A Beginning Bibliography on Appalachian History, Culture and Values


Chappel, Fred. I am one of you forever, and a sequel, Brighten the corner where you are. Short stories set in rural Western North Carolina.

Davis, Donald Edward. Where There Are Mountains: An Environmental History of the Southern Appalachians.

Dykeman, Wilma. The French Broad. A collection of stories depicting historical events including the Civil War, the death of explorer Elisha Mitchell, the beginning of the Tennessee Valley Authority. First published in 1955, the book is available in paperback and recommended reading newcomers to the region.


Ehle, John. The Road, a fictional account of the building of the railroads into Western North Carolina. Also of interest may be his Trail of Tears: The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation.

Eller, Ronald D. Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers; The Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930.

---------- Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945.

Hicks, George. Appalachian Valley. A case study of the Celo community in Yancey County. This may be hard to find, but it’s an excellent window into traditional mountain life and modernization in the mid-20th century.

Keefe, Susan E. Appalachian Mental Health. A collection of articles on aspects of Appalachian life and values and their relationship to mental health and mental health practice.

Lewis, Helen M. Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice in Appalachia. An overview of a scholar/activist who devoted her life to socio-economic change in the region, including essays and insights from a variety of colleagues.

Mckinney, Gordon. Zeb Vance: North Carolina’s Civil War Governor and Gilded Age Political Leader.

Newfont, Kathryn. Blue Ridge Commons: Environmental Activism and Forest History in Western North Carolina.

Rash, Ron. Saints at the River. Cultural and environmental issues in the mountains in fictional form.

Still, James. River of Earth. A classic Appalachian novel about the tensions between traditional mountain farm life and the coal camp.

Whisnant, David. Modernizing the Mountaineer. An in-depth study of social change efforts in Appalachia over the past century. Also see his blog at ashevillejunction.com for his current research.