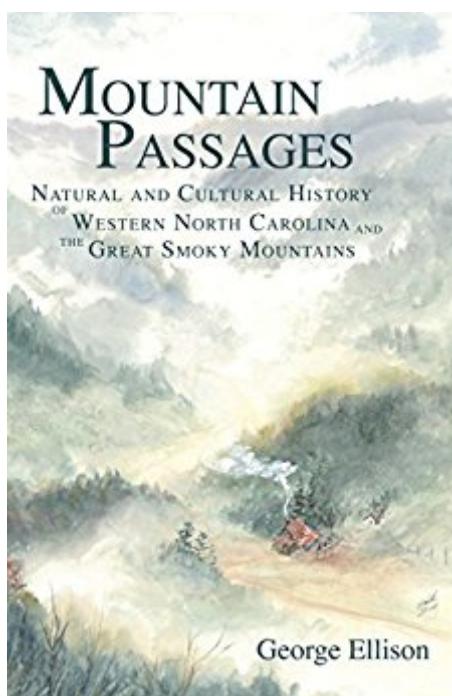


The book was found

Mountain Passages: Natural And Cultural History Of Western North Carolina And The Great Smoky Mountains (American Chronicles)



Synopsis

"I'm continually intrigued by the manner in which the natural and human histories of any given region overlap and eventually commingle. That process is ongoing, of course, anywhere one chooses to reside, but in no place I've experienced or read about is there a richer context than here in these mountains." This intriguing collection of intertwined essays results from writer George Ellison's thirty-year fascination with Western North Carolina and its Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains. Gathered into three broad sections--Natural History, Cherokees and Mountaineers--these insightful essays provide a wealth of historic detail and offer a window onto the rich cultural heritage of this stunning and oft-misunderstood part of the country. Through a diverse cast of characters including early explorers and European plant hunters, a Cherokee shaman or two, weather sharps, a hermit, a moonshiner, several writers of note, ornithologists and naturalists, we hear stories in a distinctly Appalachian tone and gain an understanding of mountain life and lore. We develop a new language fit for mountain life, speaking of balds, knobs, gaps, seeps, springheads and shoals, and begin to understand the roots of the names Crooked Arm, Deeplow Gap and the Boogerman Trail. We see the world through the eyes of the ancient Cherokees, for whom the Nantahala Gorge, for example, was a "chasm of horrors" associated with the "uktena," a mythic serpent from the dreaded Under World.

Book Information

File Size: 1570 KB

Print Length: 164 pages

Publisher: The History Press (May 1, 2005)

Publication Date: May 1, 2005

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00XQK6P5A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #418,252 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #95

Customer Reviews

George Ellison's easy going writings take you on a tour of the people, culture, and majestic mountains of Western North Carolina. I thoroughly enjoyed the ride.

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