

GEORGE'S
Literary
Notables
of Georgia

Biographical histories
of selected Georgia authors

published by the
Georgia Council of Teachers of English

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Foreword

Georgia's rich literary heritage is a source of pride for everyone who lives in our state. Some of the most memorable authors of Southern literature have come from Georgia. Perhaps inspiration can be found in the mountains and ridges of north Georgia, the state's wide belt of gentle, rolling hills, the towering green pines, and the flat coastal plains. In many cases, the stories, novels, poems, dramas, and essays written by Georgia authors evoke the beauty of the state's landscape and the romantic spirit of the South.

The writers whose biographies appear in this book are a diverse group of talented individuals whose varied backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, spirituality, and personal experiences have contributed to their work. These gifted Georgians have created a vivid tapestry of unforgettable characters, some as gentle and delicate as magnolia petals, others as tenacious and indomitable as kudzu. Many of them have chosen to write about their home state, and their poignant plots, wry humor, colorful dialect, and vivid imagery have helped them to capture the charm of rural Georgia, the majesty of metropolitan Atlanta.

The Georgia Council of Teachers of English is pleased to present this informative guide to some of the greatest writers ever to have claimed Georgia as a home. Our thanks go to Editor Kathleen McKenzie and the others who have labored with such dedication to see this project come to fruition.

Alan Perry

President, Georgia Council of Teachers of English

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Conrad Aiken (1889-1973)

Conrad Potter Aiken was born in Savannah, Georgia, on August 5, 1889. His father, a surgeon, murdered Aiken's mother and then killed himself, a pair of events that colored his life and his writing. After several years of travel Aiken settled in Sussex, England where he contributed to *The Dial* and the *New Yorker*. In 1930 he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Selected Poems*. Governor Jimmy Carter named him Poet Laureate of Georgia in 1973. On August 17 of that year he died in Savannah where he had lived occasionally since 1962. A major poet of the twentieth century, Aiken produced over fifty books including poetry, stories, novels, and criticism. His writing tends to reflect the New England background of his parents rather than his Southern upbringing.

Earth Triumphant and Other Tales in Verse (1914)

Nocturne of Remembered Spring, and Other Poems (1917)

The House of Dust; A Symphony (1920)

Punch: The Immortal Liar, Documents in His History (1921)

Prelude (1929)

Preludes for Memnon (1931)

The Coming Forth by Day of Osiris Jones (1931)

Landscape West of Eden (1934)

The Soldier, a Poem (1944)

A Letter from Li Po, and Other Poems (1955)

Selected Poems (1961)

Thee (1971)

Tina McElroy Ansa (1949-)

Tina McElroy Ansa was born in Macon in 1949. She graduated from Spelman College in 1971, and her first job was on the copy desk of *The Atlanta Constitution*. Since 1982 she has been a freelance journalist, columnist, and instructor at Brunswick College, Emory University, and

Spelman College. In 1984 she and her husband moved to St. Simon's Island.

Baby of the Family (1991)

Ugly Ways (1994)

The Hand I Fan With (1998)

You Know Better (2002)

John Berendt (1939-)

John Berendt grew up in Syracuse, New York. He graduated from Harvard University in 1961 and moved to New York City to pursue a career in publishing. In the early 1980s he visited Savannah to research an idea for an article. Over the next several years he returned to Savannah. His first novel was *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* that was published in 1994. It was later made into a movie.

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1994)

Michael Bishop (1945-)

Michael Bishop was born in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1945. He attended the University of Georgia and graduated in 1967 with his B.A. and went on to receive his master's degree in English from UGA in 1968. He was influenced by his experiences growing up overseas (his father was in the Air Force) and has written series of science fiction novels located in a future Atlanta as well as set in modern day Atlanta. He is married with two children and two grandchildren. He and his wife, Jeri, live in Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Catacomb Years (1979)

Eyes of Fire (1980)

Who Made Stevie Cyre? (1984)

Unicorn Mountain (1988)

Brittle Innings (1994)
Would It Kill You to Smile (1998, as by "Phillip Lawson")
Muskat Courage (2000, as by "Phillip Lawson")
Blue Kansas Sky (2000)

David Bottoms (1949-)
Born in Canton Georgia, David Bottoms was named Poet Laureate of Georgia in 2000. His poems have appeared in many magazines, and he is the author of two novels. He is a professor of English at Georgia State University and lives in Atlanta.

