FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo: Lemuel Cook, one of “The Revolution’s Last Men,” photographed in Clarendon, New York in 1864 at the age of 105.

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA ~ The David Library of the American Revolution will host an event to launch the new book, “The Revolution’s Last Men: the Soldiers Behind the Photographs” by Don N. Hagist on Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 PM. The event will include a talk by the author followed by a book signing reception. It will take place at the David Library, 1201 River Road (Rt. 32) in Washington Crossing, PA, 1.3 mi. from the Washington Crossing Bridge. Admission is 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.

“The Revolution’s Last Men” is being published by Westholme Publishing of Yardley, an independent publisher of trade books, noted for titles in a variety of subject areas, including American and world history, military history, ancient and medieval studies, sports, and science. Westholme books are released worldwide.

“The Revolution’s Last Men” is actually a fresh look at an old book, “The Last Men of Revolution” by E. B. Hillard, first published in 1864. As author Don Hagist notes, “During a Civil War that threatened to tear the United States apart came the realization that only a handful of veterans of the American Revolution still survived – men who had fought the war that created the nation. Six of these men were photographed and interviewed for the original book. Their images have captivated generations since then; but, through a combination of faded memories and the interviewer’s patriotic agenda, the
biographies accompanying these amazing photographs were garbled and distorted, containing information that ranged from inaccurate to implausible.”

Now, for the first time, using a wide array of primary sources that were not available in the 1800s, the military careers of these men have been researched in detail by Hagist, a historian, and author of a number of books on the American Revolution, including “Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls: A Selection of Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers 1770-1783” and “British Soldiers, American War: Voices of the American Revolution.” The result is a new perspective on the actual service of these soldiers, from enlistment to discharge, along with new details of their relatively quiet post-war lives. “The Revolution’s Last Men” presents the original biographical interviews published in 1864, pension depositions and other first-hand accounts given by each man later in life, and an up-to-date biography examining each soldier’s service. The book also includes several newly-discovered photographs of the men, and drawings of how they may have looked when they served in the American Revolution.

In his talk at the David Library, Hagist will discuss the development of the book, from concept to publication, including many unexpected discoveries about the men depicted and even about the 1864 book itself. The book will be available for purchase at the event for $20.

The David Library is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study of American history circa 1750-1800. The Library is the repository of an unparalleled collection of primary sources on the era, and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 10 to 5. For other admission-free events scheduled at the David Library visit http://www.dlar.org/events.htm.

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