

A Country/Delta Blues Bibliography (I have read all of these books at least once)

“The Land Where The Blues Began” by Alan Lomax - Probably the best book that I have ever read about origins of the blues, west African culture, and how it all fits together by the definitive authority, Alan Lomax. There is also a companion CD.

“Bill Wyman’s Blues Odyssey: A Journey to Music’s Heart & Soul” by Bill Wyman - Lots of photographs and an interesting view of the story of the blues told by the original bass player of the Rolling Stones. There is also a companion DVD and CD.

“Escaping The Delta - Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues” by Elijah Wald - The life of Robert Johnson that also tells of what he listened to to construct his own songs. There is also a companion CD that demonstrates this.

“King of the Delta Blues - The Life and Music of Charlie Patton” by Stephen Calt and Gayle Wardlow - All you would ever want to know about one of the first recorded blues artists.

“Searching For Robert Johnson” by Peter Guralnick - A good, quick read about Robert Johnson.

“I’d Rather Be The Devil - Skip James & the Blues” by Stephen Calt - The haunting story of one of the most unique Delta bluesmen.

“The World Don’t Owe Me Nothing” by David “Honeyboy” Edwards - An autobiography told to Janis Martinson and Michael Robert Frank of one of the last Delta Bluesmen. I went on tour with him in 2006.

Bonus: “Desperate Man Blues: Discovering the Roots of American Music” - A DVD of Joe Bussard who spent his whole live collecting old '78 records and was one of the most respected collectors in the nation. I visited Joe in Frederick, Maryland in April of 2012 and the movie does justice to his collection.