

# AUNT CHLOE

2020 ISSUE YEAR

2 POEMS

Frank X Walker

Mrs. Butterworth, Uncle Ben & Aunt Jemima

...walk into a bar in America.

Butterworth says, I'm being repackaged.

Ben says, I'm being rebranded.

Jemima says, I remember

when they branded my mama on her back.

The bartender says, I could stand in the middle

of Main Street and kill somebody

and I wouldn't lose any voters.

Butterworth says, then I'll take eight bullets

in my sleep. Ben says choke me to death

with your knee. Jemima says,

lock me in a holding cell and say

I decided to hang myself.

The bartender poured the drinks,

said he felt threatened

and was simply standing his ground.

He said he thought the thug

was reaching for a gun.

The headlines said Well-Loved American

Foods Resisted Arrest, Failed

to Comply, and Were Delicious While Black.

Butterworth's daughter said here's to progress  
we might finally get an anti-lynching bill.

Ben's son said I'd rather they abolish  
qualified immunity. Jemima's kid said you know  
they abolished slavery once,  
then they hung my mama on that box.



## Extraction

On May 8, 1784, George Washington paid  
6 pounds 2 shillings to Negros for 9 teeth.

The creak of the old barn door.

The violence of metal on metal.

The crackling tongues of flame.

The screaming hiss of red hot iron

drowning in the blacksmith's bucket.

The quiet trickle of piss released in fear.

The snap of bone ripped from bone.

Agony rising out of a throat.

The choking sound of a mouth full of blood.



Photos by Keith Gulley