

Battle of Kings Mountain featured in new fiction novel

By Loretta Cozart

John Hood, a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate has authored eight books, including his first fictional novel



JOHN HOOD

Mountain Folk, a story that explores the events of the Revolutionary War from multiple vantage points.

“I decided to write the book, and its coming sequels, as an unapologetic celebration of American principles and traditions,” Hood said in an interview with the Herald. “The Battle of Kings Mountain forms an entire chapter of the book entitled ‘The Overmountain Men,’ and there is no doubt whatsoever which side the reader should be rooting for!”

Mountain Folk is an historical-fantasy novel, meaning that it depicts historical events, themes, and characters but also includes elements of myth and folklore. “It is designed to be a young adult/crossover book. That is, I deal with some weighty themes and don’t talk down to readers of any age. But

there is absolutely no inappropriate content, no sex or gory violence, and there are plenty of adventure scenes that teen and young adult readers will particularly enjoy.”

Through research, Hood read a study done regarding the ways middle school students learn. “One group read about an historical event

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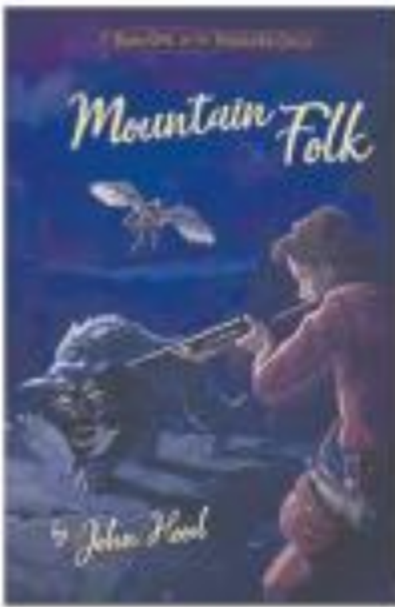
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using their textbooks. Another group read about the event in a fictional novel. The students who read historical fiction scored higher on the test than did those who read the textbook. It was then that I realized that historical fiction is a valuable tool for teaching history,” Hood said. “History can be dry and boring, but fiction can add excitement to the story and engage parts of the brain to create a lasting impression that stays with the reader.”

Hood uses four themes throughout his fiction series: History, Heroes, Heritage, and Human Nature. This book is based on historical events, even though he incorporates fairies and monsters. “Key characters were heroes in history, warts and all. We are human and even heroes have flaws,” Hood explains. “Our nation’s heritage is diverse, and all Americans should take the time to learn



and understand about all those who participated. The final theme is Human Nature and I use the abuse of power as a broad theme.”

Mountain Folk has six main, point-of-view characters. Four of them are historical: Daniel Boone, Peter Muhlenberg (a minister and one of Washington’s generals), Nanyehi (a Cherokee heroine also known as Nancy Ward), and Isaac Shelby.

Two characters are fictional, including one named Goran who is featured in the back cover blurb of the book.

“Goran is one of the rare fairies who can live without magical protection in the Blur, the human world where the days pass twenty times faster than in fairy realms. The young journeyman’s missions for the Rangers Guild take him across colonial America — from far-flung mountains and rushing rivers to frontier farms and bustling towns. Along the way, Goran encounters George Washington, Daniel Boone, an improbably tall dwarf, a beautiful water maiden, and a series of terrifying monsters. But when Goran receives orders to help crush the American Revolution, he must choose between his duties to guild and family and his fierce loyalty to his human friends and the principles they hold dear.”

Mountain Folk is available online and at Amazon and is the first of a series of historical-fantasy novels by John Hood. His second book is based around the War of 1812 and is scheduled for release in the spring of 2022.