

**Curriculum Vitae:****William Ralph Heath**

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- Birthplace** Youngstown, Ohio - June 27, 1942
- Education:** B.A., Hiram College, 1964  
M.A., Case Western Reserve University, American Studies, 1966  
Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, American Studies, 1971
- Graduate Training:** American literature (seven courses);  
American history (four courses);  
American sociology and political science (four courses);  
English and European literature (four courses);  
American art (three courses);  
Cumulative grade point average: 3.80
- Dissertation:** "John Hawkes: A Critical Study," an evaluative interpretation of John Hawkes' fiction from *The Cannibal* to *Second Skin*, written under the direction of Roger Salomon
- Dossier:** Placement Office, Case Western Reserve University, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Phone: (216) 368-4446. Includes recommendations from Roger B. Salomon, Frank Bergon, William Craft, Robert Ducharme, and Peter Dorsey.
- Teaching Experience:** Instructor of English, Kenyon College, 1967-1969  
Assistant Professor of English, Transylvania College, 1969-1974  
Assistant Professor of English, Vassar College, 1974-1979  
Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies, University of Seville, 1979-81  
Associate Professor of English, Mount Saint Mary's College, 1981-1998  
Professor of English, Mount Saint Mary's College, 1998-2007  
Professor Emeritus, Mount Saint Mary's University, 2007-  
Libman Professor of Humanities, Hood College, 2008-09  
Adjunct Professor, Humanities and Honors, Hood College, 2009-13
- Courses Taught:** Graduate Courses: Love in the Western World; The Sixties: Hawthorne and Melville;  
The American Historical Novel  
Upper Level Courses: Senior Seminar; Contemporary and Modern American Literature;  
Modern Poetry; Faulkner; Joyce; Creative Writing; Contemporary and Modern World Literature;  
The American Experience (a two-semester interdisciplinary history/literature course);  
The International Theme (American writers abroad); American Poetry and Drama,  
Hawthorne & Melville; Wharton & James
- Fields of Teaching Competence:** American Literature (all periods); Modern and Contemporary Literature; Creative Writing; American Studies; Composition
- Areas of Greatest Scholarly Competence:** Melville; Hawthorne; Twain; Faulkner; Wharton; Contemporary American Literature; Native American, especially the Miami Indians and the Northwest Territory; The Civil Rights Movement; The Sixties; The International Theme; Love in the Western World
- Awards and Honors:** Academic Scholarships at Hiram College and Case Western Reserve University  
Hiram College General Honors Program  
Rhodes Scholar Nominee, Hiram College, 1964  
Omicron Delta Kappa, national leadership honorary

Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Transylvania College, 1970-1971  
 NEH Summer Seminar Fellowship to study The Concept of the Primitive in Western Civilization with Stanley Diamond at the New School for Social Research, 1977.  
 NEH Summer Seminar Fellowship to study Contemporary American Fiction with Benjamin DeMott at Amherst College, 1974.  
 CAPS grant for poetry from the State of New York, 1979  
 Fulbright Lecturer to Spain, 1979-1980  
 Fulbright renewed, 1980-1981; chosen to give a series of lectures on Contemporary American Literature at the Institute of Italian/American Studies in Rome, 1980.  
 Fulbright representative from Spain at the Berlin Fulbright Conference, 1981  
 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, 1982, 1983  
 Maryland Arts Council Award in Fiction, 1992;  
 Editor, *The Monocacy Valley Review*, 1988-1996  
 (twice winner of American Literary Magazine Awards)  
 Mount Saint Mary's, Outstanding Club Advisor (*Lighted Corners*), 1994  
 The Hackney Literary Award for *The Children Bob Moses Led* (best unpublished novel, 1995)  
 Nominee (1995): The Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Anisfield-Wolf Award  
*The Children Bob Moses Led* was selected as a 1996 Book for the Teen Age by the New York Public Library in their adult books for teenagers' category.  
*The Children Bob Moses Led* selected by *Time* magazine as one of the eleven best novels ever written on the African American experience, 2002.  
 Newberry Fellowship. Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, May 2002  
 Professor Emeritus, Mount Saint Mary's University, 2007-  
 Sophia M. Libman Professor of Humanities, Hood College, 2008-2009  
 Noepe Writer's Residency, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, October 16-31, 2014  
 Spur Award, Western Writers of America, best Nonfiction History Book, 2016  
 Spur Award, Western Writers of America, best first Nonfiction History Book, 2016  
 Finalist for the Ohioana Award for best book about Ohio or an Ohioan, 2016  
 Finalist for the Jon Gjerde Prize in Midwestern History, 2016  
 PEN/Faulkner, Writer in the Schools  
 Honorable Mention, 2018 May Sarton New Hampshire Poetry Prize, for *Steel Valley Elegy*  
 Honorable Mention, Willis Barnstone translation award, for "A Lady Without Mercy"  
 Finalist, The Washington Prize, Word Works Press

