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## HISTORY TRAVEL MADE EASY

### New U.S. Guidebook Focuses on 300 Premier Historic Destinations



JACKSON, Calif. – May 21, 2007 – History-minded U.S. travelers have faced a surprising challenge when planning trips: how to identify interesting destinations. They want a good story and tend to favor specific time periods. Once they've exhausted their own wish-list and the recommendations of friends, where do they turn for new ideas? Conventional guidebooks are organized by cities/states/regions – that's not good when location is secondary to the history experience. Travel guides with topic-oriented indexes are helpful but time-consuming to use. Advertising literature is limited in scope and biased. Internet searches are only as good as the search engine and the experience of the person searching. In the end, many interesting historic attractions are missed.

“This can be terribly frustrating,” notes professional writer Suzanne Sheumaker, who speaks from long experience. She and her husband Craig, a graphic designer and photographer, have driven over 125,000 miles in the U.S. by car and motorhome in recent years. Initially focused on scenic destinations for Craig's photography business, they developed a passion for historic sites along the way. “Identifying top-quality attractions was surprisingly difficult,” Craig comments. Unable to find a good history-oriented guidebook, they decided to create their own. The end result is the newly released *America's Living History–The Early Years*. (See [www.AmericasLivingHistory.com](http://www.AmericasLivingHistory.com))

What makes this travel guide different? It focuses on the most formative period of America's past – the time before the 1840s westward movement – and it invites readers to make their travel choices based on chapters in history. The destinations are categorized by America's Native Peoples, European Colonization, Religious and Secular Groups, Road to Independence, Our New Nation and Opening the West. Here 300 premier visitor attractions are showcased. Among them are World Heritage Sites, National Parks and Monuments, State and National Historic Sites, and privately operated living history museums.

Just as unusual, the Sheumakers have used the histories of these sites – along with 500 color photographs – to talk about America's early years. “Our intent is not to teach history

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but to stimulate interest in visiting key historic places,” Suzanne remarks. “Books, lectures, museums and TV documentaries are helpful. But there’s nothing quite like touching the past and seeing it come to life before your eyes. This is history at its most enjoyable!”

Beginning well before the arrival of Europeans, *America’s Living History–The Early Years* presents an array of intriguing travel opportunities. Over 40 Native American attractions are featured, including a monumental earthwork that has a footprint larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. European colonization is explored from three different perspectives – the Spanish, French and English. Centuries-old religious settlements provide insight into early communal lifestyles and the devotion to God. Dozens of military attractions recall the excitement and dangers of the French & Indian War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Numerous other travel destinations tell about the formation of our independent nation and the emergence of the Industrial Revolution. The book closes with places related to the Lewis & Clark Expedition and fur trading.

“We focus on attractions where costumed interpreters and re-enactors provide valuable insight,” Craig notes. “The past takes on a whole new meaning when witnessed at restored and re-created Native villages, working farms and plantations, populated Colonial America settlements, sailing ships and canal boats, fully outfitted fur trading posts, and commercial villages peopled by old-time artisans. Of course, history travelers will also enjoy iron furnaces, a gunpowder manufacturer, a textile mill, a gold mine, taverns, pharmacies, historic government buildings and the homes of our early Presidents,” he concludes. Scattered throughout the U.S., these heritage parks and living history museums offer enough to keep curious Americans exploring for a lifetime.

*America’s Living History–The Early Years* (ISBN: 978-0-9792598-0-7) is a \$29.95 high-quality paperback, 8-1/2” x 11” and 224 pages. In addition to 500 color photos, this guidebook contains regional travel maps, historical perspectives, over 90 sidebar features, tourist information and a detailed index. It is sold through traditional and online stores. Autographed copies are available direct from Red Corral Publishing at [www.AmericasLivingHistory.com](http://www.AmericasLivingHistory.com)

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