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Photograph available of author Jack Kelly

Revolutionary War Soldiers are the Subject of Memorial Day Weekend Lecture at the David Library

Jack Kelly, Author of “Band of Giants,” Will Speak

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- The David Library of the American Revolution has announced a late addition to its spring lecture schedule. On Friday, May 27 at 7:30 PM, author Jack Kelly will give a lecture based on his book, “Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence.” The lecture is admission-free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling (215)493-6776 ext. 100, or by sending an email to rsvp@dlar.org. It will be held in the Feinstone Conference Center on the David Library campus, 1201 River Road (Route 32), Washington Crossing, one mile north of the Washington Crossing Bridge.

“Band of Giants” brings to life, in a vivid and moving narrative, the founders who fought for freedom, and the war that secured American independence. Jefferson, Adams and Franklin are known to most Americans — men like Morgan, Greene and Wayne are less familiar. Yet the ideals of the politicians only became real because fighting men were willing to take on the grim, risky, sometimes brutal work of war. The soldiers of the Revolution were a diverse lot: merchants and mechanics, farmers and fishermen, paragons and drunkards. A few were trained military men, but most were ardent amateurs. That these inexperienced warriors could take on and defeat the superpower of the day was one of the remarkable feats in world history. “Band of Giants” gives readers a taste of the sheer intensity of experience that lit the minds of the revolutionary fighters. It examines the decisions, mistakes, fears, risks, and emotions that weighed on the men who led the effort. It draws attention to the fraught conditions under which the patriots fought — the bitterly divided populace, the lack of supplies, the repeated setbacks on the battlefield, and the appalling physical hardships. The troops often fought without blankets, shoes, food or pay, and yet they endured and won.

Jack Kelly is a journalist and historian. An earlier book of his, “Gunpowder: Alchemy, Bombards, and Pyrotechnics: The History of the Explosive that Changed the World” was critically acclaimed as “evocative, brilliantly succinct and excruciatingly powerful.” He is a regular contributor to American Heritage Magazine and other national periodicals. A New York Foundation for the Arts fellow in nonfiction literature, Kelly lives in the Hudson Valley, near many of the important sites of Revolution.

The David Library of the American Revolution is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of American History, 1750-1800. For more information, visit the Library’s website, www.dlar.org.

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