**Books:** *The Walking Man* (Icarus Books, 1994) poetry  
*The Children Bob Moses Led* (Milkweed Editions, 1995, paperback, 1997).  
 Agent: Victoria Sanders  
 (Reissued by NewSouth Books as an on-demand and ebook 2014)  
*Blacksnake's Path: The Adventures of William Wells* (Heritage Books, 2008)  
 Agent: Michele Rubin, The Writers House  
 History Book Club alternate selection (September 2009)  
 (Reissued as an ebook by Argo/Navis in 2013)  
*Devil Dancer* (Somondoco Press, 2013)  
*William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest* (University of Oklahoma Press 2015, paperback 2017)  
*Conversations with Robert Stone* (University of Mississippi Press 2016, paperback 2018)  
*Night Moves In Ohio* (Finishing Line Press, 2019)  
*Leaving Seville* (Presa Press, forthcoming)

**Studies of William Heath's Work:** Paul Tewkesbury III, *Writing the Beloved Community: Integrated Narratives in Six Contemporary American Novels About the Civil Rights Movement*.  
 (dissertation, Department of English, LSU, accepted 1 January 2001)

**Essays:**

- "Melville's Search for the Primitive." *Dialectical Anthropology*, 3 (1978): 315-30.
- "I, Stingo: The Problem of Egotism in *Sophie's Choice*," *The Southern Review* (Summer 1984): 528-545.  
Reprinted in *Modern Critical Interpretation of William Styron's Sophie's Choice*, ed. Harold Bloom. Philadelphia, Chelsea House, 2002, pp. 73-90.
- "Tears and Flapdoodle: Sentimentality in *Huckleberry Finn*." *South Carolina Review* 19: 1(Fall 1986): 60-79.
- "Authentic Edens in A Pagan Sea: Melville in the Marquesas." *Massachusetts Review*, (Spring, 1987): 43-65.
- "The Irreverent Imagination: Hawthorne and *The Scarlet Letter*" *The Cortland Review: An On-line Literary Magazine*, issue #2, March 1998. [www.cortlandreview.com](http://www.cortlandreview.com)
- "The Power of Passion: Hawthorne's Tales of Thwarted Desire" *The Cortland Review: An On-line Literary Magazine*, issue #3, April 1998. [www.cortlandreview.com](http://www.cortlandreview.com)
- "Thomas Morton and the Maypole of Merry Mount," The Scholars' Forum, Hawthorne in Salem. (May 1999) [www.hawthorneinsalem.org](http://www.hawthorneinsalem.org)
- "Thomas Morton: From Merry Old England to New England," *The Journal of American Studies*, 41: 1 (2007):135-168.
- "Merry Old England and Hawthorne's 'The May-pole of Merry Mount,'" *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* 33: 1 (Spring 2007): 41-71.  
Reprinted in *Nathaniel Hawthorne*, Lawrence Trudeau, editor (Columbia, S.C.: Layman Poupard Publishing, 2018).
- "Re-evaluating *The Fort-Wayne Manuscript*: William Wells and the Culture of the Miami Indians," *Indiana Magazine of History* 106: 2 (June 2010): 158-188.
- "William Wells: From Miami Warrior to American Spy," *Northwest Ohio History* 78: 2 (Spring 2011): 102-113.
- "*Reinhardt in Love*: Thomas Berger's Comedy of One-upmanship," *Texas Review* 33: 3 & 4 (Fall/Winter 2012): 92-102.
- "The Morgan Rhys Diary and the Treaty of Greenville," *Northwest Ohio History* 80: 2 (Spring 2013): 148-164.
- "The Dream of Undying Fame: Hawthorne's Early Life and *Fanshawe*," The Scholars' Forum, Hawthorne in Salem, (April 2013) [www.hawthorneinsalem.org](http://www.hawthorneinsalem.org)
- "The Puritans and Merry Old England, The Scholars Forum, Hawthorne in Salem, (April 2016) [www.hawthorneinsalem.org](http://www.hawthorneinsalem.org)
- Writing History and Historical Fiction," *ResearchGate* (2016).
- "Human, All Too Human: Thomas Berger's *Crazy in Berlin*." *The Journal of American Studies* (2 May 2017): 1-26.
- "Ariadne in Kentucky: Erotic Power and Mythic Resonance in William Heath's *Devil Dancer*," *ResearchGate* (2017).
- "American Democracy on Trial: The Election of Donald Trump, an Overview," *ResearchGate* (2017)
- "Second Skins and Primitive Survivals: John Hawkes' *Second Skin*." (under consideration)
- "Thomas Berger's Comedy of One-upmanship," *ResearchGate* (2018)
- "The Real Thing': Authenticity in Frank Bergon's Fiction" *ResearchGate* (2018) Forthcoming in a book of essays on Frank Bergon's work published by the University of Nevada Press.

