

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA* Casts New Light on the Shadows of History**

A perfect marriage of history and ghostlore, *Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA* (Ghostlore Press 2007) illuminates the past of America's most historic—and most haunted—city. To say this is not to imply that history and ghostlore are mutually exclusive; rather, as Tim Reeser clearly shows, looking at history through the lens of ghostlore brings new insights to light, giving texture to characters flattened by time and history lessons. Using impressive archival research and interviews, coupled with a keen sense of intuition, *Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA* brings Philadelphia's colorful history to life.

Among the stories included in *Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA* are never-before-told tales, as well as others that have resurfaced after a century or more of dormancy. Some of the stories revealed with new research involve the clairvoyant skills of America's foremother, Betsy Ross, the spiritual test of Temple University's founder, Reverend Russell Conwell, the curse of the millionaire Coleman family, and the far-from coincidental happenings at the formidable Eastern State Penitentiary. Stories of City Tavern, the Powel House, Independence Park, Washington Square, Pennsylvania Hospital, St. Peters Church, Mad Anthony Wayne, and many more, are resurrected here as well, creating a vivid picture of a time so often overlooked for its large presence on the stage of American history.

What readers will find remarkable about this book is that, in either case, the stories bring together the present with the past. The introduction states that the Ghost Tour of Philadelphia provided the impetus for the book, and so the experiences of guides and customers on the tour, too, find their place among the pages of Philadelphia history. In this way, Reeser creates a textual space of time overlapping, where people experience history in the present. Fittingly, this phenomenon parallels the very essence of telling ghost stories, and certainly makes *Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA* both compelling and captivating!

Ghost Stories of Philadelphia, PA is available online at ghostlore.com and at regional retailers. Contact ghostlore@ghostlore.com for more information.

The Ghost Tour of Philadelphia is a 90 minute, candlelight walking tour of Independence Park and Society Hill. Tours start daily at 7:30 pm in the Signers Garden at 5th and Chestnut Streets, April through November. For reservations, rates, ticket locations, and additional tour times, call 215-413-1997 or visit ghosttour.com. Private and group tours are available March through November.