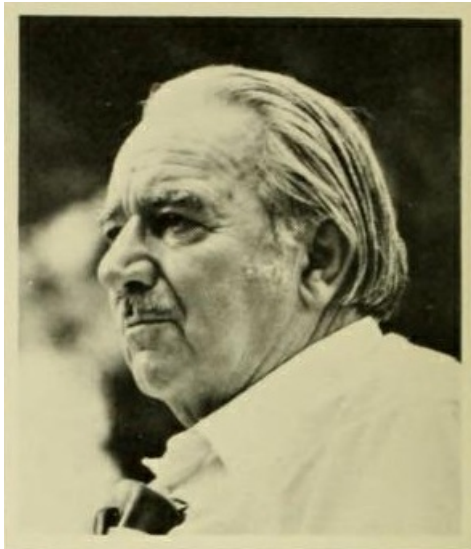


## **Wellman, Manly Wade** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Wellman, Manly Wade**

by William S. Powell, 1996

**21 May 1903–5 Apr. 1986**



North Carolina Awards committee. 1978.

"North Carolina Awards."

<sup>[2]</sup>Manly Wade Wellman, writer, was born in Angola, West Africa, the son of Frederick Creighton, a medical officer, and Lydia Jeanette Isely Wellman. In 1926 he was graduated from Wichita Municipal University in Kansas (now [Wichita State University](#) <sup>[3]</sup>) and in 1927 received a bachelor of laws degree from [Columbia University](#) <sup>[4]</sup>. From 1927 to 1934 he was a reporter for the *Wichita Beacon* and *Eagle* before embarking on a successful, lifelong career as a free-lance writer. In 1947 he moved to Pinebluff, N.C., but soon settled in Chapel Hill to take advantage of the resources of [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[5]</sup> library.

Wellman wrote both fiction and nonfiction for periodicals of many types including mystery, sports, juvenile, scholarly, and general popular magazines. His numerous books were also varied: biography, history (particularly Civil War and local history), [folklore](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, murder, science fiction, travel, and animals, among others. In 1955 he was the recipient of the [Edgar Allan Poe Award](#) <sup>[7]</sup> for nonfiction by the Mystery Writers of America, and in 1978 he was given the [North Carolina Award](#) <sup>[8]</sup> for literature.

He taught classes in creative writing in the Evening College of [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[5]</sup> and was widely appreciated for the aid he extended to would-be writers. He read and commented on their efforts and patiently guided many of them to fruitful careers.

In 1930 he married Frances Obrist, and they had a son, Wade. Wellman was a Democrat, an Episcopalian, and an active member of folklore and historical organizations.

#### **References:**

*Chapel Hill Newspaper*, 8 Apr. 1986.

*Raleigh News and Observer*, 6 Apr. 1986 (portrait).

Frances Wellman, personal contact, 4 Aug. 1994.

*Who Was Who in the South and Southwest* (1961).

#### **Image credit:**

North Carolina Awards Committee. 1978. "North Carolina Awards." <https://archive.org/details/northcarolinaawa1978nort> <sup>[2]</sup>

#### **Subjects:**

[Biographies](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[Novelists](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[Writers, journalists, and editors](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

**Authors:**

Powell, William S. [12]

**Origin - location:**

Orange County [13]

Chapel Hill [14]

**From:**

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press. [15]

1 January 1996 | Powell, William S.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/wellman-manly-wade>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/wellman-manly-wade> [2] <https://archive.org/details/northcarolinaawa1978nort> [3] <http://www.wichita.edu/> [4] <http://www.columbia.edu/> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/folklore> [7] <http://www.theedgars.com/> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-awards> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/novelists> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/writer> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/o> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-5> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>