**Stories and Interviews:**

- "Kid Whiz," *Hudson River Anthology*, Spring 1978, Vol. III, pp. 9-16.
- "Interview with William Gass," *Hudson River Anthology*, Spring 1979, Vol. VIII, pp. 7-14.
- "The Whole Story," *The Monocacy Valley Review*, 1990, Vol. VIII, pp. 33-39.
- "Say It with Your Life," *Crossroads*, Vol. II, No. 1, Fall 1993/Winter 1994, pp. 6-17.
- John Spalding, "An Interview with William Heath", *The Cortland Review*, July 1999. [www.cortlandreview.com](http://www.cortlandreview.com)
- "Wendell Clay," chapter one of *Devil Dancer*, *Inertia Magazine* (Spring 2003).

[www.intertiamagazine.com](http://www.intertiamagazine.com)

"The March," *Pilgrimage*, Vol. 33, Issue 2, Fall 2008, pp. 31-55.

"Interview with William Heath," CWRU Department of English, July 26, 2010.

Google: Heath Interview CWRU

"An interview with Robert Stone," included in *Conversations with Robert Stone* (see books above)

**Reviews:**

*Office Politics* by Wilfred Sheed, *Masterplots 1966 Annual*. Edited by Frank N. Magill and Dayton Kohler, New York: Salem Press, 1967, pp. 248-52

"American Fiction: The Last Forty Years," *Hika*, Vol XXXI, No. 1, Fall 1968, pp. 25-29.

*The Man of Destiny* and *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets* by George Bernard Shaw, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 5 March 1970.

*Vital Parts* by Thomas Berger, *Green River Review*, Spring 1970, pp. 51-54.

*Lunar Landscapes* by John Hawkes, *Kenyon Review*, Issue I, 1971, pp. 186-190.

*Gravity's Rainbow* by Thomas Pynchon, *Amanuensis*, Spring 1973, pp. 38-41.

*Joiner* by James Whitehead, *L H-L*, 24 September 1971.

*Death of the Fox* by George Garrett, *L H-L*, 21 November 1971.

*My Land is Dying* by Harry M. Caudill, *L H-L*, 5 December 1971.

*Rabbit Redux* by John Updike, *L H-L*, 12 December 1971.

*The Motorcycle Betrayal Poems* by Diane Wakoski and *The Providings* by Carl Thayer, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 19 December 1971.

*News* and *In the Middle Distance* by Nicholas Delbanco, *L H-L*, 26 December 1971.

*The Complete Stories* by Flannery O'Connor, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 9 January 1972.

*Wolf and Outlayer* and *Ghazals* by Jim Harrison, *L H-L*, 16 January 1972.

*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines, *L H-L*, 5 February 1972.

*Three Trapped Tigers* by G. Cabrera Infante, *L H-L*, 13 February 1972.

*South to a Very Old Place* and *The Omni-Americans* by Albert Murray, *L H-L*, 27 February 1972.

*The Female Eunuch* by Germaine Greer, *L H-L*, 5 March 1972.

*The Prince* by R. M. Koster, *L H-L*, 23 April 1972

*The Nick Adams Stories* by Ernest Hemingway, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 14 May 1972.

*The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics* by Michael Novak, *L H-L*, 28 May 1972.

*Confessions of a Child of the Century* by Thomas Rogers, *L H-L*, 2 July 1972.

*The Water is Wide* by Pat Conroy, *L H-L*, 23 July 1972

*Geronimo Rex* by Barry Hannah, *L H-L*, 24 September 1972

*McGovern: A Biography* by Robert Sam Anson, *L H-L*, 8 October 1972.

*Nixon in the White House* by Rowland Evans, Jr. and Robert D. Novak, *The Running of Richard Nixon* by Leonard Lurie, *In Search of Nixon* by Bruce Mazlish, and *Nixon Agonistes* by Gary Wills, *L H-L*, 29 October 1972.

*Sadness* by Donald Barthelme, *Lexington Herald-Leader*, 26 November 1972.

"The Fiction of Robert Stone," *Vassar Chronicle*.

*Ninety-Two in the Shade* by Thomas McGuane, *L H-L*, 30 September 1973..

*Winter in the Blood* by James Welch. (accepted by *The Nation* but never published).

*History of King Philip's War*, by Benjamin Church, edited by Alan and Mary Simpson, *Vassar Miscellany News*.

*The Journals* by Paul Blackburn, *Open Places*, No. 23, Spring/Summer 1977, pp. 55-57. Reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, Vol. 9, pp. 100-101.

*Heads, Hides, and Horns: The Compleat Buffalo Book* by Larry Barsness. *Environmental Review*, Fall 1986, Vol. 10, Number 3, pp. 221-223.

*Shoshone Mike* by Frank Bergon. *The Texas Review*, Spring/Summer, 1989, Vol. X, Numbers 1 & 2, pp. 109-111.

*Widder's Landing: Life & Love on the Kentucky Frontier* by Eddie Price. *Northwest Ohio History*, Vol. 81, No. 2, Spring 2014, pp. 208-210.

