

Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies

(formerly Kansas Quarterly)

Volume 54, Number 1

Spring/April 2023

“A Tainted House of Prayer” : Artist V. L. Cox on White Supremacy, Southern Culture, and Her Persisting Love of the Delta	3
by Guy Lancaster	
excavation (poetry)	15
by laura vogt	
Car Lot Cowboy (fiction)	16
by Addison Griffis	
Even Small Things (poetry)	22
by Mary Ann Larkin	
We Lost Bill Harrison (memoir)	23
by M J Melneck	
Roads and Bridges (fiction)	25
by Robin Kozak	
A Cordial Letter to Kaylee Muthart (poetry)	34
by John Wall Barger	
Refuge (fiction)	36
by Kenneth Gulotta	
Summer (poetry)	42
by Leslie Hodge	
The Early History of Streetcar Transportation in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1870–1948	44
by Zuzana Chovanec and Timothy S. Dodson	
Abecedarian for a Hometown Tornado (poetry)	59
by Andrew Alexander Mobbs	
For Whom the Writing Goes (creative non-fiction)	60
by Damon Guinn	

Delta Sources and Resources 67

The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Summer Writer’s Retreat
Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center
Piggott, Arkansas
by Marcus Charles Tribbett

Reviews 68

Pierce and White Jr., eds., *Race, Labor, and Violence in the Delta: Essays to Mark the Centennial of the Elaine Massacre*, reviewed by Michael K. Rosenow
Imahara and Meltzer, eds., *Jerome and Rohwer: Memories of Japanese American Internment in World War II Arkansas*, reviewed by Ali Welky
Kirk, *Winthrop Rockefeller: From New Yorker to Arkansawyer, 1912-1956*, reviewed by Melanie K. Welch
Wegmann, *An American Color: Race and Identity in New Orleans and the Atlantic World*, reviewed by Travis C. Perusich
Horowitz, *Katrina: A History, 1915-2015*, reviewed by Jon Carvell
Erikson and Peek, *The Continuing Storm: Learning from Katrina*, reviewed by Stan Weeber

Contributors 79



Courtesy of C. Andrew Buchner.

Editor’s note: In the image to the left, modern day construction workers uncover intact rails on East 3rd Street, Little Rock, remnants of the city’s streetcar railway system, permanently shuttered about seventy-five years ago in 1948. See the fascinating article in this issue, pages 44-58, on this unique part of the city’s heritage.

Contributors

John Wall Barger's poems and critical writing have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Missouri Review*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and *Best of the Best Canadian Poetry*. His sixth book, *Smog Mother* (Palimpsest Press), came out in fall 2022. He's a contract editor for Frontenac House, and teaches Creative Writing at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Jon Carvell is Clinical Assistant Professor of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management at Arkansas State University and served as the university's emergency manager during the Covid-19 pandemic. He holds a BA in English and an MPA from Arkansas State University and got his start in emergency management by volunteering for recovery efforts during the aftermath of various natural disasters in Northeast Arkansas.

Zuzana Chovanec, PhD, RPA works as an archaeologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers and is affiliated with the Department of Anthropology at the State University of New York at Albany as a Volunteer Research Associate. Her areas of interest include historic preservation, cultural resource management, human-environment relationships, and the archaeology of Cyprus and North America.

Timothy S. Dodson MA, RPA is currently the Regulatory Archaeologist for the Nashville and Mobile Districts of the US Army Corps of Engineers. He has published several peer reviewed articles focusing on archaeology and baseball.

Addison Griffis is a Mississippi writer and finance manager at a car dealership. His work is found in *Appalachian Review* and *Roanoke Review*. Addison is currently querying literary Western and magical Southern manuscripts for representation. Instagram is @addisongriffis

Damon Guinn is a writer and nonprofit professional who grew up in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He spent years

writing for a humanitarian organization, traveling to remote communities around the world to gather and share stories about families battling extreme poverty. He now resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, within eyeshot of George Floyd Square, where he works with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to advance racial equity in housing. Samples of his work are available at damonguinn.com.

Kenneth Gulotta writes fiction and poetry. He has an MA in creative writing from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in English from Tulane University. A technical writer by trade, he spends his days solving puzzles that involve communication, design, and coding. Kenneth was born and raised in south Louisiana, but he has also lived in Austin, TX, Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. He now lives in New Orleans with his wife and stepson.

