

## WAR IN NORTH CAROLINA LITERATURE

### Writing about the Foolishness of War

Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

During a conversation about the role of war in his poetry and fiction, Robert Morgan laments that “we have not evolved as far from the killer apes as we like to believe. We still delight in war, in battles, in heroism. . . . Only fools would start wars. Yet we continue to do just that.” I was not surprised that the topic of war in North Carolina literature attracted such inspired submissions, from Rebecca Godwin’s interview with Morgan, which focuses largely on his Revolutionary War novel *Brave Enemies*, to Kathaleen Amende’s essay on a post-apocalyptic novel, which culminates in a futuristic civil war battle that takes place at the same site as a battle fought during the historic Civil War 150 years before. In between, learn about a little-known North Carolina African American writer, James McGirt, who wrote about the African American soldiers from North Carolina who engaged in the Spanish American War. In an interview with Ron Rash and Terry Roberts, discover the World War I German internment camp right here in North Carolina that inspired their recent novels. Find out from David Cecelski about Arthur Miller’s trip to Wilmington, NC, during World War II, before the playwright was renowned as the author of *Death of a Salesman*. And read Claudette Cohen’s 2013 Doris Betts Fiction Prize story about a veteran with war-induced post-traumatic stress disorder. Cohen understands, as do these other insightful writers, that there is no “delight” in war. ■

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