



Germanna FOUNDATION

Honoring Our Historic Heritage
GERMANNA.ORG

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



Neil Patrick Harris looks at pictures of Trupbach in the Book of Life presented during filming of *Finding Your Roots*.

Hollywood Actor Neil Patrick Harris Revealed to be Germanna Descendant following appearance on PBS show *Finding Your Roots*

The Germanna Foundation was contacted in December 2014 with an exciting request. Producers of the PBS television show *Finding Your Roots* asked, would Germanna Foundation genealogists be able to assist with documenting the ancestry of 1714 Germanna Colonist Peter Hitt's great-grandson James Samuel Hitt?

Thanks to *Germanna Record #5: Ancestry and Descendants of Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia* by B.C. Holtzclaw and the Germanna Database of Descendants, Foundation genealogist **Cathi Clore Frost** was able to quickly generate an ancestor report with mostly secondary source documentation.

Then the work of assembling original sources, further information about the ancestral story, and illustrations from Germanna Foundation trustees, members and friends began. **Gerhard Moisel, Barbara Price, Dr. Katharine Brown, Horst Schneider, Russell Hitt and John Blankenbaker** all assisted with this endeavor which was assembled and compiled in less than three weeks in order to meet production deadlines.

Finding Your Roots staff were particularly interested to learn that a German ancestress, Gertrud, wife of Hans Steull, had been executed for being a witch. As we learned watching the broadcast, this was the first documented instance they had found of a witch in a celebrity ancestry. Producers were able to obtain original court documents from

Gertrud's trial from the Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in Wiesbaden and turned to the Germanna Foundation for assistance finding someone who could read and translate the old script. Our friend **Elke Hall** went above and beyond in this effort.

Read more about Gertrud's story in this issue. For more information about the Germanna Foundation contribution to this episode, see: <http://germanna.org/2016/02/23/neil-patrick-harris-learns-of-his-germanna-roots/>

For more information about Neil Patrick Harris' Germanna ancestry, check out the Germanna Foundation Database of Descendants: <http://germanfamily.org/>. ♦



Portion of Neil Patrick Harris' family tree showing lineage back to Gertrud, an ancestor NPH has in common with many Germanna Descendants, through Ellsbeth Otterbach, wife of Germanna Colonist Peter Hitt.



High School Film about Germanna Wins Contest

The German III class of Charlottesville High School, Virginia, won first place for its short film production entitled, "Germanna."

As part of the University of Virginia's German Film Festival event, the Film Shorts contest invited high school and university students from around the State to make and submit a three to eight-minute film in German.

The class is taught by **Ulrike Mello**, a native German speaker and Germanna Foundation member who will be leading a group of German-namers on a trip to Germany this summer.

One of her students is **Isabel Brown**, granddaughter of Germanna Foundation Trustee Dr. **Katharine Brown**, who had visited the class in January to talk about the history of the Germanna colonies in Virginia, and sparked the students' interest in the subject.

Many of the scenes were filmed at the Brawdus Martin Germanna Visitor Center in Locust Grove, Virginia. ♦



Students of Ulrike Mello's German III class of Charlottesville High School at the Germanna Foundation Visitors Center.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

J. Marc Wheat

The Germanna Foundation turned 60 years old on March 14! We've been enjoying the comments we have received about the photos and membership directory in **Dr. Charles Herbert Huffman's** history of our first decade that we posted on our website. Starting from a small association that organized an annual picnic with speakers, **Ernst Flender** of Germany transformed the organization by donating funds to purchase 270 acres of the Germanna settlement in 1956. If it weren't for Ernst Flender's timely gift, you would not be reading this newsletter today.

Like any venture in life, we have our ups and downs. Just after the first national broadcast of Germanna Foundation's research in PBS' *Finding Your Roots*, we learned the disappointing news that most of the video shot by National Geographic at the Germanna Visitor Center and the archaeological site was lost in a catastrophic computer failure. We are working to get that project restarted.

