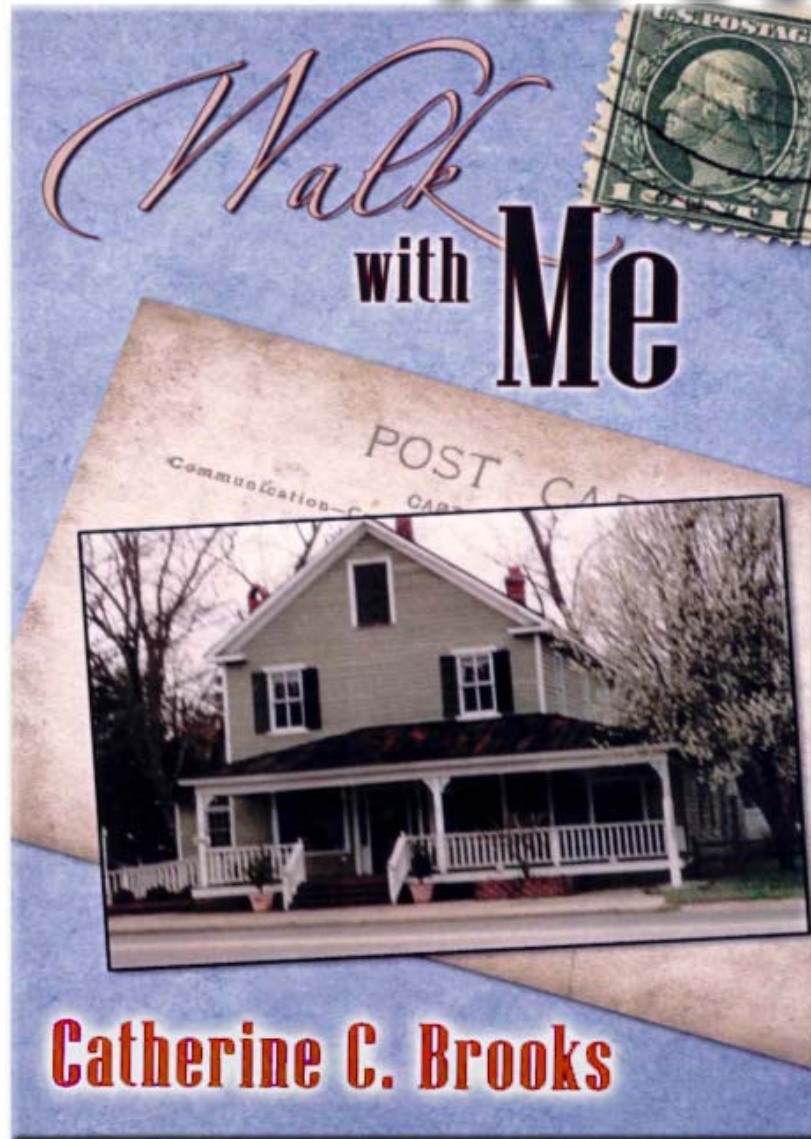


# MEET THE AUTHOR



May 12th Book Signing    Twice Told Tales, Gloucester  
Learn how your Post Office Service came to be, and why  
small counties had multiple post offices, plus much more.

## Bio Catherine C. Brooks

Born on July 15, 1926, at Fitchetts, Virginia, in Mathews County, Catherine Mae Callis grew up on a small farm—the first of Maywood and Grace Callis’s two daughters. Catherine attended a three-room school her first six years, graduating in the top of her high school class in 1943 when World War II was at its height. While working with her parents on the farm, she continued to study by taking correspondence courses. In free time, she wrote letters and read books. Actually she, like many others during those war days, courted more by letter writing than in person, marrying Elwood Kirby Brooks, Jr. whom she called “K” at his request, in September 1946. In 1951, they added a shop on the end of what they planned to be a temporary home. Kirby purchased business license for their cabinet making and upholstery business, “The Craftsman Shop,” January 1952. Catherine divided her time between housework, raising a family and working with Kirby.

In time, having built on to the original house, she added stock dress fabrics to a room where she supervised seamstresses, making window treatments and slipcovers. After the addition of stock, Catherine and Kirby found the public invading their home, making a move to the town of Mathews imperative in 1964. Meanwhile, Kirby had added building homes, drawing his own blueprints, to his work with furniture. By 1972, the shop had little use except as a warehouse, but he was overseeing “Miller Manufacturing Co.” pre-cut houses going up in many parts of Mathews and Middlesex Counties. However, the accident proved fatal when his van overturned on the way home on July 10, 1973.

Catherine saw the houses completed with additional workers, closed the carpet warehouse, the paint department and a second retail store, keeping business she knew best—retail fabrics and notions and interior home decorating. However, the love of her youth returned when she found herself home alone evenings and weekends. She studied an intensive journalism and feature article course from Newspaper Institute of America, New York, N.Y. and wrote for some local papers. Attending a weeklong writer’s conference in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Catherine met many distinguished national Christian writers, including Dr. Sherwood Wirt, Norman Rohrer and editors from Zondervan and Taylor Book Publishers. Meanwhile, she continued to study yet another course, discovering fiction wasn’t easy for her. In time, the 60-hour-work week didn’t allow her time to write. However, after she sold the store building and decorating business, closing out fabrics, she longed to write again.

After meeting Janet A. Fast through a friend, Catherine sold her final article for NIA’s exam, to her for *Chesapeake Style Magazine*. Though NIA rated it high, they advised it’d be hard to sell a publisher because she wrote in the voice of a creek—the very thing that Fast liked. After that, her articles appeared regularly in the regional magazine.

In time, Catherine learned to use the computer and felt the need of a mentor. After some searching, she found Norman Rohrer was still teaching—now with a three-year-correspondence course. She completed his course and had his critique on her book, *Walk With Me*. Meanwhile besides writing for *Chesapeake Style Magazine*, she has sold to *Good Old Days Magazine* and has been published in an anthology. She has her second book, *Didn’t Know We Were Poor*, practically ready for the publishers.