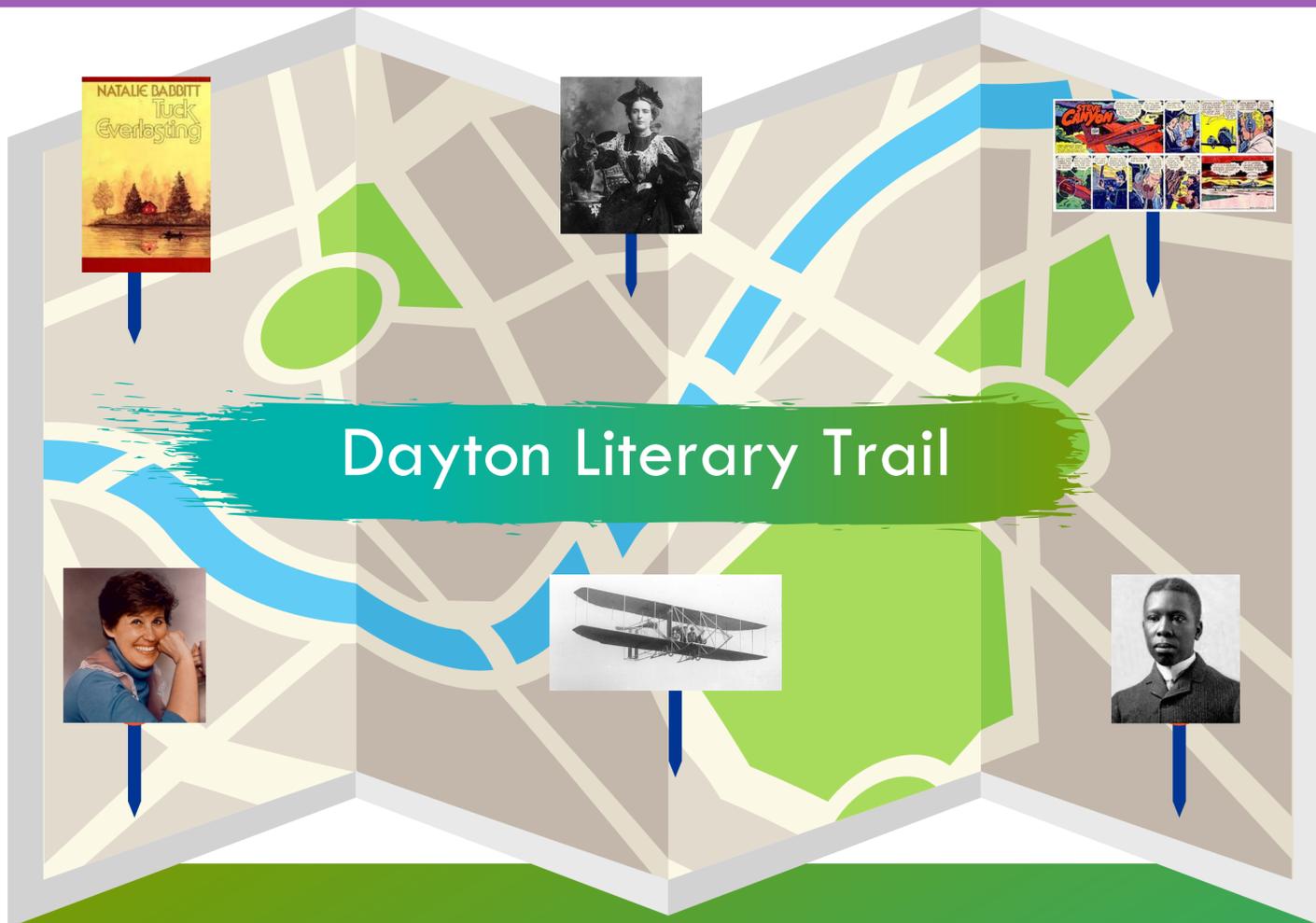


# The Dayton Literary Trail Challenge

## ADULT SUMMER READING 2021



Welcome to Wright Memorial Public Library's  
Dayton Literary Trail

The Trail features 14 writers that called the  
Miami Valley home at some point

- 26 stops are located on the map
- Please respect the privacy of personal residences
- Always check the hours and dates for the museums/sites

**To Learn more About the Dayton Literary Trail**

[www.wrightlibrary.org/daytonliterarytrail](http://www.wrightlibrary.org/daytonliterarytrail)

**To Learn more About Tales and Trails ADULT SUMMER READING Club 2021**

[www.wrightlibrary.org/asrc2021](http://www.wrightlibrary.org/asrc2021)



Wright Memorial  
Public Library

# Writers on the Dayton Literary Trail



**Natalie Zane Babbitt** – (July 28-1932 – October 31, 2016) Born in Dayton, Babbitt went on to write and illustrate numerous children's books over her career. Her most famous work, *Tuck Everlasting*, was adapted into two major motion pictures.

