

FREE SAMPLE

The Holler Handbook: Complete Collection

Volumes 1–4

BY STEPHANIE WOODIE

A taste of every volume: words, sayings, a mountain remedy and a story from home.



From Volume 1: The Dictionary

D

Dab-nabbit (DAB-nab-it) *interjection* A mild expression of frustration or annoyance.

"Dab-nabbit, I missed the nail and hit my thumb with the hammer!"

Dad-burned *adjective* A mild emphasis or substitute for a swear word.

"That dad-burned truck won't start again!"

Directly (die-RECK-lee) *adverb* In a little while; soon.

"I'll be there directly, just let me finish my coffee."

Do-less *adjective* Lazy, shiftless, or lacking ambition.

"He's a do-less fellow, just sits on the porch all day."

Dog-tired *adjective* Completely exhausted.

"We were dog-tired after a twelve-hour day in the bean fields."

Draw *noun* A small natural watercourse or a narrow gully.

"The deer ran down into the draw to hide."

Dry-wash *noun* A creek bed that only contains water after a heavy rain.

"The dry-wash turned into a river after that flash flood."

From Part Two: The Sayings

H

"Happy as a dead pig in the sunshine."

Completely content and oblivious; often used for someone who is relaxed.

"He couldn't keep a secret in a locked safe."

A very untrustworthy person.

"He wouldn't know the truth if it bit him on the nose."

He's dishonest or delusional.

"He wouldn't work in a pie factory tasting crust."

A description of laziness.

"He's a-eating high on the hog."

Living luxuriously or eating better than most.

"He's all hat and no cattle."

Someone who talks big but can't back it up.

"He's as crooked as a dog's hind leg."

He's dishonest.

"He's as steady as a rock."

A reliable, hard-working person.

"He's as useless as tits on a boar hog."

He provides absolutely no value.

"He's got a 'want' in his head."

Describing someone who is a bit simple-minded or not thinking clearly.

"He's got a backbone like a noodle."

He has no work ethic or morals.

"He's got a big mouth and a small brain to run it."

Someone who speaks without thinking.

From Volume 3: The Herbal Dictionary

Chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*)

Traditional Uses: Stomach aches, nervous digestion, and children's colic.

Chamomile & Honey Night Tea: Steep 2 teaspoons dried flowers in 1 cup hot water for 10 minutes. Strain and stir in local honey. Traditional mountain mothers would "blow the colic away" across the surface of the tea.

Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)

Mountain Names: Knitbone

Traditional Uses: EXTERNAL ONLY. Used as a poultice for deep bruises, torn ligaments, and "Charlie horses" to help "knit" the tissue back together.

From Volume 4: The Day Bobby Ran a Circle

Life in the hollow wasn't all quiet patience, though. There was plenty of mischief to go around, and my younger brother, Bobby, found himself right in the middle of it one afternoon.

Daddy had a strict rule about safety around the homeplace, and he had just finished telling Bobby in no uncertain terms not to shoot his gun towards the family car.

Sure enough, a crack echoed through the trees, followed by the ting of a bb going through glass. Bobby had hit the window of Daddy's car with his b.b. gun..

Knowing exactly what he had done, Bobby didn't even wait for Daddy to reach him. He took off running at a dead sprint. Daddy was right on his tail, furious and fast, and Moma, bless her, was running right behind Daddy.

It was a full-blown chase down the old, dusty dirt road. Bobby scrambled up the steep incline of the hill, crested the ridge, tore back around the bend, and came barreling right back down to the very same dirt road he started on.

By the time he hit the bottom, Bobby's lungs were burning, and his legs gave out completely. He collapsed to the ground, utterly spent, waiting for the reckoning.

But mountain mothers are a force of nature. Before Daddy could lay a hand on him, Moma shifted into another gear, dug deep, and shot

right past Daddy to reach Bobby first. She threw herself between them, shielding the boy just to make absolutely sure Daddy didn't whip him.

Truth be told, Daddy probably wouldn't have whipped him anyway once he cooled down, but Moma wasn't taking any chances.

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