



# The Gallatin Ledger

## American Indian Living History Celebration at Friendship Hill

Many American Indians were still living in the region when Gallatin lived at Friendship Hill. The study of Native American language fascinated him. Witnessing the decline in their culture and languages, he

**The study of American Indians fascinated Albert Gallatin. In 1842 he founded the American Ethnological Society.**

founded the American Ethnological Society in 1842. The Society remains a well respected anthropological organization to this day.

To bring to life his connection with eastern American Indians and their role in the young United States, the Friendship Hill Association will host an American Indian Living History Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12, 2009 at Friendship Hill National Historic Site. The event is free, though a voluntary parking donation is appreciated. Historic foods will be available during the event.

Re-enactors of various backgrounds, including Seneca, Shawnee, Abenaki, Oneida, Huron, and Cherokee will demonstrate American Indian lifeways to visitors, who will be allowed to participate and try some of the traditional skills themselves. Historic lifeways demonstrations include, fire starting, Indian games, tanning, cooking, bone jewelry, arrow making, quilling, finger weaving, drumming, native plant usages, cord making, lacrosse, interpreting pictographs, tattooing and use of historic weapons



Albert Gallatin's interest in American Indian culture led him to create the American Ethnological Society. Interest in native lifeways continues today..

On Saturday only, the *Oneida Nation - First Allies* of New York demonstrate the loading and firing of 18th century artillery.

Demonstrators will set up a variety of traditional shelters on the north lawn of the Gallatin House, including mat covered wigwams. The camp area will display many

**There are many misconceptions about the American Indians who lived in Pennsylvania which this program hopes to dispel**

elements of traditional lifeways. The demonstrators will be dressed in traditional 18th century style.

These unique American Indian lifeways skills are rarely presented in the region. This program hopes to dispel many mis-

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### 2009 Events

April 25  
Jr. Ranger Day

May 3  
Albert Gallatin South Band Concert

June 17  
Steps to a Healthier Fayette County - Legends

June 21  
Take Joy - The Music at Friendship Hill

July 11-12  
American Indian Living History Celebration

September 26 - 27  
FestiFall 2008

## From the Superintendent

As evidenced in several stories in this newsletter, volunteerism at Friendship Hill National Historic Site is alive and well. It is my sincere pleasure to report that support received from park partners such as the Friendship Hill Association, as well as individual volunteers, has resulted in expanded opportunities for visitors this past year.

FestiFall grew to a two-day event in 2007, and is planned to remain so in 2009. Many helping hands are needed to host such a well attended event, and park volunteers and friends group members account for much of that effort.

Volunteers were also instrumental in preparing the Gallatin mansion display of the furnishings on loan from Arlington House. The popular display has increased visitation to the park, and volunteer workers assist park staff in maximizing tour opportunities for the public.

Information on becoming a park volunteer is available by contacting Volunteer Coordinator Kitty Seifert at 724-725-9190 or by e-mailing [kitty\\_seifert@nps.gov](mailto:kitty_seifert@nps.gov). Information about joining the Friendship Hill Association is available by contacting association president Toni L'Hommedieu, Ph. D., at [tlhomme1942@yahoo.com](mailto:tlhomme1942@yahoo.com) or by writing the Friendship Hill association at P.O. Box 24, New Geneva, PA 15467.

I wish to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to these varied endeavors. I also welcome and encourage others to become involved in volunteering and experience firsthand how rewarding it can be.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Hanley  
General Superintendent,  
Western Pennsylvania National Parks

## A Little Something About Gallatin-- Gallatin's Furniture

Little is documented about the furniture and other items Gallatin had at Friendship Hill. A few brief instructions to his son and brother-in-law tell us of four dozen Windsor chairs in the house and his wish to have bedsteads, and other furniture made in the "Western Country". He requested they be built "cheap but sturdy" and "possibly of cherry." A chemical apparatus which his son Albert Rolaz studied with, as well as a billiard table and piano are also mentioned. Most of the rest must be left to our imaginations until further evidence is found.

# Explore, Learn and Protect as a Junior Ranger

Friendship Hill National Historic Site will offer a new Junior Ranger program beginning in 2009. The new program guides children on their explorations of Friendship Hill, helping them learn about Albert

## The games, puzzles, and activities in the program were kid-tested during the National Junior Ranger Day

Gallatin's contribution to our nation in a fun and engaging way. The games, puzzles, and activities in the program were kid-tested during the National Park Service's second annual National Junior Ranger Day in 2008.