Shooting Rats at the Bibb County Dump (1979)
Armored Hearts: Selected and New Poems (1995)
Vagrant Grace (1999)

Robert Joseph Burch (1925-)
Robert Joseph Burch was born in Inman, Georgia, on June 26, 1925. After a few courses at Hunter College, he worked for a while as a clerk in Atlanta and then served with the U.S. Army in Australia and New Guinea. This early experience sparked a love of travel that had him hopping freighters to Africa, Asia, and Europe. He did not begin writing until age 30. Aimed at a juvenile audience, his books often reflect his youth in rural, Depression-era Georgia. He currently lives in Fayetteville.

The Traveling Bird (1959)
A Funny Place to Live (1962)
Tyler, Wilkin and Skee (1963)
Skinny (1964)
Queenie Peavy (1966)
Two That Were Tough (1976)
Wilkin's Ghost (1978)
Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain (1980)
Christmas With Ida Early (1983)
D.J.'s Worst Enemy (1993)

Olive Ann Burns (1924-1990)
Olive Ann Burns was born on a farm in Banks County, Georgia, on July 17, 1924. After graduating from the Miller High School for Girls, she attended Mercer University and received a degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 1947 to 1957 she was on the staff of the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. Her first novel, *Cold Sassy Tree*, is loosely based on old family stories. It deals with the relationship of a young boy and his freethinking grandfather in a turn-of-the-century small, southern town. It was released as a movie in 1989. Burns began dictation of the sequel to *Cold Sassy Tree* in 1988. Unfinished at the time of her death, *Leaving Cold Sassy* was published in 1992 using the completed chapters and her notes.

Cold Sassy Tree (1984)
Leaving Cold Sassy (1992)

Erskine Caldwell (1902-1987)
Erskine Caldwell was born in Newnan, Georgia, on December 12, 1902. His father was a minister for a small Presbyterian sect. Although Caldwell never graduated, he attended Erskine College, the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1925 he traveled widely and worked as a reporter, a Hollywood scriptwriter, and a foreign correspondent. One of the South's most prolific writers with over sixty novels to his credit, Caldwell's books often drew on his experiences among poor whites of Georgia and Tennessee. His works did much to publicize the problems of the rural poor during the Depression and have remained popular. He died in Paradise Valley, Arizona on April 11, 1987.

Poor Fool (1930)
Tobacco Road (1932)
Gods Little Acre (1933)
Journeyman (1935)

The Sacrilege of Alan Kent (1936)
You Have Seen Their Faces (1937)
Trouble in July (1940)
Georgia Boy (1943)
Stories of Erskine Caldwell (1944)
A Place Called Esterville (1949)
Call It Experience (1951)
In Search of Bisco (1965)

Jimmy Carter (1924-)
Born in Plains, Georgia, Jimmy Carter attended Annapolis Naval Academy and served in the Navy. He returned to Georgia and was elected governor from 1971-1975. He ran for and was elected as President of the United States in 1976. Following his presidency, Carter has dedicated himself to the service of others as evidenced by his work with Habitat for Humanity and other volunteer organizations. He and his wife live in Plains. In 2002 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Keeping Faith: Memoirs of a President (1982)
An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood (2000)
Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life (1987)-with wife, Rosalynn

Pearl Cleage (1948-)
Primarily known as a dramatist, Pearl Cleage is also the co-founder of the literary magazine *Catalyst* and a columnist for *The Atlanta Tribune*. Her work has been performed in Atlanta, New York, and Chicago. Her first novel, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day* was published in 1997. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and teaches playwriting at Spelman College.

Puppetplay (1981)
Hospice (1983)
Flyin' West (1995)
What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day (1997)

Judith Ortiz Cofer (1952-)
A native of Puerto Rico, Judith Ortiz Cofer moved to Augusta, Georgia when she was fifteen. Her works include poems, novels, and essays. Cofer received the O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction along with many other awards. Currently she is a professor of English at the University of Georgia, where she has taught since 1992.

