Log Cabins and Archaeology?

Marking short leaf pine logs, removing bark, “juggling,” hewing, adzing, notching...what do any of these things have to do with archaeology?

In February, Dr. Eric Larsen spent a few days at Montpelier—just down the road from Germanna in Orange County—as a participant in a Log Cabin Workshop. It was a very cold week, but Eric kept warm swinging axes and moving 12 to 14 foot logs. Over the course of the workshop, the group of 16 turned a pile of freshly cut pine logs into a log cabin.

Why, you might ask, is an archaeologist spending his time building a cabin? Two years ago, Montpelier archaeologists were excavating what was the site of a field slave quarter. A sub-ground storage pit was found along with soils stained from the heat of a hearth. With these bits of evidence, archaeologists were able to determine that this was once the site of a log structure. With the excavations completed and the location now known, there still wasn’t much for visitors to “see” and understand.

As Dr. Matt Reeves put it, “rebuilding the cabin,” based on the archaeological evidence, “allows the archaeology to come up out of the ground.”

In March, the 12x14 foot log cabin was moved into place on the landscape and is now visible from the Montpelier Visitor Center parking lot. Now visitors can see the results of the archaeology. At Germanna, we are creating our own archaeology program. Can you imagine something like this in our future?

Why Half-timbered Buildings?

Did you ever wonder why so many houses and other buildings in the Siegen region of Germany were built in the “half-timbered” style? The explanation is contained and beautifully illustrated in the book Framework Houses, a photography book by Bernd and Hilla Becher, published by MIT Press, a volume of which was donated to the Foundation by J. Marc Wheat in January.

The reason is a sensible one for this region, one of the oldest iron-producing areas of the world: to preserve wood needed for the charcoal used in producing iron. In fact, this need was mandated in the Siegen area by a 1790 law prohibiting excessive use of wood for house-building. The law prescribed the amount of lumber structurally required and forbade the construction of elements serving only ornamental purposes. It also specified the maximum strength for beams, sills, corner posts, and studs. It was applied to other buildings such as barns, churches, schools, inns, shops, factories, and mining structures.

Field Notes
by Dr. Eric Larsen, Germanna Archaeologist

I attended the 45th Annual Mid Atlantic Archaeology Conference (MAAC) in Ocean City, Maryland in March. On Saturday afternoon of the conference I set up and presented a poster I created for the event entitled “Resuming Archaeology at Germanna: Continuing the Engagement with Virginia’s Colonial Frontier at Fort Germanna.” The poster session on Public Outreach was well attended. I was also invited to participate in a new workshop, “Archaeological Speed Dating.”

Over a 75-minute period, Laura Galke (George Washington Foundation at Ferry Farm) and I spoke with more than 40 students about careers in archaeology and heritage tourism sites. The workshop served as a means of creating networks for students negotiating career choices in the field of archaeology. In the end, the workshop was one of the highlights of my conference.

Book Donations

Thank you to Barbara Kemper, Akron, OH, for her donation of the book So Help Me God by Forrest Church to our library collection. This book, which had been on our Amazon Christmas Wish List, is a history of the political battles fought regarding church and state by our founding fathers in the early years of our republic.

Thank you also to Joseph Kemper, Alexandria, VA, for donating several books including Historic Culpeper, with a drawing of Salubria on the cover, and Homes & Gardens in Old Virginia.

In Memoriam

A longtime faithful member of the Germanna Foundation who often came to Reunion, Walt Watkins of Arlington, Texas, passed away on March 4, 2015 after an illness of several months. Walt and his wife Joy, who is a Rector-Fishback descendant, took part in the first Germanna Foundation trip to Germany in 2003. They had visited Siegen on their own previously as well. They made the long trip from Texas to Reunion every two or three years, so are well known to many of the members of the Foundation. We will miss Walt and his big, friendly smile in our midst and extend our heartfelt condolences to Joy and the family.

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As I write this column, I am preparing to take my son Benjamin to Germany (his second time, but his first ex utero!). We will be staying with my Karst sixth cousins in the Rhineland, the Heeren family in Aachen, and after Palm Sunday services at the Nikolaikirche in Siegen we will meet friends and relatives we have come to know through the Germanna Foundation. It will change the trajectory of my son’s life.

Recently, I was part of a panel discussion on the U.S.–German bilateral relationship convened by The McCain Institute for International Leadership at the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC.

Dr. Stefan Buchwald (Director of the German Information Center USA), Ambassador (Ret.) Edward B. O’Donnell (former U.S. Consul General to Germany), and I responded to the planned initiatives of the McCain Fellows to improve the relationship between our two countries.

