

**Free Beer (Root Beer, That Is) For All;  
New Harmony Hosts Its 191<sup>st</sup> Traditional Fourth Of July Celebration**

**Contact:**     **Scott Wylie, Historic New Harmony**  
                  [rswylie@usi.edu](mailto:rswylie@usi.edu) or 812.682.4488

**Kill Date:**    **July 5, 2006**

---

**New Harmony, Indiana** – Historic New Harmony will commemorate its 191<sup>st</sup> Fourth of July in much the same way that it was celebrated during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with patriotic speeches, music, and a picnic featuring free (root) beer.

The celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Thrall’s Opera House with patriotic speeches, music, and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Beth Foster, Editor/General Manager of the Mt. Vernon Democrat, will be the keynote speaker. From 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the event will move to Maclure Park in New Harmony for a community picnic. The picnic will feature a variety of food items for sale, including hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst, cobbler, and ice cream. Games for kids of all ages and the popular decorated golf cart parade will return again this year as well.

In the tradition of New Harmony’s founding Harmonists, free (root) beer will be available for all attendees. During their early celebrations of the Fourth of July, members of the Harmonie Society would invite area residents into their community offering locally brewed beer to their guests.

The events are free and open to the public and everyone is welcome. A special treat for this year’s attendees will be the opportunity to view Historic New Harmony’s newest exhibit at Thrall’s Opera House detailing the history of the Golden Troupe. Part of New Harmony’s rich theater tradition, The Golden Troupe performed at Thrall’s from 1875 to 1891 and the exhibit includes costumes and other items used by the troupe.

New Harmony's Traditional Fourth of July Celebration is sponsored by the New Harmony Kiwanis, the Friends of the Workingmen's Institute, and Historic New Harmony. Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

###