

COUNTY OF PICKENS

Pickens County Library System

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Pickens County Library System

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Local Author Donates Signed Books to Library System

Thanks to a generous donation by the author herself, The Pickens County Library System is pleased to announce the addition of signed copies of eight books by Evelyn McCollum: *Just Between You and Me, Volumes 1-4*, *Our Heroes*, *The Proof is in the Pudding Cookbook*, *Sometimes Life Throws You a Curve: My Bout with Cancer*, and *Nalley: A Southern Family Story*. These books can be found in the Mary Oates Gregorie Historical Room at the Hampton Memorial Library in Easley.

Having always wanted to be a writer, Evelyn decided at the age of 37 that it was time to begin. Within six months of this decision, she had an article published in a magazine and shortly after began writing freelance for *The Pickens Sentinel*. Her writing was so well received in the community that she was soon offered a job as Lifestyle Editor at *The Easley Progress*. While working at *The Easley Progress*, she began a popular weekly column entitled, *Just Between You and Me*, which ran on and off for 10 years. Her column was compiled into a four volume book set, signed copies of which now have a home at the library.

In addition to *Just Between You and Me, Volumes 1-4*, the library is now home to *Our Heroes*, an inspiring book about war heroes from her church, Easley First Baptist. Evelyn was inspired to write this book after her church took a group of veterans to see the WWII Memorial. On the bus ride home from visiting the Memorial, the veterans began talking about all they had seen while serving. Evelyn decided that she would be the one to document these incredible stories. She contacted and interviewed the veterans from her church, and her book consists of stories from WWII, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, as well as the Iraq War. Included with each story are side-by-side photos of the men in their military days and in the present.

Along with her passion for writing, Evelyn has a love of cooking, which inspired her to compile all of the recipes she uses on a regular basis and publish *The Proof is in the Pudding Cookbook*. Together with her favorite Southern recipes, she shares family stories, anecdotes, and whimsical illustrations by her granddaughter, Claire Zeigler Sang. There are sections on salads, soups, main dishes, hard-to-find recipes, casseroles, breads, and every kind of dessert.

Her customary lighthearted style becomes fittingly heavier in *Sometimes Life Throws You a Curve: My Bout with Cancer*. In this, her most recent publication, she eloquently chronicles her diagnosis, treatment, and recovery from uterine and ovarian cancer. Rather than a sweeping overview, Evelyn offers her readers a day-to-day account of her eight-month-long battle.

Finally, a signed copy of, *Nalley: A Southern Family Story*, resides in the Easley library. This local family history spans 170 years, opening with an illustrious portrayal of the patriarch and matriarch of the Nalley family, and continuing on to depict the lives of their twelve children. Anyone interested in history, local or global, will enjoy reading this Southern family narrative.

The next time you are visiting the Hampton Memorial Library, stop in the Mary Oates Gregorie Historical Room to see Evelyn McCollum's generous donations. With the exception of *Nalley: A Southern Family History*, all of her wonderful books are available to be checked out with special permission from our Genealogy Librarian. The entire Pickens County Library System is grateful that she has decided to enrich our collection.



Evelyn McCollum poses with her book donation in the Mary Oates Gregorie Historical Room in the Hampton Memorial Library in Easley.