The Germans are very interested in our nomination to the World Monuments Fund watch list, and I have recently met with three members of the German parliament (Hermann Groehe, Dr. Edgar Franke, and Rudolf Henke) about its importance to bring increased recognition to the archaeological site of Fort Germanna and the Enchanted Castle. You may have met Volkmar Klein, who represents Siegen-Wittgenstein in Berlin, last year at the reunion; I will be meeting with him about this nomination in his constituency before Easter.

We are at a unique point in Germanna Foundation history with the right people and new technologies coming together to ensure we leave an inspiring legacy for future generations on both sides of the Atlantic. To make that happen, please join with me in making a multi-year commitment to finance the operations of this outstanding foundation.

The Orange County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors endorsed our nomination in a letter to the World Monuments Fund, stating, in part, “Additional awareness of the importance of the Enchanted Castle site will serve to enhance the Foundation’s historic preservation and archaeology efforts, as well as the County’s long-range development planning activities.”

Our Archaeological Management Plan has been completed and submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) following review by the Germanna Foundation Council of Advisors including Dr. Bill Kelso and Mr. Frank Price. This is an important milestone requirement before continuing archaeological survey and excavation work on the site. The search for Fort Germanna’s boundaries begins!

You may have noticed we gave our website, GERMANNA.ORG, a little face-lift in mid-March. The main reason for the change was to make the website more responsive for visitors accessing the site via mobile devices (a phone, tablet, etc.). Our new membership, donation and other online forms also display better in the new template, making them easier to complete.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments about the Germanna Foundation and our activities.

The Germanna Foundation newsletter is prepared by the Education and Publications Committee:

Katharine L. Brown, Chair and Editor
Cathi Clore Frost
Barbara Price
Steve Hein
Cindy Kwitchoff, Designer (CJKcreative.com)
Registration Open House
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Germanna Foundation Visitor Center
2062 Germanna Hwy (Rte. 3), Locust Grove, VA
All reunion attendees are invited to drop by the Germanna Foundation Brawdus Martin Visitor Center to pick up registration materials, hike the trails, browse the library and check out the interpretive display. Please note: The Germanna Foundation Visitor Center will be closing early, at 4:00 pm on this date.

Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle Site Open
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Gordon Farm Road, Locust Grove, VA
Drive over to explore the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle site where Germanna Foundation staff archaeologist Dr. Eric Larsen will be on hand to lead informal site tours. Learn about work that has been completed in the past few months as well as work planned for the future. Ambitious attendees may hike to the Spotswood Spring.
Closed toe shoes are required. Other protective gear and bug spray is highly recommended. Beware of chiggers, ticks, snakes and poison ivy.

Invitation-Only Board of Trustees Reception
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Germanna Foundation Visitor Center
2062 Germanna Hwy (Rte. 3), Locust Grove, VA
This invitation-only event serves as a Thank You from the Board of Trustees to our most generous supporters and volunteers, and to introduce local officials to Germanna. All donors at the Explorer giving level ($500 per year) and above will receive personal invitations.
Friday, July 17

Historical and Genealogical Conference
8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Germanna Community College
Daniel Technology Center
18121 Technology Drive, Culpeper, VA
Start the day with coffee & donuts, socialize, shop in the Germanna Marketplace Vendor Hall, and enjoy a full schedule of informative lectures. If you have not already done so, registration materials may be picked up at the Germanna booth. Boxed lunch included.

Historical and Genealogical Conference Sessions

John Blankenbaker, It Wasn’t Easy
What obstacles did the Germanna settlers encounter on their way to America? Learn about the problems and uncertainties which our Germanna ancestors had to live through. Find out how they persevered and eventually reached a moderately happy conclusion.

Karen Jensen, FamilySearch Step by Step
FamilySearch has records that span billions of names across hundreds of collections, including birth, marriage, death, census, and other original records. Most of these are indexed, so you can search for records that identify your ancestors. Also learn about Family Tree, a free service that helps you to discover, organize, and record your genealogy online. Family Tree provides free tools you can use to preserve and share your family’s story.

Dr. Eric Larsen, Looking for a Fort Community: Germanna and Virginia’s 18th Century Frontier
The site of the Fort at Germanna is a meeting place of numerous forces at play in colonial Virginia at the start of the 18th Century. Fort Germanna can be seen as an intersection of several cultures, but it also serves as a point of reference for many of the political, economic, and ideological processes in motion during the early 18th century. Finding the Fort provides a tangible opportunity to begin an examination of these wider questions.

