

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carolyn Glenn

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Glenn, Carolyn Jernigan, 1947-  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn,   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | February 20, 2014   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2014  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:26:47).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Publisher Carolyn Glenn (1947 - ) founded Georgia's largest African American-owned newspaper, <i>The Champion</i> , which became the state's most award-winning weekly publication. Glenn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 20, 2014, in Decatur, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2014_017   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Publisher and entrepreneur Carolyn Jernigan Glenn was born on June 28, 1947 in Greensboro, Georgia to parents Flossie Hill and Albert Jernigan. In 1963, Glenn graduated from Carver High School at the age of sixteen. She went on to receive her B.S. degree in business education from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia in 1967. She then received two M.S. degrees from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, one in business and vocational education in 1972, and one in in educational administration in 1985. She is also licensed to practice real estate in Georgia and Florida.

Glenn spent twenty years working in public education, as a secretary, business teacher, vocational coordinator, and high school administrator. In 1991, Glenn and her husband, Dr. Earl Glenn, established ACE III Communications and founded *The Champion Newspaper* with Glenn as publisher. *The Champion* is Georgia's largest African American-owned newspaper, and, since 1996, has been the most award-winning weekly among all newspapers in The Georgia Press Association. In 1999, they launched *Atlanta Goodlife*, a magazine focused on the lifestyles of African Americans in the Atlanta metropolitan area. In 2008, Glenn became the president of the Earl and Carolyn Glenn Foundation. Under the auspices of that foundation, she and her husband created Unconditional Love for Children, which provides opportunities for disadvantaged children to become empowered through educational enrichment programs, life skills training, athletics, and access to health services. She has been a long-time Foundation Board trustee and past chair at Georgia Perimeter College, and has endowed a perpetual scholarship for students at Albany State University.

Glenn has also been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. In 1994, she received the Benjamin Hooks Business Award from the DeKalb branch of the NAACP. In 1995, her newspaper won two Business of the Year Awards, one from the South DeKalb YMCA and another from 100 Black Men of DeKalb. That same year, Glenn was named Outstanding Entrepreneur by Success Guide. In 1996, she was named Businesswoman of the Year by the South DeKalb Business Association. The Atlanta Business League named her Businesswoman of the Year in

1997, and one of the 100 Top Black Woman of Influence from 1996 to 2014. She has also been named a Woman of Distinction by Living Word COGIC and listed among six influential Georgia women in *Women Looking Ahead* magazine. She won a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award from Georgia Perimeter College in 2006, and a Trail Blazer Award from Congressman Hank Johnson in 2013.

Glenn lives in Stone Mountain, Georgia with her husband. They have one grown son, Christian.

Carolyn Jernigan Glenn was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 20, 2014.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carolyn Glenn was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 20, 2014, in Decatur, Georgia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Publisher Carolyn Glenn (1947 - ) founded Georgia's largest African American-owned newspaper, The Champion, which became the state's most award-winning weekly publication.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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# Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Glenn, Carolyn Jernigan, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Glenn, Carolyn Jernigan, 1947---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Publisher

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, February 20, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_001, TRT: 1:27:49 ?

Carolyn Glenn was born on June 28, 1947 in Greensboro, Georgia to Flossie Etchison Hill and Albert Jernigan, Sr. Her maternal family was descended from John Etchison, who was a slave owner in Georgia. After the Civil War, he bequeathed land to his emancipated son, Robert Etchison. Glenn's maternal great-grandfather, Thomas Etchison, was the first African American to own a car in Greene County, Georgia. However, the car was stolen by jealous whites, as was most of the family's land. Later, Glenn's maternal grandparents, Mollie Jackson Etchison and Memory Etchison, rebuilt the family landholdings in Walton County, Georgia. They leased property, sold lumber and manufactured syrup. Glenn's maternal grandfather trained as a reverend at the Atlanta Bible Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He built a school for black children, and fed the poor sharecroppers in the area. Glenn's mother attended beauty school, and operated a salon built by her father. She separated from Glenn's father in 1954, and later remarried.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:17 ?

