

# Nathaniel Farrell

## *Newcomer*

Part historical fiction and part nature poem, *Newcomer* takes place in a wartime landscape estranged by nostalgia and American story-telling. A soldier passes through a landscape that is mutable, both familiar and foreign, while memories of home come in waves, receding and reappearing. Military epic mixes with pastoral romance, and neither are resolved. Instead, *Newcomer's* investigation of entropic minutia suggests a very contemporary confusion of temporality, and by this turns our thoughts toward a phenomenology of historical imagination.

These are Nathaniel Farrell's poems, of course, but when I read them they are mine, too...Their setting may be historical, ostensibly the Civil War, but their concerns are the stuff of daily life, glimpsed from porches and saddles and moonlit camps and recorded with quiet intensity.

—Devin Johnston

...Farrell creates a landscape where the enemy may have just passed...where soldiers become "nothing more than needle and thread / pushed and pulled in and out of the land." *Newcomer* is a stunning milito-pastoral in daguerreotype, fading to amber at the edges.

—Ted Mathys



Nathaniel Farrell, an educator and poet, was born and raised in Western Pennsylvania. He holds a doctorate in English Literature from Columbia University in New York. His chapbook *The Race Poems* was published by Ugly Duckling Presse in 2005. *Newcomer* (UDP, 2014) is his first book, a long poem set in an undefined American-soil campaign. He has published poems in *6x6*, *Greetings Magazine*, and *The Recluse*.



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