

CURRICULUM VITAE

SHAFER, Mary A. 1961-

PERSONAL: Born June 16, 1961, in Lancaster, PA; daughter of Darrell H. (retired) and Nina W. Shafer (deceased). Ethnicity: "White Euro-American." Nationality: American
Education: Attended University of Wisconsin--Stout, 1980-81, and University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, 1981; Milwaukee Area Technical College, A.A.S., 1990. Politics: Independent liberal. Religion: "Undeclared." Hobbies and other interests: Metal detecting, drawing, painting, stamp collecting, genealogy, history.

ADDRESSES: Home and office--Word Forge, P.O. Box 97, Ferndale, PA 18921; fax: 267-239-8050. Email--author@maryshafer.com. LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/maryshafer. Twitter: @mshaferauthor. Facebook: facebook.com/MaryAShaferAuthor.

CAREER: Instructor, commercial design & communication courses at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee, WI, 1994-1996; Creative Services, freelance graphic designer in Milwaukee, WI, and Doylestown, PA, 1994-99; Rhino Tactics (advertising agency), Lambertville, NJ, president, 1999-2001; Word Forge, Ferndale, PA, owner and copywriter, 2001--. Adult education teacher, New Hope-Solebury/Bucks county Community College, Palisades School District, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Publisher, Word Forge Books, Ferndale, PA,

MEMBER: American Society of Journalists & Authors, PennWriters, Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Groups, Arts & Cultural Council of Bucks County, Center for Independent Publishing, Independent Book Publishers Association, MidAtlantic Book Publishers Assn., (Board member 2006-2012; President 2010-2012), Civil War Preservation Association, Pennsylvania Historical Association, Pennsylvania Heritage Society, Bucks County Historical Society, National Museum of Women in the Arts, National Women's History Museum, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

AWARDS, HONORS: Best Book in One or Two Colors, Mid America Publishers Association, 1995, for *Rural America: A Pictorial Folk Memory*. Notable Book of 2006; Writers Notes Magazine, 2006, for *Devastation on the Delaware: Stories and Images of the Deadly Flood of 1955*.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: 2005-2009 Gallows Run Watershed Association newsletter editor; 2005-2013 Nockamixon Township Emergency Management Agency, volunteer weather & communications coordinator; 2001-Present Certified SkyWarn weather spotter.

WRITINGS:

Books – Individual Titles

Wisconsin, the Way We Were: A History of Statehood, 1845-1945, Heartland Press (Minocqua, WI), 1993.

Rural America: A Pictorial Folk Memory, Willow Creek Press (Minocqua, WI), 1995.

Devastation on the Delaware: Stories and Images of the Deadly Flood of 1955, Word Forge Books (Ferndale, PA), 2005.

Work represented in anthologies:

Almost Perfect (contributor & editor), Word Forge Books (Ferndale, PA), 2008.

A Place to Which We Belong, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin (Madison, WI), 1998.

Contributor to trade & consumer periodicals (hundreds of articles).

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Lonely Cottage Road, a novel.

The Storm Diaries, a novel series

Last Star Before Morning, a novel. First title in The Star Trilogy

Sight Unseen: Lessons from a Small Gray Cat, inspirational nonfiction

WRITING PHILOSOPHY:

"I write to bring attention to important ideas and to give people hope in an often frightening and gloomy world. My influences are the world around me, and the kind and giving people in it. For nonfiction, I am especially interested in history and weather, animals and the environment, and the connection between creativity and healing. For fiction, I like to write about history--particularly the time periods of the North American fur trade, settlement, the Gold Rush era, the American Civil War, and World War II. I am particularly moved by stories of ordinary people behaving in uncommonly brave or altruistic ways under the duress of extraordinary situations.

"I am inspired by things that amaze me, which I want to share; a particularly moving experience; lack of available information on a subject that interests me; other people's topic suggestions; a sense that existing books on any given topic don't tell the whole story; and under-represented stories, such as those about women, animals, and certain socio-cultural segments."