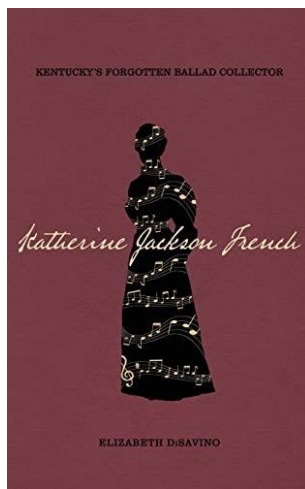


## Katherine Jackson French: Kentucky's Forgotten Ballad Hunter by Elizabeth DiSavino

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!

The second woman to earn a PhD from Columbia University—and the first from south of the Mason-Dixon Line to do so—Kentucky native Katherine Jackson French broke boundaries. Her research kick-started a resurgence of Appalachian music that continues to this day, but French's collection of traditional Kentucky ballads, which should have been her crowning scholarly achievement, never saw print.

Katherine Jackson French: Kentucky's Forgotten Ballad Collector tells the story of what might have been. Drawing on never-before-seen artifacts from French's granddaughter, Elizabeth DiSavino reclaims the life and legacy of this pivotal scholar by emphasizing the ways her work shaped and could reshape our conceptions about Appalachia.



A lifelong musician, writer, songwriter, and teacher, Elizabeth DiSavino holds a deep reverence for traditional music and the stories behind it. Since 2011, she has been an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Berea College where she also leads the Berea College Folk-Roots Ensemble and is Director of the Celebration of Traditional Music.



Please make plans to join us on Thursday, May 25th at 12:00pm for our discussion of Katherine Jackson French: Kentucky's Forgotten Ballad Collector. 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](mailto:info@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org) (Subject line: Radio Bristol Book Club) – your book insights might appear on air with us!

Looking ahead: Our book pick for June is *Affrilachia* by Frank X. Walker; we'll be discussing it on Thursday, June 22nd. Check out a full list of the books we have read in 2023 [here](#), where you can also listen to archived shows.

*Tonia Kestner is the Executive Director of the Bristol Public Library and an avid reader.*