Nonetheless, we have had more newspaper stories about the work of the Germanna Foundation in the last few months than we have had before. A noteworthy article was published in Virginia's leading newspaper, the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, which focused on **Dr. Eric Larsen's** good work to land the Virginia Commonwealth University archaeological field school at Germanna this summer (please sponsor a paid intern and help launch a career).

The article was distributed to the membership of the *Gesang Verein Virginia* (est. 1852 in Richmond) before my presentation to them. When Dr. Larsen spoke at the Museum of Culpeper History, nearly 80 people came to listen—a record for the Museum. We are tapping into deep interest in why Governor Spotswood placed a group of Germans in the westernmost settlement of the British Empire.

The Germanna Foundation's exhibit at the German-American Heritage Museum reached its successful conclusion, ready to travel to other sites elsewhere in the country. During the exhibit, COO **Steve Hein**, archaeologist **Dr. Eric Larsen**, and 1st Vice President **Dr. Katharine Brown** each spoke to appreciative audiences, which included the Germanna Foundation members **Manfred and Phillis Marko** from Manhattan; **Holger**

Scherf, Consul General at the German Embassy; and **Dr. Stefan Buchwald**, Director of the German Information Center also at the German Embassy.

Thanks to our active membership, there is so much encouraging work being done to transmit the story of Germanna to future generations that there is literally not enough space in our newsletter to capture it all!



E.K. Mello and Trustee **Barb Price** are leading the annual trip to Germany to explore ancestral villages in June, and **Skip Poole** is leading a longship river raid on German Christmas markets—and both have sold out.

Join our e-mail list, Germanna Foundation and Germanna Archaeology Facebook pages, Germanna Foundation Descendant Database, Germanna DNA Project, and reunion committee to keep apprised and help us move forward.

We've had a big breakthrough: the U.S. Department of Interior has informed us that the Germanna Foundation should expect a letter this month formally initiating the review process to designate Germanna as a National Historic Landmark. Even with the backing of the Virginia Department of Historic Resource, the review process is expected to take two years, with no guarantees—so we will be calling on you to help make that a reality through financial and task-oriented support.

Why do our members invest time and money into the Germanna Foundation? We do it because everyone has an immigration story, and those stories carry us forward in discouraging times—and make us even more grateful to be Americans. For sixty years, the Germanna Foundation has been telling one immigration story to inspire others to find their own personal story. And for three generations now, we have been searching for very special people as well: Germanna descendants whom we seek to draw home to the very land where their American story began. ♦

J. Marc Wheat
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Little Fork Church Preservation Work Progress

The Germanna Foundation congratulates our neighbors at the Little Fork Church for the successful completion of essential repairs and strengthening of the original 1770s mortise and tenon roof frame and for the handsome new cedar shingle roof on the church. This work was a critical part of the long term preservation plan for the historic church.

Most of the Siegen-area Germans who settled in the Little Fork in the 1730s and 1740s were related to 1714 First Colony settlers. They worshipped at the Little Fork Church, both in this handsome structure and in its predecessor building, whose minister was the Reverend John Thompson, builder of our Salubria. ♦



CHIEF'S REPORT
Steven L. Hein

Wow, there is so much going on at Germanna this Spring, I am going to keep this really short. Thank you to all our members and supporters! **Be sure to register for this year's exciting reunion and conference, and please consider helping Germanna win extra donations by making another donation during the 24-hour Community Give day on Tuesday, May 3rd.** Details about how you can help and how to donate are on page 7. My "regular" column will return in the next issue. ♦

Steven L. Hein

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

Katharine L. Brown, Chair and Editor
Cathi Clore Frost, William Johnson, Barbara Price, Steve Hein

Cindy Kwitchoff, Designer (cjcreative.com)



"The soil changed.... It's a lighter color and it feels different from what I was digging before."

A change in soils means something to archaeologists. Different soils suggest episodes of activity. Discolored soils may suggest burning associated with a hearth or other fire. A circular stain may have been a pit dug into the ground and filled in over time. A uniform band of soils over a large area may suggest a wide cultivated area—we call this a plowzone horizon.

Because they may be important, archaeologists need to know how to express changes in soils.

