Fort Germanna Site is Now Entrusted to Our Stewardship

A historic event for the Germanna Foundation took place on Thursday, October 2, 2013 in front of the Visitor Center. An event we’ve waited many decades for:

The 62-acre Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle archaeological site was transferred from the University of Mary Washington to the Germanna Foundation.

President Marc Wheat signed the historic transfer documents over his family Bible and Germanna Record Number 5: “Ancestry and Descendants of the Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia, 1714-1750,” using a pen given to him by a Germanna descendant of both the First and Second colonies for having participated in his wedding.

He used these tokens for the signing ceremony to symbolize the both the seriousness of our undertaking and the multi-generational responsibilities of stewardship we are initiating.

The Germanna Foundation has agreed with the Commonwealth of Virginia that we must raise and expend $575,200—a sizable dollar figure—on preserving, exploring, excavating, and interpreting the Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle Property.

If we fail to do that, the 62 acre site—so precious to each of us—will may revert back to the Commonwealth.

On the eve of the Germanna colonies 300th anniversary in America, let’s join together to finish the work of Fort Germanna as a gift to those Germanna families looking back from the vantage point of the fourth centennial, that they may know we were good and faithful stewards of their heritage.

Your donations are vital to this effort and needed now more than ever! Please consider donating any amount to help the Germanna Foundation’s good stewardship of Fort Germanna on behalf of yourself and your ancestors.

Donations can be sent by check or made online on our redesigned website under the menu heading “Get Involved.” Thank you!

Festschrift presented to John Blankenbaker at Reunion

Germanna Record 20: Germanna Studies: Essays Honoring John V. Blankenbaker was launched at the Reunion with a formal presentation to the honoree by the board of trustees of the Germanna Foundation.

In contrast to the genealogical format of many Germanna Record volumes, this latest publication of the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc. is a collection of essays by a range of contemporary scholars with a strong interest in Germanna.

Each essay draws on the years of scholarship in Germanna-related topics on the part of each of the contributors to the volume, as their way of honoring John Blankenbaker for his many years of research, publication, and speaking on Germanna topics.

Continued on Page 3
For over half a century, descendants of the explorers and colonists who became American at Germanna have found their way home through pathways marked out by research published by the Germanna Foundation.

Each of us remember the first time we reconnected with each other at a Germanna event, and discovered that kinship and place fuse here as “kinship of place.”

Some of us may not connect on a pedigree chart, but our heritage makes us feel that we are more than just cousins.

Inspired by shared memories of the storied five-sided Fort, the site of first German Reformed Church in America, the site of Governor Spotswood’s Enchanted Castle, we would return to gather and remember.

But in all those years of reunions, conferences, and pilgrimages, the land promised to our ancestors from across the sea lay beyond our stewardship.

Generations ago, Germanna passed out the hands of Germanna’s families.

The great object of all our homecomings – the beginning of our story in America – was the missing piece.

But now – in our generation – we can celebrate the homecoming of the great object itself: Germanna has returned!

After three years of quiet and sensitive (and yes, painful and frustrating!) negotiations, on October 3rd many trustees, members, and distinguished public officials witnessed the signing ceremony that cleared the way for the Germanna Foundation to acquire the most important 62 acres in the country to honor our historic heritage.

We are thankful for this very special homecoming on the cusp of the 300th Jubilee of Germanna.

There will be great challenges ahead as we raise the necessary funds to hire the right Chief Operating Officer to and conduct sensitive archaeological work on a complex site.

But these struggles are nothing compared to the struggles of the first colonists at Germanna.

I hope that you will join with me to give sacrificially to our mission – to safeguard and interpret a special place and say with pride and gratitude, “this is where our family became American.”

At our homecoming the Germanna Foundation holds the third weekend of July every year, we remind each other of our mission as interrelated families in the words of one of America’s greatest poets, T.S. Eliot.

These have been the watchwords that have inspired your Board of Trustees for these last three years in the quest to recover the site of Fort Germanna and the Enchanted Castle, and and I would like to share these words with you again:

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

Help us reach our Goal of $575,200

Your tax-deductible donations can be made via our website, GERMANNA.ORG or by sending a check to Germanna Foundation, PO Box 279, Locust Grove, VA 22508.

Thank You!

