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Cover image from Appalachian Toys and Games from A to Z (page 18):
“L is for Limberjack.”

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Back Talk from Appalachia
Confronting Stereotypes
edited by Dwight B. Billings, Gurney Norman, and Katherine Ledford

“An exciting and provocative new collection.”—Appalachian Journal
“A challenge to ‘monolithic pejorative, and unquestioned’ images of Appalachia.”—Chronicle of Higher Education
2000 | 368 pp. 978-0-8131-9001-3 | $28.00 paperback

Talking Appalachian
Voice, Identity, and Community
edited by Amy D. Clark and Nancy M. Hayward

“Talking Appalachian is a wonderful collection, challenging readers to learn about the many histories that have shaped Appalachian dialectical diversity and to gain tools to counter the linguistic chauvinism that has used Appalachian dialect as a stand-in for other powerful forms of social and economic marginalization, akin to the ways speakers of Gullah and other regional dialects have been marginalized in the U.S.”—Ann Kingsolver, director of the Appalachian Center at the University of Kentucky
“A sense of pride, a strong grip on old traditions, and a unique style of commonality are part of both the marvel and mystery of Appalachia. Talking Appalachian . . . compiles scholarly writing about this area from contributors in a variety of professional disciplines as well as Appalachian writers, including Silas House, Jane Hicks, George Ella Lyon, Ron Rash, and Lee Smith.”—Knoxville News Sentinel
“An intimate view of regional American language and literature.”—Choice
2014 | 274 pp., Illus. 978-0-8131-4096-4 | $50.00 cloth 978-0-8131-4743-7 | $28.00 paperback
I come from a mountain region where the dialects take many forms, from urban (Pittsburghese) to rural (Smoky Mountain English). Most people call our dialects Appalachian English, though many English dialects are spoken along the mountain chain.

Nevertheless, too many writers over the years have tried—and failed—to re-create the melody of mountain speech. Some writers make us sound like plantation owners from the Deep South. Other writers have depicted mountain people in ways that make them sound ignorant and cartoonish. This practice of writing in “literary dialect” began with unconventional spellings by mid-19th century writers who used them to illustrate differences in the perceived intelligence and social status of their characters. These images have persisted in television shows and movies over the years in large part because of how little people know about the how and why behind a language, its dialects and the people who speak them.

Capturing the true cadence of any region’s dialect in written form is tricky, because it should harmonize sounds with words and grammar patterns (the three elements of dialect) that may be centuries old. There may be generational differences among those who use them, as well. For example, I grew up hearing my great-grandmother use the 15th-century word counterpin for quilt, and the Scots-Irish haint for ghost. My grandparents use hit for it and least’uns to describe the youngest in a family. They also pile on modifiers, especially if they had a right smart bunch of company for the holidays, a holdover from our storytelling, ballad-singing ancestors who migrated from Western Europe through the Pennsylvania cultural hearth in the early 1700s and populated the Appalachian mountain chain.

My parents, though they live in the same holler (what we call the narrow valley between hills), typically do not use those expressions and pronunciations, though their patterns and vocabulary are recognizable to southern midland or central Appalachians. My generation’s version of our dialect reflects the most change; like many in my age range, I tend to vocalize the words or grammar patterns only if I’m with my family, though my accent—or the way I pronounce words—can be clearly heard when I speak.

So, literary dialect can be used to illustrate changes in spoken usage among families who have lived in the same area for generations. In Denise Giardina’s turn-of-the-century novel “Storming Heaven,” Miles has returned from the mountains with a formal education and refuses to say “hit” for “it” like his siblings, resisting the speech he equates with backwardness. When his brother Ben points out that Chaucer said “hit,” Miles replies, “He’s been dead a long time. He was medieval. This is the scientific age.” However, in Ron Rash’s more contemporary novel One Foot in Eden, a deputy remarks that “haints are bad to stir” on “lonesome-feeling” nights, which is what his “Momma notioned.” The language of Mr. Rash’s characters connects them to the history of their region, and explains why the sheriff (and many of us in Appalachia) continues to use vernacular though his wife thinks he is a hillbilly: “It was the way most folks spoke in Oconee County. It put people more at ease when you talked like them.”

Well-written vernacular can also explain one character’s perceptions of another. Consider this line from Barbara Kingsolver’s book Prodigal Summer:

“Bite,” he’d said, with the Northerner’s clipped i. An outsider, intruding on this place like kudzu vines.”

