

Rattle Grass at Fort Fisher

Sun eye-squinting bright
as March breeze builds,
roars and rustles
to bend cattails to whisper,
whisper opposition
to the wild sea winds.

Sun-tanned and dry
crispy tall
swamp weeds
bow in homage
and awe
to agitated air.

Shadowy green
horsetails,
cool points of silence,
stand guard in the chaos
with a reluctant tilt and nod
to the brisk blusteriness.

Wind carry whispers,
carry whispers over marsh to sea
to where freedom hears
and comes by here
this way to me.

Note: Fort Fisher, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, protected the last operative seaport of the Confederacy. Its capture in January 1865 by a joint land and sea attack that included US Colored Troops led to the taking of Wilmington and eventually the end of the Civil War.