Peregrina (1986)
Terms of Survival (1987)
The Line of the Sun (1989)
Silent Dancing (1990)
The Latin Deli (1993)
An Island like You: Stories of the Barrio (1995)

Pat Conroy (1945-)
Pat Conroy was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 26, 1945. His father was a military officer. In 1967, he graduated from The Citadel and for a short time taught school in South Carolina. *The Water is Wide* is based on his experiences there, while his life at The Citadel forms the basis for *The Lords of Discipline*. With his talent for the expose, Conroy tends to use his writing to reveal the hidden and harsher sides of institutional power. He moved to Rome, Italy where he began *The Prince of Tides* that was later made into a movie starring Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte. His most current novel, *My Losing Season*, was published in 2002. He currently lives in San Francisco and in South Carolina.

The Boo (1970)
The Water is Wide (1972)
The Great Santini (1976)
Lords of Discipline (1980)
The Prince of Tides (1986)
Beach Music (1995)
My Losing Season (2002)

Harry Crews (1935-)
Harry Crews was born into a farming family in Alma, Georgia, on June 7, 1935. After a tour of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956, he entered the University of Florida. After receiving his B.A. and his M.S. Ed., he taught English at Broward Junior College until 1968. Since then he has taught English at the University of Florida. Known for his sometimes bizarre commentary on life, Crews' work frequently draws on his life in the South.

A Feast of Snakes (1976)
A Childhood: The Biography of a Place (1978)

Ossie Davis (1917-)
Ossie Davis was born on December 18, 1917, in Cogdell, Georgia. After three years at Howard University, he joined the Rose McCleendon Players in New York City as an apprentice. His work there was interrupted by a three-year tour of duty in the Army. In the late 1940s and 1950s he began to work in other Broadway productions as well as in films. He is best known for his 1961 production of *Purdie Victorious* that has since been made into a movie, *Gone are the Days*, and a musical version, *Purdie!* He has appeared in several movies and has authored three children's books. He currently lives in New Rochelle, New York.

Purdie Victorious (1961)
Escape to Freedom: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass (1978)
Langston: A Play (1982)
Escape to Freedom (1990)
Just Like Martin (1992)

Carmen Deedy (1960-)
A native of Cuba, Carmen Deedy moved to the United States in 1963. She grew up in Decatur, Georgia. She is an entertaining storyteller and children's writer. She has performed at festivals across the country, including performances at the Kennedy Center, the White House, and on Broadway.

Agatha's Feather Bed: Not Just Another Wild Goose Story (1991)
The Library Dragon (1994)
Growing Up Cuban in Georgia (1995)
The Secret of Old Zeb (1997)
The Yellow Star (2000)

James Dickey (1923-1997)
James Lafayette Dickey was born on February 2, 1923, in Atlanta, Georgia. After serving as a fighter pilot during World War II and the Korean War, he received his B.A. and M.A. from Vanderbilt University. He has taught at several universities and worked in advertising. Drawing heavily on his Georgia heritage, Dickey published his first volume of poems in 1960, but it was the publication of *Poems* 1957-1967 which marked his recognition as a major American poet. He is probably most widely known for his novel *Deliverance*. At the time of his death he was poet-in-residence at the University of South Carolina.

Into the Stone and Other Poems (1960)
Deliverance (1970)
The Zodiac (1976)
Poems (1981)
Starry Place between the Antlers (1981)
Puella (1982)
Alnham (1988)
To the White Sea (1993)

William Diehl (1924-)
 William Francis Diehl, Jr. was born in Jamaica, New York, on December 4, 1924. In 1949 he received a B.A. from the University of Missouri. During World War II he was decorated several times, and some of his experiences behind enemy lines helped form the basis for *Sharky's Machine*. In 1949 he went to Atlanta, hoping for a job with the *Atlanta Constitution*. Since then, he has been a reporter for the *Atlanta Constitution*, a free-lance writer and photographer, managing editor for *Atlanta*, senior editor for *New Orleans*, and senior editor for *Cincinnati*. He now lives on St. Simon's Island.

