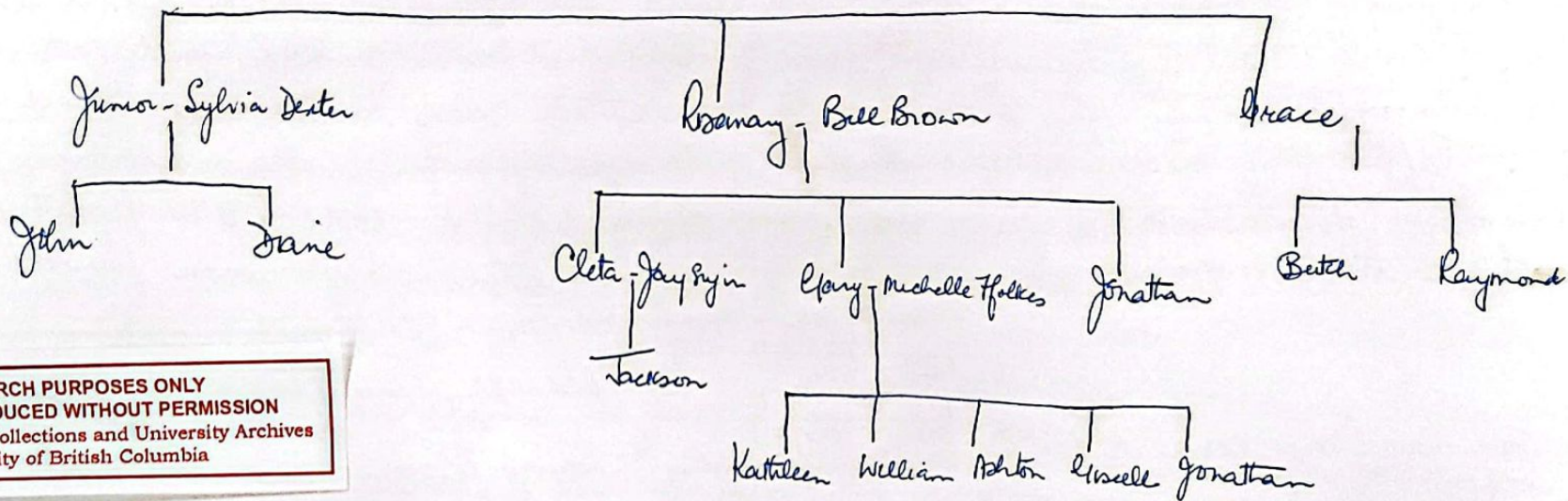


I guess I should really be writing this story for the grandchildren. That is because I hope that they will read this story themselves and be inspired by it to be "achievers", the very best that they can be. So, from here on I think that I will speak to them. I came to Canada to attend university hoping to return to Jamaica after graduation. Instead I met and married your grandfather (William Theophilus Brown), and settled down in Vancouver, British Columbia. Grandpa Brown graduated from the UBC with a PhD in biochemistry, and later from the University of British Columbia Medical School. He pursued a specialty in psychiatry and became in 1984 the first Black Canadian to be elected president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Between 1983-1986 he was the acting head of the Dept. of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia, the first Black person to hold that position. Grandpa Brown was born in the Southern United States and attended school in Florida. In 1995 he was inducted into the Polk County Public Schools, Hall of Fame. Grandpa Brown continues to practise psychiatry in Vancouver.

