Leonard Carson Lambert, an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, describes for readers what it was like to be a Cherokee growing up in western North Carolina during the Great Depression. In *Up from These Hills: Memories of a Cherokee Boyhood*, Lambert depicts how his father had to find different jobs as a laborer, timber cutter, and Civilian Conservation Corps worker in order to sustain the family through tough economic times. This personal memoir illustrates that the Cherokee were like many other people, enduring daily hardships as they struggled to find suitable housing or available farmland for raising crops. A particularly intriguing aspect of the book is the author’s description of the educational differences between school systems in western North Carolina. In the Cherokee schools, students attended kindergarten when they were six and first grade when they were seven years old. For the most part, the curriculum was focused on health and hygiene. By contrast, students entered first grade in white schools when they were six years old and learned reading, writing, and mathematics. When not attending school, Leonard Lambert and his siblings always helped their parents around the house with various chores. Eventually, the author had the opportunity to attend Mars Hill College, but he later transferred to North Carolina State College in order to pursue an engineering degree. Despite economic hardships, Lambert remained determined to attend college and also maintain his Cherokee identity.

The book is divided into six sections: Lambert family history; life on the family farm near the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians reservation; the Lambert family’s relocation and experiences working on a sharecropping farm in eastern Tennessee during the late 1930s; the author’s boyhood education at the Mentor School in Tennessee; his pursuit of a college education at Mars Hill College and North Carolina State College; and his return home to Cherokee, North Carolina where he opened a gift shop with his father and his later career with the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa). There are no illustrations and just a modest number of bibliographical references; a genealogical table is included to help readers place the people mentioned in historical context.

Leonard Carson Lambert holds an engineering degree from North Carolina State College and spent twenty-five years working for Alcoa in different parts of the world. Michael Lambert received a doctorate in social anthropology from Harvard University and is currently Associate Professor of Anthropology and African Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This book is intended to offer readers a glimpse into the lives of Cherokee families in western North Carolina during the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war years in the United States. This memoir would be best suited for inclusion in an academic, public, or special library with a Native American history collection.

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