*William Henry Harrison and the Conquest of the Ohio Country* by David Curtis Skaggs. *Middle West Review*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Fall 2015): 95-97.

*Unsettling the West: Violence and State Building in the Ohio Valley* by Rob Harper. *Middle West Review*, (Spring 2019).

**Published  
Poems:**

- "Modern Poetry," "The Death of My Grandfather," *The Transylvanian*, (Fall 1969), 5, 9.  
"You Numbskull," *College English*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (January 1970), 399.  
"New Orleans 1840," "Memories of Murkherjee," *The Transylvanian*, (Spring 1970), 18, 24-25.  
"New England," *Green River Review*, Vol. II, No. 2 (Spring 1970), 47.  
"Black Lung," "The Clouds," *The Rambler*, (April 1970), 3, 4.  
"The Entrails of Power," *tangent*, (Spring 1970), 20.  
"Haystacks Calhoun," "Hemingwayesque," *The Transylvanian*, (Fall 1970), 16, 20.  
"The Devil Rides Outside," *The Transylvanian*, (Winter 1970), 26-29.  
"Slow Poke," *Pebble* 5, (Winter 1970-71).  
"Carolyn Seymour Surveys Her World," "The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Seer," *The Transylvanian*, (Spring 1971), 5, 20.  
"The Six-Shooter Survived The West," "The Death of My Grandfather," *handsel* (1971), 61-62, 63.  
"After the Operation," "Jethro," *The Transylvanian*, (Winter 1971), 21, 23.  
"Anxious Astronaut," *handsel*, (Winter 1971), 33.  
"Carolyn Seymour Surveys Her World," *Pegasus*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (Winter 1972), 16. Winner Best Children's Poem, Kentucky State Poetry Society.  
"Two Position Papers," "The Last Challenge," *The Transylvanian*, (Winter-Spring 1972), 20, 23.  
"Haing The Discusses the Race Question," "The Discovery of Kentucky," *The Transylvanian*, (Spring 1972), 19, 23.  
"A Vision of Helen," *Poetry Now* (Summer 1972).  
"Lament for Lake Erie," *The Transylvanian*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (Spring 1973).  
"Jethro," *Pegasus: Special KSPS Prize Poems Issue* (1973), 12.  
"Cat Smooth," "A Delicate Balance," "The Crows," "Teresa Loves James Wright," *The Transylvanian*, Vol. 81, No. 2 (Fall-Winter 1973).  
"Moon Child, I Buy," "Love Trance," "In Which the Poet Leaves the War and Takes Up Basketball," "Weird Poets," *The Transylvanian*, Vol. 82, No. 1 (Spring 1974).  
"Love Song," *bits* 2, (July 1975).  
"The Lost Ball," "The Thrash," "In Which The Poet," *The Mid-Atlantic Review*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Fall 1975), 3, 4-5, 6-7.  
"Nightwatch," *approaches*, Vol. II, Issue 1 (Winter 1975).  
"Urban Renewal," *Bitterroot*, Vol. XV, No. 55 (Spring 1976), 37.  
"Upstairs, A Woman," "Sad on Solomons Island," *Wind*, Vol. 6, No. 20 (1976), 16-17.  
"The Discovery of Kentucky," "Bobby," "Amy," *Wind: Special Kentucky Bicentennial Issue*, 1974-76, pp., 17-18.  
"Learning from Indians," "Kick Off, Catullus #12," *Hudson River Anthology*, Vol. 5 (Spring 1976), 12-13, 14.  
"We Leaned Into A Kiss," *Twigs*, Vol. XII, No. 2 (Spring 1976), 56.  
"How to Write a Surrealistic Poem," *Occurrence*, Issue 6 (1976), 55.  
"Urban Renewal," "Upstairs, A Woman," "Teresa's," *Kentucky Renaissance: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing*, ed. Jonathan Greene, (gnommon 1976), 46, 47, 48.  
"The Mad Translator Talking," "Kick Off, Catullus #11," "#7," "#10," "#75," "#93," "#48," "#52," "#95," "#22," *The Painted Bride Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (Winter 1976), 62-69.  
"Cold Feet in Columbus," *Hudson River Anthology*, (Spring 1977), 22.  
"Cold Feet in Columbus," *Traveling America: With Today's Poets*, ed. David Kherdian (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1977), 24.

"Haystack Calhoun," *The Ardis Anthology of New American Poetry*, eds. David Rigsbee and Elleandea Proffer, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Ardis, 1977), 255, photo, 343.

"After Paying a \$396 Datsun Repair Bill," *Urthkin*, (March 1978), 38.

"At Dusk the Deer," *Ulster County Artist* (1979).

"The Hustler," "Evans Lake," "The Death of the Automobile," *Lighted Corners*, (Spring 1982).

"The End of the Road," "My Old Man," "The Day of the Dead," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1983), 12, 21, 24.

