

In the Historic Cemetery in Hillsborough, NC

I will cling to the rugged cross

Scorning nearby trees and the eaves
and belfry of the colonial church,

a swarm of hornets built a nest beneath
the left arm of Sally Nash's pitted cross,

ninety degrees of slim protection.
Gray as the century-stained stone,

the swirling-still paper layers
are home to the thread-waisted hornets

humming praises to creation,
their steadfast grasp shaming me.

-Eric A. Weil