

Plain Folk Historiography

Year	Reference
2016	Nancy Isenberg, <i>White Trash. The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America</i> (New York: Penguin Books, 2016). Recommended by Dr. Marvin HIST 4306, Fall 2018.
2006	Kathleen DuVal, <i>The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent</i> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006). Recommended by Dr. Marvin HIST 4306, Fall 2018.
2005	Samuel C. Hyde, " Plain Folk Reconsidered: Historiographical Ambiguity in Search of Definition ," <i>The Journal of Southern History</i> 71, no. 4 (2005): 803-30. doi:10.2307/27648905. Underrepresented/Overlooked: Hyde notes, "The characteristics of plain folk are neither as clearly defined nor as well understood" (803). "Both popular accounts and serious scholarship overlooked or dismissed common southerners until the late 1940s, when Frank L. Owsley challenged the prevailing stereotype by producing the first serious consideration of the largest population group in the Old South" (805). Definition: Hyde notes that with "few exceptions, scholars have conformed to Owsley's position" that plain folk were "the body of middling southerners" who "overwhelmingly concentrated on agricultural enterprises" (812). Through a "synthesis of current historiography," Hyde adds that, more specifically, plain folk are those individuals "engaged in agricultural activities who cultivated approximately 150 acres or less and, if they owned slaves, owned fewer than ten" (813). He notes, plain folk is "not synonymous with <i>middle class</i> , but, instead, plain folk are those among the middle class who farmed" (813).
2000	Edward F. Haas, " Plain Folk of the South Revisited. Edited by Samuel C. Hyde, Jr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997. xxii, 288 pp. Acknowledgments, contributors, index. Cloth \$55.00, ISBN 0-8071-2200-9; Paper \$16.95, ISBN 0-8071- 2237-8)," <i>Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association</i> 41, no. 3 (2000): 373-75. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/4233687 .
1997	Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., ed., <i>Plain Folk of the South Revisited</i> (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997).
1987	Donald L. Winters, " 'Plain Folk' of the Old South Reexamined: Economic Democracy in Tennessee ," <i>The Journal of Southern History</i> 53, no. 4 (1987): 565-86. doi:10.2307/2208775.
1986	John Solomon Otto, " 'On a Slow Train through Arkansaw': Creating an Image for a Mountain State ," <i>Appalachian Journal</i> 14, no. 1 (1986): 70-74. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/40932861 .
1985	John Solomon Otto, " Reconsidering the Southern 'Hillbilly': Appalachia and the Ozarks ," <i>Appalachian Journal</i> 12, no. 4 (1985): 324-31. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/40920908 , 324-329.
1985	John Solomon Otto, " The Migration of the Southern Plain Folk: An Interdisciplinary Synthesis ," <i>The Journal of Southern History</i> 51, no. 2 (1985): 183-200. doi:10.2307/2208824. Disbursement: Otto notes "It is well known that farmers and livestock herders—not wealthy, slaveholding planters—led the westward movement across the southern frontier, settling the Old Southwest, the lower portions of the Old Northwest, and much of the New Southwest during the antebellum period" (183). References Bridenbaugh (185).
1983	John Solomon Otto, "Southern 'Plain Folk' Agriculture," <i>Plantation Society in the Americas</i> , 2 (April 1983), 29-31 .
1983	John Solomon Otto, "The Decline of Forest Farming in Southern Appalachia," <i>Journal of Forestry</i> , 27

