

Margaret McNab Gale

My name is Margaret McNab Gale, MLS, or “Peggy” to friends and family. My family heritage goes way back. We arrived in Jamestown, Virginia and owned the property now called Williamsburg.

In the 1700's, we left Virginia and settled in the Upcountry of South Carolina. The family eventually ended up in the Holy City, where my mother was born.

I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Sociology and became a psychiatric caseworker in Houston, Texas. I eventually decided to move back to Charleston and found a job at the Charleston County Library. Thankfully, the library gave me tremendous support in obtaining my MLS degree in order to become a professional librarian.

I worked as a reference librarian for the Charleston County Public Library, the College of Charleston, and was head of reference for the Berkeley County Library System.

After many years as a librarian, I decided to change careers and become a tour guide for the Historic Charleston Foundation.

Meanwhile, my husband, Larry, was working as an Information Technology professional in the security field, and was also a professional photographer and percussionist.

I needed a job with more flexible hours so I was confident that with my job experience surrounded by books at CCPL and SC history at HCF, I could try my hand at becoming a freelance writer. I started writing and publishing articles on the history of South Carolina, and astonishingly for someone who has never had a writing course, my articles were accepted by the venerable South Carolina Historical Society, the Charleston Mercury, and many other newspapers and journals.

As it turned out, my articles have now been published over 60 times throughout South Carolina. My husband, like me, is also an avid reader, so to keep ourselves abreast of the changing library field, he sought and was elected to the Charleston County Library Board of Trustees. Several years later, we needed another challenge in life, so my other half and I joined a local Christian writer's group, and our first fiction anthology was published by that group in 2024.

We recently moved back to my childhood home West Ashley, and the South Windermere Library has been a great supporter of my writing career, processing the many books I reserve, which takes me full circle back to living on the Ashley River, where I was first introduced to the joys of reading.

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