

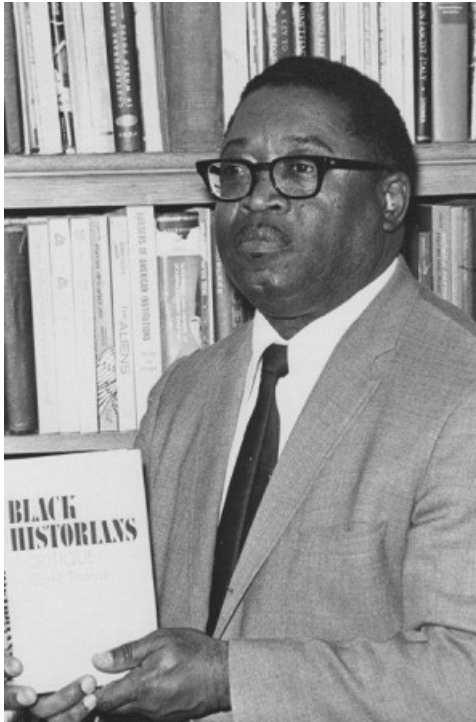
## **Thorpe, Earlie Endris** <sup>[1]</sup>

## **Thorpe, Earlie Endris**

by William S. Powell, 1994

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**9 Nov. 1924–30 Jan. 1989**



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

<sup>[5]</sup>

Earlie Endris Thorpe, historian and college professor, was born in [Durham](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, 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](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, in [Durham](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, from which he received a master's degree the next year. In 1953 he was awarded the Ph.D. degree by [Ohio State University](#) <sup>[8]</sup>; his dissertation was entitled "[Negro Historiography in the United States.](#)" <sup>[9]</sup>

Thorpe taught at [Stowe Teachers College](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, St. Louis, Mo. (1951–52), [Alabama A. and M. College, Normal](#) <sup>[11]</sup> (1952–55), and [Southern University, Baton Rouge](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, La. (1955–62). In 1962 he returned to his alma mater, by then [North Carolina Central University](#) <sup>[13]</sup>—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](#) <sup>[14]</sup> in 1969–70 and of Afro-American Studies at [Harvard University](#) <sup>[15]</sup> in 1971. Thorpe was the author of *Negro Historians in the United States* (1958) <sup>[9]</sup>, *The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History* (1958) <sup>[16]</sup>, *The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans* (1961) <sup>[17]</sup>, *Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought* (1967) <sup>[18]</sup>, *The Central Theme of Black History* (1969) <sup>[19]</sup>, *The Old South: A Psychohistory* (1972) <sup>[20]</sup>, *African Americans and the Sacred: Spirituals, Slave Religion, and Symbolism* (1982) <sup>[21]</sup>, *Slave Religion, Spirituals, and C. J. Jung* (1983) <sup>[22]</sup>, and *A Concise History of North Carolina Central University* (1984) <sup>[23]</sup>. He also was editor of the ten-booklet series *The Black Experience in America.* <sup>[24]</sup> 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](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](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view_collection.php?coll_id=808) [28]

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## Authors:

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