

Coweta County and Georgia

Great Reads+ for 250 Years

Juvenile titles

- J DEE The Peanut Man, Agatha's Feather Bed, The Cheshire Cheese Cat and others by Carman Deedy. A Cuban refugee who lives in Decatur, Georgia, Deedy is a sought-after lecturer, author and storyteller. Her Love That Book children's program has won four Emmys.
- J PET Pete the cat, I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin
- J ER SCH Mittens by Lola M. Schaefer
- J MIT The Magician's hat by Malcolm Mitchell
- J F APP The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. A fictional story loosely based on the life of Atlanta Zoo's silverback gorilla, Ivan, who was brought to the zoo from the West Coast where he was confined to a small cage in a mall. The book won the Newberry Medal in 2013 and was made into a Disney movie.
- J F BUR Queenie Peavy, Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain and others by Robert Burch. Born in Fayette County, GA, Burch spent most of his life there while writing nineteen childrens/YA books loosely based on his childhood growing up during the Great Depression.
- J F Cho Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi. A graduate of Woodward Academy and Emory University, Chokshi dropped out of law

school at UGA after her initial writing success to pursue writing full-time. Neil Gaiman's influence can be seen in her use of world mythology and folklore.

J F MOU A Time to be Brave, Mayhem at Magnolia Manor, Crystal City Lights

Historical juvenile titles by Coweta educator, Holly Moulder.

J BIO LEW Preaching to the Chickens by Jabari Asim. A story of congressman and Civil Rights activist John Lewis growing up on a Georgia farm.

J SNY Hungry Jim by Laurel Snyder

J 323.09 K I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr. An illustrated edition for children of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

YA titles

YA F ALB Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, Kate in Waiting, Yes No

Maybe So, and others by Becky Albertelli. A young adult contemporary author and trained clinical psychologist, Albertelli was born and raised in the Atlanta area. Her first book about Simon was made into a movie called Love, Simon. The movie was followed by spinoff television series on Hulu called Love, Victor.

YA F CHO The Bronzed Beast earned Chokshi the honor of YA Georgia Author of the Year in 2022.

YA F JAC Whispers in the Dark by Chase Jackson, a mystery loosely based around Newnan High School

YA F LEW March, Vols. 1, 2, 3 is a series of graphic novels by congressman and Civil Rights activist, John Lewis, depicting events of the Freedom Riders from Nashville to Selma, AL.

Adult Nonfiction

BIO CAR A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety; Beyond the White House

An Hour Before Daylight: memories of a Rural Boyhood

These and others by former Georgia governor, president, and humanitarian, J
Jimmy Carter

BIO CAT How did you do it, Truett: a Recipe for Success. Truett Cathy shares

what he considers the secret to the success of Chic Fil-A: quality product,
courtesy, putting people first and the right location.

BIO CRO Senoia Boy by Ellis Crook

BIO CAL Georgia Boy by Erksine Caldwell

BIO GRI I Took a Lickin' and Kept on Tickin' by Moreland native Lewis Grizzard.

While at UGA Grizzard worked as a sports editor for The Athens

Daily News, and at twenty-three became the executive sports editor for the
Atlanta Journal. Following a brief time in Chicago, Grizzard returned to
Georgia and wrote color commentary for the Atlanta Constitution, many of
those columns are found in his books.

BIO KIN The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.

BIO LAN Oracle of the Ages by Dot Moore. This biography is based on interviews

with individuals who knew fortune teller, lawyer and political activist,
Mayhayley Lancaster. Moore includes her own encounters with
Lancaster over the course of twenty years while living in Heard County,
Georgia.

BIO PRI St. Simons Memoir of finding the island and writing the trilogy of novels

by Eugenia Price. Price began her career writing serials for radio broadcasts and then formed her own company to produce a Christian radio show. These broadcasts led to her being a sought-after inspirational speaker. It was on a trip to Florida from the Midwest that Price discovered Georgia's Golden Isles resulting in her writing over fourteen mostly historical fiction novels set in this area and the founding of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society in 1965, along with thirty years of activism in the community and for the flora and fauna of the coastal Georgia.

