

April 8, 2024

## Fate Prodded a New Future



Okay, yes Connie and I have completed our move to Milledgeville, Georgia. Our new home is less than smile away from Andalusia, Home of the Flannery O'Connor Museum, and just fifteen miles from the Georgia Writers Museum in equally historic Eatonton, home of Joel Chandler Harris and Alice Walker. Likewise, we now live not more than thirty minutes from Sparta with its original "Her Majesty" Courthouse building in flames on the cover of my first novel, *Sanctuary, A Legacy of Memories*. My very first author event took place in Sparta seven years ago, almost to the day.

Was our move orchestrated by FATE? Well, we had contemplated the prospect of a move for several months, but we had no idea how FATE would dictate the timing. During a recent week-long swing on the coast of book events, we snooped around at available properties for sale but the right house in the right location evaded us, until we were encouraged to consider historic Milledgeville. Our offer for the property we discovered and fell in love with got accepted after some brief haggling, and the owner was fine with closing in early May—we thought we would need the time to get our Grantville house sold. Well, our Grantville home of the past twelve years sold in less than a week and above list price, but the new owner asked us to close by the

end of March. FATE pushed us to move quicker than we originally desired, but we managed to orchestrate the move in time to close on our old home and the new home, March 27. Mind you, we found the wherewithal to still travel to Sapelo Island on a scheduled four-day venture with a group of history lovers the weekend before we loaded the truck to move. FATE smiled and whispered, “Easy-Peasy.”

Coweta County offers Connie and I loads of indelible memories and friendships. Being just over two hours away means we will be back from time to time. In fact, some of you saw me at Barnes & Noble, Ashley Park, March 30 and then again this past weekend at the Carrollton BookFest. Of course, Connie stayed behind and has been feverishly adding her special touch to our new home. Why? In a few short days, we leave for Dublin to tour the Emerald Isle—our long anticipated Fiftieth Anniversary gift to one another. If you visit [tmbrownauthor.com](http://tmbrownauthor.com) you will see my event schedule has not changed, and of course I look forward to Southern LitFest 2024 in downtown Newnan, June 7-8. I’ll join all the authors on West Broad Street, Friday evening, June 7, for a fun-filled evening. On a side note, Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation has already voted Chellie Phillips onto the Board of Trustees to replace me—I officially will leave the Board on June 9. In my estimation, Chellie is a plus-some addition to my departure.

In the mad dash, Hometown Novel Writers Association managed to vote in Chellie Phillips as the new President of the Board, and she has the support of a great group of leaders who have taken the reins. I recognized long ago, our fledging writers group had out grown my vision and abilities. The dozens upon dozens of authors and aspiring writers the group has touched boggles my mind. Who’d have thunk it possible back in 2018? As President Emeritus, I will remain available but will also enjoy watching from the wings as HNWA continues to fulfill its mission of introducing local authors to local audiences south of Atlanta, and helping writers along their journey of writing, publishing and promoting their books.

Fate has prodded a new future for all of us...

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Maybe I will be welcomed back whenever my next book sees the light of day. I have a lot of writing to catch up with...

Mike Brown  
HNWA President Emeritus  
119 Cambridge Drive South  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
352-812-5199

[tmbrownauthor.com](http://tmbrownauthor.com)  
[mike@tmbrownauthor.com](mailto:mike@tmbrownauthor.com)