Here, Ms. Kingsolver capitalizes on the power of vowels in vernacular speech. One vowel instantly marks the speaker as the Outsider, leading to assumptions about his politics, religion and trustworthiness. It’s a brilliant comparison to the kudzu vine, a choking weed imported from Japan in the late 19th century that swallows entire hills and trees.

Finally, vernacular speech should never be used to suggest that one character is less intelligent than another, a myth about dialect and cognition that was debunked by linguists half a century ago and many times since. Nonstandard grammar patterns such as double negatives or the leveling of irregular verbs like blewed for blow tend to be the most stigmatized of dialect patterns, though their origins and usage are historical and cultural.

Writers who want to tune their ears to a particular spoken dialect should spend an extended amount of time in the part of the region where the dialect is spoken, not only to learn the features, but to study ways that it may be used among different groups. Primary documents such as letters, journals and recipe books, which are often written in unguarded, spoken vernacular, may also be counted on as authentic recreations of voice. My great-grandmother’s recipe book includes spellings like “baloney” for “bologna,” illustrating the way she pronounced it.

Above all, writers should know that people speak the way they do intentionally, and for many reasons. The author Lee Smith, who grew up in central Appalachia and whose characters often speak in those dialects, says in her essay “Southern Exposure,” “I have no intention of ever giving up this accent … it’s a political choice.”

Sometimes dialect is the only way a person can stay rooted to family, to community, to everything that is familiar in a fast-changing world where nothing is certain.

Behind that decision is an entire linguistic history and an army of ancestors whose language patterns were carried forward like guarded treasure, which is all the more reason for writers to choose their words carefully.
Smoky Mountain Voices
A Lexicon of Southern Appalachian Speech Based on the Research of Horace Kephart
edited by Harold F. Farwell and J. Karl Nicholas

“A delight. It belongs in all Appalachian Studies collections and is invaluable to any serious student of Appalachian language and dialect. It is just plain fun for the browser who like words of is interested in Appalachian speech and expressions.” — Now & Then

978-0-8131-9334-2 | $25.00 paperback

Two Worlds in the Tennessee Mountains
Exploring the Origins of Appalachian Stereotypes
David C. Hsiung

“Well organized and accessible, this book would prove ideal for use in Appalachian history courses . . . while telling what happened, Hsiung explains how to do social history.” — Journal of Appalachian History

“In demolishing several stereotypes, Hsiung gets tantalizingly close to revealing the sources of regional and national identity.” — Journal of American History

1997 | 224 pp., illus.
978-0-8131-5618-7 | $35.00 paperback

Play of a Fiddle
Traditional Music, Dance, and Folklore in West Virginia
Gerald Milnes

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“An enjoyable book filled with anecdotes, local history, and keen observations about musical lives.” — Appalachian Quarterly

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The Land of Saddle-bags
A Study of the Mountain People of Appalachia
James Watt Raine

“A lively, first-hand account of a Berea College professor’s favorable experience with mountain people.” — Now & Then

“Will enable modern readers to experience how early-twentieth-century writers viewed the Appalachian region and its people. The foreword, penned by Dwight Billings, is especially outstanding as a modern critique of the work.” — Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

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“Palmer carries pictures of Appalachia in his head, and he has scoured the mountains for people and scenes to fill his vision. In her excellent introductory essay, Jean Speer reveals her close knowledge of Palmer and of photography.” — Loyal Jones

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Life in Contemporary Appalachia
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HEALTH

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A Story of the Frontier Nursing Service
Mary Breckinridge

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The Challenge of Mental Health
David H. Looff

Appalachia's Children demonstrates effectively and clearly the profound need for increased concern about what is happening to the rising generation—the children of Eastern Kentucky, the children of the Southern Appalachian region, and the children of the rural south.

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edited by Robert L. Ludke and Phillip J. Obermiller
foreword by Richard A. Couto

"This compilation is a pioneering work that will inform and guide readers and serve as a model for future Appalachian health research."—Journal of Appalachian Studies

"A truly exemplary book. . . . Surveys nine areas of health in the region and concludes with policy recommendations."—Appalachian Heritage

"This medical text, the first of its kind, focuses on health of the region's inhabitants as well as those who have moved away."—Library Journal

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Social Organization of Older People in a Rural American Community
John van Willigen

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"Well written and rich in empirical material."—American Anthropologist

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edited by Susan E. Keefe

This volume is the first to explore broadly many important theoretical and applied issues concerning the mental health of Appalachians. The authors—anthropologists, psychologists, social workers and others—overturn many assumptions held by earlier writers, who have tended to see Appalachia and its people as being dominated by a culture of poverty.