Germanna Foundation Germany 2014 Calendars Available

An excellent Christmas gift for that cousin, sibling, nephew, niece, or grandchild with Germanna roots is our lovely new 2014 calendar.

Illustrated with color photos from ancestral villages of our Germanna ancestors in the Siegerland, the Palatinate, and Baden-Württemberg, this makes a wonderful reminder of our heritage all year long.

Dale Sayers prepared the calendar with photos from the 2013 Germanna pilgrimage to Germany.

Proceeds from the sale of the calendars will benefit the educational projects of the Foundation.

You may order your calendars by phoning Barbara Bounds at the Germanna office 540-423-1700 and placing the order on your credit card, or by mailing a check for $18.00 ($15 per calendar plus $3 shipping) to Germanna Foundation, P.O. Box 279, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0279.

Thank You!
Festschrift presented to John Blankenbaker at Reunion

Continued from page 1

The contents include:

• Transcriptions and translations of the emigration permissions of four of the 1714 immigrant families, Holtzclaw, Fishback-Rector, and Cuntz.
• A study of early Germanna area roads and the settlers’ participation in their construction.
• An overview essay of the emigration of German-speakers through London to British North American colonies from Nova Scotia to Georgia from 1680-1750, as a broad context for the Germanna groups.
• An updated and expanded genealogy of the descendants of Michael “Big Mike” Clore
• An architectural history and analysis of Hebron Lutheran Church, with special emphasis on the German timber-framing techniques employed.
• A study of Christopher Zimmerman and his family’s tavern in the village of Stevensburg, Virginia.
• A mapping essay of the Germanna family landholdings in the Little Fork community of Culpeper County, with an 11 x 17 fold-out map included.
• A study of the Germanna area in the difficult, destructive Civil War years with a survey of surviving buildings and earthworks, including those on Germanna Foundation property.

Many of the essays are illustrated with documents, maps, period photographs, and contemporary photographs.

All essays are carefully documented, and the 300-page volume is indexed.

The editor, Katharine L. Brown, and the Germanna president, J. Marc Wheat, both provide brief introductory essays.

The cost is $20 per book, plus $5 for shipping and handling, with taxes included.

The book may be ordered on Amazon.com via our website, www.Germanna.org or by contacting the Germanna Foundation office at 540-423-1700.

Festschrift Honoree John Blankenbaker with the next generation of Germanna descendants. The children rang the bell in the Germanna Foundation’s Memorial Garden on the occasion of the Fort Germanna transfer.

Germaina Foundation

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Germanna Foundation, a 501(c)3, seeks an experienced Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Principal responsibilities of this full-time position are:

• Fundraising (membership, annual fund, benefit functions, grant writing, capital campaign)
• Public relations (interaction with business, government, and civic leaders in a 6-county Piedmont Virginia area)
• Oversight of the Visitor Center office operations (budgeting and financial management)

COO reports to president of the board and interacts with trustee committee chairs.

Appropriate degrees (BA minimum, MA preferred) in areas such as business administration or non-profit and arts management, and minimum seven years successful development/fund-raising experience for non-profits or colleges.

Send resume only to kbrown@ctw.com. A detailed position description and request for recommendations will be sent to candidates whose experience fits our needs best.

Little Fork Church in Rixeyville, Virginia, shares a great deal of history with Germanna, not least its second rector, the Reverend John Thompson, builder of Salubria.

The colonial era parish church served a number of settlers from the Siegerland in the Little Fork area of Culpeper County who were related to many of the 1714 settlers at Fort Germanna and German-town.

The Little Fork Preservation Committee is reorganizing and reincorporating as the 1776 Little Fork Preservation Foundation, a 501(c) tax-exempt organization.

The reorganization is being done to assist with the funding and coordination of major preservation efforts, including installation of a heating and cooling system to maintain the integrity of the building, replacing a very worn shake roof, and repointing the 1776 bricks.

If you would like more information or can support Little Fork, you can contact the 1776 Little Fork Preservation Foundation at P.O. Box 367, Rixeyville, VA 22737 (or by leaving a message with the church: 540-937-4306).

On September 22, 2013, Little Fork Church sponsored a special remembrance day for the families and friends of those whose earthly remains are in the Burying Ground.

To enjoy some of that service see http://animoto.com/play/Yx1tx-eUKklwUb6phzd9SA

Friday, December 6, 2013, the Little Fork Preservation Foundation is sponsoring a Christmas Concert to raise funds and increase awareness of this colonial gem and its needs (admission is free, but an offering is requested).