**Natalie Clifford Barney** - (October 31, 1876 – February 2, 1972) Born into one of the wealthiest families in America at the time, Barney lived in the Dayton area as a child, but moved to Washington D.C. as a young teenager. Barney became a poet and writer at a young age, writing openly about life and love as a lesbian. She lived in France the majority of her adult life and hosted a weekly literary salon for nearly 50 years. She is credited as one of the first openly gay female writers in the history of world literature.

**Erma Bombeck** - (February 21, 1927 – April 22, 1996) Born, raised, and educated in Dayton, Bombeck was a humorist, author, syndicated columnist, and television personality from the mid-1960s till her death in 1996. Popular across the United States and the world, she was active in University of Dayton alumni events and entertained readers across the world with her humor and wit.

**Eleanor Gertrude Brown** – (August 28, 1887 – July 21, 1964) – Born nearly blind, Brown was educated at Ohio State School for the Blind and became the first blind graduate of Ohio State University when she received her BA in 1914. She earned a masters and doctoral degree from Columbia University. Brown taught history, English, German, and Latin to students at Steele High School in Dayton for nearly 40 years. Her book on John Milton is still considered one of the finest works on Milton's life and is still in print today.

**Hallie Quinn Brown** - (March 10, 1849- September 16, 1949) – Born to two former slaves, Brown was a writer, activist, and American educator. After teaching in schools in the Deep South, she became an educator in Ohio at her alma mater, Wilberforce University. A contemporary of Booker T. Washington and a one-time professor at Tuskegee Institute, she was the first woman to receive a Master of Science from Wilberforce. Known as a famous elocutionist, she was a popular speaker throughout the United States and England, often lecturing on her writings; she was a fervent activist for both women's rights and African Americans. She retired to Wilberforce, Ohio, and passed away there at nearly 100 years old.

**Milt Caniff** – (February 28, 1907 – April 3, 1988) – Considered one of the greatest American cartoonists of the 20th century, Caniff was born and raised in Hillsboro, Ohio and attended high school in Dayton. After getting his start as a cartoonist for the Columbus Dispatch, Caniff was hired at the Associated Press and began work on existing newspaper strips. He created the comics Terry and the Pirates, Male Call, and Steve Canyon. He was active and in print till his death in 1988.

**Suzanne Phillips Clauser** – (August 25, 1929 – April 11, 2016) – Clauser relocated to Yellow Springs, Ohio after her husband took a job at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. After taking writing classes at Antioch College, she began her career as a script writer for television in 1964. She was the only female to write scripts for the wildly popular television show, Bonanza. She was a script writer till the 1990s. Clauser was also active in the community of Yellow Springs, including as a longtime member of a local writer's group.

**Charlotte Reeve Conover** - (June 14, 1855-September 23, 1940) – born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, Conover was an educator, author, activists, lecturer, and author. Nicknamed “Dayton's Historian, her numerous books on local history are still used as reference today.

**Paul Laurence Dunbar** – (June 27, 1872 – February 9, 1906) – Born to two former slaves from Kentucky, Dunbar began writing as a small child and was published by the age of 16. Dunbar was multi-talented – he published poetry, novels, articles, short stories, and plays. Many of his most famous work were written in Negro dialect, but his conventional English pieces have gained in popularity with scholars in the late 20th century. Considered one of the finest early African-American writers in U.S. history, he passed away at the age of 33.

**Virginia Hamilton** – (March 12, 1936 – February 19, 2002) – Born and raised in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Hamilton returned to the area following college and marriage. As a full-time writer, she authored 41 African-American children's books, and was the recipient of some of the most prestigious awards given out to children's authors; the U.S. National Book Award in Children's Books, the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, and the Newbery Medal, which made her the first African American to win the award.

**Manning Marable** – (May 13, 1950 – April 1, 2011) – An American professor of history, public affairs, and African American studies at Columbia University, Marable was born in Dayton, Ohio to parents that graduated from Wilberforce University. Marable was active in African-American political issues and supported the Movement for a Democratic Society. His most famous work, Malcom X: A Life of Reinvention, was nominated for the National Book Award, and was named to The New York Times list of Best Books of 2012. Marable's book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2012.

**Helen Hooven Santmyer** – (November 25, 1895-February 21, 1986) – Born in Cincinnati, Ohio and raised in Xenia, Ohio, she was interested in writing from a young age. As a child, she was severely impaired due to a case of undulant fever. Santmyer wrote throughout college and began two of her books whilst living in California during the Depression. She was the Dean of Women and English Department head at Cedarville College for many years and became a reference librarian for Dayton Public Library after quitting the College. Santmyer became a household name in the later years of her life, when her book ...And the Ladies Club, was turned into a bestselling book enjoyed by book clubs throughout the United States.

