

NAACP

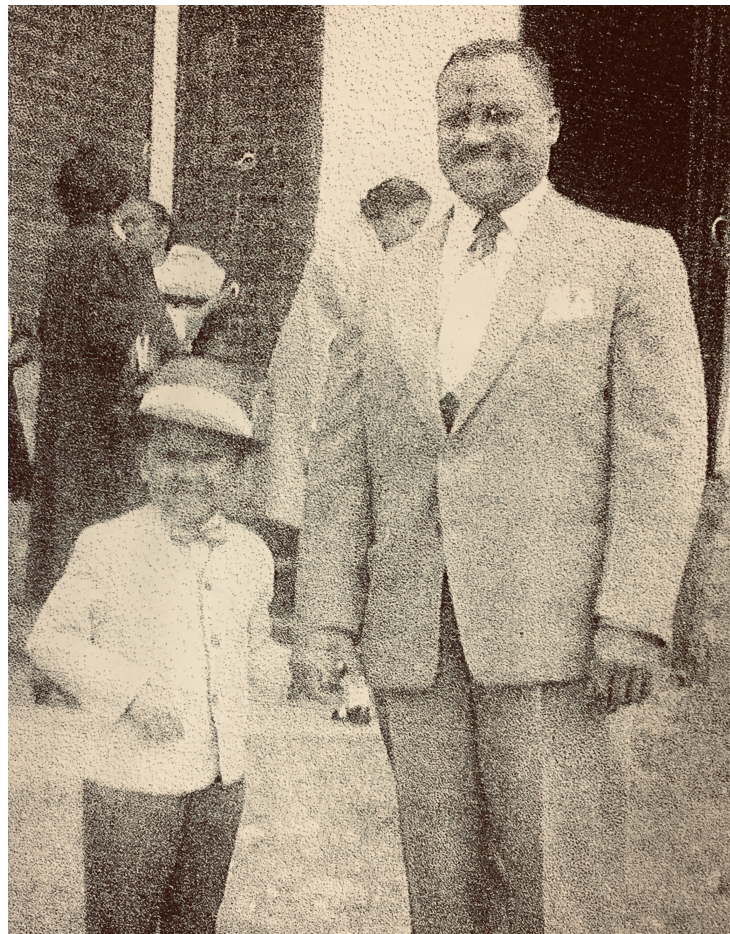
"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Martin Luther King jr.

Health Expo at Faith Tabernacle Church

Mark your calendar. September 28th from 10-2 at Faith Tabernacle Apostolic Church, 2548 N Fremont. We will have Blood Pressure screening, blood sugar screening, vision screening and HIV screening. Business and community organizations planning on a presence include: Mercy and Cox Human Resource Departments, Sound Advice (hearing aids), Springfield Fire Department, AIDS Project of the Ozarks, Springfield Park Board, Park Crest Dental, GOCAPS, Habitat for Humanity and Medicare Representatives. Health issues for women and men will be addressed along with other selected topics. Springfield Fire Department will be out with their ladder truck. Please come out and share some brotherhood/sisterhood and learn something new about your health.

Lyman Brown, MD 1914-1974

Author's note: This story about a prominent Springfield citizen would not have been possible without longtime residents Georgia Burton, Alma Clay and Patricia Duncan. Cheryl Clay, Rowena Conley and Wes Pratt provided valuable information and key contacts. Additional information came from News Leader Archives and "Black Families of the Ozarks". Special thanks to Michael Brown (shown with his father circa late '50s) Dr. Brown's son, for sharing about his father, his family and providing illumination about the era where Springfield actually began the process of accepting black people as fellow citizens.



From the US Surgeon General

U.S. Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome M. Adams issued an advisory stressing the importance of protecting children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use. E-cigarette use among youth has skyrocketed in the past year at a rate of epidemic proportions. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration's National Youth Tobacco Survey, the percentage of high school-age children reporting past 30-day use of e-cigarettes rose by more than 75 percent between 2017 and 2018.

The Doctor for Black Springfield

Dr. Brown was born and raised in Shreveport LA. His father was the superintendent of the black school system in Shreveport where he attended high school. He did his undergraduate studies at Fisk University in Nashville, a historically black university (HBCU) and then medical school at Meharry Medical College, also an HBCU in Nashville. Dr. Brown excelled in high school, undergraduate school and medical school. As a natural leader and hard worker he was the president of his class in all parts of his education. After his graduation from medical school in 1938. He joined the military and went into the Army as a Captain in the Medical Corps. He served our country in the North African, Italian and French campaigns. He went on into Germany and was part of the team that liberated Auschwitz. He was reluctant to speak about what he saw at that place. He said he only once pulled a gun on a man; a German soldier trying to get off the operating table. The highlight of his military career however was being saluted by Tyrone Power III (a swashbuckling Hollywood Star of the 1930s-1950s). His friends in college and medical school lovingly nicknamed him "Beans"...get it?...Lyman-Beans.

