

Longhunter's Land

by Philip M. Mathis

Land beyond blue mountains found—
deep, dark woods, grassy ground;
riverside canebrake, bear-tracked lagoon,
prowling predator, bright hunter's moon.

Land of wandering Longhunter dream,
of cave, cliff, and mountain stream;
home of bison, black bear, and deer,
turtles, eagles, cats without fear.

Unconquered, uncharted, unclaimed land—
mountains, river falls, bold and grand;
ancient hunt-land of the Cherokee—
talon, cloven hoof; and claw roam free.

Land of foxy wile, of Shawnee trick,
of bountiful game, and salty lick;
ridges cloaked in woodland vast,
in sylvan shade, in shadow's cast
upon a dark and bloody past.