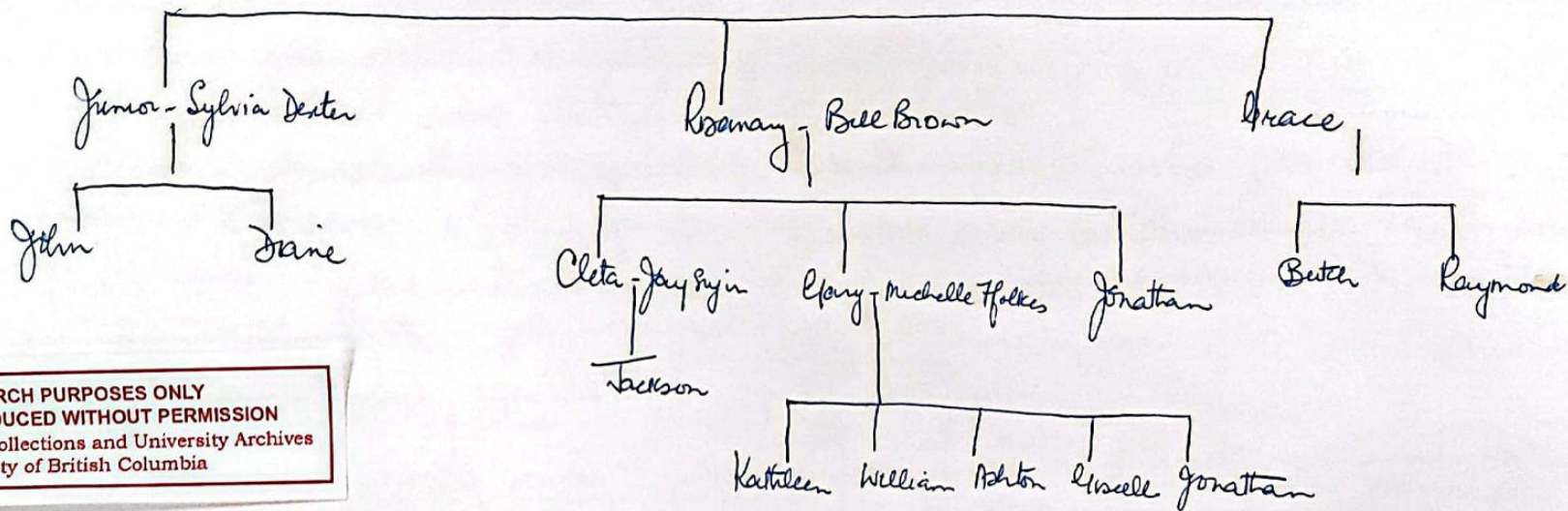
Ralph Wedderburn - Enid James



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Grandpa Brown's grandmother was a farmer. She owned two farms. One of which <sup>in Hawkinsville</sup> is still in the family — where his uncle John and Aunt Leahy still live although they no longer work it as a producing farm. Grandpa's mother and father were small business people who owned and ran their own restaurant and small hotel. After they died, Uncle Rudy (Grandpa's younger brother) carried on the business in Hawkinsville for a while. He left to take up the position of special assistant to Congressman <sup>a democratic congressman for Georgia</sup>

Grandpa + Grandma Brown (Thompson)

William Theophus - Rosemy

Rudolph + Dorrie  
Kin

My story has been covered in <sup>Clara Mary Graham</sup> my autobiography "Being Brown" so I will not repeat it here. Except to say that throughout my life I have tried to carry on the tradition of service instilled in me by my grandmother Imogene as well as by my grandfather Wedderburn and Aunt May Wedderburn both of whom were school teachers, and all the other relatives who believed that "we are our brother and sister's keeper". As a result I have been honoured by the people of Canada with honorary degrees, the Order of British Columbia, the Order of Canada and many other community awards.

Mary Liza - Clara, Theodrie  
Lulu Belle  
Lella Bee - Juanita  
Mattie Lou - William  
John - Rudolph  
Rosa Belle - Pearl  
Bessie  
Sam  
Bertha  
Rut  
Dorrie  
Delores  
Bessie - died w/o #1  
Jule Bud -  
Bubba  
Otis

