



The official Germanna Foundation Flag

The Germanna Foundation

In the late 1940s, R. Brawdus Martin began gathering fellow descendants, including those of Alexander Spotswood, for annual reunion picnics on land that was once part of Germanna.

In 1956, this group of families formed the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia. Ernst Flender's gift to purchase 270 acres of the Germanna tract restored part of the Germanna home to its modern-day stewards.

In 1969, the Foundation donated 100 acres of this land to the Commonwealth of Virginia for Germanna Community College.

Today the Foundation maintains a genealogical reference library, historical archive, exhibits and a database.

The Foundation's *Germanna Record*, with 20 volumes published since 1956, is a significant contribution to Virginia's history and genealogy.

The Foundation also occasionally plans group tours to Germany, scheduling visits to the ancestral sites of the members who participate in these fascinating expert-led tours.

Our publications, other educational outreach programs, interpretive exhibits, and active participation in the historic preservation community help ensure our heritage will continue to grow with each new German generation. ♦

This brochure is printed with the generous support of the Marc and Marie Wheat Fund for Cultural Renewal at DonorsTrust.



Germanna: A Family of Families

Whether you are the first or the tenth generation to have a tie to Germanna, you are part of a decades-long project that has identified more than 100,000 Americans, Canadians, and Australians who trace their family back to Germanna. Are the Germanna colonists below in your family tree?"

1714 Colony from the Siegerland:

Johann Jost **Albrecht**, Melchior **Brombach** and wife Maria Elisabetha **Fischbach**, Jost **Cuntse/Koontz** and wife Anna Gertrud **Reinschmidt**, Philip **Fischbach/Fishback** and wife Elizabeth **Heimbach**, the Rev. Johann Heinrich **Hager** and wife Anna Catharina **Friesenhagen**, Peter/Dieter **Heide/Hitt** and wife Elisabeth **Otterbach**, Johannes **Hoffman**, Hans Jacob **Holtzklau/Holtzclaw** and wife Anna Margaretha **Otterbach**, Johannes **Kemper/Camper**, Johann Jost **Merdten/Martin**, Hermann **Otterbach/Utterback** and wife Elisabeth **Heimbach**, Johann Jacob **Richter/Rector** and wife Anna Elisabeth **Fischbach**, Johannes **Spielmann**, Johann Heinrich **Weber/Weaver** and wife Anna Margarethe **Huttman**.

1717 Colony from the Kraichgau and the Palatinate:

Conrad **Amburger/Amburgey**, Andreas **Ballenger**, Christopher **Barlur/Parlur/Barlow** and wife Barbara, Matthias **Beller**, Balthazar **Blankenbaker/Blanckenbühler** and wife Anna Margaretha, Matthias **Blanckenbühler/Blankenbaker** and wife Anna Maria **Merklin**, Nicholas **Blanckenbühler/Blankenbaker** and wife Appollonia **Käfer**, Johannes/John **Breuel/Briles/Broyles** and wife Ursula **Ruop**, Cyriacus **Fleischmann/Fleshman** and wife Anna Barbara **Schöne**, Hans/John **Herrensparger/Harnsberger** and wife Anna Barbara, Hans Michael **Holdt/Holt**, Wolff Michael **Käfer/Kaifer**, Andreas **Kerker** and wife Margaretha, Hans Michael **Klaar/Clore** and wife Anna Barbara, Johann Michael **Koch/Cook** and his wife Maria Barbara **Reiner**, Jacob **Crigler**, Johannes/John **Motz** and wife Maria Appollonia **Maubars**, Hans Georg/George **Majer/Moyser** and wife Anna Barbara, Hans Michael **Mihlekher** and wife Sophia Catherina, Johann Philip **Paulitz** and wife Rosina Margaretha **Schneider**, Heinrich/Henry **Schlucter**, Johann Georg **Sheible/Sheibley** and wife Maria Eleanora **Ockert**, Matthäus/Matthew **Schmidt/Smith** and wife Regina Catherine **Schlözer**, Hans Michael **Schmidt/Smith** and wife Anna Margaretha **Sauter**, Hans Heinrich/Henry **Schneider/Snyder** and wife Anna Dorothea **Schilling**, Johannes/John **Thoma/Thomas** and wife Anna Maria **Blanckenbühler**, Johann George **Utz** and wife Anna Barbara **Majer**, Phillip Joseph **Weber/Weaver** and wife Susannah **Klaar**, Nicholas **Jager/Yager/Yeager** and wife Anna Maria **Sieber**, and Christopher **Zimmerman** and wife Anna Elisabetha **Albrecht**.

