

Viola
Mitchell
turner

Black wall STREET

Vintage City

Celebrating the Legacy of Viola Mitchell Turner

Vintage Vibes



Viola Mitchell Turner was a total boss! Born in Macon, Georgia, in 1900, she became the first female African American member of the North Carolina Mutual Board of Directors. Turner played a significant role in the growth and success of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company..

Turner played a significant role in the growth and success of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. She worked on expanding branch offices in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Her financial acumen and leadership in managing the company's investment portfolio contributed to its substantial growth, reaching around twenty million dollars in assets in the 1940s.



Durham, N.C. has a rich history, particularly in the vibrant success of its Black Wall Street, where several outstanding African Americans played important roles into shaping a strong and thriving community. Let's journey back in time to celebrate the entrepreneurs who established Durham's economic success.

Turner's early education at a private black school in Macon, followed by business studies at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, set the stage for her groundbreaking career. After a brief stint at Tuskegee Institute and working in Mississippi, Turner joined North Carolina Mutual Insurance in 1920. Her initial role involved setting up branch offices in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi, showcasing her commitment to expanding the company's reach.

Viola Mitchell Turner's influence peaked when she was appointed Treasurer in 1957 and later became the first woman Vice President in 1960. Her leadership and strategic decisions played a pivotal role in the economic success of North Carolina Mutual and the broader Durham community. Turner continued to serve on the board until her retirement in 1965, leaving behind a legacy of resilience, achievement, and economic empowerment. As we reflect on Durham's Black Wall Street, Viola Mitchell Turner stands as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing the strength and prosperity that emerged from the contributions of outstanding African Americans.

In the words of Viola Mitchell Turner herself, "Success is not measured by the heights one attains but by the obstacles one overcomes in its attainment."