

Author Bio – Mary A. Shafer

Mary Shafer is a full time freelance writer, independent book publisher, and marketing consultant. From June to December, she lives and works in upper Bucks County, in her home state of Pennsylvania. The rest of the year, she enjoys following the warmer weather in her travel trailer, accompanied by her blind cat, Idgie. She is the author of four nonfiction books, and contributor to two published nonfiction anthologies.

Wisconsin: The Way We Were was her first book, published in 1993 by Heartland Press in Minocqua, Wisconsin. She had previously served for a short time as Heartland's art director, when it had been an imprint of NorthWord Press in the early 1990s.

When the company began concentrating on producing music CDs and cassettes a couple years later, Mary wanted to continue in book publishing, so she returned to freelancing. On her way out, she inquired about a title the editors had been considering, but had shelved for lack of an author they had faith in to execute the considerable task of covering the Badger State's first century of statehood.

Mary had been writing most of her life, and had been published in newspapers and a few magazines. As a dedicated amateur historian, she felt she was up to the challenge, and offered to research and write the book for a very small advance. This allowed her to get her foot in the door as a published author, while ensuring that the publisher wouldn't have to take too large a financial risk on an unknown author.

The gamble paid off for both: *Wisconsin: The Way We Were* went into three printings and sold 15,000 copies in hardcover before the company was sold to an international house that allowed the book to go out of print, since it wasn't interested in regional titles.



Mary believes her first book still has much to teach, in an accessible, entertaining style. That's why she has re-published the book in softcover and eBook formats, for today's reading audiences.

MaryShafer

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