

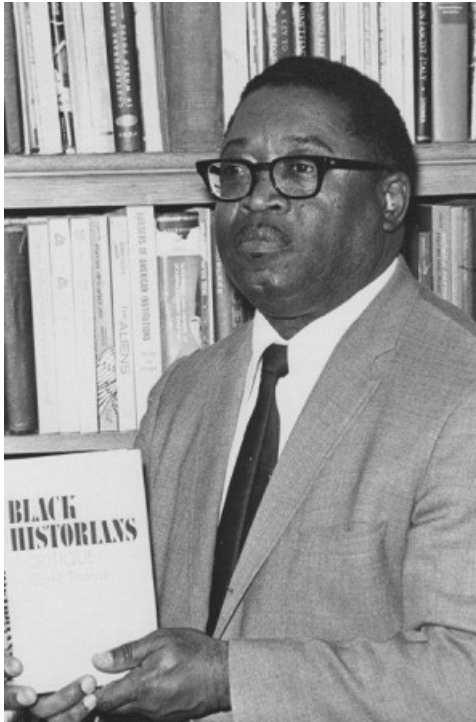
Thorpe, Earlie Endris ^[1]

Thorpe, Earlie Endris

by William S. Powell, 1994

Related Entries: [Historically Black Universities and Colleges](#) ^[2]; [Civil Rights](#) ^[3]; [African American](#) ^[4]

9 Nov. 1924–30 Jan. 1989



Photograph of Dr. Earlie Endris Thorpe holding a copy of his 1971 book, *Black Historians- A Critique*

^[5]

Earlie Endris Thorpe, historian and college professor, was born in [Durham](#) ^[6], the son of Eural Endris and Vina Dean Thorpe. He served in the U.S. Army in the European theater (1944–46) and in 1948 was graduated from [North Carolina College](#) ^[7], in [Durham](#) ^[6], from which he received a master's degree the next year. In 1953 he was awarded the Ph.D. degree by [Ohio State University](#) ^[8]; his dissertation was entitled "[Negro Historiography in the United States.](#)"^[9]

Thorpe taught at [Stowe Teachers College](#) ^[10], St. Louis, Mo. (1951–52), [Alabama A. and M. College, Normal](#) ^[11] (1952–55), and [Southern University, Baton Rouge](#) ^[12], La. (1955–62). In 1962 he returned to his alma mater, by then [North Carolina Central University](#) ^[13]—North Carolina Central University, where he spent the remainder of his career as chairman of the Department of History and Social Science. He was visiting professor of history at [Duke University](#) ^[14] in 1969–70 and of Afro-American Studies at [Harvard University](#) ^[15] in 1971. Thorpe was the author of *Negro Historians in the United States* (1958) ^[9], *The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History* (1958) ^[16], *The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans* (1961) ^[17], *Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought* (1967) ^[18], *The Central Theme of Black History* (1969) ^[19], *The Old South: A Psychohistory* (1972) ^[20], *African Americans and the Sacred: Spirituals, Slave Religion, and Symbolism* (1982) ^[21], *Slave Religion, Spirituals, and C. J. Jung* (1983) ^[22], and *A Concise History of North Carolina Central University* (1984) ^[23]. He also was editor of the ten-booklet series *The Black Experience in America.*" ^[24] Thorpe married Martha Vivian Branch, and they had two daughters, Rita Harrington and Gloria Earl.

References:

Directory of American Scholars-History (1978)

"Historical News and Notices," *Journal of Southern History* 55 (May 1989)

James A. Page and Jae M. Roh, *Selected Black American, African, and Caribbean Authors* (1985)

Who's Who among Black Americans (1985)

Additional Resources:

African American History at Ohio State: <https://history.osu.edu/courses/info/fields/african-american> [25]

American Historical Association: <http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/1989/8905/8905MEM9.cfm> [26]

North Carolina Central University: http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/e/Earlie_E.Thorpe_Oral_History_Collection.html [27]

Library of Congress, Civil Rights History Project: http://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view_collection.php?coll_id=808 [28]

Image Credit:

Photograph of Dr. Thorpe courtesy of the [NCCU Archives, Records and History Center-James E. Shepard Memorial Library](#) [5].

Subjects:

[Black and African American People](#) [29]

[Biographies](#) [30]

[Educators](#) [31]

[Writers, journalists, and editors](#) [32]

Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) [33]

Origin - location:

[Durham](#) [34]

From:

[Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press](#) [35]

1 January 1994 | Powell, William S.

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/thorpe-earlie-endris>

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/thorpe-earlie-endris> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/education/hbcu> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/civil-rights> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/taxonomy/term/26> [5] http://web.nccu.edu/shepardlibrary/about/dept_archives.html [6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/durham> [7] <http://www.nccu.edu/> [8] <http://www.osu.edu/> [9] http://books.google.com/books/about/Negro_historiography_in_the_United_State.html?id=ZeddNAAACAAJ [10] <http://hbcuconnect.com/colleges/37/harris-stowe-state-university> [11] <http://www.aamu.edu/> [12] <http://web.subr.edu/> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-central-university> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/duke-university> [15] <http://www.harvard.edu/> [16] <https://www.worldcat.org/title/desertion-of-man-a-critique-of-philosophy-of-history/oclc/02735844> [17] <https://archive.org/details/mindofnegrointel00thor> [18] <https://www.worldcat.org/title/eros-and-freedom-in-southern-life-and-thought/oclc/000406577> [19] <https://www.worldcat.org/title/central-theme-of-black-history/oclc/658133551> [20] <https://www.worldcat.org/title/old-south-a-psychohistory/oclc/14006653> [21] <https://www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n50-13050> [22] http://books.google.com/books/about/Slave_religion_spirituals_and_C_G_Jung.html?id=su_JGwAACAAJ [23] <https://www.worldcat.org/title/concise-history-of-north-carolina-central-university/oclc/012268378> [24] http://books.google.com/books/about/Black_experience_in_America_series.html?id=cCuLGwAACAAJ [25] <https://history.osu.edu/courses/info/fields/african-american> [26] <http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/1989/8905/8905MEM9.cfm> [27] http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/e/Earlie_E.Thorpe_Oral_History_Collection.html [28] http://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view_collection.php?coll_id=808 [29] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/african-americans> [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [31] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/educators> [32] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/writer> [33] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> [34] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-8> [35] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>