



Courtesy of Columbus Museum



Carson McCullers

Writer



Name: Carson McCullers

Dates: February 19, 1917 – September 29, 1967

Occupation: Writer

Location: Columbus, GA

With a collection of work including five novels, two plays, twenty short stories, more than two dozen nonfiction pieces, a book of children's verse, a small number of poems, and an unfinished autobiography, Carson McCullers is considered to be among the most significant American writers of the twentieth century. She is best known for her novels *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, and *The Member of the Wedding*, all published between 1940 and 1946. At least four of her works have been made into films.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although McCullers was once shunned by her hometown, Columbus celebrated her 100th birthday in February 2017. Events included a film premier, art installations, and group readings of *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.

QUIZ

Before rheumatic fever destroyed her prospects, McCullers pursued a career in _____.

- a) bodybuilding
- b) concert piano
- c) painting
- d) politics

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Answer: b



Gene Patterson

Journalist



Name: Gene Patterson

Dates: October 15, 1923 – January 12, 2013

Occupation: Journalist

Location: Atlanta, GA

Gene Patterson, an influential editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, was known for his thundering daily columns in defense of civil rights and against the violence sweeping the South in the 1960s. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in 1967. Of the 3,200 columns he wrote between 1960 and 1968, the best-known is "A Flower for the Graves," published after a church bombing killed four African American girls in 1963. Its simmering anger – "Only we can trace the truth, Southerner—you and I. We broke those children's bodies" – created a sensation. "I know what you're trying to do," a reader wrote, "you're trying to make us think that we're better than we are."

DID YOU KNOW?

During WWII Patterson served as a tank platoon commander in General Patton's Third Army and as an army pilot. He received medals for his actions at the Battle of the Bulge, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

QUIZ

What was the title of Patterson's last work?

- a) *Chord: The Old Testament Condensed*
- b) *Tone: The Abbreviated New Testament*
- c) *Taste: In Search of Lost Time, Summarized*

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Answer: a



Susie King Taylor
Educator and Nurse



Name: Susie King Taylor

Dates: August 6, 1848 – October 6, 1912

Occupation: Educator and Nurse

Location: Savannah, GA

Susie King Taylor was the first African American to teach openly in a school for former slaves in Georgia. The author of *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33d United States Colored Troops, Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*, she was the only African American woman to publish a memoir of her wartime experiences. Taylor fled to St. Simons Island in April 1862, after Union troops took the island. After her literacy was brought to the attention of Union officers, she ran a school for forty children and “a number of adults who came to me nights, all of them so eager to learn to read, to read above anything else.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Taylor met and married Edward King, a black noncommissioned Union officer, on St. Simons in 1862. For the rest of the war, she moved with the regiment, serving as a nurse, laundress, and teacher.

QUIZ

Taylor moved to _____ in the early 1870s, where she became the president of the Women’s Relief Corps.

- a) Montreal
- b) Paris
- c) Boston
- d) San Francisco

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Answer: c