This section describes books and chapbooks of poetry and prose in which William Stafford was sole author or joint author with one other writer. The listing mingles volumes of poetry, prose memoir, essays, and translated collections of William Stafford’s poetry.

Though he was a perennial poet and essayist, writing almost daily from 1938 until his death in 1993, Stafford’s publishing career was delayed by World War II. From 1942 to 1946 he was interned as a conscientious objector in a series of work camps where his writing practice was established in a place apart from a nation at war. His first prose book, Down in My Heart, 1947, was an account of those years. Then, following a long apprenticeship as a poet, he was forty-six when his first poetry collection, West of Your City, was published in 1960. His next collection, Traveling through the Dark in 1962, won the National Book Award, and after his slow start, a flood of books followed. The eighty-five items in this section, sixteen of them appearing since Stafford’s death, represent a vocation of great variety and vigorous engagement with the world and with fellow writers. This includes six volumes of prose, nine collections of poetry from Harper & Row, myriad experimental volumes, and three poetry collections from Graywolf Press, now his publisher of record. Stafford was also well served by small-press publishers, notably Walter Hamady at the Perishable Press, and Donnell Hunter at Honeybrook Press. The best work from these small-press volumes was reprinted in collections by Graywolf and by Confluence Press. Six of Stafford’s publications are collaborations with fellow poets John Haines, Kim Stafford (twice), Marvin Bell (twice), and Roland Flint. Finally, collections of Stafford’s poems in translation have been published in Bangla, Italian, Japanese, Polish, and Swedish.

The titles are listed chronologically, each entry consisting of a title page transcription, a copyright notice, a detailed description of the volume, and a list of the volume’s contents and pagination. Items in square brackets are editorial insertions; titles in quotes indicate poems unless otherwise annotated.

Kim Stafford

Tree Swenson’s title page illustration from Sometimes Like a Legend (A39).
SECTION A. BOOKS BY STAFFORD

A1a. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1946

DOWN IN MY HEART | by | William E. Stafford | A.B., University of Kansas, 1937 | Submitted to the Department of | English and the Faculty of the | Graduate School of the University | of Kansas in partial fulfillment | of the requirements for the degree | of Master of Arts. | [signature] C. K. Hyder | Instructor in charge | [signature] J. H. Wilson | For the department | October, 1946

No copyright line.

Description: 27 cm. M. A. dissertation, University of Kansas. William Stafford’s account of his years in Civilian Public Service camps in Arkansas and California, containing greatly expanded descriptions of incidents described in some letters to his family. Stafford acknowledges the contributions of fellow conscientious objectors Harry Faulconer and Tom Polk Miller to two of the chapters.


A1b. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1947

Down in My Heart | WILLIAM E. STAFFORD | BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE | ELGIN, ILLINOIS


Description: 20 cm. First printing in book form. The book was authorized for printing on November 20, 1946, when William Stafford was teaching at Chaffey Union High School, Ontario, California. There were three printings of the first setting of the text type: in 1947 (1000 copies), 1948, and 1971. The first two printings were issued in bright green cloth over boards, with gold stamped titling, and a pale green dust jacket with back cover adverts for books by Rufus
D. Bowman and Ralph E. Byers. Price on jacket $1. The third (1971) printing was in wrappers patterned with a wood grain and fabric design, price $2.50.


A1c. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1948

Reprint of A1b.


A1d. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1971

DOWN IN MY HEART | William E. Stafford | THE BRETHREN PRESS | ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Reprint of A1b with variant order of preliminaries.


Description: 19 cm. Wrappers patterned with a wood grain and fabric design. Back cover text begins “In the Big War, the popular war, World War II, several thousand young men in the United States refused a part.”


A1e. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1985

William Stafford | Down in My Heart | SECOND EDITION | THE BENCH PRESS | Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

SECTION A. BOOKS BY STAFFORD


A1f. DOWN IN MY HEART · 1998

Down in My Heart | William Stafford | *Introduction by Kim Stafford* | Oregon State University Press | Corvallis Oregon


Description: 20 cm. Third edition, again printed under the auspices of Warren Slesinger, now at Oregon State University Press. Northwest Reprints series. In red and black printed wrappers. With a new introduction by Kim Stafford, and nine photographs (on pages [iii, vi], vii, xi, xiii, xiv, xv, xviii, [1]). Cover has subtitle “Peace Witness in War Time” not reproduced on title page.


A1g. DOWN IN MY HEART · 2006

Down in My Heart | PEACE WITNESS IN WAR TIME | William Stafford |
Introduction by Kim Stafford | Oregon State University Press | Corvallis