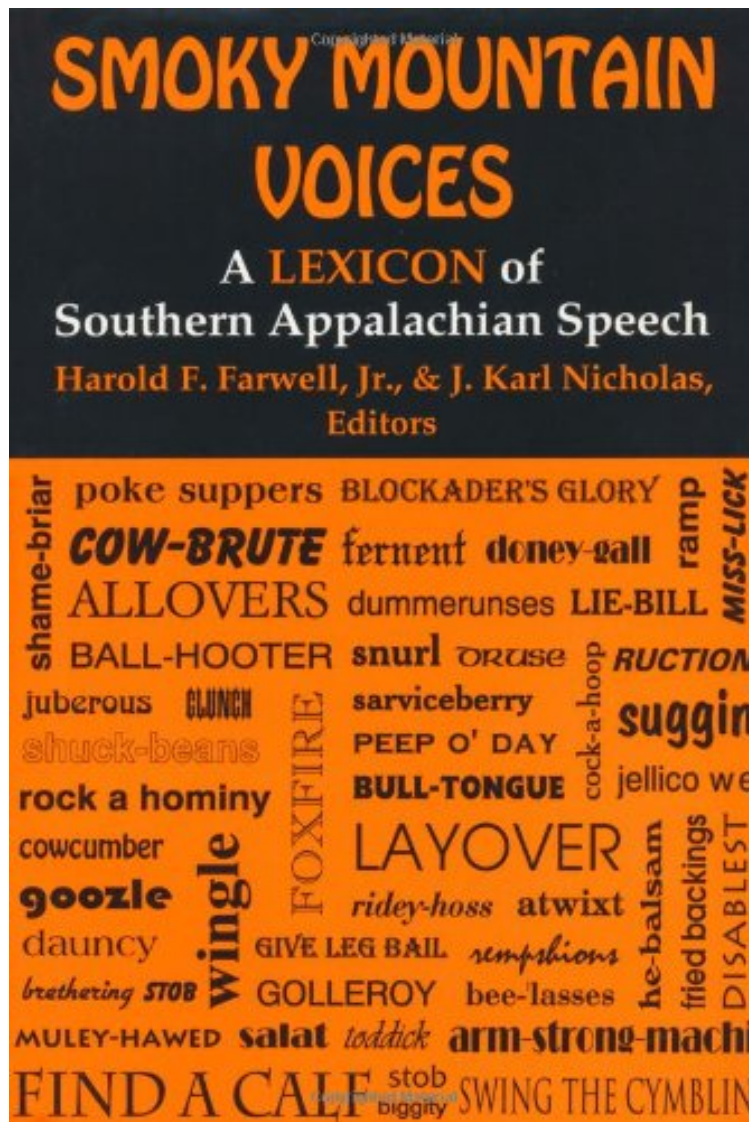


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Smoky Mountain Voices: A Lexicon of Southern Appalachian Speech Based on the Research of Horace Kephart

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Smokey mountain Voices is invaluable to meBy CovewriterI know some of the old-time Smokey Mountain dialect because of my grandparents. It was a blast to read this and better understand why they used certain phrases. I'm so glad Kephart chronicled this. Some phrases and structures go back to Scotch- Irish ancestors. Some Appalachian speech that comes across as unintelligent is simply a carry over from another language and time. I loved this book. I learned more than I thought I would. The knowledge helps me with dialogue in short stories based on my family in Appalachia.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Useful book if you have a need for this kind of informationBy Sam I AmI purchased this book to use as part of a research project which required "translating" traditional Southern American speech patterns into standard spoken English. The book was extremely useful and well worth the money I paid for it.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reading this makes me hear long lost family voices - LOVE ITBy Issuba LusaMy husband says that when I read from this book, my Appalachian accent comes back for several hours. As I read, I hear the voices of long lost family members. It is a taste of home and I love it!

" A stingy man "won't drink branch water till there's a flood," and it is "a mighty triflin' sort o' man'd let either his dog or his woman starve." Some places are "so crowded you couldn't cuss a cat without gettin' fur in your mouth." For almost thirty years Horace Kephart collected sayings like these from his neighbors and friends in the area around Bryson City, North Carolina. Kephart, a librarian with an interest in languages and in the American Frontier, left his career and his family in midlife to settle in what was at the turn of the century the wilds of the Great Smokey Mountains. An assiduous collector and observer, he compiled twenty-six journals of notes on the folkways and speech of the Southern Appalachians at a time when the region was still largely isolated. Smokey Mountain Voices is a dictionary of Southern Appalachian speech based on Kephart's journals and publications; it is also a compendium of mountain lore. Harold Farwell and J. Karl Nicholas have compiled not only quaint and peculiar words, but jokes and comic exchanges. Many of the "ordinary" words that comprised an important part of the language of the mountaineers are preserved here thanks to Kephart's meticulous collecting. The editors have incorporated the original quotations with Kephart's definitions and explanations to create a rich source for the study of southern mountain speech. And within the echoes of these Smokey Mountain voices exists some of the joy and fullness of life that Horace Kephart shared and recorded.

"A delight. It belongs in all Appalachian Studies collections and is invaluable to any serious student of Appalachian language and dialect. It is just plain fun for the browser who like words of is interested in Appalachian speech and expressions." -- Now ThenAbout the AuthorHarold F. Farwell Jr. and J. Karl Nicholas are professors of English at Western Carolina University, whose library houses the major collection of Horace Kephart materials.