

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Horton's Books & Gifts, Carrollton, GA

Huge thanks to Horton's Books & Gifts, Carrollton, GA for hosting me during Carrollton's MayFest, Saturday, May 4. This was my sixth author event since Sanctuary first launched in 2017.

A Novel Experience, Zebulon, GA

On May 18th, I joined five other regional guest authors for my third Author Showcase in picturesque Zebulon, GA. One of those authors was Anne Lowe of Newnan and a member of my former writers group.

Oconee Book Festival

On May 28th, I took part in the Oconee Public Library's first book festival in their brand new, sprawling library complex in Watkinsville, GA.



June Pondering

Connie and I have officially been in our new home in Milledgeville, GA for two months. Of course, our travels for events and family visits have meant we have been away as much as we have been sleeping in our own bed, but we 95% settled now. All the boxes are unpacked, pictures hung, and all our prized knick-knacks and shelves of books look as though we have been here for months already. Our new neighbors have been more than gracious and welcoming. Some have been curious enough about my books to request signed copies for their summer reading and for gifts.





Southern LitFest, June 7-8

In June, the only author event I have on my calendar is the much anticipated Southern LitFest weekend event in historic Newnan, GA—my former hometown.

Friday, June 7, 6-9 PM, Hometown Novel Writers Association in conjunction with The Newnan Carnegie Library Foundation is hosting an open-air author showcase on West Broad Street. The block beside the Newnan Carnegie Library will be closed for pedestrian traffic only as 36 authors will showcase their books covering all genres that evening. I hope to see many familiar and new faces during this family-friendly event.

Saturday, June 8, special guest author events will occur throughout the day. Visit <https://southernlitfest.com/event-schedule> to discover the time and place for each author event.

All the events are free to attend, except Saturday evening when Sean Dietrich will appear at the Wadsworth Auditorium in downtown Newnan. Seats are going fast! Order today...

Connie's craft room is up and running again, except for her pottery workplace—we await the electrician to install a 220V outlet for her kiln. And, she is anxious to get her fingers into her clays again.

Family Vacation Following LitFest, Newnan, GA

Like last summer, we have mapped out two weeks of travel to visit family. With the hustle and bustle of the book launch of *The Last Laird of Sapelo* last August, there are family we have not caught up with since last June. As my close friends know, family should always come first, even over selling more books. Since last summer, I have lost my last uncle and a fabulous brother-in-law. This summer's trip is a reminder of the priority family should have in our lives.

Excuse me for boasting a bit...

GREAT NEWS! *The Last Laird of Sapelo* landed as FINALIST in CIBA's American Fiction Award for Best Historical Fiction in 2023. Read below a recent review from a reader I met a few months back, as well as another surprise review from a reader of *Sanctuary, A Legacy* ion Memories. After seven years, *Sanctuary* continues to find new readers which leads to them discovering *Testament* and *Purgatory* in the Shiloh Mystery Series, and now *The Last Laird of Sapelo*.



LATEST RAVES & REVIEWS

My name is Tom Ritz and I live in Acworth, GA. My wife and I met you at the Acworth book fair last year. We had a nice conversation with you and I bought three of your books – two Shiloh series books and The Last Laird of Sapelo. You autographed the Sapelo book for me and I treasure it very much. I needed to finish some other books I was reading, so I just now finished reading The Last Laird of Sapelo. At the book fair you told me to write to you after reading it and let you know what I thought.

Like many others that I'm sure have given you positive feedback, I thoroughly enjoyed your book. I'm not a literary expert with the 'right' adjectives and descriptive compliments, but as someone who appreciates the value of a story well told, I not only enjoyed the story but your writing style. You made the characters come to life so much that I felt like I was there as an observer in that time period. I was happy to hear about how Thomas Spalding, and later Randolph, treated their 'workers' well and kept their promises. I recognized that you didn't gloss over the tough lives the slaves endured. Instead, you exposed the conditions under which they lived as slaves of the Spalding family with the right mix of respect and reality. I was glad to see that Randolph showed a great amount of humanity to Hector, Alma, Jeremiah, and Cecile, especially after the horrific injustices against them.

As an Army veteran, I also appreciated reading about the tactical implications of defending the Georgia coastline and Sapelo Island. It was interesting to learn that Colonel Spalding's experience as a native of that area allowed him to have influence on his commanding General(s) and even advised General Lee when asked his opinion. I enjoyed the harrowing nighttime operation down the river to allow Hector to have a chance of survival by alerting the Union troops of his presence. I hated to hear that he was likely killed by them.

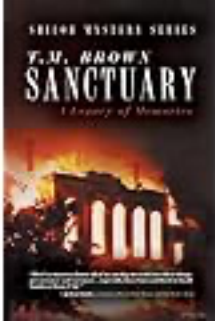
I thought it was also interesting that Margaret played such a pivotal role in the final days of Randolph. Although serving as the family housekeeper, she was a key figure in that household and in caring for an ailing Randolph. It was a shame that Randolph had such a weakness for liquor, but I can understand why he sought relief that way. Finally, I had mixed feelings about the workers who not only had to move to Milledgeville against their

I hope you've sold and will continue to sell countless copies of this and all of your books. You're a great writer and I look forward to my journey through your other books. Thank you Mike!

Tom Ritz
Acworth, GA

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RAVES & REVIEWS Cont'd



Slow Southern mystery
April 29, 2024

In an effort to branch out a bit, I found this book by T. M. Brown. It intrigued me for two reasons: It's set in a fictional town in South Georgia, and the author lives less than a hundred miles north of my home.

The story reads like a personal diary or memoir of a retired couple who transition from the busy metropolis to a small town as they imagine returning to their roots. As the townspeople offer a warm welcome, Theo and Liddy Phillips are surprised to find connections to folks there from years ago—and a mystery that begs to be solved.

The narration is very slow-moving as quite a few characters are introduced with regularity. Perhaps designed to mimic the unhurried lifestyle of a small town and retired seniors, the reader should settle in and enjoy the scenery as it stretches over 400 pages.

[View this book's reviews on Amazon](#)

Reviews Matter to Future Readers!

Please consider sharing a rating and hopefully a short review for any of

The Shiloh Mystery Novels and/or *The Last Laird of Sapelo*.

Visit tmbrownauthor.com to order your next summer read.