Sharky's Machine (1978)
Chameleon (1981)
Hooligans (1984)
Show of Evil (1996)
Primal Fear (1996)
The Thai Horse (1997)
Reign in Hell (1998)
Eureka (2002)

William Edward Burghardt (W. E. B.) Du Bois (1868-1963)
 One of the most important and influential African American leaders of the twentieth century, W.E.B. Du Bois earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1896 and soon thereafter began to write and campaign on behalf of American blacks. He

founded the NAACP. Du Bois served on the faculty of Atlanta University from 1897 to 1910 and 1934 to 1944. He died in Ghana in 1963.
The Souls of Black Folk (1903)
Black Reconstruction in the South (1935)
Dusk of Dawn (1940)

Harry Stillwell Edwards (1855-1938)
 Harry Stillwell Edwards was born in Macon, Georgia, on April 23, 1855. After receiving his Bachelor of Laws from Mercer University, he practiced law and wrote for the *Macon Telegraph* and the *Macon Evening News*. His popularity as a writer of humorous tales and scientific mysteries put him in demand as a speaker. He died in Macon on October 22, 1938. He is best remembered for his outstanding use of Negro dialect, especially in *Eneas Africannus*, the saga of an ex-slave.

Two Runaways and Other Stories (1889)
Sons and Fathers (1896)
The Marbeau Cousins (1898)
Eneas Africannus (1919)

Henry Grady (1850-1889)
 Henry Woodfin Grady was born in Athens, Georgia, on May 24, 1850. His father was a prosperous local merchant. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1868 and briefly attending the University of Virginia, he became an associate editor for the *Courier* in Rome, Georgia. After ten years of writing for the *New York Herald* and the *Augusta Constitution*, he began working for the *Atlanta Constitution*. In 1880, he borrowed enough money to buy one-quarter interest of the paper. Under his direction the paper expanded its coverage of state and local news and implemented modern reporting techniques. Though he repeatedly turned down offers to run for political office, he

did influence attitudes of post-war Southerners as spokesman for the New South movement. He hoped Southerners would be able to put the war behind them and accept the development of industry and agriculture as a way to bolster the sagging Southern economy. On December 23, 1889, he died in Atlanta of pneumonia.

Lewis Grizzard (1946-1994)

Born in Fort Benning, Georgia, Grizzard graduated from the University of Georgia and became the youngest sports writer at *The Atlanta Journal*. His books are often a series of humorous snapshots into Southern psyche. He died in 1994 following several years of heart problems.

Kathy Sue Loudermilk, I Love You (1979)

If Love Were Oil, I'd Be About a Quart Low (1983)

Elvis is Dead and I Don't Feel So Good Myself (1984)

Don't Bend Over in the Garden, Granny, You Know Them

Taters Got Eyes (1988)

I Haven't Understood Anything since 1962 and Other

Nekkid Truths (1992)

It Wasn't Always Easy, But I Sure Had Fun (1994)

Grizzardisms: The Wit and Wisdom of Lewis Grizzard (1995)

Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908)

Joel Chandler Harris was born in Eatonton, Georgia, on December 8, 1848. His father deserted his mother about the time of Chandler's birth. At thirteen he moved to Turnwold, a nearby plantation, to work as a typesetter on Joseph Addison Turner's local paper, *The Countryman*. It was here that he gathered the plantation lore he would later make famous. From there he worked on newspapers in Macon, New Orleans, Forsyth, and Savannah. His last job was with the *Atlanta Constitution* where he remained for 24 years. During this period he began writing his Uncle

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Remus stories. His renderings of these stories, along with his command of the Negro dialect made his works immensely popular. He died in Atlanta on July 2, 1908. The Wren's Nest, his Atlanta home, is now a public museum.

Uncle Remus: His Songs and Sayings (1880)

Nights with Uncle Remus (1883)

Uncle Remus and his Friends (1892)

The Tar-Baby and Other Rhymes of Uncle Remus (1904)

Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit (1906)

Uncle Remus Returns (1918)

Favorite Uncle Remus (1948)

The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus (1955)

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1886-1966)

Born in Atlanta, Georgia Douglas Johnson moved to Washington, D.C. in 1903 and began publishing books of poetry. Perhaps the foremost female poet of the Harlem Renaissance, she explored themes of friendship, marriage, passion, and loneliness. In 1965 Atlanta University bestowed on her an honorary doctorate.

The Heart of a Woman and Other Poems (1918)

Bronze: A Book of Verse (1922)

An Autumn Love Cycle (1928)

Share My World: A Book of Poems (1962)

Terry Kay (1938-)

Raised on a farm in Hart County, Georgia, Terry Kay attended West Georgia College and LaGrange College. He began work as a journalist in 1959 and later was hired by *The Atlanta Journal* as a sports writer and film critic. His works include a children's book, *To Whom the Angel Spoke: A Story of the Christmas*, published in 1991, a television script, a collection of essays, and several novels. *To Dance With the White Dog* and *The Runaway* have been made into Hallmark Hall of Fame presentations.

