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Downtime

Brian Connors-Manke
University of Kentucky

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quiry in looking for traces of the family in the archives may be quite similar too. I think another thing we were trying to point out in the paper was that these memories—theirs and our mediated ones, positive memories of before and negative memories of the war—needed to be defined and assembled. It’s a very different story, but in the beginning of the novel Beloved, Sethe sits down trying to think about the landscape of Sweethome and how beautiful the trees were, and about how difficult it was for her to remember the boys hanging from the trees. Every time she would try to remember the boys hanging from the trees, the trees themselves were all she could remember, and she felt an incredible amount of guilt about it. So that’s one lesson for me about memory, the difficulty of negotiating nostalgia and negative remembrance, the difficulty memory has to deal with ambivalence.