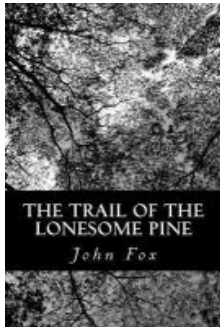
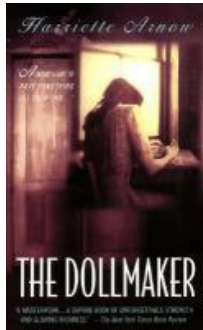


Early Authors

John Fox, Jr. (1862-1919) was born in Kentucky, but was Harvard educated and worked as a journalist in New York City before becoming a novelist. He lived in Big Stone Gap, VA and the “June Tolliver House” there is a museum named for one of his characters. An outdoor drama of his book The Trail of the Lonesome Pine has been staged for over 60 years.

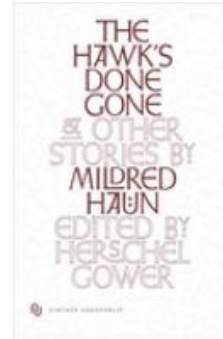
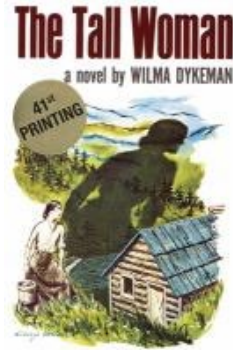
James Still (1906-2001) wrote short stories, poetry, and a highly acclaimed novel. Published in 1940, River of Earth tells the story of a family struggling between eking out a living farming or working in the mines.



Harriette Simpson Arnow (1908-1986) was born in Kentucky and attended Berea College, but lived her later life in Michigan. She worked as a teacher in Appalachia early in her life, and used that experience in some of her writing. The Dollmaker is her most famous book, about an Appalachian

family who moves to Detroit in hopes of bettering themselves economically.

Mildred Haun (1911-1966) produced one book of short stories, The Hawk's Done Gone in 1940. The stories are set from the Civil War to 1940, and include some harsh themes and folk beliefs. The collection was reprinted with some additional stories after Haun's death.



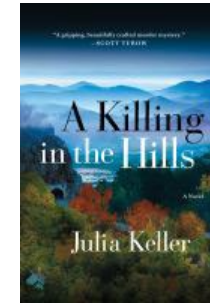
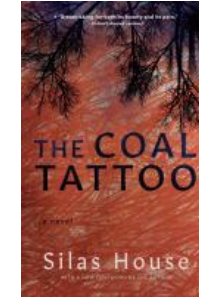
Wilma Dykeman (1920-2006) was born in what is now Asheville, NC. She married James R. Stokely, Jr. and they co-authored several non-fiction books, including 1957's Neither Black Nor White about race relations in the South. Her novel The Tall Woman is set in North Carolina after the Civil War where Lydia McQueen tries to hold her family together despite deep divides caused by the War.

Recent Authors

Lee Smith was born in Grundy, VA and began writing stories in elementary school. She is the author of many

acclaimed novels and short story collections, including Family Linen, Black Mountain Breakdown, Fair and Tender Ladies, and Devil's Dream.

Silas House was working as a rural mail carrier just before he sold his first novel, Clay's Quilt. Clay Sizemore is a young miner who is falling in love with Alma, a talented fiddler trying to escape an abusive husband. Other titles include A Parchment of Leaves and The Coal Tattoo.



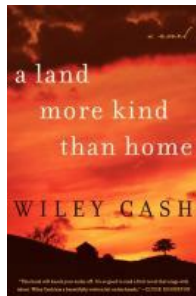
Sharyn McCrumb is best known for her *Ballad* novels set in Appalachia. Many draw on regional history and legends as part of the story. Titles include She Walks These Hills, Unquiet Grave, The Ballad of Tom Dooley, and The Devil Amongst the Lawyers.

Julia Keller was a journalist before turning her attention to fiction. Her *Bell Elkins* series follows a prosecutor in the rural West Virginia town of Acker's Gap. In A Killing in the Hills, the first book in the series, three men are gunned down in a local dinner in broad daylight. To

make matters worse, one of the witnesses was Bell's own teenage daughter. Keller shows both the beauty and the troubles of the area, and the harm addiction brings.

Ron Rash is known for both his novels and his short stories which portray life in the Appalachian region. A professor and a poet, Rash's stories can be gritty and beautiful at the same time. His stories are set in various time periods but all are memorable. Burning Bright is a superb collection of his stories; novels include The Cove and Serena.

Wiley Cash writes about his native North Carolina in his gothic, character-driven novels. Like Rash, Cash doesn't hesitate to show the darker side of human nature but love can be a powerful countermeasure. His first novel was A Land More Kind Than Home.



Ann Pancake grew up in West Virginia and her writing tends to be set in the Appalachian region. Her work includes novel, short stories, and essays. Strange

as This Weather Has Been is a contemporary novel about a family dealing with the rise and fall of the mining industry and mountaintop removal.

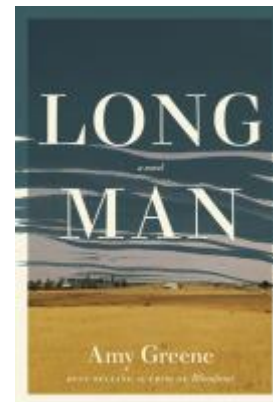
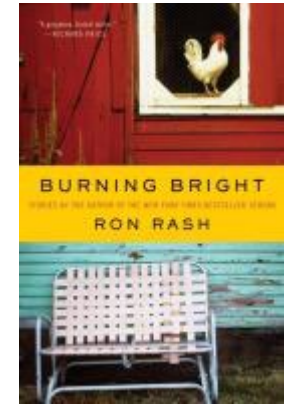
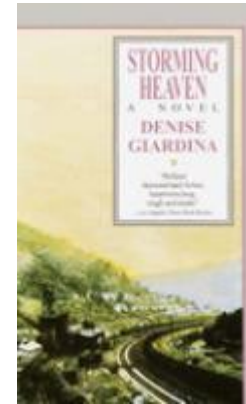
Amy Greene writes novels set in East Tennessee. Long Man is set in 1936, when the TVA wants to dam the river and flood the surrounding communities. Annie Clyde Dotson's family has lived on this land for generations, and she is determined to try to hold on to it for her daughter.

Denise Giardina writes a variety of historical fiction. Born in Bluefield, WV, she is the author of two acclaimed Appalachian novels. Storming Heaven begins in the 1890s, when miners began to unionize; Unquiet Earth picks up in the 1930s. Giardina likes to tell her stories through her characters, presenting different viewpoints.

Brian Panowich writes gritty thrillers that have been dubbed "Country Noir" for vivid landscapes and violent crime. In Bull Mountain, a sheriff whose family has lived on the land for generations has to contend with balancing duty and family ties.

Other authors to consider: **Adriana Trigiani, Jesse Stuart, Barbara Kingsolver, Robert Morgan, Charles Frazier**

Appalachian Fiction



701 Goode Street
Bristol, Virginia 24201
www.bristol-library.org