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Writing on topics that mirror his own experiences, Kay's results are poetic and inspiring. He is married and lives in Athens, Georgia.

The Year the Lights Came On (1979)

After Eli (1981)

Dark Thirty (1984)

To Dance With the White Dog (1990)

Shadow Song (1995)

The Runaway (1997)

The Kidnapping of Aaron Greene (1999)

Taking Lottie Home (2000)

Special K: The Wisdom of Terry Kay (2000)

John Oliver Killens (1916-1987)

John Oliver Killens was born in Macon, Georgia, on January 14, 1916. He attended many colleges including Edward Waters College, Morris Brown College, Atlanta University, Howard University, and Columbia University. He was a writer in residence and lecturer at a number of universities. Tending to treat black problems, his works were well received critically but did not win popular recognition. He died in Brooklyn, New York on October 27, 1987.

Young blood (1954)

And Then We Heard the Thunder (1963)

Lower Than Angels (1965)

Great Gittin' Up Morning: A Biography of Black Man's

Burden (1966)

'Sippi (1967)

Slaves (1969)

A Man Ain't Nothin But a Man (1975)

Sidney Lanier (1842-1881)

Sidney Lanier was born in Macon, Georgia, on February 3, 1842. His father was a lawyer. In 1860 he was graduated from Oglethorpe University where he remained for a year as a tutor. Shortly after the beginning of the Civil War, he joined the Macon Volunteers and was captured late in 1864. A lung disease contracted in the prison camp forced him into a more sedentary lifestyle than he would have preferred. It was during this time that he began to consider writing as a career. After working for a while in his father's law office, he settled in Baltimore, Maryland, where he occasionally taught at Peabody Institute and Johns Hopkins University. On September 7, 1881, he died of tuberculosis in Lynn, North Carolina. Many critics have found his poems overly sentimental and lofty; however, most agree that they still merit consideration. Two of his best-known poems, "The Marshes of Glynn" and "The Song of the Chattahoochee" exemplify the musical rhythms he used so well. "The Marshes of Glynn" describes the wetlands around Brunswick, while "The Song of the Chattahoochee" tries to emulate the sounds of the river as it travels from Habelsham and Hall Counties in North Georgia to its junction with the Apalachicola. Noted not only for his poetry but also for his theories on the relationship of music and poetry, Lanier is one of the major American poets of the nineteenth century.

Tiger-Lilies (1867)

Poems (1877)

The Science of English Verse (1880)

Development (1883)

Carson McCullers (1917-1967)

Lula Carson Smith was born into a middle-class family on February 19, 1917, in Columbus, Georgia. She began to write at an early age and studied writing at Columbia University. At 20 she married James Reeves McCullers. Their divorce four years later and remarriage in 1945 were

followed by his suicide in 1952. She died on September 29, 1967, from a cerebral hemorrhage. Her friends included many famous writers of the day, such as Tennessee Williams and Edward Albee. Her writings deal with the loneliness of the individual and his need for love. She is ranked among the best of the twentieth century writers.

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (1940)
Reflections in a Golden Eye (1941)
The Member of the Wedding (1946)
A Clock without Hands (1961)
Sweet as a Pickle and Clean as a Pig: The Ballad of the Sad Cafe and Other Poems (1964)

Ralph McGill (1898-1969)

Ralph Emerson McGill was born into a family of coal miners in Tennessee on February 5, 1898. He attended Vanderbilt University. After six years with *The Nashville Banner*, he began his lifelong association with the *Atlanta Constitution* as reporter, sports editor, executive, director, editor, and publisher. During his long career he covered many international events such as the Nuremberg trials and the United Nations charter meetings. He is best known for his columns in which he attacked racial prejudice and other forms of bigotry. He earned the 1958 Pulitzer Prize for his outstanding editorial on the bombing of a Jewish temple and the burning of a black school. He died on February 3, 1969.

Israel Revisited (1950)
The Fleas Come with the Dog (1954)
A Church, a School (1959)

James Alan McPherson (1943-)

James Alan McPherson was born in Savannah, Georgia, on September 16, 1943. Since graduating from Morris Brown College, Harvard University, and the University of

Iowa, he has worked as a writing instructor at a law school, an instructor in Afro-American literature, and since 1969 has been a contributing editor to *Atlantic Monthly*. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Elbow Room* in 1978. His short stories are known for their depiction of the lives of modern blacks. Currently he is a professor at the University of Iowa.