This summer, field school students will learn two tools used in describing soils. They will use Munsell Soil Color books—a collection of color chips organized by Hue, Value, and Chroma. This is a standard reference used by soil scientists and archaeologists alike.

Students will also learn to assess soil textures using the Soil Texture Triangle. Soils are comprised of various size particles. Sand is generally coarse grains that can be detected like the grit on sandpaper. Silt is much finer and gives a "velvety" feel when rubbed through one's fingers. Clay is the smallest particulate, and has a "sticky" feel to it and may ball up when rubbed with fingers. Students will get the chance to practice characterizing soils using these three types.

Field School students will learn to describe soils they encounter while searching for Fort Germanna. They will be better able to express soil changes. While "it looks and feels different," may be true, archaeologists need a better way to define these changes. ♦



A copy of the Virginia General Assembly Joint Resolution commending the 300th anniversary of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition is presented to Dr. Michael D. Frost (l) by R. Christian Heiens, legislative aid to Virginia Delegate Nick Freitas who sponsored the resolution, and Germanna COO Steve Hein (r) at the March meeting of the Board of Trustees.

West Virginia Students Learn about Germanna

Since 1931, the State of West Virginia has named more than 15,000 eighth-grade students Knights or Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe for their knowledge of the Mountain State's history.

The students with the highest scores on a State-administered history examination receive an award patterned after the Golden Horseshoe that Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood presented to his fellow explorers upon the conclusion of their expedition across the mountains in 1716. The expedition, which helped establish English claim to the lands beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, began and terminated at Fort Germanna.

In recognition of the 300th anniversary of the expedition, the Germanna Foundation is working with the West Virginia Department of Education to highlight Fort Germanna's as well as our ancestors' role in the expedition.

West Virginia students will be speaking with Lt. Governor Spotswood, or rather his re-enactor **Dennis Loba**, through a Skype project that will originate at the Brawdus Martin Germanna Visitor Center. The Foundation also will be represented at the May 5 ceremony in Charleston, WV at which the new Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe will be honored. ♦

Germanna Foundation to be Represented at Boone County, Kentucky Event

Germanna Foundation Trustees **Katharine Brown** and **Cathi Clore Frost** will be speaking at Hopeful Lutheran Church in Florence, Kentucky on July 9, 2016. The program is sponsored by the Boone County Germanna Study Group, a special interest group of the Boone County Historical Society.

Katharine Brown will present "The Women of the Germanna Colonies" and Cathi Clore Frost will present "Documents Used to Identify the Second Germanna Colonists." Also speaking will be **Jeannine Kreinbrink**, an archaeologist who assisted with moving 36 graves from the Snyder – Blankenbeker Cemetery to the Hopeful Lutheran Church Cemetery in 2014. Hopeful Lutheran Church was founded by members of Hebron Lutheran Church who migrated to Boone County, Kentucky in 1805.

The Germanna Foundation also plans to have a booth at the event. If you live in the area or will be passing through on your way to the Germanna Reunion, this is a great way to supplement your Germanna vacation. For more details, please visit the Boone County Germanna Study Group website <http://www.boonegermanna.com/index.html>. ♦



Eine „Hexe in der Familie“ (A “witch in the family”)

By William H. Johnson, Jr.

Having a “witch” in our Germanna ancestry has spiced occasional conversations since I found reference to Gertrud Stuell in B. C. Holtzclaw’s study of Nassau-Siegen immigrant families in *Germanna Record* No. 5. Mention of a witch became even more exciting when I determined that I descend from this alleged “witch.” Delving further into her history and that of the thousands of other Europeans who suffered her same fate, I have grown more sad than excited over Grandmother Stuell’s tragedy.

More than four centuries after her death, Gertrud Stuell’s story provides a stunning example of a woman’s strength and perseverance in denying charges of witchcraft, as well as a learning opportunity about these tragic executions. This forbearer of many Germanna descendants suffered imprisonment and torture for nearly two agonizing years before submitting to the fires of ignorance that ended the lives of women, men and children during centuries of terror in Europe.