Year	Reference
	(January 1983), 18-27.
1982	John Solomon Otto and Ben Wayne Banks, " The Banks Family of Yell County, Arkansas: A 'Plain Folk' Family of the Highlands South. " <i>The Arkansas Historical Quarterly</i> 41, no. 2 (1982): 146-67. doi:10.2307/40027679.
1982	John Solomon Otto and G. D. Gilbert, "The Plain Folk Of The American South: An Archeological Perspective," <i>Pioneer America</i> 14, no. 2 (1982): 67-80. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/29763639 , 67.
1982	John Solomon Otto and Nain Estelle Anderson. " The Diffusion of Upland South Folk Culture, 1790-1840. " <i>Southeastern Geographer</i> 22, no. 2 (1982): 89-98. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/44370658 . Definition: Otto and Anderson note the term "plain folk" was applied to the Upland Southerners by historian Frank Lawrence Owsley in his monograph, <i>Plain Folk of the Old South</i> (89). Notes the 'Upland South' model does not explain why Owsley's plain folk "dispersed so rapidly across the South, or why so few people claimed so much territory, or why families moved so frequently, or why the Backcountry agriculture and economy proved so 'adaptable' to the Southern frontier" (89).
1981	John Solomon Otto, "Upland South Folk Culture," <i>Mid-America Folklore</i> , 9 (Winter 1981), 76-81; Owsley , "Plain Folk," pp. 41-7.
1981	John Solomon Otto. "Oral Traditional History in the Southern Highlands." <i>Appalachian Journal</i> 9, no. 1 (1981): 20-31. http://0-www.jstor.org.library.ualr.edu/stable/40932420 .
1980	Forrest McDonald and Grady McWhiney, "The South from Self-Sufficiency to Peonage: An Interpretation," <i>American Historical Review</i> , 85 (December 1980), 1115-8.
1979	J. Wayne Flynt, <i>Dixie's Forgotten People: The South's Poor Whites</i> (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979), pp. 136-40.
1978	Ronald D Eller, "Industrialization and Social Change in Appalachia, 1880-1930: A New Look at the Static Image," in <i>Colonialism in Modern America: The Appalachian Case</i> , ed. Helen M. Lewis, Linda Johnson, and Donald Askins (Boone: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1978), pp. 40-2.
1977	M. Thomas Inge, "The Appalachian Backgrounds of Billy DeBeck's Snuffy Smith," <i>Appalachian Journal</i> , 4 (Winter 1977), pp. 120-32.
1977	Hal Seth Barron, "A Case for Appalachian Demographic History," <i>Appalachian Journal</i> , 4 (Spring-Summer 1977), 208
1977	Appalachian Oral History Project, <i>The Appalachian Oral History Project: Union Catalog</i> (Pippa Passes, Ky.: Alice Lloyd College, [1977]).
1977	Laurel Shackelford and Bill Weinberg, eds., <i>Our Appalachia: An Oral History</i> (New York: Hill and Wang, 1977).
1976	Richard B. Drake, "Jack and Clio in Appalachia: Comments on Regional Historiography," <i>Appalachian Notes</i> , 4 (First Quarter, 1976), 1-8
1976	Maurice Horn, ed., <i>The World Encyclopedia of Comics</i> (New York: Chelsea House Pub.,1976), pp. 99-

Year	Reference
	100, 450-1.
1976	Charlotte T. Ross, ed., <i>Bibliography of Southern Appalachia</i> (Boone, N.C.: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1976).
1972	Gratis D. Williams, "Who Are the Southern Mountaineers?" <i>Appalachian Journal</i> , 1 (Winter 1972), 49, 54.
1972	See Sam B. Hilliard, <i>Hog Meat and Hoecake: Food Supply in the Old South</i> (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1972), p. 136.
1969	Flynt, Dixie's Forgotten People, pp. 142-4; Gordon F. DeJong, "Ebb in the Exodus?" <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 45 (October 1969), 6-11, 22.
1969	Frank L. Owsley , "Plain Folk and Their Role in Southern History," in <i>The South: Old and New Frontiers</i> , ed. Harriet C. Owsley (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1969), p. 36.
1965	Archie Green, "Hillbilly Music: Source and Symbol," <i>Journal of American Folklore</i> , 78 (July 1965), 204.
1963	R.N.S. Harris, G.S. Tolley, and A.J. Coutu, "Cropland Reversion in the South," <i>Agricultural Economics Information Series No. 1 00</i> (Raleigh: North Carolina State College, 1963), 44-7.
1963	Harry M. Caudill, <i>Night Comes to the Cumberlands: A Biography of a Depressed Area</i> (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1963), pp. 98-9
1962	Edward W. Phifer, "Slavery in Microcosm: Burke County, North Carolina," <i>Journal of Southern History</i> , 28 (May 1962), 137-65.
1962	James Brown and George Hillery, Jr., "The Great Migration, 1940-1960," in <i>The Southern Appalachian Region: A Survey</i> , ed. Thomas Ford (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1962), pp. 54-78
1962	Michael Harrington, <i>The Other America: Poverty in the United States</i> (New York: MacMillan Co., 1962), pp. 40-3, 96.
1958	Albert N. Votaw, "The Hillbillies Invade Chicago," <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , 216 (February 1958), pp. 64-7
1952	Carl Bridenbaugh , <i>Myths & Realities: Societies of the Colonial South</i> (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952; New York: Atheneum, 1963).
1950	Lewis Atherton, " Plain Folk of the Old South. By Frank Lawrence Owsley (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949. xxi + 235 pp. Maps, tables, appendix, and index. \$3.50.)," <i>The Mississippi Valley Historical Review</i> 37, no. 1 (1950): 127-28. doi:10.2307/1888771. 127-128.
1949	Frank Lawrence Owsley , <i>Plain Folk of the Old South</i> , Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949. From the LSU website : "First published in 1949 . . . refuted the popular myth that the antebellum South contained only three classes—planters, poor whites, and slaves. Owsley draws on a wide range of source materials—firsthand accounts such as diaries and the published observations of travelers and journalists; church records; and county records, including wills, deeds, tax lists, and grand-jury reports—to accurately reconstruct the prewar South's large and significant "yeoman farmer" middle class. He follows the history of this group, beginning with their migration from the Atlantic states into

Year	Reference
------	-----------

the frontier South, charts their property holdings and economic standing, and tells of the rich texture of their lives: the singing schools and corn shuckings, their courtship rituals and revival meetings, barn raisings and logrollings, and contests of marksmanship and horsemanship such as "snuffing the candle," "driving the nail," and the "gander pull." A new introduction by John B. Boles explains why this book remains the starting point today for the study of society in the Old South."