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Race, Religion, and Reform in the American South
Andrew McNeill Canady

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—John T. Kneebone, author of Southern Liberal Journalists and the Issue of Race, 1920–1944

“Giving special attention to Weatherford’s belief in Personalism, Canady’s manuscript brings to light the important efforts and significant achievements in Weatherford’s work with white southern college students at Blue Ridge and through the YMCA, as well as black southern college students at Fisk University.”—Charles J. Holden, author of The New Southern University

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No Ordinary School 1932–1962
John M. Glen

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During its thirty-year history Highlander served as a community folk school, as a training center for southern labor and Farmers’ Union members, and as a meeting place for black and white civil rights activists.

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"Hutton's local history is insightful, and his compelling arguments will certainly intrigue scholars."—Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

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"Kiffmeyer blames [the failure of the Appalachian Volunteers] on its paternalistic outsider mentality, which alienated every group the AV worked with, and the power of local elites. Recommended."—Choice

"An impressive accomplishment documenting the history of the Appalachian Volunteers."—Appalachian Journal

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—McCormick (SC) Messenger

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—Ashland Daily Independent
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—American Studies
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introduction by Gordon B. McKinney

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“The essays offer “texture and complexity,” a fresh look at a topic that has stubbornly resisted popular revision.” —Register of Kentucky Historical Society

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Jess Stoddart

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“Stoddart’s historical account of one of the most successful rural settlement schools in the US brings to light the rich panoply of curricular offerings and community services provided by the Hindman School in eastern Kentucky.” —Choice

2002 | 320 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-2250-2 | $40.00 cloth
978-0-8131-9279-6 | $30.00 paperback

Blacks in Appalachia
edited by William H. Turner and Edward J. Cabell

Although southern Appalachia is popularly seen as a purely white enclave, blacks have lived in the region from early times. Some hollows and coal camps are in fact almost exclusively black settlements. The selected readings in this new book offer the first comprehensive presentation of the black experience in Appalachia. The contributors range from Carter Woodson and W. E. B. Du Bois to more recent scholars such as Theda Perdue and David A. Corbin.

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Appalachia in the Sixties
Decade of Reawakening
edited by David S. Walls and John B. Stephenson

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Berea College
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Shannon H. Wilson

“This treasure-trove of fascinating photos and compelling commentary tells the remarkable story of a college conceived in the struggle against slavery and tempered by arduous aspirations for the development of the Appalachian Region.”—Appalachian Heritage

“The photographs and elegant writing bring out the qualities that have made Berea College’s story unique in its challenges and resourceful achievements.”—Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

2006 | 206 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-2379-0 | $35.00 cloth

LAND

Who Owns Appalachia?
Landownership and Its Impact
Appalachian Land Ownership Task Force
introduction by Charles C. Geisler

Long viewed as a problem in other countries, the ownership of land and resources is becoming an issue of mounting concern in the United States. Nowhere has it surfaced more dramatically than in the southern Appalachians where the exploitation of timber and mineral resources has been recently aggravated by the ravages of strip-mining and flash floods. This landmark study of the mountain region documents for the first time the full scale and extent of the ownership and control of the region’s land and resources and shows in a compelling, yet non-polemical fashion the relationship between this control and conditions affecting the lives of the region’s people.

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edited by Allen Batteau

In this collection of fourteen essays, scholars of Appalachian culture and society examine how the people contend with and adapt to the pressures of change that thrust upon them. It deals cogently with the newest form of conflict affecting not only communities in Appalachia, but urban and rural communities in America at large—the struggle for local values and ways of life in the face of distant and powerful bureaucracies.

