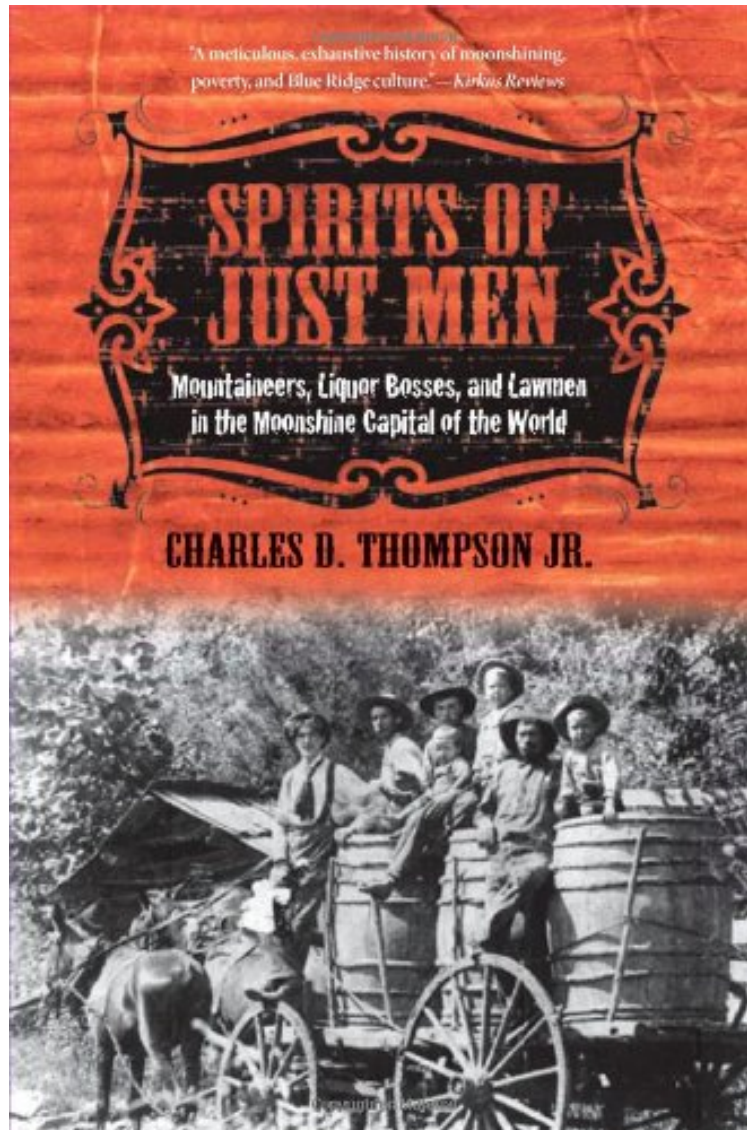


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Spirits of Just Men: Mountaineers, Liquor Bosses, and Lawmen in the Moonshine Capital of the World

Charles D. Thompson Jr.

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Charles D. Thompson Jr. : Spirits of Just Men: Mountaineers, Liquor Bosses, and Lawmen in the Moonshine Capital of the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirits of Just Men: Mountaineers, Liquor Bosses, and Lawmen in the Moonshine Capital of the World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazing book, both in terms of the personal content ...By

William M. May This is an amazing book, both in terms of the personal content and the historical research. The author is related to several of the people who feature as historical figures within the larger narrative context of the book. Overall, Thompson does a fantastic job of portraying the good and the bad of Franklin County--the violence and corruption intermingled with the stories of honest, hard-working men driven by poverty and lack of options into the trade of illegal stilling. If you enjoy, or are interested in learning more about, the history and culture of Appalachia and its long-standing ties to whiskey-making, this is a great point of departure. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well Researched Book By Nancy Myers My ancestry traces back to Franklin, Floyd and Patrick counties. The economic impacts and migration of subsequent generations ring true throughout my family tree. I especially appreciate the author's discussion of the historical roots of these Scots-Irish settlers and the Primitive Baptist Church. I learned a lot from this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read and a parallel to problems we have today By Customer Reading now and it is an awakening. A lot of background on the culture and need for Moonshine. A great read and a parallel to problems we have today. Maybe the drug problem in the US and a lot of the poverty has similar roots as the Moonshiners.

Spirits of Just Men tells the story of moonshine in 1930s America, as seen through the remarkable location of Franklin County, Virginia, a place that many still refer to as the "moonshine capital of the world." Charles D. Thompson Jr. chronicles the Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935, which made national news and exposed the far-reaching and pervasive tendrils of Appalachia's local moonshine economy. Thompson, whose ancestors were involved in the area's moonshine trade and trial as well as local law enforcement, uses the event as a stepping-off point to explore Blue Ridge Mountain culture, economy, and political engagement in the 1930s. Drawing from extensive oral histories and local archival material, he illustrates how the moonshine trade was a rational and savvy choice for struggling farmers and community members during the Great Depression.

"This informative, engaging work wonderfully reveals the culture and colorful history of a region with intimate ties to the illegal production and distribution of alcohol during 'Prohibition.'" --Booklist