"The Forgotten American," "Moon Child, I Buy," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1984), 6-7, 44.

"Bloody Pond," "Teresa Loves James Wright," "The Devil Rides Outside," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1985), 23, 43, 49.

"My Grandfather Ploughed," "Hat Party," "Tennis at Twilight," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1986), 8, 29, 42.

"Talking Story," "Dylan," "Love Trance," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1987), 7, 68, 70.

"At the Sauna," *The Cooke Book: A Seasoning of Poets*, ed. Michael S. Glaser (College Park, Maryland: SCOP Publications, Inc., 1987), 42.

"Open Heart Surgery," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1988), 52.

"The Boy Who Would Be Perfect," "Ab la dolchor del temps novel," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1989), 8-9, 46.

"The Boy Who Would Be Perfect," *Free State: A Harvest of Maryland Poets*, ed. Gabriele Glang, (College Park, Maryland: SCOP Publications, Inc., 1989), 33-34.

"The Shining Path," *Baltimore Poets Celebrating Peace*, ed. Margaret Diorio (Baltimore, Maryland: Icarus Books, 1990), 11.

"The Shining Path," "Topless Beach," "Hat Party," "The Old Doctor," "The Geography of Grief," *Bells: Barcelona English Language and Literature Series*, ed. Jacqueline Hurlley (Universitat de Barcelona 1990), 73-76.

"Let Me Say a Secret," "Two Women," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1993), 37, 69.

"Quest Song," *Lighted Corners* (Spring 1994), 40.

"Travel," *Lighted Corners*, (Spring 1996), 43.

"Travel," *The Cortland Review*, (Summer 1998). [www.cortland.review.com](http://www.cortland.review.com)

"At Dusk the Deer," in *Margaret: Remembering A Life That Was Poetry* edited by Martha Knoblock, et. al., (Icarus Books, 1998), pp. 40-41.

"The Forgotten American" *Weavings 2000: The Maryland Millennial Anthology*. Michael S. Glaser, ed.

"The Forgotten American" and "How I Left the War and Up Basketball" in *Poetry for Peace* (Icarus Press, 2002).

"Topless Beach," "At the Sauna," in *Imported Breads: Literature of Cultural Exchange* (Mammoth Books, 2003), ed. Philip Sterling, 100-102.

"The Shining Path," In *Cabin Fever: Poets at Joaquin Miller's Cabin, 1984-2001* (The Word Works, 2003), p. 130.

"The Cottonmouth in the Outhouse," (three poems), *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts* 23:1 (Spring 2018): 71-74.

"Skeleton in the Woods," *Awake in the World*, Volume 2 (Riverfeet Press, 2019).

"Pledge Night," *Running With Water* (V Press LC, 2019), p. 56-57

"Our Black Sheep," *Patterson Literary Review*

**Presentations:** "Thomas Berger's Reinhart Trilogy," M.L.A., Chicago, 28 December 1973.

"Realism and the Quest for Truth," Mid-Hudson M.L.A., Poughkeepsie, 29 November 1977.

"Trying to Say: Benjy's Tragic Howl," N.E.M.L.A., Albany, 24 March 1978.

"Rediscovering American Literature," A.E.D.E.A.N., Salamanca, 18 December 1981.

"Contemporary American Literature," a series of lectures at the Institute for Italian/American Studies, Rome, April 1982.

"Authentic Edens in a Pagan Sea: Melville in the Marquesas," Mid-Hudson M.L.A., Poughkeepsie, 27 November 1983.

"Tears and Flapdoodle: Sentimentality in *Huckleberry Finn*," "American Comedy Conference: One Hundred Years of *Huckleberry Finn*," Penn State University, 27 April 1984.

"Soul Butter and Hogwash: Social Satire in *Huckleberry Finn*," Mid-Hudson M.L.A., Poughkeepsie, 27 November 1984.

"Columbus, Cortes and Cabeza de Vaca," Popular Culture Conference, Louisville, 3 April 1985.

"Melville and Marquesan Eroticism," Mid-Hudson M.L.A., Poughkeepsie, 2 December 1985.

"Freedom Summer," Popular Culture Conference, Toronto, April 1987.

"F. Scott Fitzgerald and Social Class in America," Mount Saint Mary's College.

"The Invention of America: Christopher Columbus and the New World," Hood College, 12 October 1992.

"Hawthorne and Merry Old England," Mount Saint Mary's College, 27 September 1993.

"Thomas Berger's *Reinhart in Love*," NEMLA, Boston, April 1995.

"The Irreverent Imagination, Hawthorne and *The Scarlet Letter*," Mount Saint Mary's College, 20 September 1995.

"The Writer, Agent, Publisher Relationship," Writing Today, Birmingham-Southern College, 12 April 1996.

"Point of View: Who's Telling Your Story," Writing Today, Birmingham-Southern College, 13 April 1996.

