

About Branch Line Press Books

Our primary goal at Branch Line Press is to produce unique guides and enjoyable, literate reference books to help readers explore the rich and diverse history, culture, and natural history of our region. We aim to publish books that are accurate and detailed enough to satisfy serious students and fans of a topic, yet well-written and with enough illustrations and anecdotes to appeal to more casual readers.

The books in our *New England Rail Heritage Series* set the tone for the type of books we wish to publish. These volumes organize New England's extensive rail history in unique, usable handbook formats with clear, lively chronicles and many photographs, summary charts, maps, and illustrations.

While transportation history has been and will continue to be one of our primary interests, for our *Heritage of New England Series* we will consider manuscripts on topics as diverse as architecture in New England; the ethnic groups of the region; New England coastal and seafaring history; the White Mountains and the industries there; the history of our colleges and universities and guides to their diverse architecture and public resources; natural or historical landmarks across the region; and biographical anthologies of famous people who have lived here. Compendiums or guides to virtually any historical topic will be considered.

For our *New England Transportation Series* we seek manuscripts on traction, streetcars,

and related services—such as the amusement parks at the ends of the lines—as well as books on railroads, rivers, and canals.

We have long sought to develop a series on *New England Natural History* for which we will consider manuscripts on geographic features and history, wildlife in New England, and on places to bird, hike, and otherwise explore the nature, landscape, and natural history of this region.

For book ideas to be considered for any of these series, the topics must be unusual or unique or they must present previously published topics in a unique or original manner.

Branch Line Press will not ordinarily consider publishing personal memoirs, biographies of single individuals, genealogies, travel guides, species identification guides, or topics of limited interest such as histories of a single town, park, landmark, or organization; and we are not in the business of publishing poetry, fiction, or inspirational material.

For books that fit our publishing niche, we pay competitive royalties and in some cases advances.

Submitting Your Book Proposal

Whether your book is in the planning stages, is researched but not yet written, or is already a rough-draft manuscript, **we prefer to see a proposal of your book idea that carefully explains and summarizes it** before you send a manuscript.

Your proposal should include a single-page cover letter which:

- ◆ States the topic of your proposed book
- ◆ Briefly explains why you believe this book idea is desirable for and salable by Branch Line Press
- ◆ Briefly summarizes your qualifications to write about this subject and your previous publication experience, if any

Also submit a 2-4 page outline which includes:

- ◆ Your name, address, and phone number
- ◆ The working title of your book
- ◆ The intended contents of the book, including chapter headings and a list of major topics in each chapter
- ◆ The planned organization of the book's subject matter
- ◆ A brief description of the illustrations, graphics, resource lists, appendices, and bibliographies, that you plan to accompany the text
- ◆ An explanation of the anticipated audience and market for this book and the book's appeal to that audience
- ◆ A brief statement of the unique features of this book that would compel readers who already have books on this topic to purchase this one as well.

You may also include the introduction to the book and 4-8 sample pages from a typical chapter if they are already written. **Please do not send more than that** until we have evaluated your idea for its appropriateness to our plans and needs and invited you to send us more.

If your book proposal does not match our plans, you can expect to hear from us accordingly within 2-3 weeks.

If your proposal is one which we would like to consider more seriously, we will contact you within 2-4 weeks with further questions about your project. We may ask to see samples of your writing. If you have a manuscript, we may want to see all or part of it at that time.

The final decision on acceptance of your project will take place after more detailed evaluation and after discussion with you of possible changes in the book to better organize the material to meet Branch Line Press's goals or to make it more appealing to a wider audience.

In preparing your manuscript for our review, please double-space text and do as little formatting as possible: *no* underlining, centering of headings, and extra line spacing between paragraphs; use boldfacing and italics only where necessary for clarity. The first sentence of each paragraph should be tab indented five spaces.

Please send your book proposal to:

Branch Line Press
Attn: Diane Karr
30 Elm Street
Pepperell, MA 01463

Phone/Fax: 978-433-2236
E-mail: books@branchlinepress.com

Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have any part of your proposal returned to you if we do not accept it.

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