Brown, Hallie Quinn


The daughter of former slaves, Brown received a B.S. from Wilberforce University in Ohio in 1873. She subsequently taught on plantations and in the public schools of Mississippi and South Carolina. After graduating from the Chautauqua Lecture School and teaching in Dayton, Ohio, and in Alabama, Brown returned to Wilberforce to teach elocution. At that time she began her extensive travels as an elocutionist and lecturer, speaking in Europe as well as the United States on topics of the life of blacks in America.

Brown helped to form the first British Chautauqua, and in England she lectured on behalf of the British Women's Temperance Association. In the United States, she helped to found the earliest women's clubs for blacks and from 1905 to 1912 served as president of the Ohio State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She also helped to found the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C.--a predecessor of the National Association of Colored Women.

Among her books are *Bits and Odds: A Choice Selection of Recitations* (1880), *First Lessons in Public Speaking* (1920), and *Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction* (1926).