



# Frenda Turner;

Showing Off the Treasures of  
Clayton County

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**TOURISM IS BIG BUSINESS IN CLAYTON COUNTY,** bringing in \$1.255 billion dollars in 2014 alone according to the Clayton County Convention and Visitors Bureau. No one is more pleased to see the influx of tourists than Frenda Turner, Executive Director of the CCCVB for the past 3.5 years.

Originally from Tennessee, Turner has lived in Clayton County for 50 years, since marrying her husband, Richard Turner, a lifelong native of this community. The Turner family has a deep fondness for the county, which generations of Turners have called home since the early 1800s.

“I’ve been told, though I can’t verify, that John Turner came up Flint River in a canoe, married a Native American woman and settled down here,” Turner said.

Its historic significance and rich cultural heritage are just a couple of the numerous reasons Turner is proud of her home county.

“I’ve been here quite a while! Clayton County was a very good place to raise my daughters,” Turner said. “They had good opportunities as far as education and extra-curricular activities.”

Turner has also enjoyed watching the expansion of her community in Jonesboro.

“When I moved here, we didn’t even have a supermarket!” Turner remembered. “There had been one that burned down. I have been able to witness great development and growth within the county over the past decades.”

Turner’s passion for the county is readily apparent to anyone who speaks to her, and she oversees the entire operation of the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau with equally obvious enthusiasm.

Clayton County boasts numerous noteworthy attractions, but by far the most popular draw is the Road to Tara Museum and the *Gone with the Wind* tour. Each year, thousands of *Gone with the Wind* enthusiasts flock to see memorabilia from the Academy Award-winning film and the sites that inspired the novel.

Though the GWTW movie was filmed at a Hollywood studio in California, Clayton County played an integral role in the story.

“Margaret Mitchell’s maternal grandparents lived here in Clayton County, Turner explained. “And when she wrote the book, she placed Tara in Jonesboro.”

“We have had visitors from all 50 states, and in 2014 we had visitors from 43 different countries,” Turner said. “They have come from Japan, China, Germany, Denmark, Russia, South America, and elsewhere. People’s love of *Gone with the Wind* draws them here.”

Though *Gone with the Wind* is Clayton County’s greatest tourist draw, Turner believes the county has a great deal more to offer.

“Culturally we have Spivey Hall and Arts Clayton. We also have the Newman Wetlands.”

Spivey Hall, a prestigious concert hall on Clayton State University’s campus, is one of Clayton County’s greatest treasures according to Turner.

All in all, there are plenty of attractions in the county locals can be proud of.

“Clayton County is a warm and inviting historic community,” Turner said. “*Gone with the Wind* is the hook to get [tourists] here, but we have a great deal of culture as well. Once people come they see all these other things.” **WRC**