3-8-2020

**Bloodline, Floodplain**

Keith Williams

Follow this and additional works at / Suivez-nous ainsi que d'autres travaux et œuvres:
https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose

**Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée**

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Commons @ Laurier. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Goose by an authorized editor of Scholars Commons @ Laurier. For more information, please contact scholarscommons@wlu.ca.

Cet article vous est accessible gratuitement et en libre accès grâce à Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Le texte a été approuvé pour faire partie intégrante de la revue The Goose par un rédacteur autorisé de Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Pour de plus amples informations, contactez scholarscommons@wlu.ca.
Bloodline, Floodplain

Sunroot rhizomes swell,
strain against skin
skin against soil
pushing through
mycelial mats,
riparian gravel.

These tuberous roots
become the earth, the river,
my hands.

My shoulders set,
straining. Fingers digging,
twisting, pulling. Memory aching,
a muscle too sore to keep working.

A probing, prising
revelation . . .
better buried,
under layers of sediment?

The bones, teeth,
and story shards
of forebears,
known and unknown,
compose
long limb, lashed eye,
bushy brow;
stanza
of sunroot patch,
floodplain,
river network.
Following a river course, a root system, the path of sunroot . . . macerated, absorbed, assimilated, traces bloodlines.

KEITH WILLIAMS is the Director of Research and Social Innovation at First Nations Technical Institute, on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. Keith is also pursuing a doctorate in educational studies at St. Francis Xavier University.