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PO Box 97 • Ferndale, PA 18921  
Phone 610.847.2456 • Fax 267.239.8050  
Web [www.wordforgebooks.com](http://www.wordforgebooks.com)  
Email [publisher@wordforgebooks.com](mailto:publisher@wordforgebooks.com)

## **Author Bio**



### **Award-Winning Author Mary A. Shafer**

Mary Shafer became a full-time freelance writer in 2001 and has never looked back. She makes her living writing commercial copy and journalism, doing marketing consultation and public speaking.

She had her first book published in 1993, by Heartland Press. *Wisconsin: The Way We Were* is a historical nonfiction overview of Wisconsin's first century of statehood. It sold 15,000 copies in hardcover and is in the process of being brought back in paperback and eBook formats.

Two years later, Mary's second historical nonfiction book was published by Willow Creek Press. *Rural America: A Pictorial Folk Memory*, a heavily illustrated essay on the character of agrarian America before the industrial revolution, won a Best Book award from the MidAmerica Publishers Association.

A long hiatus from book writing followed, as Mary returned to her birth state of Pennsylvania, establishing herself in Bucks County, a venerable creative haven.

2005 saw the debut of Mary's book, *Devastation on the Delaware: Stories and Images of the Deadly Flood of 1955*, published by Word Forge Books. The narrative nonfiction title has garnered several publishing industry awards, selling more than 6,000 copies to date. The second edition came out in 2010.

In 2008, Mary edited and contributed an essay to the anthology *Almost Perfect: Disabled Pets and the People Who Love Them*. The book was published by Enspirio House, and won a 2010 Cat Writers Association Muse Medallion.

Mary's current projects include a Civil War-era ghost story/romance novel, and a series of mystery novels about a forensic meteorologist/storm chaser with a special gift. Mary is a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Pennwriters and the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group.