

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee and the NRIEP Present

# Albert Gallatin and a Nation Free from Debt

Saturday April 18, 2026 5PM

University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning

Room CL 332 (Third Floor)

Free and Open to the Public

Reception with Author Greg May  
to Follow in the Croghan-Schenley  
Room on the First Floor



NATIONALITY  
ROOMS  
AND INTERCULTURAL  
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

In honor of Swiss Albert Gallatin and his important role in the founding generation of the USA, and the 100th anniversary of the NRIEP, the Swiss Nationality Room Committee and the NRIEP are pleased to present famed biographer Greg May, the leading biographer of Albert Gallatin.

Emigrating to the US at age 20, Albert Gallatin set up local western Pennsylvania roots near Uniontown, PA with his Friendship Hill estate. He was a PA Congressman and Senator, was the first Ways and Means Committee Chairman, and served as Secretary of the Treasury under Jefferson moving the Louisiana Purchase to completion. He also funded the Lewis and Clark expedition and the National Road, serving under multiple presidents. He helped end the War of 1812 and was ambassador to both France and England. Gallatin founded the First National Bank of New York and NYU and became the leading ethnologist of the Native-American tribes. With the topic of our growing national debt taking renewed interest in the current political climate, it is worthwhile to examine Gallatin's urgent message to run the new national government with frugality-not incurring huge debt, as his rival Alexander Hamilton wished. Greg May's talk will focus on this philosophical and financial debate of those times and will include many anecdotes of other aspects of this 'Swiss Founding Father's' life. Gallatin re-enactor Ron Duquette will also be present!

Gregory May is a historian who writes about the early American republic. A graduate of the College of William and Mary and the Harvard Law School, Greg also edited the Harvard Law Review. After serving as a law clerk for Justice Lewis Powell on the United States Supreme Court, he practiced law in Washington, DC, and New York for over thirty years. Greg is also the author of *A Madman's Will: John Randolph, Four Hundred Slaves, and the Mirage of Freedom*. He is now completing a book about the legacy of slavery that George Washington left to his heirs.

