

Hallie Q. Brown

Hallie Q. Brown was born in Pennsylvania in 1849. Soon after her birth, the family moved to Chatham, Ontario, Canada. In the Canadian schools, Hallie's talent as a speaker first became evident. The family wanted special training for their gifted daughter so they moved to Wilberforce, Ohio, where she enrolled at the university, receiving her B.S. degree in 1873. After graduation, she taught at Southern plantation schools, Allen University, and Tuskegee Institute, before returning to her alma mater as Professor of Elocution and trustee. Brown's fame as a speaker spread as she toured to promote interest in, and raise money for, the school. She lectured audiences on such subjects as "Progress of Negro Education," "Status of the Afro-American Woman Before and After the War," and "Negro Folklore and Folksong." She became popular in the U.S. as well as in Germany, France, Switzerland, and Great Britain and appeared before Queen Victoria in 1899. Brown served as president of both the Ohio State Federation and the National Association of Colored Women. She was a member of numerous organizations, including the Royal Geographic Society of Scotland and the International Women's Congress of London.