Leslie Hodge has poems published or forthcoming in journals including *Pigeon Pages*, *South Florida Poetry Journal*, *Spank the Carp* (where she was featured in *The Mind of the Poet*), and *The Main Street Rag*. Leslie lives in San Diego and has deep family roots in central Missouri.

Robin Kozak's writing has appeared most recently in *Arkansas Review*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *Pleiades*, *The Rappahannock Review*, and *Sequestrum*. An authority on antique and estate jewelry, she currently is at work on her second novel.

Guy Lancaster serves as the editor of the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, a project of the Central Arkansas Library System, and is the author, co-author, or editor of several books on race and violence, including *American Atrocity: The Types of Violence in Lynching* (U of Arkansas P, 2021) and *The Murder of Oscar Chitwood in Hot Springs, Arkansas* (co-authored with Christopher Thrasher and forthcoming from The History Press).

Mary Ann Larkin is the author of *That Deep and Steady*

Hum and six chapbooks of poetry. Her work has appeared in many journals and in more than twenty anthologies. She was a co-founder of The Big Mama Poetry Troupe, a group of five feminist poets based in Cleveland. Larkin has taught writing at a number of colleges, most recently at Howard University, and written for NPR, NIH, Foundation News and others. She has enjoyed residencies at both Yaddo and the Jentel Foundation in Wyoming. With Patric Pepper she co-founded Pond Road Press, which published *Tough Heaven: Poems of Pittsburgh* by Jack Gilbert. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, she lives in North Truro, MA.

M J Melneck earned the MFA degree from the University of Arkansas in May 1980. His catalog includes the novel *Old Music* and many features, reviews, film scripts and short stories. He and his wife Pat and their spoiled rotten dog Max live in western Colorado where he writes about and photographs the nearby desert and mountains.

Andrew Alexander Mobbs (he/him/his), a native Arkansan, is the author of the chapbook, *Strangers and Pilgrims* (Six Gallery Press, 2013). A Pushcart Prize nominee, his poems have appeared in *Crab Creek Review*, *Frontier Poetry*, *New Delta Review*, *Ghost Ocean Magazine*, and elsewhere. He co-founded the online lit mag *Nude Bruce Review* and will soon earn his MFA at Oregon State University.

Travis C. Perusich: Travis is a PhD candidate at the University of Arkansas, studying African American soldiers in the American Revolution. He earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of the Ozarks and his Master's degree at the University of Central Arkansas. He is a former member of the United States Air Force and a former public school teacher.

Michael K. Rosenow is Associate Professor of History at the University of Central Arkansas and is the author of *Death and Dying in the Working Class, 1865-1920* and articles about labor and working-class history.

Marcus Charles Tribbett is General Editor of *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* and Associate Professor of English at Arkansas State University, where he

also teaches for the interdisciplinary Heritage Studies doctoral program. He has published scholarly work on blues performers, on a nineteenth-century slave narrative, and most recently on contemporary novels by Jessmyn Ward and Tupelo Hassman.

Stan Weeber is Professor of Sociology at McNeese State University. He has written several papers about natural disasters, and wrote *Post-Rita Reflections* (2009), a professorial memoir of the Katrina-Rita era.

Melanie K. Welch was born in Little Rock in 1976 and graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1999, receiving a baccalaureate degree in history. In 1999, she received the Lucille Westbrook Local History Award from the Arkansas Historical Association. In 2009, she earned a PhD in modern American history from Auburn University. An independent historian, her work has appeared in *Arkansas Review*, the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, and the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

Ali Welky is Associate Editor of the online *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, a project of the Central Arkansas Library System, as well as a freelance editor for books and magazines, including the *Oxford American*. She holds a BA in English from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, and an MA in English from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. She co-edited the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas Music* (Butler Center Books, 2013) and edited *A Captive Audience: Voices of Japanese American Youth in World War II Arkansas* (Butler Center Books, 2015). She lives in Conway with her husband and two children.

Laura Vogt studied literature and history in undergrad and grad school, focusing on Shakespeare, folk tales, and the History of Mentalities. She also attended the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop writing program in Dublin, Ireland. Her poetry is published in several journals, her prose has placed in a few contests, and her novelette *Blue Beyond the Sea* is available as a chapbook with Bottlecap Press. Her forthcoming debut novel *In the Great Quiet* is a historical fiction and fabulism blend based on her ancestor.