You can begin Christmas in 1776 with period harpsichord music and vocals. There will be storytelling for children and a cookie reception after the concert.
11th Trip to Germany packed with Surprises

By Katharine L. Brown

Twenty-one travelers from eight states, plus seasoned guides Madison and Katharine Brown, set out on June 3 for the 11th annual pilgrimage to the ancestral villages.


Friends from previous Germanna trips welcomed us:

Freudenberg’s Bürgermeister, Eckhard Günther guided us around that fairy-tale town.

Gerhard Moisel shared his fascinating talk in Oberfischbach.

Hildegard Bergmann and the Trupbach Heimatverein, offered coffee, cakes, and tour of the home village of six Germain families.

Lisa and Hannes Krämer provided another dazzling array of Kuchen and Torten in their exquisite garden, where our wonderful trustee Horst Schneider introduced us to Volker Schüttenhelm, his successor in the DAG, our hosts for dinner at Gasthaus Peun.

Eisern’s Heimatverein gave us Joerg Becker’s terrific town tour and Werner Hoffmann-Gassner’s generous gift of more village coats of arms.

Wonderful surprises awaited us, even after ten trips!

The historic Wendener Hütte, or hammer mill gave us new understanding of that industry in which many ancestors were involved.

Oberschelden’s Heimatverein cooked traditional potato waffles on wood-fired mini-stoves—a delicious treat.

The brass choir, Pro MusicaSacra, gave a splendid surprise concert in the Freudenberg church.

The Heimatverein in Niederndorf, the Cuntze village, surprised us with a drive through the woods to the large log lodge that their members had built since our last visit. There they roasted bratwurst while the beer flowed freely.

We bid farewell to the Siegerland and made our way south to Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Our next surprise came at the service at St. Kilian’s Church, Waldbach, where Madison was invited to address the large congregation and tell that we included Wieland/Wayland descendants.

After the service a member of the brass choir introduced herself as a Wieland descendant—a cousin!

Schwaigern’s surprise was the handsomely restored church interior.

An organ concert ending with Maple Leaf Rag greeted us at church in Oetisheim, a Broyles village. The surprise there was a tour of the stunning, newly-restored community Kelter (wine press), adapted for a regional conference and concert venue.

We were inspired to wish such a facility for Germanna!

Neuenbürg’s Heimatverein met us with sparkling wine cooled in the town fountain, and a wine-tasting hayride through surrounding vineyards.

Our “tourist” day in the famous medieval walled town of Rothenburg included museums, shops, cafés, parks, and an elegant dinner.

The Palatinate completed our odyssey. There in Dale Sayers’ village, the local press gave us extensive coverage.

At our farewell dinner in Rockenhausen, group members surprised the Browns and drivers Ellis Hitt and Barbara Price with beautiful hand-painted traditional Christmas ornaments to say thanks for their work—great mementos of wonderful days in Germany with a marvelous group of cousins.

Photos by James Albin
In the free society that we live in today, we forget that, for our ancestors, permission to leave their country to emigrate to another was necessary. If they did not receive that permission, there could be fines, taxes, and legal difficulties for them and for their relatives left behind.

What would entice, or induce, our ancestors to leave their homeland, the place that their families had lived for centuries?

In the case of my ancestors, Hans Jacob Holzklau, and his wife, Anna Margreth Otterbach, they may have been influenced by the Rev. Henry Haeger.

The Rev. Henry Haeger was the minister in the village of Oberfischbach during the time that Jacob Holzklau was the schoolmaster there. Jacob had taken the place of his brother, Johannes Holzklau, as the schoolmaster in Oberfischbach after Johannes’s death in 1707 at the age of 38. Both sons followed in the footsteps of their father, Hans Henrich Holzklau, also a schoolmaster as was his father before him.1

In addition to being a teacher, Hans Henrich was also a member of the Guild of Smelterers and Hammersmiths as were many of his ancestors.

Hans Henrich Holzklau died in Oberfischbach in 1711, possibly living there with his son, Jacob, and his family. At the bottom of this page is his death record from the Oberfischbach Book of Burials, giving his burial date at 25 August 1711.2 The Oberfischbach parish originated in the 12th century, with the first mention of a parson and parish appearing in a 1342 document. In 1461, the first surviving tax list mentions seven taxable inhabitants in Oberfischbach and in 1699, there are only 16 houses in the village.

