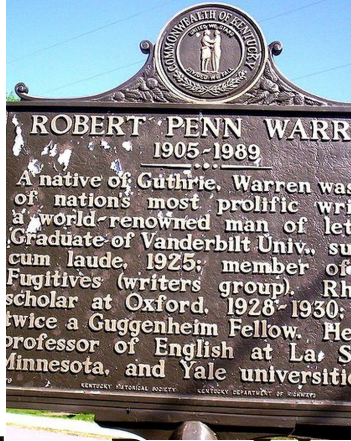




Robert Penn Warren

April 24, 1905 - September 15, 1989

Stratton, Vermont

Robert Penn Warren, poet, novelist, critic, and the only American to win Pulitzer Prizes for both fiction and poetry, died in Stratton, Vermont, on September 15, 1989, of complications from bone cancer. He was eighty-four. *All the King's Men* (1946) had already fixed Willie Stark in the national imagination; the later poetry prizes (1958, 1979) confirmed that the Kentucky-born Fugitive had never stopped rewriting the American moral sentence.

Born April 24, 1905, in Guthrie, Kentucky, Warren studied at Vanderbilt, Berkeley, Yale, and Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, helped found *The Southern Review* with Cleanth Brooks, and taught generations how close reading could be a civic act. New Criticism was a method; the novels and poems were arguments about power, race, memory, and the South's unfinished accounts with itself. Students who met him in seminar often met a man gentler than the political violence his fiction dissected.

Vermont's quiet hills held the last years. At his request a marker also stands with the family in Guthrie - a dual geography for a writer who never fully left Kentucky even when the mail came from New England. Cancer closed the ledger without closing the shelf of books that keep arguing after him.

He died in Stratton on September 15, 1989. Willis Cemetery there holds the body; the shelves hold the rest.

Warren's durability is double vision: fiction that understands political hunger and verse that refuses to flatter it. Notice Nearby records the Vermont death date so September 15 keeps the only double Pulitzer laureate beside the jazz and punk calendars that share the day.

Services

Died in Stratton, Vermont, September 15, 1989. Novelist and poet; Pulitzer Prizes for fiction and poetry; interred at Willis Cemetery, Stratton, with a memorial marker in Guthrie, Kentucky.

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