The Friendship Hill Junior Ranger program includes different levels of activities for children ages 6-12. The levels are named to reflect the stages of Albert Gallatin's career.

## Programs

### House Tour

Join a Ranger to get an in-depth perspective of Albert Gallatin's Friendship Hill

### Musket Firing

Gallatin called his involvement in the Whiskey Rebellion his only political sin. Learn more about this volatile testing period of the young United States government.

### Keeping House in Gallatin's Time

Demonstrations of crafts and activities used to run Friendship Hill in 18th & 19th centuries

### Junior Ranger

Children 6-12 can earn a patch by completing these activities designed for young minds.



Friendship Hill Junior Ranger Patch.

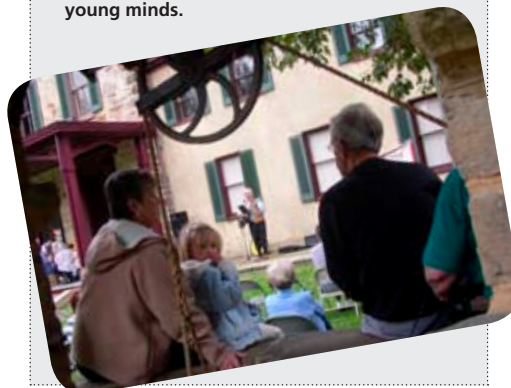
"Industrialist" activities are recommended for children ages 6 through 8. Children 9 and 10 strive to become "Congressmen" while 11 and 12 year-olds complete "Secretary of Treasury" challenges.

Children completing the program will be awarded a National Park Service Junior Ranger patch. They will also earn a Friendship Hill Junior Ranger patch and certificate.

Over the past year, volunteers Kathy Pieszak and Deborah Witt totally revised our aging Junior Ranger Activity Book, creating a lively adventure that keeps kids interested and learning the way kids like to learn.

The program is available to youth groups with advance reservations. The program is designed for children to explore history with the aid of an adult. Organized groups should insure there are enough chaperones to work through the activities with the children. Call Ranger Kitty Seifert at 724-725-9190 for more information.

There is no charge to participate in the Junior Ranger Program. Stop at the visitor center desk at Friendship Hill and become a Junior Ranger today.



# Volunteers-in-Park present New Hands-On Programs

The Friendship Hill Volunteers-in-Park are pleased to announce new hands-on, domestic life-ways programs for the 2009 summer season. These programs focus on the crafts and techniques used by those that lived and worked on Mr. Gallatin's country estate and in the near-by community of New Geneva. Visitors will have the opportunity to try most of these crafts to see if they have what it took to live 200 years ago.

Over the winter, volunteers have been training to become proficient in such crafts as wool spinning, knitting, embroidery, quilting, constructing hand-stitched period clothing, and basket making to prepare for the demonstrations to be presented this coming summer. They will study additional crafts such as dutch oven cooking, soap making, musket firing, flint knapping, and fire starting with flint and steel. "Our goal with these new programs," said volunteer Elsie Ahlgren, "is to create something that we can enjoy demonstrating and draw the



Volunteers demonstrate the use of a spinning wheel at Friendship Hill.

visitors into a great learning experience at the same time."

The programs will be offered on weekend afternoons, as volunteer availability permits. Call the park number or e-mail to address listed below for details and which demonstrations will be carried out on the day you wish to visit.

**\*Some crafts will not be available for visitor hands-on experience due to safety regulations.**

Would you like to become a volunteer and help support the programs and operations at Friendship Hill?

Park volunteers have long been a valuable addition to the staff. Greeting visitors, giving guided tours, creating and revising programs, and helping with projects of all sorts, they help keep Friendship Hill running smoothly

Call or e-mail us for more information and the benefits of participating as a National Park Service Volunteer-in-Park.