BIO TRE

Memorial Drive: a Daughter's Memoir by Natasha Trethewey. The author earned BA from UGA, was Poet Laureate from 2012-14; and is a professor at Emory.

BIO THO

My Grandfather's Son: a memoir by Justice Clarence Thomas. Justice Thomas was born south of Savannah, GA. His father left when he was two and at six his mother sent him to live with his grandparents. His grandfather was instrumental in Justice Thomas' early life. He believed in working hard and self-reliance, and had an unwavering sense of right and wrong.

OS BIO YOU

The Many Lives of Andrew Young, by Ernie Suggs recounts the life of Andrew Young from his childhood in New Orleans to being a pastor in Alabama, a congressman from Georgia, serving two terms as mayor of Atlanta, and the Ambassador to the United Nations.

305.896 B

Slavery by Another Name, by Douglas A. Blackmon. Blackmon, a former Atlanta Journal Constitution reporter won the Pulitzer Prize for General

Nonfiction in 2009 for this title which explores the brutal treatment of inmates at the Chattahoochee Brick Company under the convict lease system.

323.1196 A

What Virtue There is in Fire: Cultural Memory and the Lynching of Sam Hose by Edwin T. Arnold. Over 100 years after this horrific event in Newnan, Arnold analyzed newspaper articles, letters, and speeches to determine what actually happened. He found that even firsthand accounts differed, that various groups interpreted events for their own purpose, and actual facts of the event are still disputed.

364.15 B

Murder in Coweta County by Margaret Anne Barnes is based on the murder of Willie Turner by wealthy landowner, John Wallace. Wallace had power and influence in Meriwether County, GA, but Turner was killed in Coweta County giving Sheriff Lamar Potts jurisdiction over the case. Potts persevered throughout the investigation despite Wallace's influence and money. It is notable because it was one of the first times a white man was convicted on the testimony of Black witnesses. The book was made into a tv movie in 1983, with Andy Griffith playing Wallace, and Johnny Cash portraying Potts.

398.2 H

Uncle Remus, His Songs and His Sayings: the Folklore of the Old Plantation, by Joel Chandler Harris. Harris was born in 1845 to a single mother who first instilled a love of reading and books in him by telling stories and reading to him from an early age. He was later mentored by a plantation owner who hired him as a type setter to produce a newspaper. It was on this plantation that Harris listened to the African

American animal tales of slaves who worked on the plantation. The plantation was destroyed during the Civil War, and Harris went on to work at several papers in Georgia eventually ending up in Atlanta and working for Henry W. Grady at the Atlanta Constitution. At times controversial, there is no doubt that Harris influenced authors that came later and was influential in depicting both the good and bad in race relations, gender and class in the South.

650.1 CAT

Eat More Chickin: Inspire More People

A history of the Chic Fil-A corporation by Truett Cathy. Others titles by Cathy may be found in the library system.

782.4216 J

Finding the Love of My Life by Denise Jackson

Wife of Alan Jackson describes how her faith helped save her marriage and her ability to cope with celebrity and all that comes with it.

782.421672 BEG

Alan Jackson: Gone Country by Mark Bego. A biography of Newnan's own Alan Jackson, winner of a Grammy, numerous CMA's and Academy of Country Music honors.

812.54 U

Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhry. An award winning screenwriter and playwright, Uhry grew up in Atlanta and is best known for his play Driving Miss Daisy, inspired by the relationship between his grandmother and her driver over the course of twenty-five years. It is set in mid-20th century and explores race relations, antisemitism, aging, and the changes taking place in the United States. Uhry received the Pulitzer Prize for his play which was adapted for film starring Jessica Tandy and

Morgan Freeman. The film won four Academy Awards including Best Picture.

