



Wisconsin Historical Society
P R E S S

Wisconsin Historical Society Press Book Proposal Form

Please submit proposals by email to whspress@wisconsinhistory.org

Author(s) Contact Information

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Date:

About Your Book Project

Working title (Please provide your tentative title and subtitle. You may also include alternative titles):

Estimated word count in final manuscript:

Percentage of manuscript now complete:

Expected manuscript completion date:

Illustrations: Estimated number, type, format, sources, permissions considerations, likely fees, etc.:

“The Hook” (the book’s unique selling points, in 20 words or fewer):

One-paragraph summary (100–200 words):

Extended description (roughly one to two pages):

Complete Table of Contents with a brief synopsis of each chapter:

Audience / Readership: Who are the target audiences for this book, and what are their age ranges? (You can list multiple categories of readerships and audiences. For example: *high school students, readers of military history, college courses in women’s studies, memoir readers, readers interested in American Indian history*, etc.) How and why will this book appeal to these readers?

Comparable and competing titles: List existing books on this topic. Include title, author, publisher, and year of publication. How is your book unique compared to similar titles?

About the Author(s)

Provide a short author bio as you imagine it appearing on the cover/jacket (50–100 words):

Relevant credentials: Include your current title and affiliation, educational background, previous books and/or publications, and other relevant experience. Why are you the right person to tell this story?

Research and Writing Approach

What research tactics have you used? (for example: *conducted research in the WHS archives or other archives or libraries, conducted interviews (include names and relevance to project), reviewed journals to jog memory, read letters in family collection*, etc.) Optionally, you may also include a bibliography. If applicable, include plans for research yet to be completed.

Writing approach: How would you describe your voice or point of view in this work? What argument(s) does the work make, and how have you incorporated your research to help you build your case?

Expert readers: Who have you consulted about your manuscript? List readers who have already reviewed the manuscript and what section(s) they reviewed. Is further review by experts or other readers necessary? If so, what material would benefit from review, and whom do you feel is qualified to review the work (you may include names of specific individuals or types of reviewers, such as “an expert on Wisconsin shipwrecks history”). Are there particular communities or people referenced in your work who should be consulted?

Why the WHS Press?

Based on your knowledge of our mission, our audiences, and our other authors and titles, why is this book a good fit for the Wisconsin Historical Society Press?

Does your project have any connection to titles on our backlist or to Wisconsin Historical Society sites, collections, museum exhibits, programs, etc.? If so, please list them.

Underwriting and/or Partnership Potential

List any potential underwriters—individuals, businesses, trade associations, etc.—whom you believe might be willing to underwrite in part or in full your book’s costs. (Note: financial support is not required for publication, and answering "N/A" will not negatively affect the consideration of your proposal. Before proceeding, we will discuss with you any potential underwriters and how best to approach them.)

List any potential partners who might be interested in collaborating with the WHS Press on promoting and marketing the book or by making a prepublication purchase of copies.

Sample Text

Include one to three chapters representative of the planned work. You may paste the sample below or add it as an attachment to your submission. The sample should illustrate your voice and writing style. It should also include examples of all the elements you plan to include (sidebars, captions, footnotes, citations, recipes, etc.). Do not send a full manuscript unless specifically requested. If you have photos or illustrations that you would like to be considered along with your proposal, please submit samples as separate attachments.