



Academy of Authors
South Carolina

The only child of a prominent upstate textile manufacturer, Elliot White Springs was born on July 31, 1896, in Lancaster, South Carolina to Col. Leroy Springs and Grace White Springs. At an early age, Springs' creativity developed a desire to write novels.

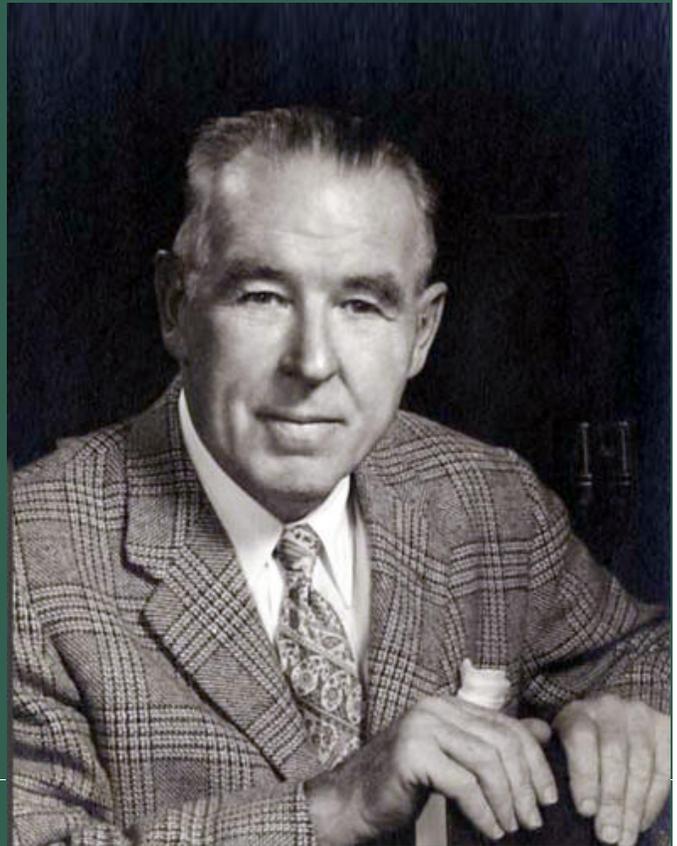
His parents enrolled Springs in the Culver Military Academy, from which he would graduate in 1913, six years after his mother's death. Springs then enrolled at Princeton University and earned a Bachelor of Arts. He put his writing career on hold during World War I and studied military aviation at Oxford University. He applied to the British Royal Flying Corp and served with the distinguished British 85th Squadron. Later, he transferred to the United States Army's 148th Squadron, was promoted to captain, and earned the title "ace." By the end of the war, he downed eleven enemy aircrafts and earned both the United States Distinguished Service Medal as well as the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the Army, Springs returned to South Carolina and worked with his father. Finding the textile business unfulfilling, he wrote short stories about the war. In 1926, he published his novel, *Warbirds: the Diary of an Unknown Aviator*, one of the most significant books about WWI aviators. Springs also published *Nocturne Militaire* (1927), *Above the Bright Blue Sky* (1928), *Leave Me with a Smile* (1928), *In the Cool of the Evening* (1929), *Contact: a Romance of the Air* (1930), *War Birds and Lady Birds* (1934), *The Rise and Fall of Carol Banks* (1931), and *Pent up on a Penthouse* (1931). *Clothes Make the Man* (1948) offers a history of Springs Mills

Following his father's death in 1931, Springs assumed control of the family business until he lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in 1959. Buried in Fort Mill, South Carolina, Springs rests next to his only son, Leroy "Sonny" Springs II, who followed in his father's military footsteps and died in a plane crash at the age of twenty-two.

- Anna Patton

2000 Inductees to the South Carolina Academy of Authors



Elliot Springs