- 814.54 S Celestine Sibley, reporter and other titles by Celestine Sibley
- 814.54 GRI The Last Bus to Albuquerque; It Wasn't Always Easy, but I Sure Had Fun; Don't Sit Under the Grits Tree with Anyone Else But Me,
- 817 G I Haven't Understood Anything since 1982. These and many others by Lewis Grizzard can be found around 814 and 817 in your libraries.
- 818.54 S She's a Keeper by Lee St. John, retired teacher and local author
- 818.6 T Beyond Katrina: a Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Native Guard by Natasha Tretheway won 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; the only Pulitzer outside of journalism by a UGA graduate.
- 975.8 B Georgia Legends & Lore by Alan Brown. A fun read exploring the legend and folklore related to the Civil War, cemeteries, monsters, mysterious disappearances, Native American legends and university tales.
- 975.8 C Georgia Odyssey: a Short History of the State by James C. Cobb. The Phinizy B. Spalding Distinguished Professor of History at UGA, Cobb's history of Georgia is only one of many titles and articles published in a variety of outlets nationwide about Georgia and the South.
- 975.8 K Abandoned Georgia: Traveling the Backroads by Leland Kent.
- Along with his photographs, Kent includes a brief narrative of fourteen abandoned structures including a mall, a prison, a mansion, a manufacturing plant, and others depicting the mystery and the beauty of run down, forgotten places.

- 975.8423 C Hair Straight'ner and Curlin' Irons: Kinfolk and Neighbors in Rural Georgia, 1910-1930 by Marjorie Daniel Cole
- 975.8 S Senoia by Carla Cook Smith
- 975.8423 B History with Elizabeth Beers by Elizabeth Beers
- 975.8423 B Coweta County: A Brief History by Jeff W. Bishop
- 975.8423 H Home is Where My Heart Is by Norma C. Haynes. A lifelong respected resident and contributor to the Newnan Times Herald, Ms. Haynes shares stories of growing up in Newnan in days gone by.
- 975.8423 Q Better Men: Coweta County, Georgia and the Vietnam War
By Steve Quesinberry, Newnan High School retired social studies teacher who taught a class on the Vietnam War for several years
- 975.8724 B Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. Based on true events, the story is set in Savannah and revolves around the murder of a male prostitute by a well-know antiques dealer, and the four murder trials that follow over the next eight years. Brendt moved to Savannah to research prior to writing the book which was later made into a movie directed by Clint Eastwood. Though reviews of both varied, the main and supporting characters from all walks of life are what stand out for most readers.
- 975.8724 D Rebels, Saints, and Sinner's: Savannah's Rich History and Colorful Personalities, by Timothy Daiss. Journalist and columnist Daiss brings to life a variety of characters who have had an impact on this coastal city.

975.8737 B God, Dr. Buzzard, and the Bolito Man: a Saltwater Geechee Talks about Life on Sapelo Island, Georgia, by Cornelia Walker Bailey. Ms. Bailey considered herself a story teller and her purpose was to pass on the traditions and beliefs of the Geechee people of Sapelo Island. A group of people directly descended from slaves brought her from West Africa. Life today threatens the Geechee people's ideas of family, community and their land.

975.8855 S Crabapple Blossoms and New Beginnings by Grace Young Smith and Sue Young Hunter. The authors look back on their lives growing up on a tobacco farm in south Georgia, to their days at Berry College, their teaching careers near the end of the twentieth center, and life in general.

Fiction

F AIK Silent Snow, Secret Snow, The Short Stories of Conrad Aiken
Poet Laureate, National Book Award winner for Collected Poems,
and Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for Selected Poems.

F AND Sunset Beach, The Homewreckers, Bright Lights, Big Christmas
Mary Kay Andrews is the pen name of Kathy Hogan Trocheck and a NYTimes bestselling author of over thirty books. She graduated from UGA with a journalism degree and is based in Atlanta. Her primary genres are women's fiction and "beach reads" blending romance, mystery and humor with strong female characters often looking for a second chance. She has also written some cozy mysteries under her real name, Kathy Trocheck.

F BRO Wingwalkers by Taylor Brown

UGA grad, Southern Book Prize for Redneck

F BUR Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns.

F CAL God's Little Acre and Tobacco Road by Erskine Caldwell

F CLE Till You Hear From Me, Seen it all and Done the Rest, Baby Brother's Blues and What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day by Pearl Cleage. Cleage's family moved from Detroit to Atlanta in 1969. She graduated from Spelman College and several positions during her life. She was a press secretary for Mayor Maynard Jackson, a columnist for the AJC, a Playwright in residence for the Alliance Theatre, and on the faculty of Spelman College. Her focus when writing is often on Black issues needing to be addressed.

