

Mrs. Adeline E. Brown, Teacher-6th Grade PS 23, New York City Chinatown

A tribute to a beloved teacher who through her teaching skills, influence, and discipline instilled in us the belief and confidence to be the “best you can be in life”. Her 6th grade subject curriculum prepared us with a solid foundation to be proficient in 7th & 8th grade Math & English which were perquisites for passing the NYC challenging Specialized High School entrance exams and be competitive in the real world of the future.

Our gratitude for the following photos & narratives which were graciously provided by Mary Sham, a teacher & colleague of Mrs. Brown, and Jean and Henry Kee who were outstanding students of Mrs. Brown at PS 23.

All the Best.....Enjoy the 2016 Chinatown Reunion among friends old & new....Daniel (Danny) Lee

It was the spring of 2002. Three of us visited former elementary grade teacher Adeline E. Brown. At the time, she was 99 years old. She passed away at the age of 101 in 2004. The impact of the teachings of an educator is not always immediate. In the case of “Mrs. Carbone” or “Mrs. Brown” as she was known in Chinatown, she was most recognizable for her insistence on academic excellence. She molded the minds of many of us from poor humble beginnings. However, with her guidance she made us believe that you can succeed if you work hard. Many have risen from those beginnings and have meshed into the American society. She taught all of us to be self-sufficient. We recalled that Mrs. Brown said she told all her students that she was a former police woman. It was her way of maintaining control in the classroom in addition to slamming her bunch of keys on her desk. It sure worked. Her nephew and wife joined us for the get together and ended the day with dinner at a Chinese Restaurant.

For Mary, Mrs. Brown was both a colleague and dear friend.

The day was emotional and memorable. We were able to thank her personally for having been a positive influence in our lives. She will always be a part of our memory.

Mary Sham, Jean (1951) and Henry (1950) Kee



[l- r] Henry Kee, Mrs. Brown, Jean Kee, Mary Sham



Mary Sham, Mrs. Brown



Mrs. Brown, Peter Carter [nephew]



Dolores Carter, Mrs. Brown Henry Kee, Peter Carter, Jean Kee, Mary Sham



"Teachers can change lives with just the right mix of chalk and challenges".....Joyce A. Myers

Mrs. Adeline E. Brown was born in New York City and had lived there and in Lyndhurst before moving to Wayne, New Jersey.

She received her formal education at "CUNY" City University of New York where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and then went on to Hunter College in New York City where she received a Masters Degree in Education.

Mrs. Brown was a Middle School Teacher for the New York City Board of Education for forty years before her retirement in 1970.

There is an interesting mile stone in Adeline Brown's life that we would be remiss not to mention. As a teacher she was a strict disciplinarian and perfectionist as to how to teach and keep her students in order for the best learning experience. Her teaching career centered on the Chinatown district of New York City. Her students grew to love this lady and revere and appreciate her teaching in their personal lives. They would go out of their way to keep in contact with her sending her pictures of themselves and their expanded families. While she was in her 100th year they made a very special effort to honor her by coming here to Wayne and taking her to dinner at a local Chinese restaurant called China Paradise. She was showered with respect, affection and accolades for her contributions to their lives. For her it was incredulous that these were her former students in their 60's and 70's paying respect to her for what she humbly considered just doing her job. Adeline Brown was indeed a very special teacher and lady.

Chinatown and the students attending PS 23 were very blessed and fortunate to have Mrs. Brown as one of their teachers. The old saying that a good teacher is critical to a child's academic development is exemplified by her many students who went on to successful careers in professional, vocational, and business fields of endeavors.

To me, Mrs. Brown will always be one of the best teachers I was privileged to have had in my academic journey through school. Aside from teaching us the fundamentals of Math and English to apply in the higher grades and college, she taught us to be respectful of others and be responsible for our actions which are essential to our developing young minds and personalities at that age.

Over the years at the Chinatown Reunions, many of us still talk about PS 23 and our fear as 5th graders and being promoted to the 6th grade to have an ex-policewoman as our 6th grade teacher. Now.. that is scary.....

Discipline 101...Front & Center.....Thank You ..Mrs. Brown.....

All the Best....Daniel (Danny) Lee. Nashua, New Hampshire