Hue and Cry: Short Stories (1969)
Cutting Edges (1973)
Black Insights: Significant Literature by Afro-Americans, 1760 to the Present (1971)
Elbow Room (1977)
Crabcakes (1996)

Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949)

Margaret Mitchell was born in Atlanta on November 18, 1900. She took great pride in her family's heritage. After graduating from Smith College, she worked as a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal*. Beginning in 1926 she spent ten years writing *Gone With the Wind*, basing it on the history she had absorbed as a child. Despite winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1937, Mitchell never attached any literary importance to her only novel. Since its 1939 premier in Atlanta to critical acclaim, the movie version has achieved worldwide popularity and remains one of the top-grossing movies of all time. On August 16, 1949 she died of injuries received after she was hit by a car several days earlier.

Gone With the Wind (1936)

Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964)

Mary Flannery O'Connor was born on March 25, 1925, in Savannah, Georgia, where she grew up attending Catholic schools. After her father's death, she and her mother moved to her mother's home in Milledgeville where O'Connor attended Georgia State College for Women. She received an M.A. from the University of Iowa in 1947

shortly after the publication of her first short story. Her stories are marked by a curious blend of religion, grotesqueness, and violence with which she delves into the relationship between man and God. She is widely regarded as one of America's leading short story writers. She died of lupus on August 3, 1964, in Millledgeville.

Wise Blood (1952)

A Good Man is Hard to Find (1955)

The Violent Bear It Away (1960)

Everything That Rises Must Converge (1965)

Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose (1969)

The Complete Stories (1971)

The Habit of Being (1979)

Eugenia Price (1916-1996)

Eugenia Price was born in Charleston, West Virginia, on June 22, 1916. Her father was a dentist. She was educated at Ohio University and Northwestern University where she was a dental student. She has written for radio serials and done freelance writing. Since 1965 she had lived on St. Simon's Island, the setting of several of her more famous works. A popular writer with sales in excess of fourteen million copies, Price's work reflects her strong religious beliefs. She is best known for historical novels including *The St. Simon's Trilogy* that traces the lives of several islanders dating from the Revolutionary War. She died on May 28, 1996.

Discoveries (1953)

The Burden is Light (1955)

Lighthouse (1971)

Don Juan McQueen (1974)

María (1977)

St. Simon's Memoir (1978)

Margaret's Story (1980)

At Home on St. Simon's (1981)

Savannah (1983)

To See Your Face Again (1985)

Byron Herbert Reece (1917-1958)

Byron Herbert Reece was born in Union County, Georgia, on September 14, 1917, to a poor farming family. The Bible was an important part of daily life and by the time he entered elementary school, he could read most of it. He graduated from Union County High School in Blairsville and attended Young Harris College. Though he never graduated, he taught at the college as a poet-in-residence as well as at the University of California at Los Angeles and Emory University in Atlanta. After a long and recurrent bout with tuberculosis, he committed suicide on June 3, 1958. His poetry and novels are known for the rhythmic style he picked up from the *King James Bible* and ballads he learned as a child. His work deals with the loneliness imposed on him by his poor health and the isolation of his family's home. His works have always been well regarded by literary critics and have been reprinted in recent years.

Ballad of the Bones (1945)

Remembrance of Moab (1949)

Better a Dinner of Herbs (1950)

Bow Down in Jericho (1950)

A Song of Joy (1952)

The Season of Flesh (1955)

The Hawk and the Sun (1955)

Ferrol Sams (1922-)

Born in Fayetteville, Georgia in 1922, Ferrol Sams graduated from Emory University with his medical degree in 1949. He is a physician in private practice in his hometown and has been an instructor in creative writing since 1991. His works include novels, short stories, and nonfiction. Some of his short stories have been adapted as one-act plays.

Run with the Horsemen (1982)

The Whisper of the River (1984)

Christmas Gift! (1989)

Epiphany (1994)

Bettie Sellers (1926-)

Born in Tampa, Florida, Bettie Sellers attended LaGrange College and the University of Georgia. She began teaching at Young Harris College in 1965 and taught there until 1995. Well known as a voice of the North Georgia Mountains, her collections of poems have brought her awards and honors. She was named Georgia Poet Laureate in 1997 and lives in Young Harris, Georgia.