Daniel Michael Lynem II, Confirmation Through DNA
Always curious about his family genealogy and history, Daniel turned to DNA testing to help find some answers. Learn how he combined family tradition, good old-fashioned genealogical research, and results from DNA testing to reveal his ancestry. He is very proud to have discovered his Germanna heritage through his Grandmother Lucille Harris-Lynem and her mother, his Great-Grandmother Catherine Isabell Utterback.

Barbara Price, From Servant to Master: Slave Ownership Among the Germanna Colonists
This mini session will explore documents used to survey slave ownership among the Germanna Colonists. Which immigrants among the First, Second and Little Fork Colonies owned slaves? What documents can be used to determine this? Find out what we know and how your research can help us learn more as the Germanna Foundation embarks upon this new project to document slave ownership among the Germanna Colonists.

Barbecue Dinner
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Salubria, 19173 Salubria Lane (off Route 3)
Stevensburg, VA
Relax and enjoy a pleasant evening on the lovely grounds of 18th Century Salubria. The evening begins with a social hour during which you may tour the historic mansion house before dark. Our Germanna cousin Rodney Lilliard and his Mill Valley BBQ crew will provide a delicious barbeque meal with all the trimmings. After dinner the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society will entertain us with a colonial dance demonstration. Non-alcoholic beverages are provided by the caterer; in addition, there will be beer, wine and soda for purchase. Dress is casual at this family friendly event.

Register online: Click the “2015 Reunion” menu link on GERMANNA.ORG

Germanna Marketplace Vendor Hall at the Historical & Genealogical Conference
In addition to the Germanna Foundation publications and gift items, local historical societies and our speakers will offer books and merchandise for sale. The morning social hour, breaks and the lunch hour are perfect times to browse the wares and learn more about other organizations with common interests.
Germanna Heritage Bus Tours
8:45 am – 4:30 pm
Best Western
791 Madison Road, Culpeper, VA
Seats on the bus tours are limited and have sold out in the past so please register early. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk up to half a mile and climb stairs. Some stops are on private property and are not handicap accessible. Boarding begins at 8:45 a.m. for a prompt departure. Both tours will depart from and return to the Best Western, Culpeper. When you register, be sure to choose your tour.

First Colony Tour
Your tour leaders have a full day of interesting sites planned. Begin the day with an informative stop at Clifton Farm, home of Robert and Kathy Ellis, followed by a visit to historic Little Fork Episcopal Church. Continue to Jeffersononton, center of the Little Fork Colony. Tour the Jeffersononton Baptist Church and Cemetery, and have lunch in the comfortable parish hall. Visits to the Martin Fishback house, Fleetwood, and to the Hotzclaw Cemetery at Ashland are also planned.

Second Colony Tour
Join your tour leaders as we start the day by visiting two private properties in Madison. First we will visit the Fishback Cemetery and will be hosted by Martha Fishback Breeden at the site of the John Fishback home and machine shop. Our drive will continue by some of the early Second Colony land patents south of town before we stop at the Arcade Museum in Madison. Next we will visit the Hebron Lutheran Church, built by our ancestors in 1740, where we will be hosted for lunch in addition to touring the historic sanctuary. Following lunch we will take the scenic route past the core of the land patents on our way to historic Little Fork Episcopal Church. After visiting the church we will be hosted by Robert and Kathy Ellis at their Clifton Farm home, inherited from Kathy’s Spillman and Crigler ancestors.

Banquet and Fundraising Auction
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Lake of the Woods Clubhouse
205 Lakeview Parkway, Locust Grove, VA
The Annual Banquet is the main social event of the reunion weekend. Join us in air conditioned comfort overlooking the lake for a social hour with cash bar followed by dinner. Bid on a variety of items during the silent and live auction.

Worship at Historic Church of your choice
10:00 am
Sunday morning has been left free so you may worship at one of the historical churches. Both have worship service at 10:00 am and will welcome you.

Hebron Lutheran Church
899 Blankenbaker Rd, Madison, VA
540-948-4381
Little Fork Episcopal Church
16461 Oak Shade Rd, Rixeyville, VA
540-937-4306

Picnic Lunch and Annual Meeting
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Salubria, 19173 Salubria Lane (off Route 3)
Stevensburg, VA
The original Germanna Reunion event. Join your friends and cousins one last time for an old fashioned picnic lunch at Salubria. In a nod to the first Germanna Reunions, the menu will feature fried chicken and biscuits with country ham. Following lunch, the Annual Germanna Foundation Meeting will be held outdoors, just like those early gatherings. One difference, we are more casual nowadays, business attire is not expected.

