member of Parkwood Gospel Temple for many years. Special thanks to the wonderful nursing staff at AgeCare Royal Oak (Formerly Chartwell)-Mulberry Unit for their care and compassion during Barbara's three and a half year stay."

The last child of Roland and Euphemia (Moxley) Henderson is Ruby's sister Gloria Jean. She married James Brantley and had four daughters. According to Elise, James operated a janitorial business, and he and Gloria Jean were landlords of a few apartment buildings in Newark, New Jersey. Gloria Jean and James had four daughters.

So far, I have discussed Thomas Jesse and Bertha Ann (Talbot) Henderson's son Roland. I will now move on to share information about their remaining children Oscar, Earl, William,

Edward, Jesse, and Rena. Oscar lived in Monroe, Michigan and had no children. Elise described Oscar as a 'free spirit.'

Oscar's brother Earl passed away at the young age of 11 years old on August 16, 1918. According to his obituary, which appeared in *The Amherstburg Echo* on August 16, 1918, "Earl, the eleven old son [sic] of Rev. Thomas Henderson, passed away on Wednesday evening, following a lingering illness with dropsy. Mr. Henderson is a former pastor of the First Baptist church. He returned to Amherstburg from Kingsville, in April."

The only information that I could find for Earl's brother William is that he married Charlotte Miller, the daughter of William Miller and Plummer Howell, on July 8, 1926 in Manhattan, New York. William's brother Edward was born on September 2, 1910 in Amherstburg and sadly passed away the following month on October 23, 1910, also in Amherstburg.

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 4.