



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Pollarine, Assistant Superintendent

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barbara_pollarine@nps.gov or 610-783-1037

Best-Selling Author, Ray Raphael to speak at Valley Forge National Park

VALLEY FORGE, PA – Renowned author, Ray Raphael, launches his newest book, Founders: The People Who Brought You a Nation with a lecture at Valley Forge National Historical Park next Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Raphael examines how to call back a distant time, to view it more fully and accurately. “The reality of our nation’s founding has narrowed in the decades and centuries since. Actual events have been simplified, and the truth diminished.” says Raphael.

In this new book, Raphael examines seven lead characters:

- General George Washington
- Joseph Plumb Martin, a private in his army
- Mercy Otis Warren, the most political woman of the Revolutionary generation
- Robert Morris, the most powerful civilian in Revolutionary America, but strangely forgotten
- Timothy Bigelow, a small-town blacksmith who helped engineer the first overthrow of British authority in 1774
- Henry Laurens, South Carolina’s most unlikely rebel
- Thomas Young, a country doctor turned revolutionary

Using each of these unique stories, Raphael leapfrogs past centuries of mythology and filtrations of the historical record to explore the American Revolution as it was known by those who lived it. His previous award-winning works include A People’s History of the American Revolution, The First Revolution – Before Lexington and Concord, and Founding Myths.

This program stems from the Park’s Business Plan which emphasizes partnerships and community outreach by offering relevant, educational and interpretive opportunities.

Copies of Founders... will be available for sale in the Encampment Store. The author will be available to sign copies after the lecture. This free, public event is sponsored by Valley Forge National Historical Park, The Friends of Valley Forge Park, The Encampment Store at Valley Forge and The New Press. Call 610-783-1006 or e-mail maher@valleyforge.org for more information or to register.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park is a national icon of the American Revolution that serves as a place where visitors enjoy, understand, care for and preserve America’s history and natural heritage. The Park offers an engaging, complete educational and recreational experience, providing an important piece of the American story in a beautiful, historical, preserved landscape.