

Visiting American Writers

Peter Stark

Amy Ragsdale

river. They jumped on board, and, using long wooden poles with which, standing on the raft, they could push against the bottom of the river, propelling the crude craft forward through the water.

They pushed out into the broad Allegheny in the twilight. The sudden power of the current seized the raft, jerking it downstream. Thick floes of ice swirling in the river pressed around them. The raft wedged between moving floes. It jostled and bumped, its logs driven underwater by the force of the current and floating ice, threatening to capsize. "[W]e expected every Moment our Raft to sink, and ourselves to perish," Washington recorded in his journal.

Determined to save himself and Gist and the important mission, Washington shoved his pole to the ground and leaned on it.

Universidade dos Açores

Ponta Delgada

Friday, May 6, 2022 ~ Anfiteatro VIII, 16:00

Readings

- Peter Stark (from his forthcoming book *Tecumseh's Promise*)
- Amy Ragsdale (from her travel memoir *Crossing the River: A Life in Brazil*)



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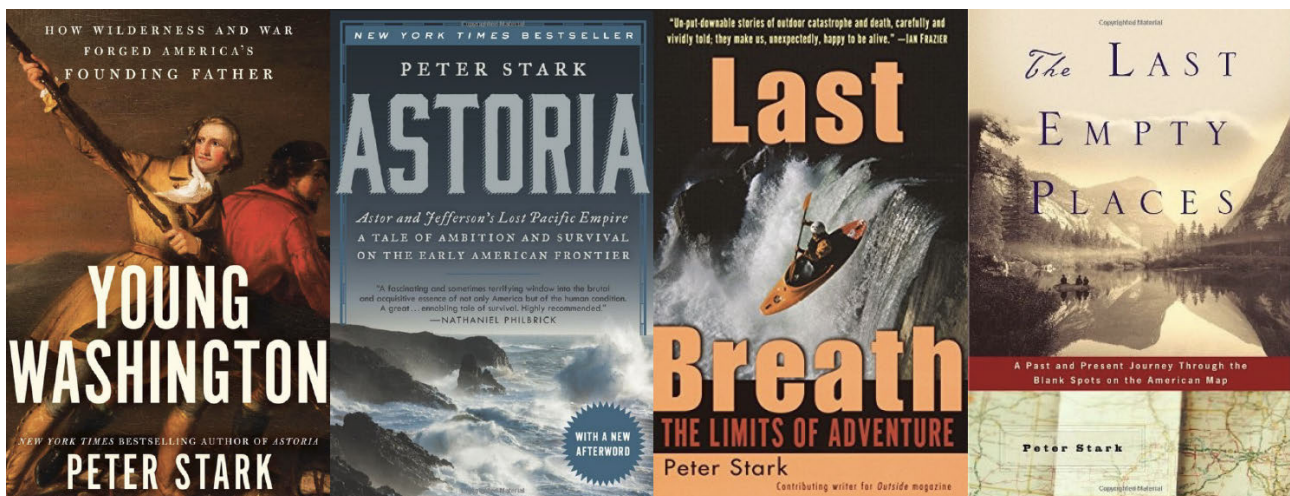


Peter Stark is an award-winning adventure/exploration writer and historian with an interest in the American frontier, particularly the interaction of native peoples and European immigrants. Born in Wisconsin, he studied English and anthropology at Dartmouth College, earned a Masters in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin, and headed off to remote spots of the world writing magazine articles and books. With a home base in Missoula, Montana, he and his family have periodically lived abroad, most recently in a small town in northeast Brazil.

A long-time correspondent for *Outside* magazine, Peter Stark's articles and essays have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, *Men's Journal*, and many others. His book *Astoria* (Ecco/HarperCollins, March 2014) tells the gripping story of John Jacob Astor's hugely ambitious wilderness expedition to establish the first American colony on the West Coast and a global trade empire. A *New York Times* bestseller, *Astoria* was a PEN USA Literary Award finalist and has been adapted into an epic, two-part play. His most recent book, *Young Washington: How Wilderness and War Forged America's Founding Father* (Ecco/HarperCollins, May 2018), tells the story of a young and struggling George Washington in the Ohio wilderness of the 1750s. It was a finalist for the prestigious George Washington Book Prize.

He is currently at work on a book about the great Native American leader Tecumseh, who united tribes across the middle of the North American continent to resist white immigration and settlement of their lands. It will be published by Random House in 2023.

www.peterstarkauthor.com



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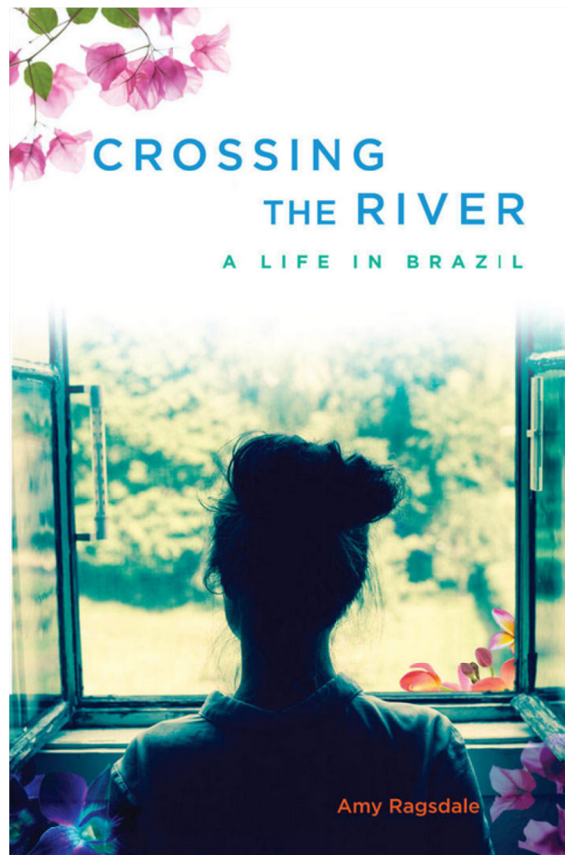
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Amy Ragsdale is a choreographer and writer based out of Missoula, Montana. Ms. Ragsdale was on the faculty of the Theatre and Dance Department at the University of Montana for twenty years, where she headed the Dance Program, founded two dance companies—Mo-Trans and Headwaters Dance Co.—and earned the university’s Outstanding Faculty Award. She has been the recipient of grants from the NEA, Paul G. Allen, and PROP Foundations and was awarded one of the 2009 Governor’s Arts Award for the State of Montana. She has taught contemporary dance in Spain, Indonesia, Martinique, Mozambique and Brazil. Her choreographic work has been performed throughout the Northwest and in New York, and televised on Montana PBS, KSPS, and CNN’s *World News*. She is the author of a travel memoir *Crossing the River: A Life in Brazil*, released by SEAL Press. Her articles and columns on travel and dance have appeared in *High Desert Journal*, *Mamalode*, and *Outside Magazine On-line*, where she initiated the column “Raising Rippers.” Amy earned a B.A. in Art History from Harvard College and an M.A. in Movement Studies from Wesleyan.

www.amyragsdale.net



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