In 1703, Johann Henrich Haeger became the pastor at Oberfischbach and moved there with his wife, Anna Catharina Friesenhagen, and family. He was born in 1645 in Antzhausen and baptized at St. Martin’s Protestant church in Netphen (left). He attended school at the Herborn Paedagogium, was a teacher at the Latin school in Siegen in 1678, and became a minister in Siegen prior to coming to Oberfischbach.

In 1703, his son, Johann Friedrich Haeger, also attended the Herborn Paedagogium and was licensed as a minister in 1708.

In 1709, a year of heavy migration from areas near the Rhine River, Johann Friedrich Haeger decided to go to England. There he became ordained by the Bishop of London as an Anglican missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the bishop appointed him to accompany Palatine settlers going to the Hudson River area of New York. Thus, Pastor Henry Haeger’s only surviving son was in America and wrote letters home to his parents in Nassau-Siegen.

The school house in Oberfischbach was located in the parsonage where the Rev. Henry Haeger and his family lived, so the school teacher, Jacob Holzklau, likely spent much time with the pastor. This contact may have been the catalyst for Jacob’s interest in going to America, too.

Of interest is the fact that the George Ritter Company had been recruiting miners for Virginia, Carolina and Pennsylvania since 1711 when their agent, Johann Justus Albrecht, signed a contract with the four ministers of Siegen on 15 August 1711 to assist with recruitment. Although the Rev. Henry Haeger had retired from Oberfischbach for reasons of ill health on 3 April 1711, he had surely been an influence on the younger schoolmaster Jacob for the three years that they were in Oberfischbach together.

Another influence on Jacob’s decision to emigrate may have been the fact that his father-in-law, Hermann Otterbach, had applied for, and received permission to emigrate on 5 September 1711, just a few weeks after the signing of the contract with the ministers of Siegen and Johann Justus Albrecht.

My colleague, Dr. Katharine Brown, and I, found evidence of Hermann Otterbach selling his belongings over the next two years, which is indicative of his intention to emigrate.
Original Document

Hans Jacob Holzkla, and his wife, Anna Margreth Otterbach, obtained permission to leave the village of Oberfischbach on July 17, 1713. The translation for the document was provided by Herr Gerhard Moisel, the Archivist for the Protestant Church of Siegen.

Did the decision to emigrate that the Rev. Henry Haeger and the school teacher, Jacob Holzkla, and his wife’s family all made influence others in Oberfischbach and Trupbach?

It seems that is the case because Jost Kuntze, who lived in the village of Niederdorf with his wife, Anna Gertrud Reinschmidt, and their four children, also decided to leave.

They attended church in Oberfischbach with the Rev. Henry Haeger and Jacob Holzkla very likely taught their children. The decisions of the pastor and the school teacher might well have influenced Kuntze.

Johannes Spielmann also attended the church in Oberfischbach because his village, Oberschelden, is located in the parish. He, too, may have been influenced to emigrate by the decision of Haeger and Holzkla.

An older man in the nearby village of Trupbach was Philip Fischbach with his wife and their grown children.

Their neighbor was Hermann Otterbach, Jacob Holzkla’s father-in-law, and one of the first to apply for emigration permission after the Johann Justus Albrecht visit.

Others in Jacob Holzkla’s family lived there, too, in close proximity to Otterbach and Fischbach.

It is entirely possible, and probable, that the intertwining of the families, along with the influence of the Rev. Henry Haeger, played a significant role in many of these families’ decision to emigrate to America.

Translation

Monday, the 17th July 1713
Ex Sp.
His serene Highness, High soverign illustrious and with [presence] of Sir Commission Director Mildenberger
506.
Hanss Jacob Holzclaw
School Attendent/Subordinate
In Oberfischbach

Presents the humble humble request
For his departure...
And to sell his produce
Rp.
The supplicant is herewith granted
His most humbly requested dismissal and
to be released thereupon from his performed oath of allegiance,
if he before of his moveable and immovable
belongings and goods which
have been herewith sold to him also humbly
conceded to him, and [“uns” = “und”?] the 10th Pfennig/penny
due deducted, accordingly
our Commission Councillor and Taxmaster Eberhorn as collector/receiver of this place deems,
to set up the belongings and goods of the supplicant
and likewise a correct designation
and to bear all possible precautions,
that hereby no signature of those involved
may be overlooked.

