Old and Rare Georgia Books

A list of a few of the books that were written about Georgia before 1900 or written or published in Georgia before 1900

We hope that you, dear reader, will find some of these books interesting.

Georgia Library Association's Centennial Year: 1897-1997

This list compiled by Louise S. White and other members of the Georgia Library Association (in 1997) to celebrate GLA's centennial year from suggestions from the following librarians & professors:

Edward J. Cashin (Professor Emeritus of History), Augusta State University
Robert Scott Davis, Jr. (author of: Research in Georgia),
Prof. of History, Wallace State College, Alabama
Mary Ellen Johnson, Librarian, Sequoyah Regional Library, Canton, Georgia
Herman ("Skip") Mason, Jr. (Professor of History), Morehouse College, Atlanta
David B. Parker (Professor of History), Kennesaw State University, Marietta
Judson C. Ward, Dean (formerly Professor of History), Emory University, Atlanta
Louise S. White, Librarian, Atlanta
David Williams (Professor of History), Valdosta State University

Each book listed below can be found in at least one library in Georgia ... usually in more than one library.

Eliza Andrews, best known for her War-time journal of a Georgia girl, 1864-1865 and her botany textbooks, also wrote several novels with heroines who rebelled against the era's dominant role of feminine domesticity; A family secret was the first. DBP

Avery, I. W. (Isaac Wheeler), 1837-1897. The history of the State of Georgia from 1850 to 1881, embracing the three most important epochs: the decade before the War of 1861-5; the War; the period of Reconstruction, with portraits of the leading public men of this era. 1st published: New York, 1881. JCW

Bartram, William, 1739-1823. Travels through North & South Carolina, Georgia, east & west Florida, the Cherokee country, the extensive territories of the Muscocugles (sic) or Creek confederacy, and the country of the Chactaws (sic). 1st pub.: Philadelphia, 1791. EJC


Carter, Edward R., 1858- The Black side: a partial history of the business, religious, and educational side of the Negro in Atlanta, Georgia. 1st pub.: Atlanta, 1894. HSM

Carter, Edward R., 1858- Biographical sketches of our pulpit.
Cover title: Our pulpit illustrated. 1st published: Atlanta, 1888.
About Baptist clergy in Georgia. HSM
Gilmer, George Rockingham, 1790-1859. Sketches of some of the first settlers of upper Georgia, of the Cherokees, and the author. 1st published: New York, 1855. EJC

Harris, Joel Chandler. Life of Henry W. Grady; including his writings and speeches: a memorial volume, compiled by (Joel Chandler Harris and) Mr. Henry W. Grady's (other) co-workers on The [Atlanta] Constitution (Henry Woodfin Grady, 1850-1889). 1st published: New York, 1890. JCW

Haygood, Atticus G. (Atticus Greene), 1839-1896. Our brother in Black; his freedom and his future. 1st published in 1881 in New York, Nashville, & St. Louis. JCW

Jones, Sam P. (Sam Porter), 1847-1906. Thunderbolts: comprising most earnest reasonings, delightful narratives, poetic and pathetic incidents, caustic and unmerciful flagellation of sin, together with irresistible appeals to the higher sensibilities of man to quit his meanness and do right. 1st published: Nashville, 1895.

"Just plain Sam Jones" was the most well-known Southern evangelist in the late 19th century. This book, published at the peak of his popularity, is a sample of his sermons and lectures. DBP


Fanny saw what went on, on her husband's Georgia plantation. When this was put in print, he was so outraged that he divorced her, sent her back to England, and kept the children. LSW

Martyn, Benjamin, 1699-1763. An impartial enquiry into the state and utility of the province of Georgia. 1st published: London, 1741.

One of a few extant documents of the Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia, who were charged with promoting "the interests of Great Britain." This treatise proclaims the first three negatives to be: "(1) That the climate is unhealthy; (2) That the soil is barren; (3) That no produces for trade can be rais'd in it." LSW

McCall, Hugh. The history of Georgia: containing brief sketches of the most remarkable events, up to the present day. 1st published: Savannah, 1811-16. EJC


Smith, one of the South's most popular writers at the turn of the century (especially with his weekly column in the Atlanta Constitution, 1878-1903), took his pen-name, "Bill Arp," at the beginning of the Civil War. This book reprints writings that made the name Bill Arp famous in the South. DBP

White, George, 1802-1887. Historical collections of Georgia: containing the most interesting facts, traditions, biographical sketches, anecdotes, etc., relating to its history and antiquities, from its first settlement to the present time... ; illus. by nearly one hundred engravings. 1st published: New York, 1855. RSD

Each book listed above may be found in at least one library in Georgia ... usually in more than one.
You may ask your librarian in what libraries these books are held, or other questions about these books; or write with your comments to: Georgia Lists, 264 Chelsea Circle, Decatur, Georgia 30030.

Anyone is free to make copies of this list.

There are TREASURES in the libraries of Georgia.