



THE PORT WILLIAM MEMBERSHIP AT DANCING BEAR FARM

“The way we are, we are members of each other.
All of us. Everything. The difference ain’t in who is
a member and who is not, but in who knows it and
who don’t.” ~ *Burley Coulter, in “The Wild Birds”*
by *Wendell Berry*

Third Mondays of every month
Potluck Supper & Book Discussion
5:30 – 8:00 PM

Port William, Kentucky is the setting for Wendell Berry’s many fictional works. “The Membership” is a term by which Berry and his characters convey the bonds of community within its given geographical location. The “membership” consists of any person who recognizes his or her place among – and responsibility to the well-being of – the land, animals and people of the place.

How can these stories help us to understand our local landscape, neighborhood and community as a place, in Berry’s words *“unique in the world, a work of God, possessed of an inherent sanctity that mocks any human valuation that can be put upon it.”* Let’s read these stories together to see what we can discover about our own membership, in our own place and time.

Participation Fee: \$5/person, \$10/family

Please let us know if you’re planning to join us!

We’ll provide beverages, table service and a beautiful place on earth to gather about four miles northwest of Lewisburg town.

DANCING BEAR FARM

P.O. Box 186 ☞ Lewisburg, PA 17837

570-523-0878 ☞ info@dancingbearfarm.org

www.dancingbearfarm.org

Bibliography

There are eight novels, thirty-eight short stories, and seventeen poems that touch on the people and life of Port William and environs. The chronology of the tales stretches from 1888 to 2000, relating both momentous and ordinary events in the lives of several families and a pantheon of interesting characters.

- *Andy Catlett: Early Travels*. Washington, D. C.: Shoemaker & Hoard, 2006.
- *That Distant Land: The Collected Stories*. Washington, D. C.: Shoemaker & Hoard, 2004.
[The Hurt Man, Don't Send a Boy to Do a Man's Work, A Consent, Pray Without Ceasing, Watch With Me, A Half-Pint of Old Darling, The Lost Bet, Thicker than Liquor, Nearly to the Fair, The Solemn Boy, A Jonquil for Mary Penn, Turn Back the Bed, Making It Home, Where Did They Go?, The Discovery of Kentucky, It Wasn't Me, The Boundary, That Distant Land, A Friend of Mine, The Wild Birds, Are You Alright?, Fidelity, The Inheritors]
- *Fidelity*. New York: Pantheon, 1992.
[Pray without Ceasing, A Jonquil for Mary Penn, Making It Home, Fidelity, Are You All Right?]
- *Hannah Coulter*. Washington, D.C.: Shoemaker & Hoard. 2004.
- *Jayber Crow*. Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 2000.
- *The Memory of Old Jack*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich 1974. (revised Counterpoint 2001).
- *Nathan Coulter*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1960 (revised North Point, 1985).
- *A Place on Earth*. Boston: Harcourt, Brace, 1967 (revised North Point, 1983; Counterpoint, 2001).
- *Remembering*. San Francisco: North Point, 1988.
- *Watch With Me and Six Other Stories of the Yet-Remembered Ptolemy Proudfoot and His Wife, Miss Minnie, Née Quinch*. New York: Pantheon, 1994.
[A Consent, A Half-Pint of Old Darling, The Lost Bet, Nearly to the Fair, The Solemn Boy, Turn Back the Bed, Watch with Me]
- *Whitefoot: A Story from the Center of the World*. Berkeley: Counterpoint. 2009.
- *The Wild Birds: Six Stories of the Port William Membership*. San Francisco: North Point , 1986.
[Thicker Than Liquor, Where Did They Go?, It Wasn't Me, The Boundary, That Distant Land, The Wild Birds]
- *A World Lost*. Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 1996.