Footnotes
2. Oberfischbach Book of Burials, 1670-1759, provided by Gerhard Moisel, Church Archivist for the Protestant Church of Siegen. He also provided the translation of the document.
3. Fürstentum Siegen Landesarchiv 11, No. 28, pg. 124
2013 Germanna Reunion Photos

Madison County Civil War expert Harold Woodward leads the group on a tour of James City, Second Colony Tour

Madison County Court House, Second Colony Tour. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost

Jamie Back in the cemetery at Hebron Lutheran Church. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost

A rapt capacity audience hears Civil War expert Frank Walker, in Confederate officer’s uniform, talk about the wartime action at Germanna. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost

Stephen Chanko and Debbie Welch relax at a park in Madison, Second Colony Tour. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost

Foundation President Marc Wheat reminds attendees of upcoming anniversaries to celebrate. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost
Second Colony descendants tour the Clore Furniture factory in Madison.
Photo by Cathi Clore Frost

Germanna descendant Judge Edward Spilman sold this house that he built to the famous Confederate Raider, Col. John Mosby. The First Colony Tour visited the recently opened museum. Photo by Mary B. White

President Marc Wheat with The Oaks hostess Elizabeth Williams Gookin (right) and her daughters, who are direct descendants of 1714 immigrant Johann Spielman / Spilman and his wife, Maria Elisabeth Fischbach. At The Oaks, one of several Spilman houses near Warrenton, First Colony Tour participants enjoyed lemonade and cookies on the portico overlooking the beautiful grounds. Photo by Katharine Brown

Germanna descendants and authors Leslie Hall and Maxine Crane at the Vendor Hall during the conference. Photo by Cathi Clore Frost
John Blankenbaker explains that Logan’s ancestor, the Rev. George Samuel Klug, is buried beneath them under the church altar.

Germanna Descendant Sarah Leathers Martin plays the Tannenberg organ during the worship service.

Children attending Reunion had a special sermon at Hebron Church.

Come to Reunion 2014

It should be easy to see from these photos that Reunion 2013 was a huge success, a wonderful learning opportunity, and great fun for all who attended.

Plans are already well underway for our special 300th Anniversary Reunion in 2014.

Don’t miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage as descendants of the Germanna settlers in Virginia’s Piedmont.

Mark your calendars NOW for Thursday, July 17 through Sunday July 20, 2014.

As a special feature next year, a delegation of 30 or more members of the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Gesellschaft / German-American Association of Siegen-Wittgenstein will join us for the celebration.

Germanna members who have traveled with any of the 11 trips the Foundation has sponsored to Germany have met many of these men and women and enjoyed their hospitality.

Plan to be on hand to welcome them to Germanna!

Give the Gift of Membership

Many of us have relatives on our Christmas gift list who share our Germanna roots, and who already own more “things” than they know what to do with.

Don’t add to that burden! Consider instead giving them the gift of their priceless heritage—a membership in the Germanna Foundation.

If each of us gave just one gift membership, the Foundation would double its membership roll easily.

Help us to reach that goal. Your gift will be acknowledged. Mail a check for $35 to the Foundation office to give a membership, and be sure to indicate the Germanna family surnames of the relative you are honoring.
Join or Renew your Membership in the Germanna Foundation

As a new, or renewing, member of The Germanna Foundation, you will receive all the benefits of membership:

- Preserving the historical legacy of those who blazed a trail in the frontier of colonial Virginia
- Helping to preserve and protect the Fort Germanna archaeology site
- The Germanna newsletter delivered to your door
- A listing in the Germanna membership directory
- Future benefits as they become available to members

Your membership dues support the operations of The Germanna Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization sustained primarily by the volunteer efforts of its members.

Membership dues are only $35/year single membership or $45/year family membership. Fill out the below form or join securely online at: http://www.germanna.org/get-involved/become-a-member/.

UPDATE MY CONTACT INFORMATION
(please print):

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, ST, ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

NAMES OF GERMANNA ANCESTORS (if any):

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Germanna Foundation President Marc Wheat signs the historic transfer documents over his family Bible and Germanna Record Number 5: "Ancestry and Descendants of the Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia, 1714-1750."