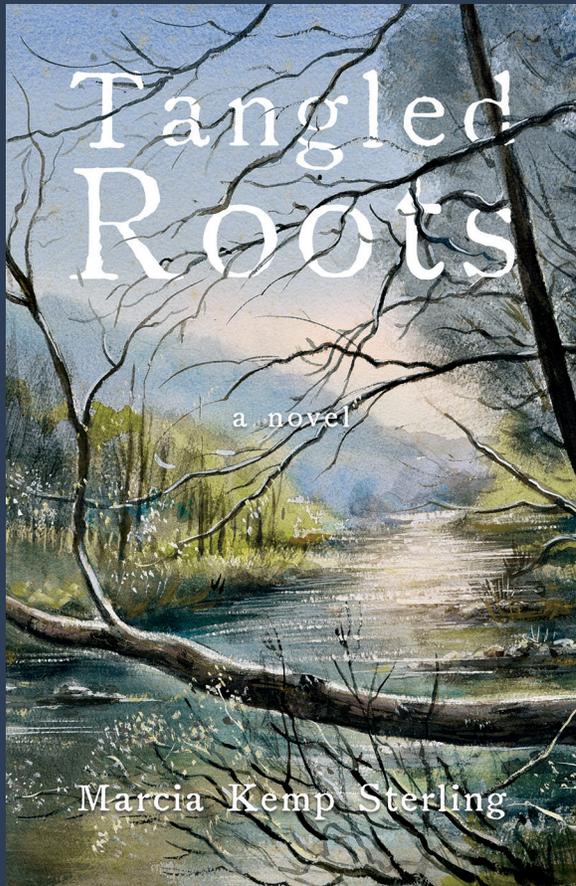


# Tangled Roots

*A family saga of migration and striving, where historical fiction meets genealogy, brought to life through the voices of three young immigrants*

Set in the rich farmland of colonial Pennsylvania in 1750, this “history-comes-alive- in-fiction” narrative tells the first-person stories of Mary, her youthful passion constrained by tradition and family expectations; Alex, a Scots-Irish indentured servant who introduces her to secrets of the land and of the heart; and Matthew, Mary’s level-headed stepbrother who longs to win her affection. Set against the social issues of slavery, Native American oppression, and indentured servitude, the novel is rich in historic detail and the search for love, justice, and family in a new land.

At the center of the story is an old family cross, brought back to Britain after the Third Crusade. Even as the unique histories of Mary, Alex, and Matthew shape their experience in the American colonies, so their futures are touched by the iconic cross that changed hands in the Holy Land during the Crusades, reemerging on a 17th-century plantation in Northern Ireland, and yet again in the forest surrounding a small farm in Lancaster County at the edge of the Pennsylvania Colony.



Title: *Tangled Roots*  
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www.MarciaKempSterling.com

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“A well-researched, vividly detailed historical novel that explores indentured servitude as a key element in the settlement of the American colonies, told in the rich voices of three young immigrants.”

—Susan Wolfe, Edgar Award-winning author of *Escape Velocity*

“Mary Brandon, the spirited heroine of Marcia Kemp Sterling’s 18th-century colonial novel *Tangled Roots*, brings Elizabeth Bennet to mind as she bravely rebels against the narrow gender roles of the era. Sterling’s skillful juxtaposition of limitless geographical opportunity and stifling social convention is sharply drawn, and the novel has an engaging Jane-Austen-comes-to-the-colonies quality.”

—Richard Abramson, author of *The Virtues of Scandal*

“From the Prologue’s Holy Land of 1191 to the ‘tangled roots’ along Manada Creek in colonial Pennsylvania, the remote farmland of Northern Ireland in the 1600s, and the Great Wagon Trail leading south to the green hills of North Carolina, sense of place is the unspeaking character in this book.”

—Jean Hastings Ardell, author of *Breaking into Baseball*



**Marcia Kemp Sterling** practiced law in Silicon Valley before turning to writing. With degrees from Vanderbilt University and Stanford Law School, she has been a newspaper reporter, high school teacher, law firm partner and software company general counsel. She grew up in Texarkana, Arkansas and lives with her husband in Palo Alto, California.