Auction Donations Needed
Please help make our annual auction a success by donating items. In particular, gift certificates as well as themed baskets have been popular in the past.

Please submit all donations by July 10 for inclusion in the auction booklet.

If items cannot be mailed or dropped off at the Germanna Foundation office in advance, an email to Barbara Bounds bbounds@germanna.org by the above date would be appreciated and ensure inclusion.

Register online:
Click the “2015 Reunion” menu link on GERMANNA.ORG
A limited number of rooms at each of the following motels have been reserved at a special rate. In order to receive the discounted rate, you must mention "Germanna" and make your reservation by June 16, 2015. Rates include breakfast. We recommend making your reservations early. Check online rates as advance purchase may be cheaper.

**Holiday Inn Express Culpeper** - $129.99 + tax
787 Madison Road, Culpeper, VA 22701
540-825-7444
ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/culpeper/cupes/hoteldetail

**Best Western Culpeper** - $99.99 + tax
791 Madison Road, Culpeper, VA 22701
540-825-1253
bestwesternvirginia.com/hotels/best-western-culpeper-inn/

**Comfort Inn Culpeper** - $89.00 + tax
890 Willis Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701
540-825-4900
comfortinn.com/hotel-culpeper-virginia-VA431

Note: The Best Western, Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn in Culpeper are all in close proximity to each other. Come prepared with a Virginia map, GPS and/or directions from MapQuest.com or Google Maps, especially important for those staying in Orange or Warrenton.
Annual membership helps the Foundation preserve the historic heritage of the Germanna colonists, their families and descendants, and ensures you stay up-to-date on Germanna Foundation activities through our informative newsletter. Membership also gives 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 ____________________________ State __________ Zip code __________
Email _______________________________
Phone _______________________________
Germanna Ancestors, if any/known: ____________________________

Annual Membership

- Renewal
- New
- Gift
- Individual membership (one year) $35
- Family membership (one year) $45
- Additional donation $__________ (see giving levels below)

Total $__________

- Please set up a recurring monthly donation of $__________ for a total annual gift of $__________ (monthly amount x12)

Donor Levels

- Germanna Colonist—$100-$499
- Germanna Scout—$5,000-$9,999
- Germanna Explorer—$500-$1,713
- Germanna Pioneer—$10,000+
- Germanna Ranger—$1,714-$4,999

- Check enclosed
- Credit Card amount to be charged: $__________

If charging your membership and/or gift, or to set up your recurring monthly donation, please complete below before mailing.

Acct No. ________________________________

- MC
- Visa

Exp Date ____________ Security Code ____________

Signature ______________________________

Mail completed form, along with check or credit card information to:
Germanna Foundation, P.O. Box 279, Locust Grove, VA 22508-0279

The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Annual membership includes a subscription to the Foundation’s newsletter, a value of $12 per year. No other goods or services are provided. The remaining portion of your membership dues and any additional contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Recurring Gifts

Recurring gifts help ensure a steady source of support for Germanna Foundation’s efforts in historic preservation, genealogical research and publishing, and educational outreach. Setting up a recurring gift on our website is convenient, customizable, and environmentally friendly.

Recurring gifts are an easy way to make a big impact that works for your budget and on your schedule. Set up your gift one time, and it will automatically deduct from your credit card according to your preferences regarding frequency, amount ($10 minimum) and duration. You’ll receive an annual tax receipt summarizing your gifts, and you may stop or adjust your gift anytime.

To set up a recurring gift, go to our website, GERMANNA.ORG and click on the Donate button or call the Foundation office at 540-423-1700.

Translating the Germanna Story

Thank you to University of Mary Washington student Emma White, who translated our brochure into German while serving as a volunteer intern for the Foundation this semester.

Trustee Sven Eric Utsch also used our brochure to write a German-language handout that will be used by this summer’s “Back to Germany” trip group to promote the Foundation among our German families, supporters and others. We also have a Spanish version of our brochure posted online, thanks to Viviana Rodriguez Flores Zavalde Madalo, a friend of Foundation President Marc Wheat. Any other language experts out there?

In Memoriam

Charles T. Brumback, a lifetime member of the Foundation and former CEO of the Chicago Tribune and the Tribune Company, passed away in January. Our condolences to his brother John S. Brumback, Jr. of Florida and the rest of the family.
INSIDE: Information & Registration for our annual Conference & Reunion: July 16-19, 2015