**Ridgely Torrence**- (November 27, 1874 – December 25, 1950) – Born into an affluent family in Xenia, Ohio, Torrence settled in New York City as an adult and began publishing articles, poems, and plays soon after. His plays often dealt with African American life; he was keen on having only Black actors perform the pieces, which created more opportunities for underrepresented actors. His last piece of work, Poems, was published posthumously in 1952.

**Wilbur Wright** (April 16, 1867 – May 30, 1912) and **Orville Wright** (August 19, 1871 – January 30, 1948) – the Wright Brothers grew up in Dayton, Ohio and became world-famous for their ingenuity and curiosity when they created and flew the world's first successful motor-operated airplane. Before the success of the Wright Flyer, the Brothers owned and operated a newspaper and printing press business and created and sold their own brand of riding bicycles. Following their success, the Brothers often gave speeches on their invention, trained others to pilot airplanes, and wrote books on the history of air flight. Following the death of Wilbur, Orville sold the business and continued living in the Dayton area (Oakwood), where he became involved with local civic matters.

# Stops Along the Dayton Literary Trail



- 1. Erma Bombeck's Ohio Historical Marker at St. Mary's Hall - (St Mary's Hall, Dayton, OH 45409) - After leaving Ohio University after one semester, Bombeck enrolled at University of Dayton. She graduated in 1949 with a degree in English. She was active in alumni affairs throughout her life.**
- 2. Erma Bombeck's High School- (741 W Washington St, Dayton, OH 45402) - Bombeck attended school here in the mid-1940s, when it was known as Parker Vocational School. It changed to John H. Patterson Career Center and is currently called Ponitz Career Technology Center.**
- 3. Erma Bombeck's Dayton Home- (**Private Residence** 162 Cushwa Dr, Centerville, OH 45459) - The Bombeck family built this 1,392 square foot, three-bedroom ranch home and lived here from 1959 to 1968. Oddly enough, Phil Donahue was her neighbor. He lived across the street before becoming a well-known television personality and talk show host.**
- 4. Paul Dunbar House & Ohio Historical Marker- (219 N Paul Laurence Dunbar St, Dayton, OH 45402)- Managed by Ohio History Connection, the Dunbar House opens June 18, 2021 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday - 10:00am - 4pm - For more information: [www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/paul-laurence-dunbar-house](http://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/paul-laurence-dunbar-house)**
- 5. The Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center - (16 S Williams St, Dayton, OH 45402) - Operated by the National Parks Service, this is an interpretive museum on the Wrights and Dunbar and is a stop along the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Summer Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm Daily. For more information: [www.nps.gov/daav/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm](http://www.nps.gov/daav/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm)**
- 6. Wright Brothers National Museum – (1000 Carillon Blvd, Dayton, OH 45409) - This museum has a replica of the Wright Brothers' last bicycle shop and the restored 1905 Flyer III, which Orville completed for Carillon. Carillon Park is open Mon.-Sat. from 9:30am - 5:00pm and Sunday from 12:00pm - 5:00pm. There is an admission charge. For more information: [www.daytonhistory.org/](http://www.daytonhistory.org/)**
- 7. Wright Family House - 7 Hawthorn St – (7 Hawthorn St, Dayton, OH 45402) - This marks the place where the Wright Family lived for over 40 years before building their home in Oakwood. The brothers resided here with their father and sister until Wilbur's death in 1912. The house and bicycle shop were purchased by Henry Ford and moved to his historical park, Greenfield Village, in 1937.**

**8. Wright's Hawthorn Hill** – (901 Harman Ave, Dayton, OH 45419) - The Wright Brothers planned this "success mansion" but Wilbur passed away in 1912 before it was finished. After its completion in Oakwood, Ohio, Orville invited his father Milton and sister Katharine to live with him. Orville occupied the house from 1914 till his death in 1948. Hawthorn Hill Tours run on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00am, 12:30pm. Advance pre-paid admission is required for all visitors. Shuttle Van service from Carillon Historical Park to the site is available, but space is limited. Call for availability at (937) 293-2841 or visit [www.daytonhistory.org/visit/dayton-history-sites/hawthorn-hill/](http://www.daytonhistory.org/visit/dayton-history-sites/hawthorn-hill/)

**9. Huffman Prairie Flying Field- The Wright Brothers** – (Pylon Rd, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433) - Long stretch of open plains the Wright Brothers used to test their airplanes. Huffman Prairie Flying Field is managed by the National Parks Service and open during daylight hours. Find more information at [www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm)

**10. Charlotte Reeve Conover, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Erma Bombeck, and Paul Laurence Dunbar** are all interred in Woodland Cemetery – (118 Woodland Ave, Dayton, OH 45409) – For more information: [www.woodlandcemetery.org](http://www.woodlandcemetery.org)

**11. Natalie Babbitt's First Home** – (**Private Residence** 239 East Drive, Dayton, OH 45419) - Natalie Babbitt was born Natalie Zane Moore and her parents lived at this address at the time of her birth in 1932. She lived her first two years at this residence.