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Great great grandfather Walter and great great grandmother Emogene had four living children. They were Great Aunt Ellen who was great uncle Stanley her husband went to West Africa and opened the famous Shackelford bakery chain in West Nigeria and ~~Senegal~~ Ghana. She is also the Great grandmother of Aunt Joanne and the great great grandmother of Siya as well as the great step grandmother of Michelle, aunts Sharon, Kay K, Suzanne and uncle Anthony. <sup>great great grand</sup> ~~her~~ other daughters were Great Aunt Leila who was awarded the Order of the British Empire by the King of England in recognition of the work that she did in developing social welfare in Jamaica. She and Mr. Rudy Burke were Jamaica's first social workers. She was also the first woman from Jamaica to win a scholarship to university in England, when the Bland scholarship programme was introduced. Before she died she was awarded the title "National Hero" by the Jamaican government, and there is a school in Jamaica named in her honour. She led a very "activist" life and was one of the founding members of the Peoples National Party (PNP). After retiring from social work she was appointed a justice of the peace in Kingston. The other daughter and the baby in the family was great great grandmother. She studied nursing and for many years practised midwifery in Jamaica. She was also active in PNP politics. She met and married Ralph Hedderburn and had three children - uncle Junior, Aunt Grace and me (<sup>your mother</sup> ~~grandmother~~). Great great grandmother and great great grandfather had two sons. One died when he was very young. And the other, great uncle Karl became a surgeon. He too was awarded the Order of the British Empire by the King of England. This honour was in recognition of the outstanding contribution in medicine that he made. He pioneered research and treatment of Cancer and opened Jamaica's first cancer clinic.

Great great grandmother James was more than the sum of her children. Aside from her political activities, she invested in real estate. But most importantly she instilled in her children and grandchildren a fierce love of learning and a deep belief in charitable giving. She was convinced that a good education was the most important inheritance that she could pass on to her children. She also believed that "it was more blessed to give than to receive". She insisted that <sup>everyone</sup> ~~she~~ had a responsibility to help anyone who was less fortunate than <sup>they</sup> ~~she~~ were, and anyone that was in need. All of her children carried on her tradition of community service. Uncle Karl continued to work after retirement, treating poor people free right up until his final illness. Aunt Leila and great grandmother adopted orphan children and supported many charities through the church. Great Aunt Gwen did the same when she lived in Africa. Great grandfather Ralph died when we were very young so we did not get to know him very well. At first he worked on boats then later he opened his own automotive repair business in Kingston. His brother uncle Cyril <sup>is</sup> Aunt Noella's father. <sup>He is the father of Great grandmother's children</sup> Great uncle Junior has also had a remarkable life. He was the first Black person to be appointed vice-principal of a high school in Halifax Nova Scotia. He was the founder of the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured people, and was a president of the National Black Coalition of Canada. Like grandma (me) he was born in Jamaica, came to Canada to attend McGill University and remained in Canada after graduation. He married Aunt Sylvia (Dorcas) and has two children, uncle John and Aunt Diane. Great uncle Junior continues to be very active in Nova Scotia community life and to practise law. He is a Dalhousie law school graduate.

I just realized, May, that somewhere along the line, I stopped speaking to you and began speaking to the grandchildren. I guess that is because I hope that they will read this story themselves and be inspired by it to be "achievers", the very best that they can be. So, I think I will continue speaking to them. I came to Canada to attend university, hoping to return to Jamaica after graduation. Instead I met and married your grandfather (William Thophus Brown) and settled down in Vancouver, British Columbia. Grandpa Brown graduated from McGill with a Ph.D in Biochemistry and later from the University of British Columbia Medical School. He pursued a specialty in psychiatry and became the first Black president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association in 1984. He was also the first Black person to head the department of Psychiatry at U.B.C. when he assumed the position of acting head in 1983-1986. Grandpa Brown is from Florida and in 1995 was honoured by being inducted into the Polk County Public Schools, Hall of Fame.

I also attended U.B.C. graduating with a Masters degree in Social Work. In 1972 I became the first Black woman to be elected to political office in Canada, as an NDP member of the British Columbia government. In 1975 I ran unsuccessfully for the leadership of the Federal NDP. The first woman in Canada to seek the leadership of a major federal party. Throughout my life I have tried to carry on the tradition of service and giving instilled in me by Great Great Grandmother Imogene. I have been honoured by the people of Canada with honorary degrees, the Order of British Columbia, the Order of Canada and many other community awards.

Grandpa Brown and I have three children. They are Aunt Clea, Uncle Jonathan and your dad (May). This is where their story and your story begins.

Grandpa Brown and I have been blessed with three wonderful children. They are Aunt Leleta, Uncle Jonathan and your dad (Gary). This is where their story and your story begins.

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