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Twenty-Five Years of Government Policy
Michael Bradshaw

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“A useful book . . . Its overall tone almost echoes that of a how-to book for tourism developers to promote sound tourism activities and for tourists to correct their tourism behavior and Choices.”—Appalachian Journal

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978-0-8131-2288-5 | $45.00 cloth
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Sustainable Living through Appropriate Technology
Al Fritsch and Paul Gallimore

“This work will be extremely valuable for individuals in environmental studies, ecology, agriculture, and Appalachian studies.”—Choice

2007 | 456 pp., photos
978-0-8131-9177-5 | $35.00 paperback

Mountains on the Market
Industry, the Environment, and the South
Randal L. Hall

“Hall tantalizes his readers with such a short treatment that one is left wishing for more.”—American Historical Review

“As a region previously categorized by scholars as backward or undeveloped, southwestern Virginia undergoes quite a journey in Hall’s skillful and painstakingly researched narrative. . . . his convincing argument that we need to reassess the mountain South’s traditional role as a preindustrial or precapitalist region makes his book a valuable addition to the literature and a must-read for scholars of economic development and the U.S. South.”—Journal of Southern History

“Provides an astonishingly detailed portrait of the extractive industries in the New River region of Virginia. . . . [The volume] provides an excellent microhistory of an understudied region of the Appalachian South.”—North Carolina Historical Review

1986 | 232 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-1577-1 | $35.00 cloth

Coal in Appalachia
An Economic Analysis
Curtis E. Harvey

“This study undertakes a thorough review of the economics of the Appalachian coal industry. The picture that emerges is not unexpected—an industry whose recovery and enduring health depend on resurgence of world and domestic economic activity, social and political stability, and government regulation.

1977 | 192 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-5148-9 | $35.00 paperback

The Economics of Kentucky Coal
Curtis E. Harvey

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2012 | 322 pp., Illus.
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Moving Mountains
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Penny Loeb

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“Loeb balances extrapolations of the technical details and reasons for the lawsuits with well-documented information concerning local residents’ cultural and emotional struggles, some of whom had generations of employment by the coal industry. . . . [Moving Mountains] provides a thorough, analytical account of the complexity of the situation as it evolved and the emotional turmoil.”—Appalachian Journal

2007 | 328 pp., Illus.
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Something’s Rising
Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal
Silas House and Jason Howard
foreword by Lee Smith and Hal Crowther

“This revelatory work is a challenging tocsin shouting out the effects of poverty and exploitations of the Appalachian people by strip miners and other corporate pirates. Here, Jean Ritchie and others speak out in the fighting tradition of the 1930s and 1960s. It is oral history at its best.”—Studs Terkel

“In this volume, the authors give voice to the people trying to save their mining towns. The people of Appalachia affected by the destruction of their region have begun to rise against the coal companies.”—Southern Living

“The profiles in this book make for reading that is at the same time disturbing, and oddly leisurely and engaging. They leave you with the sense of having visited and talked with the people portrayed.”—Journal of Appalachian Studies

“Mr. House and Mr. Howard strike at [mountaintop removal] with cool, measured fury.”—Washington Times

2009 | 320 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-2546-6 | $27.95 cloth
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A CONVERSATION WITH
SILAS HOUSE AND JASON HOWARD
authors of: Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal

Silas, you’ve already published several novels, plays, and articles, and Something’s Rising is your first full-length book of non-fiction. How was the transition from writing fiction?

Silas House: I was trained as a journalist long before I ever studied any kind of creative writing, so part of me has always identified as a journalist, as someone seeking the truth. So the transition wasn’t hard; in many ways I felt like this was the book I had been waiting to write for years, ever since I was a journalist back in college. Jason has such a sharp political mind and has worked on Capitol Hill and for Legal Services Corporation, a government agency. He also has an extensive background as a journalist and identifies more as a nonfiction writer, so I learned a lot from him, too.

You both have been a vocal presence within the movement against mountaintop removal for several years. How did you first become involved in the issue?

SH: Both Jason and I have always had a love/hate relationship with coal mining. We’re both from coal-mining families, and we’re both really proud of that. So we’ve both been aware of the increasing threat of mountaintop removal for awhile now. But I first got really involved in 2005 when Wendell Berry invited all of Kentucky’s writers to go on a tour of MTR sites. That trip changed my life. Once you’ve seen it up close like that, and had people look you right in the eye and tell you their stories about the way it is destroying their lives you can’t turn away. There’s no turning back after that. I knew that I had to take what tiny little bit of public face I had and use that to fight MTR. Jason was living in DC at the same time, having attended George Washington University, and was writing for Equal Justice Magazine about similar social justice issues. About a year after the first mountaintop removal tour he moved back to Kentucky and immediately joined the fight, going on the second writers’ tour.

As natives of the Appalachian region, was it easier or more difficult writing about an issue that you are personally invested in?