"William Wells' Path," Mount Saint Mary's College, 23 October 1997.

"Why I Wrote *The Children Bob Moses Led*," Southern Teacher Institute, University of Mississippi, 24 June 1998.

"William Wells' Path," The Native American Experience, Hofstra University, 25 April 1998.

"William Wells' Path," Mount Saint Mary's College, 22 October 1998.

"The Historical Novel," Bullis School, Potomac, MD, April 19, 1999.

"Writing, Race, and the South," Oxford Conference for the Book, University of Mississippi, April 10, 1999.

"Bob Moses and Freedom Summer," The College of New Jersey, October 16-17, 2000.

"Contemporary Fiction." Wilson College, October 24, 2000.

"The Literature of the Civil Rights Movement," AWP Conference, New Orleans, March 7, 2002.

"Teaching Creative Writing to Beginners," AWP Conference, New Orleans, March 8, 2002.

"Writing Historical Fiction," Mount Saint Mary's College, 1 October 2002.

"Was Moral Life Possible in the Concentration Camps?" Mount Saint Mary's College, 30 October 2002

"Going Native: Captivity Narratives of the Northwest Territory," American Culture Association, Albuquerque, February 15, 2003

"The Organizer and the Orator: The Contesting Leadership Styles of Bob Moses and Martin Luther King," Mount Saint Mary's College, January 22, 2004.

"The Children Bob Moses Led," Frederick County Public Schools Summer Institute, Mount Saint Mary's College, August 13, 2004.

"Beyond the Academy: Bringing the West to the Public: A Roundtable," Western History Association Conference, Las Vegas, October 15, 2004.

"This Little Light of Mine: Remembering the Civil Rights Movement." Mount Saint Mary's University, January 18, 2007.

"Making History: Writing Fiction about the Civil Rights Movement." AWP Convention. Atlanta, Georgia, March 2, 2007.

"American Mass Culture and the Question of Literature," honors convocation address, Mount Saint Mary's University, April 29, 2007.

"The Dream of Undying Fame: Hawthorne's *Fanshawe*," Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Conference, Bowdoin College, June 14, 2008.

- "William Wells and the Fort Dearborn Massacre," Society of Early Americanists Conference, Hamilton, Bermuda, March 6, 2009.
- "Writing Historical Fiction," Hiram College, June 20, 2009.
- "*Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells*," The George R. Mather Lecture Series, The History Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana, September 20, 2009.
- "*Blacksnake's Path*, A Reading and Talk by Historical Novelist William Heath," Hood College, September 30, 2009.
- "William Heath reads from *Blacksnake's Path*," The Writers Center, Bethesda, Maryland, November 8, 2009
- "William Wells and the American Borderlands," St. Augustine, Florida, Society of Early Americanists Borderlands Conference, May 15, 2010.
- "William Heath, a reading from *Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells*" Fort Recovery Historical Museum, Fort Recovery, Ohio, September 26, 2010.
- "The Causes of the War of 1812 in the Northwest," The Cosmos Club, Washington, DC, March 18, 2013.
- "From Freedom Riders to Freedom Summer," Frederick County Historical Society, June 5, 2014.
- "William Heath discusses Freedom Summer," Hiram College, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, June 14, 2014.
- "The World of Literary Fiction," Frederick Book Festival, June 28, 2014.
- "Does Historical Fiction Tell the Truth?" Urbana High School, September 24, 2015.
- "Trails of Tears: Conflict and Diaspora," a panel discussion at the Virginia Festival of the Book, March 18, 2016.
- "Writing History and Historical Fiction," Political Storytelling Symposium, Chevy Chase, Md. September 11, 2016.
- "Ariadne in Kentucky: Erotic Power and Mythic Resonance in William Heath's *Devil Dancer*," International Academy of Law and Mental Health Conference (Prague) Session I "Women, Madness, and Creation," July 14, 2017.
- "The Real Thing': Authenticity in Frank Bergon's Fiction," Visions of a Basque American Westerner: An International Conference on the Writings of Frank Bergon, Reno, Nevada, March 13, 2019.
- "James Smith's *Account* and the Significance of the Captivity Narrative." Midwestern History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 31, 2019.
- "The Long Run Massacre and the Beargrass Stations: Early Louisville History," Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY, October 10, 2019.