**Contact Information**  
Phone: 724-725-9190 or  
e-mail: [kitty\\_seifert@nps.gov](mailto:kitty_seifert@nps.gov)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Gallatin Ledger is the official newspaper of Friendship Hill National Historic Site. Albert Gallatin is best remembered for his thirteen year tenure as Secretary of the Treasury during the Jefferson and Madison administrations. In that time he reduced the national debt, financed the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and funded the Lewis & Clark exploration. Gallatin's accomplishments and contributions are highlighted in his restored country estate, Friendship Hill

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## 28th Annual FestiFall at Friendship Hill

It is hard to imagine that FestiFall, the annual fall festival celebrating the life and times of Albert Gallatin is celebrating its 28th year this September. Our first festival was held on the first Sunday of October in 1982. Sleet and snow fell throughout the day, but it didn't dampen the spirits of those in attendance. All the crafts demonstrators were crammed inside a huge, borrowed army tent while, outside, cloggers danced on a low-boy trailer that served as a stage.



Through the years, FestiFall has undergone many changes. In the mid 1980s historic foods were offered for the first time. The fare was certainly a crowd pleaser, especially the ham and bean soup. Visitors come back every year just for that soup. Originally scheduled for the first Sunday of each October, the government shutdown in 1995 prompted changing of the date to the last Sunday in September assure smooth planning. In 2007, the format was changed from a one-day to a two-day event. Many demonstrators prefer longer events because of all the equipment and set-up time it takes. As a result, more demonstrators have graced the ground of Friendship Hill, showing their crafts and selling their wares.

The Friendship Hill Association has been a volunteer-based partner with the National

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## American Indian Lifeways

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conceptions about the American Indians who lived in Pennsylvania which. The demonstrators of American Indian heritage will present history from diverse points of view of their native cultures.

All the presenters are committed to presenting accurate and culturally sensitive representations of the Eastern Woodland American Indians. They include:

- Todd Johnson, who's family taught him traditional skills, feels a strong need to educate others about traditional American Indian arts. He has nine years experience presenting American Indian programs.
- Carol Fortunato has presented at schools, Girl Scout camps, French and Indian War reenactments and at Fort Necessity National Battlefield.
- Dana Knezevich has authored a book on the, *Life of the Eastern Woodland Indians*.

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## Take Joy - The Music at Friendship Hill June 21, 2009

Enjoy music of Albert Gallatin's era played on instruments of the period, including, flutes, tin whistles, and historic ensembles. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day.



Evan Kovach is one of the performers playing in the Take Joy -- The Music at Friendship Hill event in June.

- Bill Graham has participated in many events including the 250th commemoration of the Battle at Fort Necessity.
- Jim Edwards is an historical interpreter and re-enactor for over 20 years.
- Frank Forney is a re-enactor with over 20 years experience.
- Lynnrae Troples has been a historical re-enactor for 16 years
- Kinorea Tigri's mission is to share her American Indian culture, help her people, and educate children and adults. She has developed a variety of educational programs.
- Dianne Anestis has presented programs on Native American for the National Park Service and West Virginia state parks.
- Aaron Bosnick is the head Native interpreter at Prickett's Fort State Park.
- Herb Clevenger is a former American Indian Specialist with the National Park Service.
- Norm M'Sadoques is Abenaki and has been doing historical reenactments and interpretation for 19 year.

- Ron Patterson is Oneida and is a master lacrosse stick maker.
- Doug Wood has interpreted for the National Park Service and West Virginia Humanities Council's "History Alive!"
- Jon Miller, with has two years experience as a Native American re-enactor, is passionate about tattooing, a very real part of Indian culture.
- The six member Oneida Indian Nation - First Allies Cannon crew is part of a living history department committed to making the public aware of the Oneida Indian Nation's long standing relationship with the United States government.



## FestiFall 2009

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Park Service since March of 1982. They conceived FestiFall that year and it has been their finest event every year since. The proceeds from the festival are used to support the National Park Service in its efforts to maintain and interpret the story of Albert Gallatin and his beautiful country estate. The members are active in all facets of park operations, donating their time and efforts to encourage more visitors to come learn about Albert Gallatin and experience the natural world along the park's ten miles of hiking trails. For all the efforts of the Friendship Hill Association, we thank them.

FestiFall will be held on Saturday & Sunday, September 26 – 27, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. Please come out and enjoy the festivities.

The Gallatin Ledger is published by the National Park Service for visitors to and supporters of Friendship Hill National Historic Site.

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