JH: I think it was easier for us because we have a truly intimate knowledge of the culture—and this is a cultural issue (as well as being religious, and environmental, and political)—and we had a sort of shorthand with our subjects because that. A kind of easy trust between interviewers and interviewees, I guess. But it was hard in that we knew publishing the book would put our feelings on the issue even more out there for the public. There are people in our families who don’t want us to write this book, either because they’re afraid for our safety or because they just flat-out disagree with us. It’s a divisive issue in the region, and people are either on one side or the other. So we knew we had to make a real stand.

How did you choose the individuals to interview for inclusion in the book?

SH: The main thing is that they had to be Appalachian. They had to have exhibited true defiance, determination, strength. And best of all, they had to be remarkable storytellers. The most important thing that this book illuminates is the fact that when an environmental disaster like this happens, it doesn’t just kill trees and animals and water. It also kills people and a way of life and their stories. So we wanted to preserve those stories, that way of life. All of the people featured here are ones that we sort of lurked around watching for awhile before deciding for sure we wanted them to be in the book. Then once we decided and approached them with the idea, we spent hours and hours of time with them. We formed a true bond with each one of them by the time the book was finished.

The group of individuals included in this book have witnessed the effects of mountaintop removal from several different perspectives. Did any of the interviews reveal something that you hadn’t known about the region? What surprised you?

JH: What was most surprising to us was the level of corruption that is happening with this issue. For instance, there is actually a depopulation plan for Appalachia that a lawyer in West Virginia is taking around to various coal companies, which proposes to rid the region of its population so it can become one big coal mine. That’s actually happening, which is just mind-boggling. There are several things like that in the book that just simultaneously make you lose hope in humanity, but also emboldened you to fight harder.

What role do you hope this book plays in the fight against mountaintop removal?

SH: Our goal with this book has always been to shed light on the fact that a way of life is being obliterated for the gain of a handful of greedy and incredibly rich executives. We want it to show how coal miners are being knocked out of their jobs by this practice (which uses far more machines than miners) and how people are suffering in the shadows of MTR. But most of all we want it to show the importance of stories, of words, of language. Those things are very important to the Appalachian people.
Confronting Ecological Crisis in Appalachia and the South
University and Community Partnerships
edited by Stephanie McSpirit, Lynne Faltraco, and Conner Bailey

“This book should be required reading for all faculty, especially at Appalachian college and universities.” — Appalachian Heritage

“This volume makes a strong case for democratic participation in all arenas, whether in the community or the university, with activism not relegated to one or the other.” — Journal of Appalachian Studies

“Each of the 11 short chapters chronicles a collaborative project, is extensively documented, and is well written by both activists and academics, making for interesting reading.” — Choice

2012 | 284 pp.
978-0-8131-3619-6 | $50.00 cloth

Absentee Landowning and Exploitation in West Virginia, 1760-1920
Barbara Rasmussen

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“The book is consistently and appropriately engaged in present-day political concerns and ends with a prescription to revise West Virginia tax codes. Both activists and scholars can benefit from Rasmussen’s research.” — Register of the Kentucky Historical Society

978-0-8131-1880-2 | $40.00 cloth

Appalachia Revisited
New Perspectives on Place, Tradition, and Progress
edited by William Schumann and Rebecca Adkins Fletcher

“Gone is the focus on the old Appalachia symbolized by coal camps and coal miners’ strikes—although they are still highly important in the region. Alongside them, we see important glimpses of new populations, the newly emergent forms of Appalachian activism and engagement, and the new economies and environmental impacts that are reshaping twenty-first century Appalachia.” — Dwight Billings, University of Kentucky

Place Matters: New Directions in Appalachian Studies
2016 | 320 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-6697-1 | $50.00 cloth
978-0-8131-7441-9 | $28.00 paper

Sacred Mountains
A Christian Ethical Approach to Mountaintop Removal
Andrew R. H. Thompson

“Thompson’s approach is novel, unique and useful. The author argues convincingly that what is needed in looking at mountaintop removal, is a new and integrating perspective rather than repeating the familiar time-work binaries that pervade much of Appalachian scholarship.” — Stanley Brunn, professor of geography at University of Kentucky

“This thoughtful interpretation of the controversies over mountaintop removal mining is unique in the range of its religious and cultural analysis.” — Willis Jenkins, associate professor of religion, ethics, and environment, and director of graduate program at the University of Virginia

Place Matters: New Directions in Appalachian Studies
2015 | 212 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-6599-8 | $50.00 cloth
Every Leaf a Mirror
_A Jim Wayne Miller Reader_
edited by Morris Allen Grubbs and Mary Ellen Miller
introduction by Robert Morgan
afterword by Silas House