**Readings and Workshops:**

I have given numerous poetry and fiction readings and workshops at numerous places ranging from Greenhaven State Prison to the Library of Congress (5/1/94). Some of the colleges at which I have read are: Kenyon, Vassar, Transylvania, Mount Saint Mary's, Robert Morris, Hiram, Hood, Shepherd, Wilson, The College of New Jersey; universities include Kentucky, Mississippi, Seville, Barcelona, Madrid, Bilbao, Zaragoza, and Salamanca; plus arts festivals and readings in New York, London, Berlin, Rome, Washington, and Baltimore (the Miller Cabin Summer Reading Series, Rock Creek Park, Washington (6/7/94) and Borders Bookstore (9/9/94). High School readings include Mantua High School, Miss Porter's School, DeMatha, Bullis, and Frederick High School. Some recent readings: Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 4/16/2008, Four Seasons Bookstore, Sotto Voce Festival, 9/6/2008. Lit Youngstown, 6/8/18; St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Alexandria, Va. 9/21/18, InKy in Louisville, 10/11/19, Danske Dandridge Festival, Shepherdstown, WV, 10/12/19/

**Book Promotion: The Children Bob Moses Led:**

Borders Bookstore, Atlanta, Georgia, September 29, 1995  
 Southeast Booksellers Association, Atlanta, Georgia, October 1, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Cleveland, Ohio, October 13, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Akron, Ohio, October 14, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1995



Borders Bookstore, Columbus, Ohio, October 16, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Dayton, Ohio, October 17, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 18, 1995  
 Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, October 19, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 19, 1995  
 Joseph Beth Bookstore, Lexington, Kentucky, October 20, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Richmond, Virginia, October 22, 1995  
 Borders Bookstore, Towson, Maryland, October 25, 1995  
 Chapter's Bookstore, Washington, DC, October 28, 1995  
 Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, November 17, 1995  
 Walden Books, Frederick, Maryland, December 7, 1995  
 Bibelot Book Store, Reisterstown, Maryland, January 1, 1996  
 The Writer's Center, Bethesda, Maryland, January 28, 1996  
 Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, February 13, 1996  
 Donnell Library Center, New York Public Library, March 23, 1996  
 Interview on Wisconsin Public Radio, February 25, 1996  
 Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, March 25, 1996  
 Interview on West Virginia Public Radio, March 25, 1996  
 Writing Today Literary Conference: Birmingham-South, April 12-13, 1996  
 Hiram College, November 5, 1966  
 Square Books, Oxford, Mississippi, June 24, 1998  
 Square Books, Oxford, Mississippi, April 10, 1999  
 Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi, April 15, 2014.  
 Old Capitol Museum, Jackson, Mississippi, April 16, 2014.  
 Turnrow Bookstore, Greenwood, Mississippi, April 17, 2014.  
 Hood College, Frederick, MD, November 6, 2014  
 Frederick Historical Society, Frederick, MD. November 13, 2014  
 Rust College, January 26-27, 2015

Book Promotion: **Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells**

Fort Recovery History Museum, Fort Recovery, Ohio, October 10, 2008  
 Detroit Public Library, Detroit Michigan, October 11, 2008  
 Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, October 12, 2008  
 Joseph-Beth Bookstore, Cleveland, Ohio, October 12, 2008  
 Garst Museum, Greenville, Ohio, October 13, 2008  
 Hyde Brothers Books, Fort Wayne, Indiana, October 14, 2008  
 Tippecanoe Historical Society, Lafayette, Indiana, October 14, 2008  
 Joseph-Beth Bookstore, Lexington, Kentucky, October 15, 2008  
 The Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky, October 17, 2008  
 The Campus Martius Museum, Marietta, Ohio, October 18, 2008  
 The History Center, Fort Wayne History Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana, September 20, 2009  
 Fort Recovery History Museum, Fort Recovery, Ohio, September 26, 2010  
 Indiana Book Fair, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 4, 2010  
 Hyde Bookstore, Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 3, 2012.  
 History Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 4, 2012.  
 Grouseland, Annual Dinner Speaker, Vincennes, Indiana, April 9, 2014.  
 Whitley County Historical Museum, April 12, 2014.

Book Promotion: ***Devil Dancer***

Book signing, Hood College, Frederick, MD, March 25, 2013  
 Book presentation, Kensington Day of the Book, Kensington, MD, April 22, 2013  
 Book signing, Gratz Park Carnegie Book Fair, Lexington, KY, May 11, 2013

Book reading and signing, Al's Bar, Lexington, KY, May 12, 2013  
Book signing, Gaithersburg Book Festival, Gaithersburg, MD, May 18, 2013  
Reading and signing, The Limerick Pub, Wheaton, MD, Sept. 12, 2013  
Reading and signing, The Writers Center, Bethesda, MD, Nov. 3, 2013  
Carnegie Book Fair, Lexington, KY, May 10, 2014.  
West Tisbury Library, Martha's Vineyard, October 22, 2014.

