

# FRIENDSHIP HILL

HOME OF  
ALBERT GALLATIN



The Lookout

HOW generously Nature has distributed her charms in this quiet spot! How picturesque her settings for this historic old mansion! Spacious lawns, flowering shrubs, clambering ivy, singing birds, great branches of primitive trees whispering in confidential tones of sweet, old memories, bind the present to the past, and make a strong appeal to save this old estate as a shrine to the nation.

## BEAUTIFUL OLD FRIENDSHIP



VIEW OF MANSION AND PORTRAIT  
OF ALBERT GALLATIN

HILL has a language all its own. It speaks eloquently of a youth, who formed a strong tie between two liberty loving republics, and stands out as some lone sentinel guarding the gateway to a most interesting past.

That youth, whose forbears helped to down tryanny in the land of Gessler and of Tell, was fired by an

adventurous and patriotic zeal, which was destined to be heard on two continents. Looking back through the dim corridor of the years, we see him, scarcely nineteen, stealing away from his native Switzerland by stealth and embarking for America, 1780, in time to lift his sword in behalf of the struggling colonies. That youth was Albert Gallatin, who today ranks with the greatest men of his time, and stands first, among those of foreign birth, in point of service in the political throes of our country in its formative period. And Friendship Hill was a realization of the dream of his college days when he would be the master of a vast country estate.

His wanderings from place to place after the Revolution brought him first to Virginia; then to the domain of William Penn, where he invested his patrimony in Friendship Hill, in 1786; cast his lot with the people of this commonwealth, and stamped his name in its annals for all time.

It was in 1789 that the first brick house was built on this estate; in 1794, he founded New Geneva; and two years later, established the first glass factory west of the Alleghenies here. It was in the Keystone State that he entered upon his political career when he stood out as a member of the convention that revised the State Constitution in 1789. In 1795, he was elected to the United States Senate, but owing to some technicality in regard to his foreign birth, he was not permitted to take his seat. But his fearlessness and ability soon won recognition, and honors came thick and fast; and it was not long until he was nominated for Vice President, though he declined the honor and withdrew from the race. In 1801, President Jefferson called him to his cabinet, as Secretary of the Treasury, and his ability as a financier was of such a high order that he was retained in this office throughout the administration of President Madison, and declined the honor of this portfolio under President Adams. He was

repeatedly elected to Congress; served as minister to France from 1815-23; as envoy extraordinary to London 1826-7; as head of the Peace mission to Russia; and was one of the most potent factors in bringing about the Treaty of Ghent. He was practically the author of the Ways and Means committee; served with distinction in the legislature of Pennsylvania, leaving his imprint on the early school law of that state.

Midst all the turmoil of public life, this quiet retreat, "far from the din of the maddening crowd" was dear to his heart; for he disliked the social world, and declared that he would "be content to live and die at Friendship Hill." But its isolation, with its attendant privations, was too much for the feminine members of his family, who loved the gay circles of the outside world. So the sequel to this beautiful, old retreat was written in a home in New York City when Mr. Gallatin retired from public life in 1828, and it passed into other hands a few years later.

But when one contrasts its present conveniences of good roads, telephones, leafy driveways, automobiles, bathrooms, with those of the almost pathless wilderness days with their lurking foe, the sacrifice is no longer cause for wonder. For with its commanding location, its surpassing scenic surroundings, its unusual preservation of the architecture of the past, its productive acres, it touches the ideal for a country estate of today, to say nothing of its gorgeous furnishings of a period that is wholly past and its historic settings. For we must not forget that, after the completion of the new stone house, in 1823, Lafayette was entertained here over night, in May 1825, while he was the Nation's honored guest. This room is still set apart to his memory and his picture adorns the wall.

This beautiful old estate has long been clamoring for its rightful place in our National history; and the "Friendship Hill Association" has been organized for the purpose of purchasing and preserving this home, just as it stands with its furnishings, as a memorial to Albert Gallatin and his invaluable service to our country. This is the tocsin for the opening of the campaign and it bespeaks nation-wide interest. The National Society U. S. Daughters of 1812, numerous historical organizations as well as individuals of national repute, have already indorsed the movement.

Mrs. A. M. Sowers, of Morgantown, West Virginia, is the president; Mr. M. B. McDonald, Uniontown, Penn., secretary; and Mr. ~~Guy W. Brown~~, Uniontown, treasurer. All communications should be addressed to Mrs. A. M. Sowers, President of Friendship Hill Association, Morgantown, West Virginia.



View of Monongahela river

Front view of mansion and lawn



This old bell symbolizes our clarion call to action to save this shrine to the Nation.



Interior of Lafayette room as it is today



This old well has quenched the thirst of Lafayette, and many other notables in our history.



From left to right at top—Library, lower hall, and rear drawing room.  
Lower—Breakfast room and banquet hall.

Rear  
view of  
Friendship  
Hill  
mansion



Lawn  
where the  
Lafayette  
feast  
was spread

*Minnie Kendall Lowther, author and designer*