“This collection of Jim Wayne Miller’s nonfiction, fiction, and poetry reflects the depth and significance of his impact on Appalachian studies as an author, teacher, and scholar. Accompanied by photographs of Miller and a chronology of his life, this anthology serves as both an introduction to Miller and his work, and as an indispensable resource for Appalachian scholars.”
—_Appalachian Heritage_

“Jim Wayne Miller was the great ambassador for Appalachian Literature, and one of the pleasures of _Every Leaf a Mirror_ is the celebration of that achievement, but, most of all, this superb volume affirms that Miller’s most lasting legacy will be his poetry and fiction. _Every Leaf a Mirror_ is indispensable for anyone who wishes to understand Appalachian Literature.”
—Ron Rash, author of _Serena_

2014 | 256 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-4724-6 | $50.00 cloth
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Appalachian Elegy
Poetry and Place
bell hooks

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“hooks’ distilled lyrics possess the weight of stones in a foundation and logs in a cabin even as they sing and soar.”—_Booklist_

"Powerful and clear, the book celebrates the area while simultaneously mourning its ongoing losses."—_At Home Tennessee_

2012 | 88 pages
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Mommy Goose
_Rhymes from the Mountains_
Mike Norris
illustrated by Minnie Adkins

“Norris and Adkins’s creative presentation engages youth with Appalachian oral and visual traditions. Each Appalachian children’s rhyme in this collection has accompanying photographs of hand-carved figurines of the characters in that rhyme. Colorful, bright, and catchy, the rhymes progress through varying levels of difficulty for young readers.”—_Appalachian Heritage_

“Infectious and endlessly charming… When you combine Norris’ rhymes with Adkins’ carvings, the effect is nothing short of marvelous.”—Stan Campbell, Centre College

“What if that venerable Goose came to the mountains and wanted new rhymes and hand-carved characters to illustrate them? Why, she’d get Mike Norris and Minnie Adkins to make us this fine book!”—George Ella Lyon, Kentucky Poet Laureate and author of _All the Water in the World_

2016 | 48 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-6614-8 | $19.95 cloth
Minnie Adkins is a folk artist with permanent collections at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Gallery of Art, the American Folk Art Museum, the Huntington Museum of Art, and the Kentucky Folk Art Center. She won the Kentucky Arts Council’s Artist Award honoring lifetime achievement in the arts and holds an honorary doctorate from Morehead State University. She has contributed essays to numerous collections on folk art and crafts.

Mike Norris was the director of communications at Centre College for sixteen years before he retired. He is the author of *Sonny the Monkey* and *Bright Blue Rooster: Down on the Farm* and has recorded several collections of original music.

Illustrations via *Mommy Goose* (page 16).
A is for Appalachia!
The Alphabet Book of Appalachian Heritage
Linda Hager Pack
<bc>illustrated by Pat Banks

“What a charming children’s picture book! All [letters] combine to give a real feel for the heritage of the mountain region.”—Appalachian Heritage

 “[Pack’s] writing and Kentucky artist Pat Banks’ watercolor illustrations capture fading traditions, such as one-room schoolhouses.”—Atlanta Journal-Constitution

2009 | 44 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-2556-5 | $16.95 cloth

Appalachian Toys and Games from A to Z
Linda Hager Pack
illustrated by Pat Banks

“Linda Hager Pack has produced a book that is as enjoyable as it is important. Appalachian Toys and Games from A to Z keeps these beloved mountain pastimes alive for future generations to enjoy and celebrate.”—Jason Howard, author of A Few Honest Words: The Kentucky Roots of Popular Music

“Appalachian Toys and Games from A to Z . . . is a toy chest full of childhood delights that show and tell just how the children of the Southern mountains learned the ABCs of fun.”—Knoxville News Sentinel

2013 | 56 pp., Illus.
978-0-8131-4104-6 | $17.95 cloth
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Emily Satterwhite
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“This is one of the most important books on Appalachian and American identity the Appalachian studies field has produced.”—Journal of Appalachian Studies
2011 | 396 pp., Illus. 978-0-8131-3010-1 | $40.00 cloth 978-0-8131-6110-5 | $28.00 paperback