F CON The Prince of Tides, The Lords of Discipline, South of Broad, The Great Santini by Pat Conroy. Conroy was born in Atlanta, but moved throughout his early life as part of a military family. An English teacher introduced him to Thomas Wolf's Look Homeward, Angel, which was influential in his writing. Conroy's works are often personal, based on his family relationships, particularly with his domineering father. Themes involving social class, racism, Southern life and coming of age are seen throughout his novels.

F DIC Deliverance by James Dickey

F GRI Southern by the Grace of God by Lewis Grizzard

F JAC Gods in Alabama and Between, Georgia by Joshilyn Jackson

F JON An American Marriage, by Tayari Jones. This novel explores the inequalities of the justice systems when a middle class, upwardly-mobile couple must deal with the ramifications of the husband being

arrested and convicted of a crime he did not commit. Another work of interest by Jones is Leaving Atlanta. It is set during the Atlanta child murders between 1979 and 1981. It is told from the perspective of three children. A Spelman grad and lifetime resident of Atlanta, Jones was inducted into the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame in 2018.

F KAY

The Greats of Cuttercane: the Southern Stories, Bogmeadow's Wish

Terry Kay's most famous book, To Dance with the White Dog,

was made into a movie with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. Kay's novels depict life in the South. He was inducted into the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame and throughout his life worked as a sportswriter and a film and theatre reviewer

F KID

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

F McC

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter and Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers

F MIL

Lamb in His Bosom by Carolyn Miller

F MIT

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell. A classic story of Georgia and the Civil War, Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for this novel in 1937.

F MOR

Careful What You Click For by Mary B. Morrison. This is the most recent title by Morrison whose main purpose in writing is to empower women to take charge of their future. She is also the founder of Healing Her Hurt, a nonprofit promoting emotional, physical and financial health of disadvantaged women and girls by providing self-empowerment tools, resources and education.

F MUS

The Swan House by Elizabeth Musser. Musser was born in Atlanta and now lives in France working with her husband as a missionary.

Musser's novels often have Christian themes. The Swan House is the story of sixteen-year-old Mary Swan growing up in Atlanta during the 1960's and dealing with the loss of her mother. The Swan House has been listed as one of Georgia's top ten novels of the past 100 year.

F OCO the Complete Stories by Flannery O'Connor

F PRI Lighthouse, New Moon Rising, Beloved Invader: The St. Simon's trilogy
By Eugenia Price

F SAM Run with the Horsemen by Ferrell Sams

F SID Peachtree Road, Burnt Mountain, Girls of August by Anne Rivers

Siddens. Ms. Siddens was born in Fairburn and her novels were about women and relationships, and most often set in the South.

F SLA Pieces of Her by Karen Slaughter was made into a Netflix miniseries and her Will Trent series of crime thrillers has been on ABC. Slaughter lives in Covington, GA.

F WAL The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia, attended Spelman College for two years before transferring to Sarah Lawrence. She won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1983 for The Color Purple. In addition to novels, Ms. Walker wrote essays, short stories and poetry. She was a Civil Rights activist and helped to register voters. Emory University houses Walker's personal and literary archives.

F WHI Quite a Year for Plums, by Bailey White. Born in Thomasville, GA, White attended Florida State and then returned to teach elementary school in Thomasville for twenty years. She first found fame after reading her

work on National Public Radio, often snippets about eccentric people and unusual situations evoking pictures of life in South Georgia. These snippets may be found in Mama Makes Up Her Mind and Other Dangers of Southern Living, 814 WHI.

F WOO

Chiefs by Stuart Woods. Woods was born in Manchester, GA and attended UGA and worked in advertising following his graduations.

His first commercial success as a novelists was in 1981 when Chiefs was published. It spans three generations of sheriffs trying to find a serial killer in an area that has many similarities to his hometown of Manchester. This novel was inspired by his grandfather and was adapted for a television series. Woods wrote several series during his career, one of his main protagonists is New York City private investigator, Stone Barrington. Woods novels are fast paced, filled with action and twists. The first Barrington novel is New York Dead.