American history points to the Salem witch trials as a blemish on the memory of our early colonists, but too few in this country know about the much larger Verheerenden Hexenverfolgungen (Devastating Witch Hunts) that spanned the 14th to 18th centuries in Europe. The Salem trials resulted in about 20 executions while estimates range from 60,000 to 100,000 individuals similarly executed in Europe.¹

Writer Heinz Bensberg of Hilchenbach wrote that witch-related deaths in Europe comprised “... the largest non-wartime mass killing in history.”²

The witch hunts began in earnest in Europe, historians say, following the Protestant Reformation during the 16th century, with both Catholics and Protestants fanning the flames with equal fervor.³

Dominican friar Heinrich Krämer’s book *Malleus Maleficarum*, published in 1486, became the instruction manual for the witch hunts—from allegations, procedures for interrogation, torture, conducting trials, to execution.⁴

The hysteria was fueled by “wars, disasters and diseases..., [which] generated at the time anxiety, panic and superstition among the people.” Natural events gave credence to the supernatural allegations: “Harvests spoiled, people suffering from hunger, the cattle died and diseases such as the plague spread, carried off a third of the people. They sought scapegoats and found them in the superstitious population. Thus, the hunt of witches began.”⁵

About 80 percent of those charged were women, but men and even children also were charged.⁶ The allegations included consorting with the Devil to cause harm to individuals, crop failures, sickness and death among humans, death of livestock, bad weather—even the birth of handicapped children.

Krämer advised on the procedures of interrogation and torture: First, the accused was extensively questioned by the “Inquisitor” about the charges and any interaction with the Devil. The accused was stripped naked so the “Inquisitor” could look for signs of the Devil. If no confession was secured, escalating torture was used. The tools of torture first would be demonstrated to the accused and then used in succession in an attempt to secure a confession.⁷

Scriptural justifications used for the witch hunts and executions:

**Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.
(Exodus 22:18, KJV)**

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them. (Leviticus 20:27, KJV)

These torture tools included splinters under fingernails and toenails, a neck iron or choking screw, a head press, a stretching table, a thumb screw, weights around the neck and back used in conjunction with a bed of nails, roller of nails, a “Spanische Spinne,” a comb-like device with points of iron forced under skin at sensitive points, and a “Spanischer Bock,” a device for abusing genital organs.⁸

In many cases, an individual was considered guilty when charged. She (or he) could gain some mitigation of punishment by admitting guilt. The



alleged witch who would plead guilty was killed in some less excruciating way than burning—hanging, smothering, or she/he would be “enthauptet” (beheaded). Only those who refused to admit guilt faced “Verbrennung” (burning) while alive—a punishment intended to resemble hell on earth.

In his chapter on the Otterbach-Utterback Family, Holtzclaw reported that Gerturd Stuell was burned as a witch in 1590, having been accused of bewitching her neighbors’ livestock, Holtzclaw cited a 1955 book, *Geschichte der Gemeinde Klafeld-Geisweid* (History of the Village of Klafeld-Geisweid), as his source.⁹

Gertrud was the second wife of Hans Stuell. “His first wife, Hilla, died some time after 1563 and Hans married (2) a woman named Gertrud from Alchen in the Oberholzklaue Parish, who in 1590 was burned as a witch, being accused of bewitching her neighbor’s livestock.”¹⁰

Some family histories have reported that Gertrude was executed at Oberholtzclaw,¹¹ but I have not been able to verify the place of her death. If she was tried and found guilty in Siegen, her execution might have been in the marketplace below the Nicolaikirche.

The history of Klafeld has this to say about the execution (translated with computer assistance), “Gertrud, the wife of Hans Steull of Klafeld and who was from Alchen, had already been burned as a witch in 1590.”¹²

The village history continues, “She was accused of bewitching her neighbors’ pigs and cows. The cattle foamed at the mouth, the cow hooves were softened, and the pigs blew up like balloons.”

