

*In Loving Memory of*



*Linda Erica Powell Brown*

**December 6, 1919 - August 12, 2012**

**Service**

*Wednesday, August 22, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.*

**ST. ALBANS THE MARTYR**

116-42 Farmers Boulevard  
St. Albans, New York 11412

***Rev. Paul Woodrum, Officiating***  
***Joseph Devaughn, Organist***

# Obituary

**Linda Erica Brown** was the sixth child of William Samson Plowell and Millicent Hortense Shepherd Plowell, a native of Barbados. She was born on December 6, 1919 at HMPS (Her Majesty's Penal Settlement) Mazaruni, British Guiana where her father was employed as a school teacher. Linda had described her childhood as idyllic in which she basked in the love of her parents, grandmother Ellen (also a "Bajan") and her seven brothers and sisters - Maude, Mavis, Fitz, Lionel, Bill, Michael and Jean. Linda is the last of the Plowell siblings to leave this earth.

Linda's idyllic childhood ended with the death of her mother when she was twelve. She described the years which followed as unhappy but, as luck would have it, she met a budding young teacher named Jonathan Alford Brown, familiarly known as Johnny. With Johnny's encouragement she trained as a nurse and midwifery became her main interest. It is perhaps inevitable that Linda and Johnny married in 1943 in which year he was appointed Headteacher at Johanna Cecelia Methodist School in Essequibo. The job came with a house called "Alfern Dale", the site of many wonderful memories.

During these years three children arrived - Barbara in 1943, Eric in 1945 and Wellesley in 1946. Sadly Eric died in infancy. Linda showed the "get up and go" attitude which characterized her life and also taught shorthand and typing and became a hairdresser. These years have been described by Linda's daughter as idyllic, but that is another story. Life included milk delivered by Jasso and measured out of a galvanized milk churn, moonlight picnics on the beach accessed from the path behind the house, friends aplenty, travel to and from Georgetown by steamer and train and lasting a full day, the Essequibo coast road running from Charity to Supenaam and consisting of the red dirt road with two parallel concrete strips laid along it to facilitate vehicular travel. The Essequibo years ended in 1951 when Johnny was transferred to Georgetown as Headteacher of Kingston Methodist School.

Once settled in the city Linda joined the staff as a nurse at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital where she worked the night shift so she could be around during the day to be housewife and mother to Barbara and Wellesley. Linda and Johnny made many friends and indulged in many activities in the city, not least Linda's overland group trip to Kaiteur Falls which lasted two weeks and involved journeys in the back of a truck, a trek through dense jungle and a climb up the mountain to the top of the Falls. As the years rolled on, Linda threw herself into coping with the trials and tribulations of raising teenagers and, in some cases, their multitude of friends. Her hospitality knew no bounds.

When an opportunity to further her studies and become a health visitor was presented by the Ministry of Health, Linda professed interest. The one worry however, was that the course would last one year during which time trainees would receive no pay. A family discussion came to the unanimous decision that she must do the training and that "we would manage", surely a test of their Christian faith. At the end of the year and after successfully passing the final examination, she was assigned as health visitor to a mother and baby clinic in a rural area. She had overcome another hurdle.

In 1966, Linda and Johnny traveled to London for Barbara's wedding. Month's later, the joyful news that they were to become grandparents propelled Linda to remain in London to offer support. Meanwhile Johnny returned to Georgetown to teaching duties. Linda's "get up and go" attitude re-emerged when she decided that while waiting for her grandchild she would enroll in a refresher midwifery course at Hackney Hospital. This afforded her the opportunity of becoming a Registered Nurse and working in the community.

In 1968, Barbara and family including new grandson, Paul relocated to Georgetown. Linda was now free to pursue her early links with Bellevue Hospital, New York. The upshot was that Linda arrived in New York in 1970, collected her Green Card at JFK Airport and so began another chapter in her life.

Many of you gathered here today can claim friendship and fun in the various periods mentioned. A select few of you will have links spanning most of those periods and you will have countless stories and memories to match.