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1944 | Norman W. Caldwell, "Place Names and Place Name Study." <i>The Arkansas Historical Quarterly</i> 3, no. 1 (1944): 28-36. doi:10.2307/40027461. In quoting Whitbeck , Caldwell writes, "People who have lived in a region in a particular periods 'have, unintentionally, registered their nationality, or their likes and dislikes, or their political or religious beliefs, or have preserved the evidence of waves of popular feeling which at times pass over the country'" (29). |
| 1938 | Alva W. Taylor, "Sub-Marginal Standards of Living in the Southern Mountains," <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 14 (July 1938), 13. |
| 1935 | Conrad Hammar, "Institutional Aspects of Ozark Decline," <i>Journal of Forestry</i> , 33 (October 1935), 843-50. |
| 1935 | Bureau of Agricultural Economics, "Economic and Social Problems of the Southern Appalachians," <i>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publications No. 205</i> (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), 9-10. |
| 1935 | Everett E. Edwards, "References on the Mountaineers of the Southern Appalachians," <i>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bibliographical Contributions</i> , No. 28 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935) |
| 1933 | L.C. Gray, "Economic Conditions and Tendencies in the Appalachians," <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 9 (July 1933), 9. |
| 1931 | Charles D. Lewis, "Government Forests and the Mountain Problem," <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 6 (January 1931), 4-5. |
| 1929 | W .A. Browne, "Some Frontier Conditions in the Hilly Portion of the Ozarks," <i>Journal of Geography</i> , 28 (May 1929), 181-6. |
| 1929 | Arthur H. Estabrook, "The Population of the Ozarks," <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 5 (April 1929), 27. |
| 1929 | Rupert B. Vance, <i>Human Factors in Cotton Culture</i> (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1929), map facing page 14. |
| 1927 | Thomas Cooper, "What Is the Problem of Mountain Agriculture?" <i>Mountain Life and Work</i> , 3 (July 1927), 13-15. |
| 1915 | William A. Bradley, "Hobnobbing with Hillbillies," <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , 132 (December 1915), 91-1 03. |
| 1913 | Ellen C. Semple, "The Anglo-Saxons of the Kentucky Mountains," <i>Geographical Journal</i> , 17 (June 1901), 600-3. |
| 1913 | Horace Kephart, <i>Our Southern Highlanders</i> (New York: Outing Pub. Co., 1913), pp. 42-3, 123. |
| 1912 | <i>The History Teacher's Magazine</i> , iii 4 (April 1912). "In the <i>Independent</i> of 29 February, Ray H. |

Year Reference

Whitbeck, editor of the *Journal of Geography*, discusses with numerous examples ‘The Meaning of the Names of Places.’ ‘In this way (bestowing place names) people of a particular period or region or nationality, have, unintentionally, registered their nationality, or their likes and dislikes, or their political or religious beliefs, or have preserved the evidence of waves of popular feeling which at times pass over the country” (90).

1912 **Ray H. Whitbeck**, “The Meaning of the Names of Places,” *Independent*, LXXII, 444-446.

1899 **John C Branner**, "Some Old French Place Names in the State of Arkansas," *Modern Language Notes* 14, no. 2 (1899): 33-40. doi:10.2307/2917686. **Missing histories:** Branner notes, “The southern part of the state of Arkansas was early explored and settled by French traders and trappers. The history of these first settlers is mostly lost already, for they were **frontiersmen**, who left but few documents or other records by which their history can be traced . . . trappers and traders were the first white men to enter the state in considerable numbers” (33). **Point of entry into Arkansas:** Branner adds, “They did not enter the Ozark Mountain region because there are no navigable streams entering the Arkansas river from that direction, while the Upper White river is swift, and, in places, difficult of navigation” (33).

Plain folk working definition: Plain folk are “those among the middle class who farmed;” more specifically, “those engaged in agricultural activities who cultivated approximately 150 acres or less and, if they owned slaves, owned fewer than ten.”

“practiced a ‘grazing and farm economy,’ grazed cattle and hogs on the unfenced woodlands or open range, and the practiced ‘patch’ farming, clearing temporary fields, or ‘patches,’ from the forests, planting corn until yields declined, abandoning the old fields, and then clearing new fields from the remaining forests.”

Otto suggests “by 1861 . . . this way of life was common from Delaware to Texas.” In the Ozark plateaus of Missouri, he notes, “subsistence agriculture survived into the twentieth century.”

“Although overlooked by most American scholars, the sources for Southern mountain history are surprisingly plentiful.”

“The plain folk have remained an elusive topic since so few left written records such as letters and diaries describing their lives and thoughts.”