

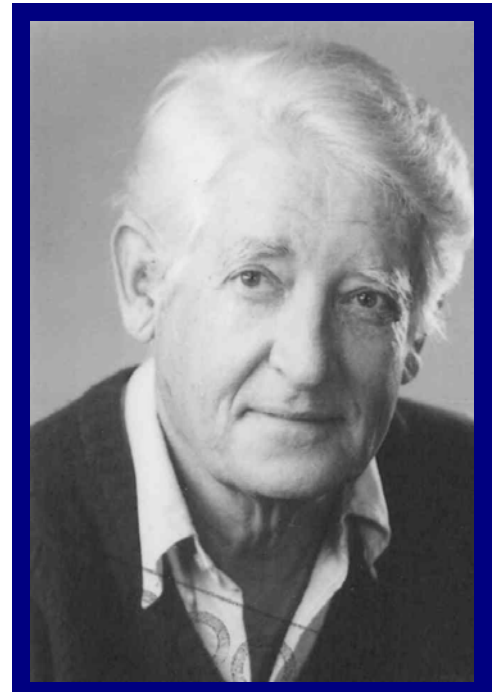
Jackson Library presents

## An Afternoon with Fiction and Non-Fiction Writer

# Burke Davis

Special Collections Room  
Jackson Library 2nd Floor  
4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Parking is available in the Walker Avenue Parking Deck  
For more information call Jackson Library at 256-0112.



### Books by Burke Davis

- Amelia Earhart*. New York: Putnam, 1972.  
*America's First Army*. Williamsburg, Va. : Colonial Williamsburg, Distributed by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962.  
*Appomattox: Closing Struggle of the Civil War*. New York, NY : Harper & Row, 1963.  
*Bassett Hall: The Williamsburg Home of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.* [With Bland Blackford and Patricia A. Hurdle]. Williamsburg, VA : Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1984.  
*The Billy Mitchell Affair*. New York: Random House, 1967.  
*The Billy Mitchell Story*. Philadelphia, Pa.: Chilton Book Company, 1969.  
*Biography of a Fish Hawk*. New York: Putnam, 1977.  
*Biography of a King Snake*. New York: Putnam, 1975.  
*Biography of a Leaf*. New York: Putnam, 1972.  
*Black Heroes of the American Revolution*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.  
*The Campaign that Won America: the Story of Yorktown*. New York: Dial Press, 1970.  
*The Cowpens-Guilford Courthouse Campaign*. Philadelphia, Pa. : Lippincott, 1962.  
*A Fierce Personal Pride: The Story of Mount Hope Finishing Company and Its Founding Family*. Butner, N.C. : Mount Hope Finishing Company, 1981.  
*George Washington and the American Revolution*. New York: Random House, 1975.  
*Get Yamamoto*. New York: Random House, 1969.  
*Getting to Know Jamestown*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1971.  
*Getting to Know Thomas Jefferson's Virginia*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1971.  
*Gray Fox: Robert E. Lee and the Civil War*. New York: Rinehart, 1956.  
*Heroes of the American Revolution*. New York: Random House, 1971.  
*Jeb Stuart, the Last Cavalier*. New York: Rinehart, 1957.  
*The Long Surrender*. New York: Random House, 1985.  
*Marine! The Life of Lt. Gen. Lewis B. (Chesty) Puller, USMC (ret.)*. Boston, Mass. : Little, Brown, 1962.  
*Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1978.  
*Old Hickory: A Life of Andrew Jackson*. New York: Dial, 1977.  
*Our Incredible Civil War*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1960.  
*The Ragged Ones*. New York: Rinehart, 1951.  
*Rebel Raider: A Biography of Admiral Semmes*. [With Evangeline Davis]. Philadelphia, Pa.: Lippincott, 1966.  
*Roberta E. Lee: The Sad But Almost True Story of the Rabbit Who Longed to Be Prettier Than Scarlett O'Hara or Anybody Else*. Winston-Salem, NC : John F. Blair, 1956.  
*Runaway Balloon: The Last Flight of Confederate Air Force One*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1976.  
*Sherman's March*. New York: Random House, 1980.  
*The Southern Railway: Road of the Innovators*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985.  
*The Summer Land*. New York: Random House, 1965.  
*They Called Him Stonewall: A Life of Lt. General T.J. Jackson, C.S.A.* New York: Rinehart, 1954.  
*Three for Revolution*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975.  
*To Appomattox, Nine April Days, 1865*. New York: Rinehart, 1959.  
*War Bird: The Life and Times of Elliott White Springs*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987.  
*Whisper My Name, A Novel*. New York: Rinehart, 1949.  
*A Williamsburg Galaxy*. Williamsburg, Va. : Colonial Williamsburg; distributed by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968.  
*The World of Currier & Ives*. [With Roy King]. New York: Random House, 1968.  
*Yorktown*. New York: Rinehart, 1952.  
*Yorktown: The Winning of American Independence*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

## Biography of Burke Davis

(from <http://www.ncwriters.org/bdavis.htm>)

Burke Davis was born in Durham on July 24, 1913, and moved with his family to Greensboro when he was six. In high school, he was prodded by his mother into entering an essay contest, which he won. The title of his winning entry: "My Experience as a Snake Man in the Boy Scouts." At Guilford, Duke and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Davis initially set his sights on a career in advertising, but later wandered into journalism. Burke Davis is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, he worked for newspapers in Charlotte, Baltimore and, finally, back in Greensboro.

In 1960 he left Greensboro to spend the next twenty years as special projects writer for Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. With some fifty books to his credit, Davis is known for both the quality and the variety of his work: novels, biographies, historical tales, and more than a dozen books for young readers, both fiction and nonfiction. A painstaking researcher, he portrays the characters in his novels as realistic human beings, warts and all.

His very first title was *Whisper My Name* (1949), a novel that deals with a prominent businessman in Charlotte, so thinly disguised that it caused a local sensation over its allegedly fictional disclosures. His first book for young readers was *Roberta E. Lee* (1956), about a rabbit who was a Southern belle. Two histories for students followed, *America's First Army* (1962), about the colonial militia, and *Appomattox* (1963). Some of his many other titles for young readers include *Rebel Raider: A Biography of Admiral Semmes* (1966), about a Confederate hero, co-authored by Evangeline Davis; *Heroes of the American Revolution* (1971); *Biography of a Leaf* (1973); and *Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* (1978).

The *Ragged Ones* (1951) and *Yorktown* (1952) are among his historical novels, which one critic praised for going farther beyond the historical realism than even James Boyd was willing to go. For the first of these Revolutionary War books, Davis gathered a huge file on various topics: uniforms, geography, firearms, personalities. He even compiled a weather calendar for the first months of 1781 so he could know what conditions were like on any given day.

Beginning with *They Called Him Stonewall* (1954), Davis turned his attention to the Civil War, following with *Gray Fox* (1956), the story of Lee's Civil War years, and *Jeb Stewart: The Last Cavalier* (1957). His *To Appomattox: Nine April Days, 1865* (1959) won the Mayflower Cup. He returned to fiction with *The Summer Land* (1965). Of his later publications, *The Billy Mitchell Affair* (1967) and *Sherman's March* (1980) are outstanding. His *Black Heroes of the American Revolution* also stood out among books published during the nation's Bicentennial. He and Helen Bevington were awarded the North Carolina Award for Literature in 1973, and the North Caroliniana Society honored him in 1990 for his contributions to the cultural life of the state.

Mr. Davis was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2000.