Historical archive, exhibits and a database. Today the Foundation maintains a genealogical reference library, the Germanna Colonies in Virginia for Germanna part of the Germanna home to its the Germanna Colonies in Virginia. In 1956, this group of families union picnics on land that was once part of Germanna. In the late 1940s, R. Brawdus Martin began gathering fellow de-

The Germanna Foundation community help ensure our heritage will con-
municate exhibits, and active participation our publications, other edu-
cating expert-led tours. Whether you are the first or the tenth generation to have a tie to Germanna, you

The Germanna Foundation
Honor Our Historic Heritage

Germanna: A Family of Families

By 1725, more settlers had joined Germanna:
Hans Jacob Oyler and wife Anna Magdalena Schneider, Johann Friedrich/Frederick Cuntz/Coons/Cuntz/Uhl/Owell/Yowell, Johann Heinrich/Castler/Kastler, and Christopher/Utterback and wife Anna Maria Sieber, and Christoph-Ziegler, Johann Michael/Stephanie, and wife Maria Elisabetha Brombach, Melchior.

In the 1730s, more Germans settled the Little Fork area (Culpeper County): Harman Back/Back, Harman Button, John Josten, and wife Anna Magdalena Schneider, Johann Friedrich/Frederick Cuntz/Coons/Cuntz/Uhl/Owell/Yowell, Johann Heinrich/Castler/Kastler, and Christopher/Utterback and wife Anna Maria Sieber, and Christoph-Ziegler, Johann Michael/Stephanie, and wife Maria Elisabetha Brombach, Melchior.

A Brief History of “Germanna”

In 1714, 42 German men, women, and children arrived in Virginia where Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood (1676-1710) settled them on the Rapidan River in a five-sided palisaded fort (named Germanna for the Germans and Queen Anne) along what was then the frontier about 20 miles west of present-day Fredericksburg. With their pastor, Henry Haeger, they formed the first German Reformed congregation in Virginia.

The Germans had come from villages near Siegen, in North Rhine Westphalia, a silver and iron producing area. Spotwood planned to use them to mine his lands, and there were hopes that silver would be found. By 1717, iron had replaced silver as the focus of Spotwood’s mining operation. As the Siegelanders were coming to the end of their contract, Spotwood settled a second group of Germans to add to his workforce. Coming mainly from agricultural villages in the Krushchau area of Baden-Wurttemberg, they had expected to go to Pennsylvania. The first group acquired land in present-day Fauquier County and moved there by 1720. With the frontier now further west, Spotwood dismantled the fort and built a mansion, known as the “Enchanted Castle.” The Germanna settlement was also the site of the first courthouse for the large frontier county of Spotsylvania and was the starting point for Spotwood’s famous Knights of the Golden Horseshoe expedition over the Blue Ridge in 1716.

This second German group moved on to lands in the Robinson River Valley (now Madison County) and formed the Hebrew Lutheran Church, the oldest continuously operating Lutheran Church in America. The influence and enlivening spirit of these early German colonists helped shape the Virginia Colony; our young nation, and in-deed can be felt throughout our nation’s history down to today.
past 30 years—has uncovered the ruins of the Enchanted Castle and soil
Previous archaeological research—conducted infrequently over the
and interpreting this important historic property.
In the fall of 2013, the Foundation acquired the site of Fort Ger-
160-acre Siegen Forest for visitors to enjoy the area’s natural beauty, fea-
turing the Rapidan River, much as the Germanna colonists would have seen it.
Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle Site
In the fall of 2013, the Foundation acquired the site of Fort Ger-
manna and Alexander Spotwood’s “Enchanted Castle” from the Uni-
versity of Mary Washington, and accepted the exciting task of exploring
Mart genealogical and family history research library are housed in
Adjoining the visitor center is a beautiful Memorial Garden with
granite monuments and benches, and engraved stone pavers honoring
many of the immigrant families, descendants, churches, and Founda-
tion leaders. Alexander Spotwood’s son John is buried here.
The Russell and Joan Hitt hiking trails traverse the Foundation’s
much about Germanna.
Salubria
Salubria, among the oldest and finest colonial-era houses of Vir-
ginia’s Piedmont region (photo above), became the property of the Ger-
manna Foundation through a generous gift of Laura Grayson in 2001, in
order to preserve this grand Georgian-style brick mansion and its
legacy. The links between the Germanna colonies and Salubria are old
and strong, as the builder of Salubria (ca. 1757), the Rev. John Thomp-
son, married the widow of Lt. Gov. Spotwood.
Annual Reunion and Conference
The picnic is still a part of what is now a multi-day reunion and edu-
cational conference held the third weekend in July, bringing together
Germanna descendants and families, historians, genealogists, archaeol-
gists, anthropologists, supporters, friends and others from around the
country, and often including distant cousins from Germany.
Attendees can walk the same land as their ancestors, tour sites im-
portant to German-American history, meet new cousins and reconnect
with others, learn about the early history of our country and their own
families, hear about the Foundation’s archaeological and historic pres-
servation activities, and enjoy the cultural landscape that is Germanna
today.

Brawdus Martin Visitor Center, Germanna Memorial Garden, and Siegen Forest
The Brawdus Martin Germanna Visitor Center (see cover) was
dedicated in 2000. The building was designed to call to mind the shape of
Fort Germanna. A museum, the Foundation offices, and the Evelyn
markings consistent with the type of construction that described Fort
Germanna. The site, saved from development and now protected by the
Foundation with a historic preservation easement, promises to reveal
much about Germanna.
Plans are underway to construct a new museum and library build-
ing to house and exhibit additional artifacts, and interpret our new dis-
coveries as we continue to tell the Germanna story.

Salubria

The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprof-
unlimited except as otherwise provided by law. The remaining por-
tion of your membership dues and any additional contribution is tax-
deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Application and Donation Form
Annual membership helps the Foundation preserve the historic
heritage of the Germanna colonists, their families and descen-
dants, and ensures you stay up-to-date on Germanna Foundation
activities through our informative newsletter. Membership also
provides you exclusive access to the Germanna database (105,000+
records). Additional contributions allow us to do even more,
and are very much appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: You can also
register and donate online via our website, GERMANNA.org.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________ Zip code ________
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Germanna Ancestors, if any/known: ____________________________________________________

Please check the appropriate box for your membership level:

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