



# Curious Connections

By Kimberly Edwina Campbell  
Photo by Bob Fraley

Jim and Kimberly Campbell and their six-year-old daughter, Anna Marie, moved to Newnan in the summer of 2005. They live in Lake Redwine Plantation. Kimberly works part-time at Emory University. She is also a children's author and a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Visit her web site: [www.KimberlyCampbell.net](http://www.KimberlyCampbell.net). One of her essays appears in the special issue of *Writer's Digest*, below, currently on news stands.

When my husband and I decided it was time to move, I was excited about exploring the Atlanta area. Since my husband's job was mostly on the road, we didn't have to worry about moving close to any particular area of town. The metro-area was our oyster, so to speak.

One thing I knew for sure was that I wanted a place to raise our daughter. A place where she could ride her bike free from the fear of speeding cars. A place with a yard, and a few old trees in it. I wanted slow. I wanted country. Whether we moved north, south, east, or west, I wanted a place that reminded me of yesteryear.

During our search for "home," I scoured dozens of new home guides and Web sites. After looking in Jackson and Barrow Counties, I began to feel discouraged that the perfect place just didn't exist (in our price range anyhow). As we continued poking around for leads, we discovered that the south side of the city had lovely homes and larger lots — for the same (or less) money. So I said to my husband, Jim, "Let's head south and check this place out."

The further south we drove on Interstate 85, the more excited I became. Signs of the hustle and

bustle began to diminish, as lush farms and horse pastures appeared. We soon found a beautiful neighborhood. As we drove into it, the first thing we noticed was the abundance of trees. We even spotted roaming deer! None of the homes looked cookie-cutter, which was a refreshing change, too. So we inked the deal and signed a contract. We would soon become new residents of Newnan.

Later, it occurred to me that I had some curious connections to Coweta County — a place I had never visited (before our home search). First, I am a writer, specializing in children's fiction, and I had been writing a middle-grade novel, set in the 1970s. It is about a 13-year-old girl who learns to cope with her parents' divorce when she's sent to live with her curmudgeonly uncle in rural Coweta, Ga. How odd that I was writing about a fictionalized Coweta, and then ended up living within its borders.

Another prior and equally curious connection to Coweta stems from my stepfather's kinfolk. He was closely related to one of the families written about by Margaret Anne Barnes in her novel *Murder in Coweta County*. Since I moved here, however, a lady at Scott's Bookstore

politely informed me that, "Everybody who lives here knows, or is related to, someone from that incident." I'll take her at her word, and leave it at that.

These curious connections make me believe that there was a mysterious hand of fate involved when we chose Coweta as our home. I am happy fate intervened. We have been charmed at every turn. My daughter loves her new school, Northside Elementary. My husband and I are smitten with the downtown square and the gracious people. Most of all, we like the lifestyle here. It's a perfect blend of old and new. You have it all when there's a Starbucks Coffee and a Sprayberry's Barbeque close by.

At last, I am reunited with my southern roots. It feels good to be home. **NCM**