The history concluded that the symptoms which Gertrud was accused of causing were from an epidemic of foot and mouth disease. Here is the more precise translation: “From these signs one can judge muzzle and claw epidemic, at which Gertrud Stuell was nevertheless probably innocent.”¹³



The accusation against Frau Stuell was fueled by rumors that she had participated in witchcraft before moving to Klafeld, rumors that she had not refuted.

Once charged with witchcraft, an alleged culprit was imprisoned—often in a Hexenturm (witch tower). Gertrud likely was imprisoned in the Hexenturm in Siegen, which remains in the Upper Castle.¹⁴

Her trial was overseen or prosecuted in Siegen by Inquisitor Schultheiss Alexander Creuz.¹⁵ Incredibly, the records of her trial have been preserved in the Siegen archives. Unfortunately, the 188 pages of records are in German Secretary Hand. The complete set of the documents has not been translated into modern German and certainly not into English, although the Klafeld history cites them as its source on her tragedy.

Germanna friend Werner Hoffmann-Gassner of Eisern has met with the archivist in Siegen and has viewed these 425-year-old documents. He wrote, “This morning I was in the Archive of the City of Siegen to look for the files of Gertrude Steullens witch trial in 1590. It was a very touching moment to hold the old documents in my hands.”¹⁶

The archivist helped with some initial translation, with Mr. Hoffmann-Gassner reporting: “Gertrude Steullen was born & grown up in the village of Alchen. Already at this time circulated in this village the ugly rumor, that Gertrude should be a witch, & she got the evil nickname: ‘Zaubersche’ (charmer). Gertrude did not contradict this rumor. Later, as she was married in Klafeld, when the livestock of her neighbors were sick, the people believed that Gertrude was guilty for this & it leads to her 2 years witch trial with all the painful sufferings & the horrible end in the fire.”¹⁷

Since this story was drafted in the fall of 2015, more pages of the transcripts have been translated by Germanna member Elke Hall at the request of the PBS program *Finding Your Roots*. (See story in this issue.) These new translations reveal that the charges against Gertrud Stuell were brought by Heyderich von Busch, whose family owned a foundry in Klafeld.

Hall reports, “Five witnesses were questioned and declared during the trial in 1589 what they heard from Trude’s (Gertrud’s) daughter-in-law (the wife of Josten Stuell) about the pigs and the calf and what she had told them became true (that the animals would die). The witnesses ‘heard’ that she (Gertrud) was so strange that ‘no honest young man wanted to come close to her.’ They testified that “a calf quit eating grass and two calves succumbed.”

Gertrud’s family was punished by the court, as well, when it required them to pay for the trial, the imprisonment, and the execution, Hall reports.

The records reviewed by Hall reveal that Gertrud was sentenced to death, but did not confirm that she was burned at the stake. Two other women accused at the same time were executed by burning in nearby Dillenburg. It is clear from the records, though, that Gertrud died either while imprisoned or as a result of the death sentence. Hall reports that Gertrud’s husband petitioned the court on January 20, 1591, for relief from further payments for his deceased wife.

Sadly, Gertrud Stuell was not the only Siegerlander accused of witchcraft. Numerous other executions took place:¹⁸

- Three “witches” from Oechelhausen were executed in 1520-23.
- A man from Lippe was executed in 1587.
- In 1595, Peter Hammer, a steel worker from Morsbach, admitted to consorting with the Devil to cause magic and mayhem. His punishment was not stated.
- In 1628, Eberhard Wirth from Anstoss was convicted of sorcery and was burned.
- In 1630, Catharina Jung, wife of a community leader from Bushen, was executed.
- In 1631, 18 people were executed in Hilchenbach by beheading.
- The cited source includes numerous other trials and executions up to the year 1653.
- Nearby Freudenberg, whose iconic church tower housed a witch prison, saw numerous prosecutions including two with Germanna family names:
 - “Catharina, Wwe Cäner, Wife of Hoffmanns from Buschen is beheaded; she confesses to have seduced young son to witchcraft” in 1651.
 - “Catharina, wife of Theiss Fischbach of Oberfischbach, Schmidt’s, who pleaded guilty and was ‘decolliert’ (beheaded) and buried” in 1653.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of Germanna descendants can trace their lineage to Gertrud Stuell through the Fischbach, Hitt, Hoffmann, Holtzclaw, Jung, Kemper and Otterbach families, as well as others. It is possible that other Germanna ancestors were charged with witchcraft as the preceding lists document three women with Germanna names (Catharina Jung, Catharina Hoffmann and Catherina Fischbach).