Carolyn Glenn's maternal aunts taught at the Etchison School in Greene County, Georgia, where Glenn spent time from an early age. After her family moved to Monroe, Georgia, Glenn commuted from the Maple Heights neighborhood to attend Pine Park School, which was known for its strong faculty. She completed the second grade through an accelerated program, and then transferred to George Washington Carver Elementary and High School. There, Glenn played clarinet and sang in the chorus. She also organized the school dances, competed on the basketball team and served as a cheerleader during the off season. She was inspired by the civic activism of her maternal aunt, Azalie Etchison Richardson. Glenn also helped her mother care for her younger half-siblings. After graduating from high school, she studied for one year at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. At this point, Glenn talks about her sister, Dorcas Jernigan, who integrated Monroe Area High School.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:44 ?

Carolyn Glenn enrolled in 1963 at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. After discovering her mother could not afford the tuition, she transferred to Albany State College in Albany, Georgia, where her maternal aunt, Azalie Etchison Richardson, had trained to become a teacher. Glenn's aunt organized for her to tour the campus with the college president, and helped her secure a job in the president's office. While at Albany State College, Glenn pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and was named queen of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in business education in 1967. With the help of her maternal cousin, Glenn was hired as a business teacher at Dalton High School in Dalton, Georgia. She also served as the secretary to the principal, who publically praised her work. With his support, Glenn transferred to the Atlanta Public Schools, where she initially taught business at J.C. Murphy High School.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_004, TRT: 4:27:34 ?

Carolyn Glenn served as the vocational coordinator and business teacher at J.C. Murphy High School in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1972, she received a master's degree in business and office education from Georgia State University, which was her first experience at an integrated school. In 1973, Glenn was named Teacher of the Year for District IV by the Georgia State Department of Education. She also received the department's Outstanding Service Award for four years. In 1978, Glenn transferred to the predominantly white Cedar Grove

High School in Decatur, Georgia, where she replaced another black teacher. She returned to Georgia State University in 1985 to study education administration, and then became assistant principal at Decatur's Jordan B. Gordon High School. She met her husband, Earl D. Glenn, at an NAACP meeting. After their son was born, Glenn left teaching and became a secretary at her husband's dental office. Together, Glenn and her husband founded The Champion newspaper in 1991.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:26 ?

Carolyn Glenn cofounded The Champion newspaper with her husband, Earl D. Glenn, in 1991. They partnered with Arthur C. Searles, Jr., whose father, Arthur C. Searles, Sr., was the founder of the Albany Southwest Georgian newspaper. In its early years, The Champion struggled to earn a profit. In 1997, Glenn decided to apply for The Champion to become the newspaper of record for DeKalb County, Georgia. In order to qualify, she founded The Champion Free Press and converted The Champion to a paid subscription. Her competitor, the white-owned Decatur DeKalb News Era, did not qualify, but had the support of the presiding judge in the voting committee. The judge attempted to postpone the decision until the criteria changed, but the rest of the committee approved The Champion before the new rules took effect. Although Glenn was sued by the Decatur DeKalb News Era and the Georgia Press Association, she won both the original decision and the appeal.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:10 ?

Carolyn Glenn's husband, Earl D. Glenn, retired from his dental practice in 1999. That year, he began developing the Atlanta Goodlife magazine, which featured prominent members of Atlanta's black community. The magazine received awards from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists, and ran for eight years before ceasing production due to unprofitability. During this time, Glenn continued to manage The Champion newspaper, where she sought to provide a balanced viewpoint on local news in DeKalb County, Georgia. Her audience was racially diverse, but she sometimes received criticism from conservative white lawyers who subscribed for the legal notices. In 2008, Glenn founded a non-profit organization called Unconditional Love for Children, Inc. (ULC), and established a funding branch called the Earl and Carolyn Glenn Foundation. The foundation also operated a chess program and a self esteem program, and worked with The Links to provide aid to the Mount Zion Primary and Infant School in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_007, TRT: 7:20:43 ?

Carolyn Glenn and her husband, Earl D. Glenn, cofounded the Earl and Carolyn Glenn Foundation to fund programs for disadvantaged children. Glenn continued to manage the biweekly publication of The Champion and The Champion Free Press, which also offered daily news updates via an online platform. At this point in the interview, Glenn talks about the staff of The Champion, including her son, Christian Glenn. She also describes her concerns for the African American community in DeKalb County, Georgia and throughout the country. Glenn reflects upon her life, legacy and career in education and publishing, and concludes this part of the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Carolyn Glenn, Section A2014\_017\_001\_008, TRT: 8:15:04 ?

Carolyn Glenn narrates her photographs.