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1997 APPALACHIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

PREPARING FOR THE MOUNTAINS: A 1910 PI BETA PHI SETTLEMENT SCHOOL  
READING LIST

"READING LIST ON THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINEERS  
COMPILED BY M. ALICE MATTHEWS"  
ANNOTATED BY PHILIS ALVIC (*italic comments*)

*On April 28, 1867 a group of women attending Monmouth College in Illinois founded the first fraternity for women that became known as Pi Beta Phi. At their 1910 Convention they decided to establish a settlement school in the Appalachian Mountains dedicated to their twelve founders. After careful consideration of sites, the Pi Beta Phi School open in Gatlinburg, TN, in 1912 with 14 students. The school grew quickly and also began to look after health and economic needs of the community. The school began selling locally produced crafts and hired a supervisor to coordinate the weaving of the local women in 1925. Public education only completely took over in the late fifties. The craft sales store and weaving continued until 1994. Pi Beta Phi still sponsors the Arrowmont School for Arts and Crafts on the site of their first school in Gatlinburg.*

*A reading list about Appalachia was compiled and distributed to members of Pi Beta Phi in 1911. In the pamphlet with the recommended reading, the head of the Fraternity observed, "It will prove intensely interesting and of value when the time comes for us to consider definite things in regard to our school." But Elizabeth Helmick, the Treasure, hit on a more pressing need for all members to "buy" into the idea of work in the mountains. "It is earnestly hoped that this question of money support will not be a millstone in this magnificent undertaking, and that the members of Pi Beta Phi will promptly sent to the treasurer as generous a remittance as they possibly can."*

BOOKS

Barton, W.E. A hero in homespun, a tale of the loyal South. N.Y., 1897.

*Novel -- "Thrice in the history of our country, at King's Mountain, at the battle of New Orleans, and in the Civil War, the homespun hero of the southern Appalachians has emerged from his obscurity and turned the tide of battle." A detailed Civil War story inter-woven with the personal tale of Jack Casey, a loyal Union soldier from Eastern Tennessee.*

Barton, W.E. Life in the hills of Kentucky. Oberlin, 1890.

Sets forth the religious life of the mountain folk.

*Short stories -- Three long humorous stories. A love story and a church meeting with an afterword about missionary work in the mountains. A tale where an old man gets religion and a wife. And finally a story about a young woman who has no luck with either of her two suitors.*

Carter, M.N. North Carolina sketches. Chicago, 1900. (Short stories).

*Short stories -- In these 17 stories death is a big theme -- several stories end with the death of least one character. In "Getting An Education" a teacher and mountain girl fall in love, finish their education and marry many years later.*

Craddock, E.C. *pseud.* The despot of Broomsedge Cove., Bost., 1889 (Novel).

"Miss Murfree's best example of character drawing among the mountain people."

*Novel -- Love and lawlessness make a winning combination for Miss Murfree.*

----- In the clouds. Bost. 1887. (Novel)

"Gives the most perfect mountain atmosphere of any of her stories."

*Novel -- A beautiful mountain girl has faith in an energetic young man that is wrongly accused of murder. The plot has many twists and turns and involves a subplot or two and political intrigue in Nashville. All does not end happily when the young mountaineer dies in unusual circumstances after escaping from the law. Written in heavy dialect.*

----- In the Tennessee mountains. Bost., 1884. (Short stories).

*Short stories -- These eight stories concentrate on ghosts and feuds and other "good" mountain subjects.*

----- The prophet of the Great Smoky mountains. Bost., 1887. (Novel).

*Novel -- Religion, lawlessness, and loss of love in hard to decipher dialect make for another of Miss Murfree's tales.*

----- The young mountaineer. Bost., 1887. (Novel).

*Short stories -- Ten stories on the favorite topics of Miss Murfree. One about a house thief and proving the worth of a young man, another about moonshiners and the rescue of a boy, a story of a boy caught on a cliff, a description of how one man saves another, etc.....*

Dexter, E.G. The southern states. (In his History of education in the United States, 1904, p. 124-40).

