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Emory’s Matthews Retires after 35 Years

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Retired librarian revises list of best books on the Indians of Georgia

Students in Georgia public schools are required to learn about Indians of Georgia when they study Georgia history in the 4th grade and again in the 8th grade. But there aren’t many printed materials on this topic. Before I retired from the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, I noticed that many kids came in wanting such material. So in 1997 I made a list of what was in print:

*The Best Books in Print about The Indians of Georgia for students in grades K-8: Cherokee, Creek (also called Muscogee; sometimes called the Creek Confederacy), and Mound Builders (prehistoric people, also called Mississippians),* Compiled by Louise S. White in collaboration with members of GLMA (Georgia Library Media Association).

I have revised it, updated it, and self-published it every August since then — also I have distributed copies every year at COMO, always asking for corrections and additions. This year’s, August, 2006, is the 10th edition.

To access this list on the web, posted by Georgia Public Library Service and updated every August, use this URL: www.georgialibraries.org/lib/georgia.html. Scroll down, past Georgia counties, Georgia education, and Georgia government, to “Georgia history.” It is there. It’s really quicker to go to Google and ask for “Best books in print, Indians of Georgia.” The list is only seven pages on paper — with 10 more pages on the web for title and author-indexes.

For adult books, see the short list of very basic adult books on page 9, under the heading “Background reading for teachers, media specialists, parents, and other adults.” The books “Grade 8 and up reading level,” beginning page 7, are also quite suitable for adult reading. For a free paper copy of the list, phone or FAX your request to 404-371-8072 or write me at 264 Chelsea Circle, Decatur, GA 30030.

— Louise S. White
part Creek Indian, born in Georgia
librarian, member of GLA and GLMA

Emory’s Matthews retires after 35 years

Dr. Linda Matthews retired in August after 35 years at the Emory University Libraries. Matthews came to Emory as a reference archivist in 1971 after earning her doctorate in American history from Duke University. She has a master’s from Duke in that subject and a bachelor's in history from Winthrop College in her native South Carolina. In 1977, she earned a master’s degree in library science from Emory.

She became director of the Special Collections and Archives Division in 1982 and was appointed vice provost and director of libraries in September 2003. While previously geared toward Southern literature and history and other early Americana, under Matthews’ guidance, Emory’s holdings expanded to include some of the finest collections of English-language literature, particularly Irish poetry, and African-American history and culture.

Emory Provost Earl Lewis noted, “What distinguishes Linda in a very distinguished field is her ability to combine the old and the new. She understands the importance of the print culture, arguing forcibly for expanding the manuscripts and rare books collections and building capacities in a variety of fields. At the same time, she knows the significance of leading in the area of digital publishing and understands the need to develop the library with an eye on the future… I will treasure forever being able to say that I worked with one of the best of the best.”

In May 2006 Matthews was awarded the Governor’s Award in the Humanities. “Dr. Matthews has worked diligently to sustain the unique character of Georgia,” noted Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. She was recognized for “creative leadership and careful stewardship that has expanded Emory’s [library] collections and made the university a national and international destination for humanities researchers.” It’s a nice cap to what has been a remarkable career.

Martinez appointed liaison at Emory

Ida Martinez has been appointed Social Sciences Liaison for the General Libraries of Emory University. Previously Ida was selected as a Library Fellow at Cornell University in a two-year program and after one year was appointed as Outreach Librarian. She received her MLIS from Dominican University and her BA in psychology and business from the University of Notre Dame.