By 1725, more settlers had joined Germanna:

Hans Jacob **Öhler/Aylor** and wife Anna Magdalena **Schneider**, Johann Friedrich/Frederick **Baumgärtner/Bumgardner**, Johannes/John **Becker/Baker**, Harman **Böhme/Beemon** and wife Elizabeth, Johann/John **Zimmerman/Carpenter**, Wilhelm/William **Zimmerman/Carpenter** and wife Elizabeth, Mathias **Gessler/Castler/Kastler** and wife Susana Christina **Schnell**, Phillip **Chelf**, Theobald/Dewalt/David **Christler/Crisler**, Nicholas **Christopher**, Frederick **Kabler/Cobbler** and wife Barbara, Lawrence **Greys/Crees**, Johannes/John and Martin **Hirsch/Deer**, Conrad **Delph**, Mark **Finks**, Ludwig/Lewis **Fischer/Fisher**, Johannes/John **Frey/Fray**, Andreas **Gaar/Garr** and wife Eva **Sedelmann**, Johannes **Gerhard**, George Samuel **Klug**, George **Lang/Long** and wife Rebecca, Johann Paulus **Lederer/Leatherer/Leathers**, Francis **Michael** and wife Mary, John **Michael** and wife Frances, George Adam **Raiser/Rasor/Racer** and wife Margaretha **Butlinger**, Johann/John **Rausch/Rouse** and wife Mary, Henry **Souther**, Johann Caspar **Stoever Sr.**, Timothy **Swindle**, Urban/Robert **Danner/Tanner**, Hans Martin **Walck/Walk**, Thomas **Wieland/Wayland** and wife Maria Barbara **Seppach**, Michael **Willheit/Wilhoit/Wilhite** and wife Anna Maria **Hengsteller**, Christoph **Uhl/Owell/Yowell** and wife Eva **Gottsaurin**, and Nicholas **Yowell** and wife Catherine, Leonard **Ziegler**.

In the 1730s, more Germans settled the Little Fork area (Culpeper County):

Harman **Back/Bach**, Harman **Button**, Johann **Button**, Johann Just **Coons/Cuntz/Koontz**, Jacob **Fischbach**, Johann **Crim/Grimm**, Jacob **Heimbach/Hanback**, Heinrich **Hoffman/Huffman**, Johann and Harman **Mueller/Miller**, Johannes **Noeh/Nay**, Johann **Henrich Otterbach/Utterback**, John **Rector**, Georg **Weidmann/Wayman**, Tillman **Wiesserger/Whitescarver**, Johannes **Jung/Young**.



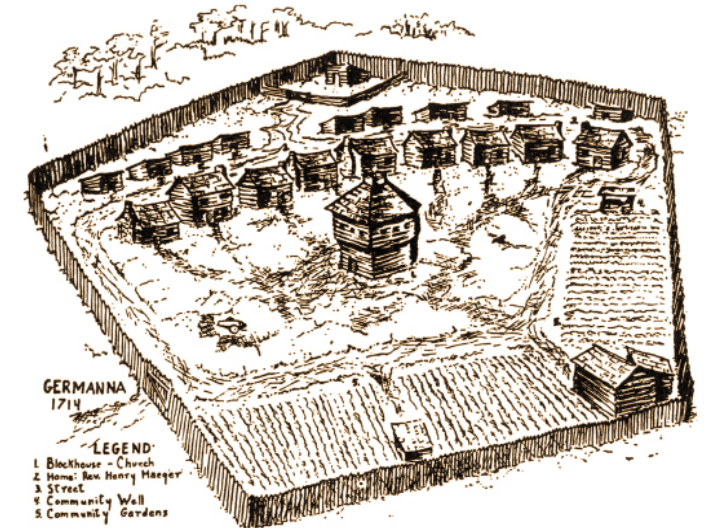
The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia Inc.