Dr. Brown practiced briefly in Kansas City where he met his wife Mary. He came to Springfield for largely unknown reasons but perhaps it was a quiet place where he felt he could make a difference. He liked Springfield and had a respected and fulfilling career here in the Ozarks. His practice in Springfield was from 1947-1974. He and his wife adopted a son, Michael who now lives in Massachusetts. He was THE black doctor for the black community in Springfield. He was the Chief of Staff at the old City Hospital before integration. After black people were accepted into the community of citizens he had privileges at St. John's, Cox and Park Central Hospital. Dr. Brown was the doctor for the police force and also the doctor for Camp Arrowhead (Boy Scout camp in Webster County).

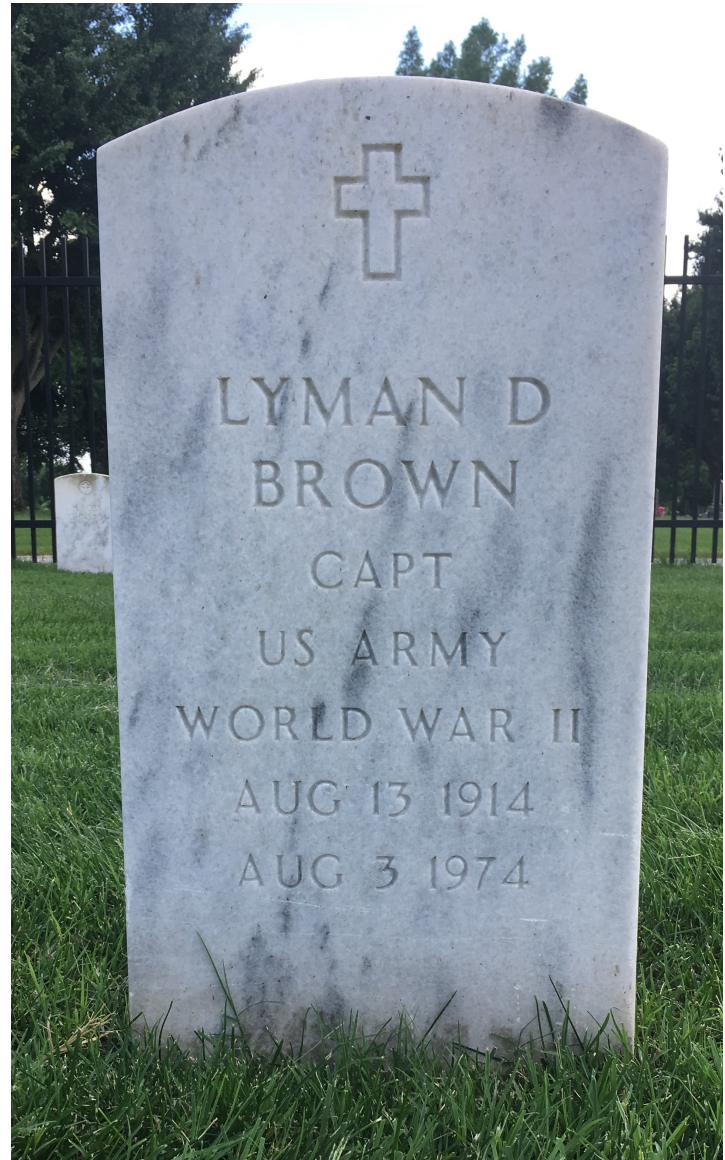
Dr. Brown made house calls, Mrs. Patricia Duncan related a story about a call to him at 10:30 at night regarding a sick child. He saw the child and called a prescription in to a pharmacy (white owned) that filled the prescription that night. He came to the home of Mrs. Georgia Burton after her father had a heart attack and gave instructions on how to care for him. In 1970 he removed

Mrs. Cheryl Clay's tonsils in the office. He also delivered two of her sisters. He delivered four of Mrs. Alma Clay's children at the City Hospital before integration and three at St. John's after integration. Michael reports that most of his black classmates were delivered by his father. It is reported by all sources that he never turned anyone away for lack of money.

In addition to being the doctor for black Springfield he was active in his community and church. He was a member of Pitts Chapel United Methodists Church, a member of the Masons and always gave generously to the United Way. Dr. Brown was a member of the American Medical Association; the National Medical Association (for black doctors); the Missouri State Medical Association; the Greene County Medical Association; Academy of Family Physicians and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. He voted Republican, was a fan of Eisenhower but may have voted for Kennedy in the 1960 presidential election. Dr. Brown was an avid tennis player and was responsible for the tennis courts built in Silver Springs Park. He had played football in high school. He was a bold and confident man, successful all of his life and carried himself as such. He earned respect from both blacks and whites.

On matters of racism Dr. Brown preferred to work within the system using his money and intellect. When his son Michael was prevented from swimming in the pool at the Boys and Girls Club pool on Boonville Avenue, Michael was hurt and embarrassed. He told his father and Dr. Brown called up the director and told him if the pool wasn't integrated immediately, he would withdraw his support from the United Way. The pool was integrated the next day. His thinking on racism, "The color of the hand reaching in the pocket doesn't matter as long as the color of the money coming out is green."

On advice for young people he would might say, "Education is the way to a better future, excel no matter what barriers are placed in front of you. Get a profession." His son Michael remembers him saying "it doesn't matter what you do as long as it is legal. Be the best at it if you are a doctor or a garbage collector, out-work and out-perform all of the others." His family was deeply rooted in the value of education and those values guided his actions.



Dr. Brown is buried in the Springfield National Cemetery with his wife Mary.