Westward from Bald Mountain (1974)

Spring Onions and Cornbread (1978)

Morning of the Red-tailed Hawk (1981)

Liza's Monday and Other Poems (1986)

Wild Ginger (1989).

Celestine Sibley (1914-1999)

A journalist and author who wrote an estimated 10,000 columns and 25 books, Celestine Sibley was born in Florida. She moved to Georgia in 1941 where she worked for *The Atlanta Constitution* as a reporter and a columnist. Her writings included topics such as politics, gardening, Southern traditions, and her family. Over her 58 year career with *The Atlanta Constitution* and later *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, her folksy style endeared her to her loyal readers. Sibley won several honors for her work, including the first Ralph McGill Award, named after the late editor of *The Atlanta Constitution*. Her books included collections from her columns, recollections of her family and the South, and mystery novels.

Anne Rivers Siddons (1936-)

Anne Rivers was born in Fairburn, Georgia, the daughter of a lawyer. She attended Auburn University and briefly worked in advertising before joining *Atlanta Magazine* as a writer and editor. A few years after her marriage to Heywood Siddons, she published her first work, *John Chancellor Always Makes Me Cry*. Although her first novel,

Heartbreak Hotel, was well received by critics, her subsequent novels have not fared as well. She currently lives in Atlanta.

John Chancellor Always Makes Me Cry (1975)

Heartbreak Hotel (1976)

The House Next Door (1978)

Go Straight on Peachtree Street (1978)

Fox's Earth (1982)

Peachtree Road (1988)

Nora, Nora (2001)

Brad Strickland (1947-)

A native of New Holland (in Hall County, Georgia), Brad Strickland attended the University of Georgia where he earned his Ph.D. in American Literature. He has taught at the University of Georgia, Oglethorpe University, and Truett-McConnell College. Since 1987 he has taught English at Gainesville College. He has contributed to the Wishbone Adventure series, the Star Trek series, and completed works of the late John Bellairs. His most recent work is *Mutiny* (2002).

To Stand Beneath the Sun (1985)

The Tower at the End of the World (2001)

The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge (2002)

Mutiny (2002)

John Stone (1936-)

Born in Jackson Mississippi, John Stone trained in medicine and cardiology. His short prose and poetry have been published in numerous magazines and anthologies. His style is a mix of humor, observations, sadness, and wisdom. He has won several awards for both his work in medicine and in writing.

The Smell of Matches (1972)
In All This Rain (1980)
Renaming the Streets (1985)
In the Country of Hearts: New and Collected Essays (1990)
On Doctoring: Stories, Poems, Essays (1991)
Where Water Begins: New Poems and Prose (1998)

Augusta Trobaugh

An Atlanta-born, sixth-generation Georgian, Augusta Trobaugh earned her masters at the University of Georgia with a concentration in American and Southern literature. Funded by the Georgia Council of the Arts, her third novel, *Sophie and the Rising Sun*, has been purchased for a film production. Currently she lives in the Athens area.

Praise Jerusalem! (1993)
Resting in the Bosom of the Lamb (1997)
Sophie and the Rising Sun (2001)
Swan Place (2002)

Alice Walker (1944-)

Alice Walker was born into a large family of sharecroppers in Eatonton, Georgia, on February 9, 1944. Educated at Spelman College and Sarah Lawrence College, she has been active in the civil rights movement and taught at Jackson State University and Tougaloo College in Mississippi. She now lives in San Francisco. Respected as a major force in modern fiction, her writings deal with problems of identity facing many blacks today. In 1983 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel *The Color Purple*. The movie version of the award-winning novel, directed by Steven Spielberg, was released in 1985. Currently she lives in California.