Visitor Center and Hours:

2062 Germanna Hwy, Locust Grove, Virginia
Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

540-423-1700 • foundation@germanna.org

GERMANNA.ORG



A Brief History of "Germanna"

In 1714, 42 German men, women, and children arrived in Virginia where Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood (1676-1740) 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. Spotswood planned to use them to mine his lands, and there were hopes that silver would be found.

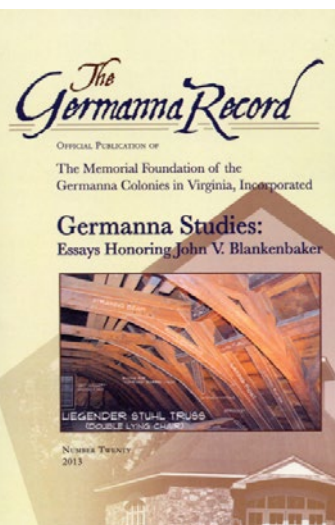
By 1717, iron had replaced silver as the focus of Spotswood's mining operation. As the Siegerlanders were coming to the end of their contract, Spotswood settled a second group of Germans to add to his workforce. Coming mainly from agricultural villages in the Kraichgau area of Baden-Wurttemberg, they 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, Spotswood 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 Spotswood'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 Hebron Lutheran Church, the oldest continuously operating Lutheran Church in America. The influence and enterprising spirit of these early German colonists helped shape the Virginia colony, our young nation, and indeed can be felt throughout our nation's history down to 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 Martin genealogical and family history research library are housed in the center.

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 Foundation leaders. Alexander Spotswood's son John is buried here.

The Russell and Joan Hitt hiking trails traverse the Foundation's 160-acre Siegen Forest for visitors to enjoy the area's natural beauty, featuring 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 Germanna and Alexander Spotswood's "Enchanted Castle" from the University of Mary Washington, and accepted the exciting task of exploring and interpreting this important historic property.

Previous archaeological research—conducted infrequently over the past 30 years—has uncovered the ruins of the Enchanted Castle and soil



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 building to house and exhibit additional artifacts, and interpret our new discoveries as we continue to tell the Germanna story.

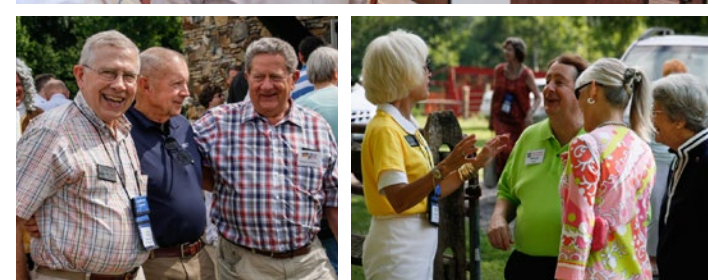
Salubria

Salubria, among the oldest and finest colonial-era houses of Virginia's Piedmont region (photo above), became the property of the Germanna 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 Thompson, married the widow of Lt. Gov. Spotswood.

Annual Reunion and Conference

The picnic is still a part of what is now a multi-day reunion and educational conference held the third weekend in July, bringing together Germanna descendants and families, historians, genealogists, archaeologists, 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 important 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 preservation activities, and enjoy the cultural landscape that is Germanna today. 🏡



Membership Application and Donation Form

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: _____

- Check here if renewal
 - Individual membership (one year) \$ 35
 - Family membership (one year) \$ 45
 - Additional donation \$ _____
- Total \$ _____**

Check enclosed Credit Card

If charging your membership and/or gift, please complete below before mailing:

Acct No. _____

MC Visa

Signature _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

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.