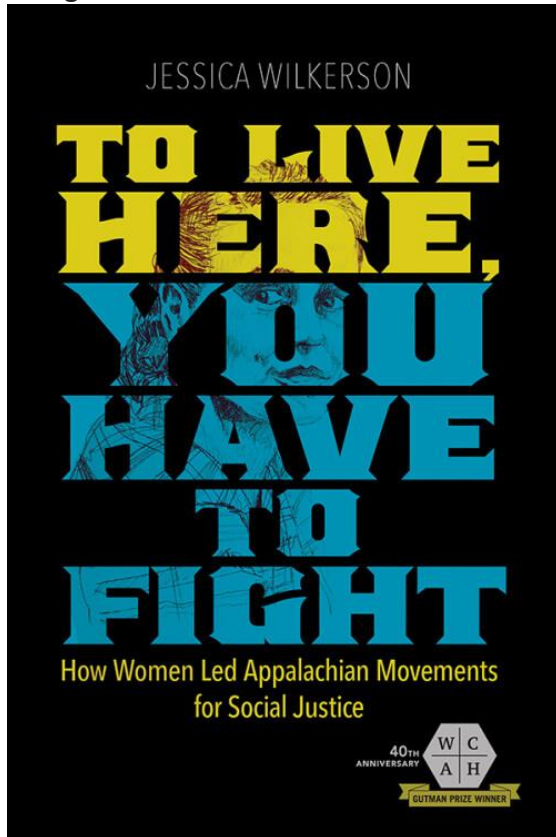


Welcome to [Radio Bristol Book Club](#) where readers from BCM and the [Bristol Public Library](#) come together each month to celebrate and explore books inspired by our region's rich Appalachian cultural and musical heritage! We invite you to read along and then listen to [Radio Bristol](#) on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon when we dig deep into the themes and questions raised by the books, learn more about the authors, and celebrate the joys of being a bookworm!



In *To Live Here, You Have To Fight: How Women led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice*, Jessica Wilkerson uses a variety of sources, including manuscripts, newspapers, journals, oral histories, and digital collections to analyze the role of white Appalachian women as leaders and soldiers in the war on poverty of the 1960s and 1970s. While improvements in machinery contributed to the mass production and sale of goods, safe working conditions and proper compensation seemed nonexistent for many working class or poor Appalachians. Wilkerson argues that women expanded the definition of their traditional role as caregivers and pulled upon decades of experience in activism and community service to fight for social justice in the coal industry and their communities. Wilkerson focuses on working class white women in coal communities and their motives, lives, and decisions that impacted larger scale movements. She places a particular emphasis on the relationship between poor working conditions and the importance of access to health care. She also shows how these women formed surprising coalitions with black women, disabled miners, and others to fight for causes ranging from poor people's rights to healthcare to unionization.



Dr. Jessica Wilkerson is an associate professor of history and the Stuart and Joyce Robbins Chair at West Virginia University. *To Live Here, You Have To Fight: How Women led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice* was published in 2019 and is her first book. The book is part of University of Illinois Press's Working Class in American History Series. The book received the H.L. Mitchell Prize and honorable mention by the Philip Taft Labor History Book Award. With the support of a Carnegie Fellowship she is currently working on two books, *A Women's History of Appalachia* and *In Sisterhood, In Struggle: Feminisms in the American South*.

Please make plans to join us on **Thursday, March 23 at 12:00pm** for our discussion of *To Live Here, You Have To Fight: How Women led Appalachian Movements for Social Justice*. You can find us on the dial at 100.1 FM, [streaming live on Radio Bristol](#), or via the Radio Bristol app. The book is available at the Bristol Public Library, so be sure to pick up a copy and read it ahead of time. The librarians will be happy to help you find it! We look forward to exploring this book on-air, and if you have thoughts or questions about the book that you would like to share with our readers, you can email info@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org (Subject line: Radio Bristol Book Club) – your book insights might appear on air with us!

Looking ahead: Our book pick for April is *Mountain Jack Tales* by Gail Haley; we'll be discussing it on **Thursday, April 27**. Check out a full list of the books we have read in 2023 [here](#), where you can also listen to archived shows.

Erika Barker is Curatorial Manager at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum and an avid reader.