Book Promotion, presentation and signing: ***William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest***

Fort Meigs Museum, Perrysburg, Ohio, April 9, 2015  
Maumee Public Library, Maumee, Ohio, April 11, 2015  
River Raisin National Battlefield, Monroe, Michigan, April 11, 2015  
The History Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 12, 2015  
Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 13, 2015  
Glenn A. Black Laboratory, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana, April 14, 2015  
Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, Indiana, April 14, 2015  
George Rogers Clark Memorial, Vincennes, Indiana, April 15, 2015  
Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, April 16, 2015  
Joseph-Beth Bookstore, Lexington, Kentucky, April 17, 2015  
Curious Iguana Bookstore, Frederick, Maryland, June 16, 2015  
Wolcott House, Maumee Valley Historical Society, Maumee, Ohio, October 1, 2015  
Fort Recovery, Fort Recovery, Ohio, October 3, 2015  
Garst Museum, Greenville, Ohio, October 4, 2015  
Kentucky Book Fair, Frankfort, Kentucky, November 14, 2015  
Indiana Historical Society Book Fair, Indianapolis, December 5, 2015.  
Virginia Festival of the Book, March 18-19, 2016.  
Wells County Public Library, Bluffton, Indiana, July 22, 2016  
Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Indianapolis, July 23, 2016  
Buckeye Book Fair, Wooster, Ohio, November 5, 2016  
Holiday Author Fair, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 3, 2016  
Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY, October 10, 2019

**Service Record: Mount Saint Mary's College**

Faculty Advisor, *Lighted Corners*, 1981- (winner of sixteen first-place national awards, 1985-2007)  
Media Council, 1981-2004  
Faculty Advisor, Foreign Students, 1983-1988  
Library Committee, 1993-2000. 2005-2006  
Athletic Review Committee, 1993-1995  
Editor, *The Monocacy Valley Review*, 1988-1996 (winner of two national awards)  
Core Evaluation Committee 1998-2000  
Archives Committee 2000-2004  
Honors Committee 2002-2003  
Mount Council 2005-2006

## William Heath: Author Biography

William Heath was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1942. He attended Hiram College, where he majored in history, was president *pro tem* of the college senate, president of his fraternity, and received eleven varsity letters in four different sports. He completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from Case Western Reserve University. His dissertation was a critical study of the American novelist John Hawkes. He has taught American literature and creative writing at Kenyon, Transylvania, Vassar, and the University of Seville, where he was the Fulbright professor of American literature for two years. Since 1981 he taught at Mount Saint Mary's University and served as faculty advisor for the college's award-winning undergraduate magazine, *Lighted Corners*; for eight years he edited a national literary magazine, *The Monocacy Valley Review*, which also won national awards for excellence. In the spring of 2007 he retired as a Professor Emeritus. In 2008-9 he was the Sophia M. Libman Professor of Humanites at Hood College, where he directed a "Cultural Encounters" series of guest lecturers and artistic performances. He has taught part-time in the graduate Humanities department at Hood.

William Heath's novel about the civil rights movement in Mississippi, *The Children Bob Moses Led* (317 pages, Milkweed Editions 1995, paperback 1997), won the Hackney Literary Award for best novel, was nominated by the publisher for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, and by Joyce Carol Oates for the Ainsfield-Wolf Award. In 2002 *Time* magazine judged it one of the eleven best novels on the African American experience ( [www.time.com/time/2002/bhm/reading.html](http://www.time.com/time/2002/bhm/reading.html) ). It was reissued as an on-demand and ebook from NewSouth Books in 2014. His second novel, *Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells* (365 pages, Heritage Books 2008), the product of twelve years of research and writing, tells the story of an unsung hero of the American frontier, circa 1780-1812. It was nominated for the James Fenimore Cooper Award for the best historical novel and chosen by the History Book Club as an alternate selection in 2009. His neo-noir crime novel *Devil Dancer* was published by Somondoco Press in May of 2013. *William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2015, paperback 2017) won two Spur Awards for best history book and best first nonfiction book. He edited *Conversations with Robert Stone* (University of Mississippi Press, 2016, paperback 2018). A chapbook of poems, *Night Moves in Ohio* will be published by Finishing Line Press in the fall of 2019. About one hundred of his poems have appeared in literary magazines, reviews, and anthologies; the finest are collected in *The Walking Man* (Icarus Books 1994). Recently, he has published two chapbooks of poetry, *Night Moves in Ohio* (Finishing Line Press) and *Leaving Seville* (Presa Press). He is presently circulating a manuscript of more recent poems, *Steel Valley Elegy*, an honorable mention for the May Sarton Poetry Prize. He has published over thirty reviews and twenty scholarly essays on Hawthorne, Melville, Twain, William Styron, Thomas Berger, Robert Stone, and Frank Bergon among others, as well as historical studies of Thomas Morton and William Wells, in such reputable journals as *The Massachusetts Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, *The Southern Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Texas Review*, *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, *The Journal of American Studies*, *The Indiana Magazine of History*, and *Northwest Ohio History*. He and his wife, Roser Caminals-Heath—Professor of Spanish at Hood College and author of seven novels in Catalan published in her native Barcelona—have lived in Frederick, Maryland since 1981.

Interviews are available at [www.cortlandreview.com](http://www.cortlandreview.com) (July 1999), and at google: William Heath, Case Western Reserve Interview (July 2010) A study guide for *The Children Bob Moses Led* is available at NewSouth Books. Visit the author's webpage: [www.williamheathbooks.com](http://www.williamheathbooks.com)

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