

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Neal Harmon, neal@familylearn.com, 801-623-5520
Paula Yost, paula@alifesketch.com, 903-383-2126

Personal Biographers to Explore Crossroads at Utah Conference

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — A rapidly emerging profession will soon take another giant step forward when Personal Historians from around the globe meet in Utah, the historic Crossroads of the West. The theme for this conference, *Crossroads in Personal History*, is nothing new to the skilled artisans of the Association of Personal Historians, Inc (APH). They have crossed many roads by transforming 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.

More than 300 of these professionals are expected to gather in Salt Lake City from October 29 through November 2, 2008, for the 14th annual APH conference. Each day's program will support the conference theme—Business and Products Crossroads (Thursday), Historical Crossroads (Friday), Crossroads at the Heart of the Story (Saturday), and Personal Crossroads (Sunday).

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 25 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,” Stahel explains, “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. Genealogy has been a growing avocation for years now, but only recently have people come to recognize the importance of the scarce stories attached to dates and places. During our upcoming conference in Salt Lake City, the world's genealogical epicenter, we hope our members and genealogists will intersect and carry our work forward in new directions.”

This year's program has been developed by Neal Harmon, co-founder of FamilyLearn Inc., in Provo, and his co-chair Paulette Stevens, owner of The Personal Historian, LLC, in Salt Lake City. In addition to an outstanding lineup of speakers and special events, the two have organized thirty informative workshops focusing on the skills, equipment, and methods of value to personal historians in capturing lives and memories effectively for future generations.

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

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