*Description -- A state by state account is given of the educational opportunities, including higher education. Extensive references are noted in the margins with a bibliography at the end of each chapter. Final chapters are devoted to different types of specialized education, including "Art and Manual Education."*

Fox, John, jr. Blue grass and rhododendrons. Outdoors in Old Kentucky. N.Y. 1901. illus.

(First two chapters published under the title, "The Southern mountaineer" in Scribner, v. 29, 1901).

*Short essays and stories -- Both fiction and descriptive writing is included in this collection. Fox attempts to not only describe different types of people found in Kentucky, but attempts to explain why they behave the way they do.*

----- The little shepherd of Kingdom Come. N.Y., 1903. (Novel).

*Novel -- The story follows the life of the "little shepherd" from his early youth in the mountains through his education at the University of Kentucky, his fighting for the North in the Civil War, and his love for a Confederate sympathizer. This was one of the first*

- books in the USA to sell over a million copies. Records show that Gertrude Stein requested that her bookseller get a copy of it for her.*
- Frost, W.G. Berea college. (In *From servitude to service*. Bost., 1905, p. 49-79).  
Shows what can be done with mountain boys and girls in the field of industrial and higher education.  
*Essays -- Chapters on the major schools for the education of the African-American. Because the Day Law was passed by the Kentucky legislature in 1904, Berea could no longer accept Black students. At the time the book was written Berea had a suit against Kentucky testing the constitutionality of the law and paid for the Negro students to go to Fisk while the case was settled. The essay includes the history and function of Berea.*
- Gielow, Mrs. Martha S. *Old Andy, the moonshiner*. Washington, 1909. (Short stories).  
Tells of the sacrifices made by Old Andy and his wife to send their little grandchild to an industrial school for mountain children.  
*Novel -- This little book does not contain much of a plot, but manages to touch on moonshining, education of mountain children, and a father reunited with his illegitimate daughter. Martha Gielow was the director of the Southern Industrial Education Association -- see the note on this society at the end.*
- Haney, W.H. *The mountain people of Kentucky*. Cincinnati, 1906.  
Written by the son of a Kentucky mountaineer, who worked his way through college and taught school within sight of his father's still. The most cheering part of the book is that on education. The desire for education of the part of the mountain boy and girl is almost insatiable, and the educated mountaineer often returns to his native home to help his people.  
*Descriptive -- Chapters describe the conditions that exist in the mountains of Kentucky with optimistic predictions for the future of the region as oil and gas resources are exploited and better roads come to the region.*
- Johnson, Clifton. *Highways and byways of the South*. N.Y., 1904.  
Pictures of rustic life and nature.  
*Travel -- "In the Tennessee Mountains" recounts a journey to the eastern part of the state. With several pictures and vignettes in dialect, the mountains are portrayed as a quaint place to visit.*
- Malone, J.S. *Sons of vengeance*. N.Y., 1903.  
A tale of the Cumberland highlanders.  
*Novel -- This story is all that one would expect from a novel with this title. Moonshine, feuds, and a love story are all wrapped together. A young girl fights to a mission school in middle someplace.*
- Wilson, S.T. *The southern mountaineers*. N.Y., 1906.  
One of the most interesting and helpful books to be found on this subject.  
*Description -- Written by the President of Maryville College and published by the Presbyterian Home Missions, this book had many editions and served as a handbook for those engaged in "mountain work."*
- Historical phases on the subject are to be found in the following books:
- Bruce, H.A. *Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road*. 1910.
- Fiske, John. *Old Virginia and her neighbors*. 1897.
- Roosevelt, Theodore. *The winning of the West*. 1904.
- Temple, O.P. *The Conventer, the Cavalier, and the Puritan*. 1897.

## ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS.

- Cady, J.C. In the mountains. (Outlook, 69: 320-25, Oct. 5, '01) illus.  
Describes conditions among the Kentucky mountaineers and tells of the work of Berea college.  
*Travelogue -- This essay tells of a trip through the mountains with stories that illustrate the character of the mountain people. Pictures are on each page.*
- Curry, J.L.M. Education in the southern states. (Rev. of rev. 20: 185-87, Aug. '99).  
*Analysis -- Describes the lack of money for education in the South after the Civil War, although he notes that the area lack universal opportunities for advancement before the War, too. Amid many clichés, the author proposes education as a means of advancement of our democracy.*
- Dawley, T.R. Our southern mountaineers. (World's work, 10: 1270-414, Mar. '10).  
An agent of the U.S. government gives the results of an investigation of the living conditions among 5000 mountain people of Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. He favors moving the people away to better environments instead of trying to do missionary work among them.  
*Analysis -- After a study of the mountain "problem" his conclusion is to move everyone to work in the cotton mills of the lowland South. He derides efforts to help the people. "To keep them there by schools and churches is useless."*
- Elliott, A.S. The Kentucky mountaineer. (Bibliotheca sacra, 63: 487-509, July '06).  
*Essay -- This is a serious attempt to move beyond some of the stereotypes portrayed in the literature of the day and look at some of the reasons behind predominant traits of the mountaineer.*
- Erskine, R. The craftsmanship of the mountaineers of the Blue Ridge. illus. (Craftsman, 13: 158-67, Nov. 1907).  
Spinning, weaving, basket-making, pottery-making, etc. as practiced among the mountain folk.  
*Description -- The vignettes on the weavers are especially charming. He gives the exact time required to make a "counterpane." He also visit with basket makers and potters. Eight photographs accompany the text.*
- Fox, John, jr. The southern mountaineer. (Scrib. M. 29: 387-89, April, 1901; 556-70, May 1901).  
Interesting anecdotes and pictures, showing the more intimate side of the lives of the mountain people.  
*Description & Analysis -- He attempts to explain how isolation has formed the character of the mountaineer with more insight than would have been expected. For the development of the mountains, he proposes the ratio of 4 schools to every one church as ideal. Illustrated with paintings of mountain life.*
- Fox, John, jr. On horseback to Kingdom Come. (Scrib. M. 48: 175-86, Aug. 1910).  
*Travelogue -- Years after writing the book of the "little shepherd" Fox takes a journey to the site of the novel. He encounters people who could have been the prototypes for his characters. Drawings accompany the text.*
- On the road to Hell-fer-Sartain. (Scrib. M. 48: 350-61, Sept. 1910).