Linda's New York years began in Harlem sharing the apartment of a friend from the Essequibo years, the late Vera Marks. In Harlem she made acquaintance with her second grandson, Andrew (Andy) where he was brought from Guiana to meet her. Eventually, she moved from Harlem to an apartment on E 29th Street near Bellevue Hospital. That apartment became known to many of you as the Manhattan Hotel. If those walls could talk they would tell joyous tales of friendships, food and fun. The 1970's also saw the marriage of her son, Wellesley who welcomed a stepdaughter, Rhonda into the family. Linda's third grandson, Jaxon was born during this decade.

When the family moved to Queens in 1980 the pace slowed slightly. By this time Johnny had uprooted himself from his beloved Guyana and joined Linda. They indulged in some overseas travel while Johnny continued to teach in New York. Linda was, however starting to experience the first symptoms of heart problems. Her stubborn refusal to be beaten saw her in 1981 telling the doctor, "Give me my medication. I am going to my daughter's wedding in Botswana." That decision spawned a wonderful adventure in which new friends were made in Botswana, Swaziland and South Africa. Linda continued to indulge her love of travel which took her to various parts of Africa, Middle East and Europe. During this time her fourth grandson, Alan was born.

The next two decades brought retirement and the chance to enjoy her enlarged family and continue her travels. The loss of Johnny in 1998 was a blow she bore bravely. Great grandchildren began to appear and to date, Paul has contributed six, Jordan, Remi, Ella, Reuben, Amari and Havana Rose; Andy has produced three, Nayshaun, Micah and Jude; Rhonda has produced Allia and Jaxon has produced two, Tiasia and Jordyn.

More recently, Linda was uncomplaining as her health started to fail. Her health challenges were borne with the same steely determination displayed during her life. Linda told one friend, "I have done all I wanted to do and I am ready to meet my Maker." What a comforting thought to hold in our minds.

Linda, your family and friends salute you on a life lived to the fullest - a life in which you moulded, nurtured and touched a vast number of people some of whom are gathered here today.

We say farewell and hand you over, with plenty, plenty love to Johnny, your parents, sisters, brothers and countless friends who await your coming. Dare we imagine the reunion.

# Order of Service

The Rev. Paul Woodrum .....	Rector
The Rev. Margaret Blackett .....	Deacon Assistant
Mr. Joseph DeVaughn .....	Organist/Choirmaster
MASS OF RESURRECTION	
Prelude .....	“The Trumpet Shall Sound” Handel
Hymn .....	“Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven” 410
Collect .....	Page. 494
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD	
Readings .....	Isaiah 61:1-3 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Hymn .....	“Nearer My God To Thee” (#54 <i>In the Red Book</i> )
The Holy Gospel .....	Matthew 11:25-28
Homily	
The Nicene Creed .....	Page 496
THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL .....	
Page 497	
The Peace	
Hymn .....	“God Be In My Head” #694
THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION	
The Great Thanksgiving .....	Page. 333
Proper Preface Of The Resurrection	
The Lord’s Prayer	
The Breaking Of The Bread	
Agnus Dei:	
The Distribution OF Holy Communion .....	To Family and Friends
Hymn .....	“The King Of Love My Shepherd Is” #645
Post Communion Prayer .....	Page. 482
Closing Hymn .....	“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” 618
The Commendation	
Postlude .....	“Festival Toccata” Fletcher

## **INTERMENT**

Rockville Cemetery  
Lynbrook, New York

## *This Old World*

This old world  
I'll see no more

Pain and suffering for me  
Is out the door

Oh, what a journey this will be  
Knowing my Father in heaven  
is walking with me.

Don't be afraid  
I'll be alright  
I'm cradled in Jesus' arms  
He's holding me tight

I needed this rest  
Only God knows best  
For those I've left behind  
Don't worry, I'm fine,  
Victory is mine.

*-Author unknown*

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness  
shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.  
May God Bless and Keep You!*

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