

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Glennette Tilley Turner

PERSON

Turner, Glennette Tilley

**Alternative Names:** Glennette Tilley Turner;

**Life Dates:** November 23, 1933-

**Place of Birth:** Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

**Residence:** Wheaton, IL

**Occupations:** Elementary School Teacher; Historian

## Biographical Note

Educator and historical researcher Glennette Tilley Turner was born November 23, 1933 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her mother, Phyllis, was a teacher, and her father, John, was the first executive director of the SCLC. As a child, Turner moved several times with her family, first to Florida, and then to Illinois. After graduating from high school, she attended Lake Forest College, earning her B.A. in 1955, and she later returned to school at Goddard College to earn her master's degree in 1977.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Turner first went to work in advertising, but made the switch to education in 1962. That year, she was hired by the Chicago public school system, and she remained there for four years. In 1966, Turner went to work for the Maywood-Melrose Park public schools, and in 1968, she began teaching in the Wheaton-Warrenville public schools. She remained there for the next twenty years. Today, Turner supervises student teachers at National-Louis University.

In addition to her work as a teacher, Turner is a historian, and has focused much of her research efforts on the Underground Railroad. Her first book, *The Underground Railroad in DuPage County, Illinois*, was published in 1978, and since then she has continued to write and conduct research. Most recently, she has published *The Underground Railroad in Illinois*. Turner has also written collections of biographies of notable African Americans, and she serves as an advisor to the National Park Service, where she helps plan programs for the national historic Underground Railroad trail.

Turner lectures widely on the history of the Underground Railroad, and she has been honored numerous times both as an educator and historian. She is the recipient of the Studs Terkel Humanities Award, the Alice Browning Award from the International Black Writers Conference, and she is a member of numerous historical organizations.

Turner and her husband have two grown children. They reside in Illinois.

Glennette Tilly Turner was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 12, 2004.

## **Related Entries**

**West Aurora High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**H.S.**

**Lake Forest College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**Excelsior Elementary** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Goddard College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**Crosby-Garfield School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Chicago Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1962 to 1966]

**Teacher**

**Maywood-Melrose Park Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1972]

**Teacher**

**Wheaton-Warrenville Public Schools** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1988]

**Teacher**

**National-Louis University** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to ?]

**Supervisor**

**National Park Service** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Brown v. Board Committee** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**WCTV** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Commissioner**

**Illinois Underground Railroad Association** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Co-founder**

**Northern Illinois Children's Literature Committee**

[MEMBEROF]

[from 1984 to ?]

**DuPage Historical Museum Society** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1985 to ?]