**12. Eleanor Gertrude Brown taught at Steele High School** – (Corner of North Main Street and East Monument Street in Downtown Dayton) - This marks the old site of Steele High School, where Brown taught sighted students in a variety of subjects for forty years. The school was torn down in 1955.

**13. Eleanor Gertrude Brown's Final Resting Place - Dayton Memorial Park** – (8135 N Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414) - Brown's final resting place is located at Dayton Memorial Park. She passed away at the age of 76. She is buried in Section 10, Lot 196, Space 6. For more information: [www.daytonmemorialpark.com](http://www.daytonmemorialpark.com) or call 937-890-1831

**14. Hallie Quinn Brown Memorial Library** – (1400 Brush Row Rd, Wilberforce, OH 45384) - Here you can visit the Ohio Historical Marker for Brown, which is located outside the library at Central State University.

**15. Hallie Quinn Brown's Final Resting Spot** – (Tarbox Cemetery Rd., Cedarville, OH 45314) - Brown died in 1949 and is buried in Massies Creek Cemetery. For more information: [www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2188897/massies-creek-cemetery](http://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2188897/massies-creek-cemetery)

**16. Suzanne Phillips Clauser at Antioch College – (1 Morgan Pl, Yellow Springs, OH 45387) - Clauser took a screenwriting class with Rod Serling (Twilight Zone) at Antioch College. He was so impressed with one of her screenplays, he sent it to Hollywood. She eventually became the only female to write regularly for the hit TV series Bonanza.**

**17. Suzanne Phillips Clauser's Final Resting Place – (4512 Xenia Ave, Yellow Springs, OH 45387)- Located at Glen Forest Cemetery For more Information: [www.miamitownship.net/glen-forest-cemetery/](http://www.miamitownship.net/glen-forest-cemetery/)**

**18. Ridgley Torrence's Final Resting Spot – (281 Dayton Ave, Xenia, OH 45385) - The poet is interred at Woodland Cemetery in Xenia. He is located in plot: Sec I, Lot 13, grave 14. The author Helen Hooven Santmyer is also buried at Woodland Cemetery. Her plot is located at Section G, Lot 34, Grave 12. For more information: [www.woodlandcemeteryxenia.com](http://www.woodlandcemeteryxenia.com)**

**19. Natalie Clifford Barney's Ohio Historical Marker at Cooper Park – (W. Third Street and N. Jefferson Street, Downtown Dayton) - Located at Cooper Park on University of Dayton's campus, the historical marker was the first one in the state of Ohio to discuss a recipient's sexual orientation.**

**20. Manning Marable's High School Alma Mater - Jefferson High School – (2701 S Union Rd, Dayton, OH 45417) - Raised in Dayton, his parents attended Central University in Wilberforce. At age 17, his mother, an ordained minister, arranged for Marable to attend the funeral of Martin Luther King Jr. to report for Dayton's black newspaper.**

**21. Helen Hooven Santmyer's Family Home and Ohio Historical Marker – (113 W 3rd St, Xenia, OH 45385) - Helen lived at the Hooven family house off and on throughout her life. There is an Ohio Historical Marker on the grounds to honor her contribution to literature.**

**22. Helen Hooven Santmyer at Cedarville University – (251 N Main St, Cedarville, OH 45314) - Santmyer was the Dean of Women and the Head of the English Department from 1935 to 1953. She also worked as a reference librarian for Dayton Metro Library.**

**23. Virginia Hamilton's Ohio Historical Marker – (415 Xenia Ave, Yellow Springs, OH 45387) - Located outside the building, it honors the deep literary connection Hamilton shared with the world and her community in Yellow Springs.**

**24. Milt Caniff's Ohio Historical Marker at Highland County District Library – (10 Willettsville Pike, Hillsboro, OH 45133) - Caniff was born in Hillsboro, OH in 1907, where he was an Eagle Scout - he was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America. For information on the library: [www.highlandco.org/](http://www.highlandco.org/)**

**25. Milt Caniff's High School Alma Mater - Stivers School for the Arts – (1313 E 5th St, Dayton, OH 45402) - While attending high school, Caniff sold many cartoons to local Dayton newspapers. Following his high school graduation, he attended Ohio State University and worked for the Columbus Dispatch Newspaper until he lost his job during the Great Depression.**

**26. Milt Caniff's Childhood Home – (**Private Residence** - 149 E North St, Hillsboro, OH 45133) - The birthplace home of Caniff. He was born on February 28, 1907**

**Interested in Trying Something New?**

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