- Travelogue -- This essay tells of the horse back ride of Mr. Fox to Hell-fer-Sartain. It seems he had become famous for writing a story about the place and wanted to visit the actual site of the story. Drawings accompany the text.*
- On the trail of the Lonesome Pine. (Scrib. M. 48:417-29, Oct. 1910).  
*Travelogue -- Fox travels to the site of yet another of his stories. He describes the people he meets along the way and actually discovers a "lone pine" that is a legendary meeting place. Drawings accompany the text.*
- Frost, W.G. Our contemporary ancestors in the southern mountains. (Atlantic, 83: 311-19, March, 1899).  
*Analysis -- President Frost of Berea College describes how lack of communication with the rest of the country froze the Appalachian Mountains in history. He proposes to put them in step "with the world" through education. The goals of that education should be to make them "intelligent without making them sophisticated" and to be "able to help themselves."*
- The southern mountaineer, our kindred of the Boone and Lincoln type. (Rev. of rev., 21: 303-311, Mar. 1900).  
 The President of Berea college praises the sturdy character of the people, tells of their needs, and of the work of his college.  
*Analysis -- Frost explains the heroic place that mountain men have taken in the wars the USA has fought. He outlines the different forms of education that are available to mountain people at Berea, both at the school and the extension work. Many photographs of mountain scenes, Berea students, and crafts.*
- Hamilton, S.A. The new race question in the South. (Arena, 27: 352-58, Ap., 1902).  
 The "Crackers" of the far South -- the new race which will dominate the political and industrial economic of the South.  
*Analysis -- Explains the rise of the lower class of whites in the South with the help of industrialists from the North to form the people who will lead the "New South."*
- Haywood, A.G. The South and the school problem. (Harper's M., 79: 225-31, July 1889).  
*Analysis -- Quotes amounts spent on education in different southern states and concludes that much more needs to be spend. The final section of the paper deals with the current educational opportunities for the "Negro," both basic and higher education.*
- (Life in the Kentucky mountains, by a Mountaineer. (Indep., 65: 72-82) July 9, 1908).  
 Quaint autobiography in homely language. (Written "By a Mountaineer" but the name Samuel Johnson is revealed in the text.)  
*Description -- The author tells about his growing up (a dog and a banjo his main companions), his courtship, and establishing a homestead. It never explained how he acquired the education to be able to write the article. Several photographs illustrate the text.*
- Neve, F.W. Virginia mountain folk. (Outlook, 93: 825-29, Dec. 11, 1909).  
 The Archdeacon of the Blue Ridge tells how his first mission house and home for workers was built. He says that industrial schools train people to make the most and best of what they have, to build better homes, and deal with conditions surrounding them in a more intelligent and successful manner.  
*Description -- This piece starts out with a story of wife beating. It describes resistance to the mission work, but gradual acceptance. A small cottage hospital was established, with plans for an industrial school.*

- Norman, H.D. The English of the mountaineers. (*Atlantic*, 105: 276-78, Feb. 1910).  
 Comparison of the mountain dialects with the English of Shakespeare's time.  
*Analysis -- Comparing the language used in the mountains with exact passages of Shakespeare. Many colorful phrases of mountain speech are given.*
- Ralph, Julian. Our Appalachian Americans. (*Harper's M.*, 107: 32-41, June 1903. (illus.)  
 Good description with humorous anecdotes, of home life in the Kentucky mountains.  
*Description -- Although the author states that the feuds of the mountains are overstated, he hits on most of the usual stereotypes in his description of a journey to the mountains. The article is illustrated with several line drawings including one of an old spinner and a mother with two small children labeled "The women are all drudges after marriage."*
- Revere, C.T. Beyond the Gap, the breeding ground of feuds. (*Outing*, 49: 609-21, Feb. 1907). (illus.)  
 Experiences of the former member of the U.S. Geological Surveys in the Cumberland Gap region of Kentucky, the stronghold of moonshiners and the breeding ground of feuds.  
*Travelogue -- Yet another ride into the mountains and the unusual sights and people encountered. Feuds and moonshining mix with tales of mountain hospitality. Illustrated with seven photographs, most of them full page -- family groups and homes.*
- Waldo, Frank. Among the southern Appalachians. (*N. Eng. M.*, n.s., 24: 231-47, May, 1901).  
 Describes the region about Asheville, North Carolina, the scenes of many of Miss Murfree's stories. The author says she idealized the ordinary life of the mountaineers, but commends her descriptions and portrayals of character.  
*Description -- Starts with the idea of a national park in the southern mountain region. Describes the topology and climate of the land before he gets into the characteristics of Miss Murfree's "people." Photographs are on almost every page, mostly of mountain scenes with a very few people and cabins.*

Other periodicals which contain material on this subject:

Quarterly magazine of the Southern Industrial Education Association, Washington, D.C.  
*Organized in 1905 this organization sponsored industrial arts teachers in mountain schools and sold handcrafted products of the mountains in Washington, D.C. Other chapters were established in New York and Philadelphia. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson supported their activities.*

Cotton (monthly) published in Atlanta, Ga.

The Home mission boards of the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational, and other churches publish helpful material.