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Verna Mae Slone
foreword by Michael Montgomery, Len Slone, and Sidney Saylor Farr
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“These two works published together provide an excellent resource for learning more about the culture and daily lives of Kentuckians in the eastern part of the state.”—Kentucky Ancestors
“Slone’s works would be captivating enough for her storytelling prowess, but the care with which she has artfully assembled the details of her life breathes into her words the very essence of her people.”—Register of the Kentucky Historical Society
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The Complete Short Stories of James Still
James Still
edited by Ted Olson
“A must read for anyone who is ‘from here’ or that has embraced the Appalachian mountain region as their own. We will learn more about ourselves than we knew and will be the better for having done so.”—Smoky Mountain News
“These stories affirm Still’s art as a master storyteller.”—Loyal Jones
2012 | 416 pp. 978-0-8131-3623-3 | $29.95 cloth
River of Earth
James Still

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“Still tells of [his people’s] japes and sorrows and near starvation, the rich archaic poetry of their talk and customs in a clear, dry style as unsentimental as his seven-year-old’s eyes. He has produced a work of art.”—Time

“As you read you can hear the redbirds in the plum thickets and smell the pawpaws at first frost; you know, too, what it means to scrape the bottom of the meat box with a plow blade, hunting for a rind of pork amid the salt when the mines are closed.”—Washington Post

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1989 | 112 pp., illus
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The Run for the Elbertas
James Still

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“James Still offers us the rhythm of the poet’s phrasing, the excitement of the word, the expression, that strikes like a little silver hammer, along with an uproarious humor and the lustiness of living of the common man.”—Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of The Yearling

978-0-8131-0151-4 | $17.00 paperback

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James Still

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James Still


1996 | 32 pp., color illus
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Literacy, Place, and Cultural Resistance
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“This collection makes an important, worthwhile contribution to the fields of literacy studies and Appalachian studies. By investigating the deeply embedded cultural narratives that we have about Appalachia, and Appalachian literacies in particular, it encourages us to become aware of those narratives and to resist a too-easy reliance on them.”—Erica Abrams Locklear, associate professor of literature and language at UNC Asheville

“The collection is well arranged, and the historical pieces are connected nicely to current research. The authors challenge the pure, Anglo-Saxon Appalachian and point out the diversity of Appalachia, so that other ethnicities and orientations are described.”—Katherine Sohn, professor emeritus of English at Pikeville College

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Ellesa Clay High

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1984 | 192 pp.
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What advice do you have for young people today? Where is the hope and courage?

Helen: Today's youth understand the environment in ways we did not because we were still into being master over the earth. Today, many young people have good educations, more experience in the world, and tools we didn't have.

Young people today are facing a whole different world from what I was facing. We are at a real turning point in environmental and economic conditions in the world. Big changes are going to have to happen. Opportunities for cleaning up the environment and economy are enormous.

I want to tell young people to be creative and take risks. Don't get settled into a secure job. Create changes, take chances, follow your passion. They understand greening and global economic systems. They know all about the world. They have a great opportunity to develop some creative solutions.

Looking back now, do you have any regrets?

Helen: I used to regret not going to Chapel Hill instead of Duke. I was invited by Howard Odum to come to Chapel Hill. Sometimes I think I should not have married. I did not want to get married, but that's what you did, and everyone wanted me to get married. But then getting married put me into all the great things that happened to me. It led to a situation that is really good. I had real choices. What would have happened if I didn't marry? Maybe I would have stayed in Georgia? Gotten into politics? But Gene Talmadge got reelected, and everyone I worked with in that campaign left the state. I wouldn't have gone to the Appalachia coalfields if I hadn't married. People ask me about why I got so interested in coal. I say, if I was living in the cotton fields, I'd be writing about cotton.

You just have to look for opportunities where you can to create a little trouble, to make changes where you are. I am at the point of thinking about where I want to go next. Where you are, you dig in and do what you can.
Mountain Sisters
From Convent to Community in Appalachia
Helen M. Lewis and Monica Appleby

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Barry P. Michrina

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The Life of John Jacob Niles
Ron Pen

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Singing Family of the Cumberlands
Jean Ritchie

"The Ritchies are rare people, of sturdy pioneer stock. Jean Ritchie sees them fondly, and the reader is likely to share her warmth."—New York Times

"Birth, death, marrying, first love, going to the settlement schools—the full round of living is here. Jean writes with such tenderness at times that one murmurs an apology for intruding on the family circle."—Chicago Tribune

1988 | 264 pp., Illus.
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Leonard W. Roberts

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