

# Discover the Stories Behind the Books and Authors of the Mid-Atlantic

**(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, October 16, 2017)** - Authors of all genres have found inspiration in the Mid-Atlantic Region, discovering both places to write and places to write about. Guests to the Mid-Atlantic have an opportunity to visit many of the sites that inspired their favorite books.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) have compiled a list of locations in the Mid-Atlantic relevant to books and authors. If you're interested in learning more about a specific destination or experience, contact the individual Destination Marketing Organization listed below.

## Delaware

### Delaware's Quaint Villages

Discover one of Dover's tragic poisoning cases with John R. Alstadt Jr.'s book *With Love to Yourself and Baby: The Story of the Poison Candy Murder Case*. Read detailed records from newspaper articles, public records, and researched information about a chilling true crime. *Delaware's Quaint Villages*, Danielle Jonigan, [VisitDelawareVillages.com](http://VisitDelawareVillages.com), [djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com](mailto:djonigan@visitdelawarevillages.com)

## Maryland

### Baltimore

Beloved poet and writer Edgar Allan Poe met his wife, jumpstarted his career, and ultimately died in Baltimore, but his legacy is not forgotten in Charm City. Explore his history at the Edgar Allan Poe House and Museum and visit his grave at Westminster Hall and Burying Ground. *Visit Baltimore*, Kelly Nagle, [Baltimore.org](http://Baltimore.org), [knagle@baltimore.org](mailto:knagle@baltimore.org)

## Cecil County

JoAnn Dawson of Fairwinds B&B in Cecil County is the author of *Bed, Breakfast & Beyond: Twenty Years of Kooky Guests, Gentle Ghosts, and Horses in Between*. The book chronicles her family's adventures since purchasing their 52-acre farm to open an inn and horse stable. *Cecil County Tourism*, Sandy Turner, [SeeCecil.org](http://SeeCecil.org), [sturner@ccgov.org](mailto:sturner@ccgov.org)

## Frederick County

Frederick is home to one of the country's most famous authors Francis Scott Key. Visit Mount Olivet Cemetery, the creator of our National Anthem's final resting place, where his monument is on display. *Visit Frederick*, Melissa Joseph Muntz, [VisitFrederick.org](http://VisitFrederick.org), [mmuntz@fredco-md.net](mailto:mmuntz@fredco-md.net)

## Hagerstown - Washington County

Washington County is home to *New York Times* bestselling romance novelist Nora Roberts, who also writes futuristic science fiction under the pseudonym J.D. Robb. Roberts and her husband Bruce Wilder own several visitor attractions in Boonsboro, including Inn Boonsboro, Turn the Page Bookstore, and Gifts Inn Boonsboro. *Visit Hagerstown*, Betsy DeVore, [VisitHagerstown.com](http://VisitHagerstown.com), [betsy@visithagerstown.com](mailto:betsy@visithagerstown.com)

## Pennsylvania

### Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania-native James A. Michener wrote more than 40 books. His *Tales of the South Pacific* shared stories of his experiences during World War II. The book won a Pulitzer Prize in 1948 and was adapted for Broadway and film. Michener's name lives on at an art museum in Doylestown. *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Emily Hemming, [VisitPA.com](http://VisitPA.com), [ehemming@tierneyagency.com](mailto:ehemming@tierneyagency.com)*

### **Chester County**

Baldwin's Book Barn in the heart of Chester County's Brandywine Valley is one of America's most distinctive booksellers. A five-story historic barn with cozy nooks, stone walls, and wood-burning stove, it's a treasure trove of over 300,000 used and rare books, manuscripts, maps, and other valued collectibles. *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Nina Kelly, [BrandywineValley.com](http://BrandywineValley.com), [nina@brandywinevalley.com](mailto:nina@brandywinevalley.com)*

### **Endless Mountains**

Popular writers John Gardner (*Grendel, October Light*) and B.F. Skinner (*Walden Two*) lived and wrote in the Endless Mountains. Religious translator Joseph Smith's restored homestead at the Priesthood Restoration Site offers visitors a historic tour and celebrates the place where *The Book of Mormon* has its roots. *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, [EndlessMountains.org](http://EndlessMountains.org), [sales@endlessmountains.org](mailto:sales@endlessmountains.org)*

### **Franklin County**

Former mayor of Waynesboro, Richard "Dick" Leshner's inspirational life is chronicled in his book *The Voice of Business: The Man Who Transformed the United States Chamber of Commerce*. Leshner served as president of the US Chamber of Commerce from the Ford through Clinton administrations, modernizing the Chamber over 22 years. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Janet Pollard, [ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com](http://ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com), [jpollard@explorefranklincountypa.com](mailto:jpollard@explorefranklincountypa.com)*

### **Greater Johnstown/Cambria County**

Johnstown's Robert Jeschonek keeps the city's history alive in fiction, bringing readers back to a time they may remember, setting novels in beloved department stores, shopping malls, or at past events. His titles include *Long Live Glosser's, Penn Traffic Forever, The Glory of Gables,* and *Richland Mall Rules*. *Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Olivia Bragdon, [VisitJohnstownPA.com](http://VisitJohnstownPA.com), [olivia@visitjohnstownpa.com](mailto:olivia@visitjohnstownpa.com)*

### **Potter County - Tioga County**

Eliot Ness, hero of *The Untouchables*, lived in Coudersport along Route 6 for the last years of his life and wrote his infamous book at the Hotel Crittenden. Visit this historic hotel as part of a Potter & Tioga County tour for lodging, great meals, and amazing atmosphere! *Visit Potter-Tioga, Morgan Christopher, [VisitPotterTioga.com](http://VisitPotterTioga.com), [morgan@visitpottertioga.com](mailto:morgan@visitpottertioga.com)*

### **Virginia**

#### **Hampton**

Discover the untold story of the female, African-American mathematicians who worked behind the scenes during the space race. Now adapted as an Oscar-nominated motion picture, Margot Lee Shetterly's *Hidden Figures* is set at Hampton's NASA Langley Research Center, where these women performed the calculations for the Mercury astronauts. *Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, Elizabeth Severs, [VisitHampton.com](http://VisitHampton.com), [elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com](mailto:elizabeth.severs@hamptoncvb.com)*

### **Harrisonburg**

Maggie Stiefvater is an American writer of Young Adult fiction. She currently lives in the Shenandoah Valley and was born in Harrisonburg. Stiefvater published her first novel *Lament* in 2008. She is a *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Shiver Trilogy*, *The Raven Cycle*, and *The Scorpio Races*. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services*, Jessica Williams, [VisitHarrisonburgVA.com](http://VisitHarrisonburgVA.com), [jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov)

### **Virginia's Blue Ridge**

Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains have inspired many stories, including Matt Bondurant's *Wettest County in the World*, which inspired the movie *Lawless*. The area also inspired David Baldacci's *Wish You Well*. Beth Macy, a journalist and bestselling author of *Factory Man*, calls Roanoke home. Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Taylor Ricotta, [VisitVBR.com](http://VisitVBR.com), [tricotta@visitvbr.com](mailto:tricotta@visitvbr.com)

### **About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit [www.matpra.org](http://www.matpra.org).

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### **Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance**

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MATPRA Chair 2017-2018

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