

Familiar . . . Family

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

For our tenth anniversary in 2002, we featured content harkening back to the ten preceding issues, and after that issue created this section for echoes of past issues. This section has evolved since 2003 to include not just more content on previous feature topics but also essays about writers from North Carolina's literary history who have inspired numerous scholars over the past three-plus decades of *NCLR*. And here, too, we began to include writers we previously published or featured – members of the *NCLR* family, if you will.

We lost one of those family members this year, Fred Chappell, whose fiction I first read on my way to interview for this job and thus whose fiction I featured in my first issue of *NCLR* (1998). I know there are numerous people in the *NCLR* family who would have answered the call to write about Ole Fred for this issue, and I thank my predecessor (retired colleague and friend) Alex Albright for doing so and in so doing bringing Fred back to us, as reading Fred's writing or other such stories about him as the one Alex shares always will. Voices like Fred's do not leave us. But we'll miss his presence even so and send condolences to his beloved Susan.

NCLR can brag on numerous literary coups over the years. As I mentioned the 2003 issue above, I'll use its coup as an example: then Senior Associate Editor Lorraine Hale Robinson found never-before published cyanotypes of the Wright brothers' test flights for the issue's cover. And for this issue, I am so grateful that Stephanie Browner sent *NCLR* her essay about Lorraine Hansberry's plans to dramatize Charles W. Chesnutt's novel *Marrow of Tradition* for the stage. This novel, inspired by that other definition for the word coup, the only successful coup d'état in US history, which occurred in Wilmington, NC, in 1898, has inspired three essays in *NCLR*. I appreciate too Katharen Wiese, who allowed us to include her Chesnutt-inspired art within Stephanie's essay.

I cannot imagine you will find more essays on Paul Green's *The Lost Colony* (or on Paul Green) than in the pages of *NCLR*. I appreciate how the Green family's endowment for a Paul Green Foundation has assured continued critical attention on this important writer, whose most famous work continues to entertain tourists in Manteo every summer – and continues to evolve, as you can read about in Synora Cummings's essay in the Fall 2023 issue. In this issue, read Donald Paul Haspel's essay, which reminds us that the playwright's World War I experience continued to haunt him throughout his life and influenced his writing. Thank you to the author for sending this essay to us, to editorial board member and Lost Colony expert (and my former colleague, now happily retired but still volunteering for *NCLR*) Tom Shields for his expert feedback, and to the Paul Green Foundation for grant funding that allows us to provide honoraria for content on Green – to the writer, as well as for its design in our pages. Speaking of which, thank you to longtime *NCLR* graphic designer Karen Baltimore. This is the second essay on *The Lost Colony* Karen has designed for *NCLR*.

For this issue, Karen also designed Jean W. Cash's essay on Gail Godwin. Biographer of Flannery O'Connor and Larry Brown, Jean turns her expert lens on how Godwin's experience at Peace College in Raleigh inspired two works of fiction. Find another essay on Godwin in *NCLR* 2010.

As noted, this section also includes content reflecting previous issue themes, including one of the most popular themes, 2010's focus on Appalachian literature. Find here two interviews with Appalachian writers: David Joy and Mark Powell, and welcome to them, both now part of our family. We've reviewed but not featured their writing before now. Thank you to both for participating, and thank you to Leah Hampton (interview subject in 2022 and author of

two stories published in *NCLR*) and Zackary Vernon (several-times *NCLR* interviewer) for conducting these interviews for *NCLR*. Thanks, too, to Ashley T. Evans for her gorgeous photography, which complements Leah's interview with David.

We also appreciate documentary photographer Andrea Bruce for allowing her work to complement Gary V. Powell's short story, "Fifty-Cal." This story, a finalist in the 2022 Doris Betts Fiction Prize contest, adds to writing on War in North Carolina Literature that we collected in 2014 issues. We appreciate Gary's patience in waiting on its publication. Read a second finalist by him from the 2022 contest in the Fall 2023 issue.

The other creative writing in this section is poetry by two members of *NCLR*'s family, Janis Harrington, the 2023 winner of the James Applewhite Poetry Prize (and multi-year finalist), and Debra Kaufman, who received third place in 2023 (also a multi-year finalist and former winner). Thank you to NC State poet Meg Day for serving as final judge. Don't miss Meg's honorable mention selections in the Spring 2024 issue and the numerous other finalists, old and new members of the *NCLR* family, in the Fall 2023 and Winter and Spring 2024 issues, which you can get to easily by turning to the last page of this issue and pointing your cellphone camera to the QR codes we inserted after a long-time subscriber told me she did not know about *NCLR Online*. And if you are wondering where the second place poem is, let me tell you about *NCLR* family. Michael White notified me right after we had announced the 2023 Applewhite contest results to tell me that *The Atlantic* had just sent him an acceptance for the same poem. *NCLR* is most definitely not going to stand in the way of one of North Carolina's poets publishing in *The Atlantic*. Congratulations to him.

Enjoy the pages to follow, and to read more about and by these many members of the *NCLR* family, please check out our back issues store (another QR code, on page 2 of this issue, will direct you to it). ■

FLASHBACKS: Echoes of Past Issues

- 80 *Marrows of Tradition: Chesnutt, Hansberry, and Wilmington 1898*
by Stephanie Browner
art by Katharen Wiese
- 88 *Abandoned Roanoke: A Sixteenth-Century Mystery, Interwar Anxiety, and Historical Speculation in Paul Green's The Lost Colony*
Paul Green Prize essay by Donald Paul Haspel
- 106 *Gail Godwin and Peace College: Life into Fiction*
by Jean W. Cash
- 122 *Four Poems by Fred Chappell*
a remembrance by Alex Albright
- 128 *Complicating the Appalachian Narrative: A Conversation with David Joy*
by Leah Hampton
photography by Ashley T. Evans
- 150 *The Late Rebellion: An Interview with Mark Powell*
Randall Kenan Prize interview by Zackary Vernon
- 162 *Fifty-Cal*
a short story by Gary V. Powell
photography by Andrea Bruce
- 174 *Daguerrologue*
a poem by Debra Kaufman
art by Cameron Johnson
- 176 *That Lake, That July Sun*
James Applewhite Poetry Prize
poem by Janis Harrington
art by Kate Nartker



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 ■ **North Carolina Disability Literature**
an interview and essays
- 177 ■ **North Carolina Miscellany**
fiction