

Lois V. Walker

THE AMERICAN STREAM

Walt Whitman

passing through the center
of town after town,
overflowed here and there,

Walt Whitman

meandering through his country
touching the banks with fingers
as he pressed words into each side
with sensuous delight and honesty,

Walt Whitman

washing all those soldier boys--
warm or cold--
with waves that carried fish
and bits of dirt from home,

Walt Whitman

returns to Long Island
again and again
hitting miles of glittering sand
with water, tangled flesh, and sound.