

For Immediate Release

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***Personal Biographers to Explore
Revolutionary Perspectives at Valley Forge***

VALLEY FORGE, PA —Personal historians from around the globe will meet this fall to celebrate their rapidly emerging profession. The theme for their conference, *Revolutionary Perspectives*, is extremely appropriate for these skilled artisans of the Association of Personal Historians, Inc (APH). They came into the field with varied perspectives, having transformed careers in journalism, film, oral history, psychology, gerontology, storytelling, graphic design, publishing, history, education, and more into the business of documenting the lives of individuals and families, as well as the histories of corporations and communities worldwide. And, of course, each of their clients' stories brings a unique perspective to the universal history that only he or she can tell.

More than two hundred of these professionals are expected to gather at the Radisson Hotel in Valley Forge October 21-25, 2009, for the 15th annual APH conference. In support of the conference theme, the program will include keynote speakers, panel presentations, and workshops that explore the myriad perspectives encountered in the study and telling of personal histories as well as the various methods for documenting these stories—video, books, digital media, and others.

APH is the only trade organization devoted to the profession of preserving histories, life stories, and memories for individuals, families, organizations, and communities. “The common thread among personal historians is a passion for gathering and recording personal stories,” says APH President Paula Stahel, owner of Breath and Shadows Productions in Tampa, Florida, and an independent writer for twenty-five years. “We all believe that to understand who we are, we must understand who we came from. Knowing the stories of our families provides a perspective on what we have done and can do in our own lives. When I first became active in APH in 1998 and told people I specialized as a personal historian, their immediate question was always: ‘A what?’ In just ten years, the term has become familiar.”

This year's program has been developed by Marianne Waller, founder of Signature Life Stories in Philadelphia. In addition to an outstanding lineup of speakers and special events, Marianne has arranged for the presentation of numerous informative workshops focusing on the skills as well as the latest technology and equipment utilized by personal historians to capture lives and memories effectively for future generations.

Additional information about the Association of Personal Historians and the Philadelphia conference is available at www.personalhistorians.org

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