Once (1968)
The Third Life of Grange Copeland (1970)
Meridian (1976)
In Love and Trouble: Stories of Black Women (1973)

You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down (1981)
The Color Purple (1982)
In Search of Our Mother's Gardens (1983)
Living by the Word: Selected Writings, 1973-1987 (1988)
The Temple of My Familiar (1989)
By the Light of My Father's Smile (1998)
The Way Forward Is With a Broken Heart (2000)

Bailey White (1950-)

She was born in Thomsville, Georgia and still lives in the same house where she grew up. Bailey White graduated from Florida State University in 1973. She taught first grade, but she has taken a break from teaching to focus on writing. She is a commentator for NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Sleeping at the Starlite Motel (1996)
Mama Makes Up Her Mind (1994)
Quite a Year for Plums (1998)

Walter Francis White (1893-1955)

Walter Francis White was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 1, 1893. After graduation from Atlanta University in 1916, he worked briefly for an insurance company, but after an Atlanta race riot that endangered his family, he was driven into civil rights work with the NAACP. He began writing fiction in 1922, but as he became more politically active he gradually turned to non-fiction. In 1926 his work was recognized with a Guggenheim Award. He died in New York on March 21, 1955.

The Fire in the Flint (1924)
Flight (1926)
Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch (1929)
A Man Called White: The Autobiography of Walter White (1948)
How Far the Promised Land (1955)

Brenda Wilkinson (1946-)

Brenda Wilkinson was born in Moultrie, Georgia, on January 1, 1946. She attended Hunter College in New York, where she now lives. Aimed at an adolescent audience, her Ludell books depict the problems of Ludell Wilson, a black high school student. Living in Waycross, Georgia in the 1950s, Ludell is faced with many racial and cultural problems. These include a strict grandmother with old-fashioned ideas, a boyfriend she plans to marry, and adapting to big-city life when her grandmother's death forces her to move north with her mother.

Ludell (1975)

Ludell and Willie (1976)

Ludell's New York Time (1980)

Not Separate, Not Equal (1987)

Definitely Cool (1992)

Stuart Woods (1938-)

Stuart Woods was born in Manchester, Georgia, on January 9, 1938. His parents were both in private business. Since graduating from the University of Georgia in 1959, he has worked with advertising firms as a writer and creative director. He currently lives in Atlanta. Most of his books deal directly with his love of travel and yachting, but he is probably best known for his novel *Chiefs*.

Blue Water, Green Skipper (1977)

Chiefs (1980)

Run Before the Wind (1983)

Under the Lake (1985)

Choke (1995)

Swimming to Catalina (1998)

Frank Yerby (1916-1991)

Frank Garvin Yerby was born in Augusta, Georgia, on September 5, 1916. After graduating from Paine College,

he taught at Florida A. and M. and Southern University from 1939 to 1941. His first published works were short stories about racial problems in the South. One of these, "Health Card" in 1944, won the O. Henry Memorial Prize Award. Beginning with *The Foxes of Harrow* in 1946, Yerby turned to the writing of popular historical novels and romances. He lived in Madrid, Spain from 1959 until his death in 1991.

The Foxes of Harrow (1947)

The Vixens (1948)

A Woman Called Fancy (1951)

The Girl from Storyville (1972)

Devilseed (1984)

Shay Youngblood (1959-)

Born in Columbus, Georgia, Shay Youngblood graduated from Clark-Atlanta University with her BA in Mass Communications and from Brown University with her MFA. She is well known as a poet, playwright, and fiction writer. She now resides in New York

Soul Kiss (1998)

The Big Mama Stories (1992)

Black Girl in Paris (2000)

Other Authors of Note

Toni Cade Bambara (1939-1995)
Paul Darcy Boles (1919-1984)
Agnes Bramblett
Lonnie Coleman (1920-1982)
Beverly Connor
Janice Daugharty (1944-)
Francis Goulding (1810-1881)
Melissa Faye Greene
Will N. Harben (1858-1919)
Charlaine Harris
Corra Harris (1869-1935)
Mac Hyman (1923-1963)
Helen Kettleman (1945-)
John Ransom Lewis (1917-)
Robert Loveman (1864- 1923)
Catherine Marshall (1915-1983)
Edison Marshall (1894-1967)
Caroline Miller (1903-1992)
Medora Perkerson (1892-1960)
Phyllis Alesia Perry
Ludlow Porch
Janisse Ray
Sequoyah (1776-1843)
Doris Buchanan Smith (1934-)
Lillian Smith (1897-1966)

Patricia Sprinkle
Lawrence Stanley
Nora B. Stirling (1900-)
Wyllly Folk St. John (1908-1985)
Nathan Eugene (Jean) Toomer (1894-1967)
Kathy Hogan Trocheck

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Carmen Deedy

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