This story begs for continued research on the life and fate of Gertrud. Who were Gertrud’s parents? How did she get the reputation as a “charmer” before moving to Klafeld? Who was Inquisitor Schultheiss Alexander Creuz? From what tortures did our ancestor suffer? Was she imprisoned in the Witch Tower in Siegen? Was she executed? And if so, where and how was the execution accomplished? ♦

**Do you have a MISSING female in your line?
If so, contact Barbara Price at Barbara.
Price@germanna.org.**

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ENDNOTES

¹ Douglas Linder, *The Witchcraft Trials in Salem: A Commentary* (Social Science Research Network, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1021256: accessed 19 October 2015).

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³ Douglas Linder, *A Brief History of Witchcraft Persecutions before Salem* (University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/witchhistory.html>: accessed 10 September 2015.).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Bensberg.

⁶ Linder, *A Brief History* ...

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Bensberg.

⁹ B. C. Holtzclaw, *Germanna Record No. 5: Ancestry and Descendants of the Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia, 1714-1750* (Harrisonburg, VA: Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, 1964), 484-485.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *A Witch in the Family* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~swva/Witch.htm>: accessed 25 August, 2015) and (<https://swvirginians.wordpress.com/2014/12/06/a-witch-in-the-family/>: accessed 25 August, 2015).

¹² Hermann Böttger and Gustav Busch, *Geschichte der Gemeinde Klafeld-Geisweid (History of the Village Klafeld-Geisweid)* (Siegen, Germany: ohne Verlag, 1955), 97.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Katja Brombach-Bunse (Siegen tour guide), interviewed by William H. Johnson, Jr. 11 June 2015.

¹⁵ *Namensliste Hexenprozesse Hexenverfolgung Nassau-Siegen* (List of names of the victims of the witch trials Nassau-Siegen, Hilchenbach and Freudenberg) (Anton Pretorius, <http://www.anton-praetorius.de/downloads/namenslisten/Namensliste%20Nassau%20Siegen%20Hilchenbach%20Freudenberg%20b.pdf>: accessed 17 August 2015).

¹⁶ Email correspondence from Werner Hoffmann-Gassner to William H. Johnson, Jr., 27 August 2015.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ *Namensliste Hexenprozesse Hexenverfolgung Nassau-Siegen*.

¹⁹ Ibid.



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Help Us Find Fort Germanna:

On May 3, make a donation toward our Archaeology Program *(and we can win even more money!)*



The Germanna Foundation is participating in **The Community Give 24-hour Giving Campaign** on Tuesday May 3, starting at 12:00 am Eastern Daylight Time (midnight Monday night on the east coast, 9 pm Monday, May 2 west coast time!) to 11:59 pm Tuesday night (8:59 pm on the west coast).



How does it work? Germanna supporters around the country are asked to visit this special online link—<https://thecommunitygive.org/npo/germanna-foundation>—and make a donation to Germanna during this one day giving campaign.

Your donation will go a long way in helping us build our archaeology program just in time for this summer's field school and excavation season.

Plus, gifts given on May 3 make us eligible to win cash prizes—which would increase each and every donation you make!

Cash prizes to be made to nonprofits include prizes or drawings for prizes among nonprofits that receive:

- the most total gifts (of \$25 or more)
- the most total donations
- the most gifts between midnight and 1 am (help us out you west coast supporters and make a donation before you go to bed Monday night!)
- the highest percentage of Board members giving,
- and even a \$500 "golden ticket" randomly awarded prizes throughout the day.

A \$10,000 grand prize drawing among nonprofits receiving 101 or more gifts may mean your donation can turn into \$10,000!

So be part of something BIG! Help Germanna find the Fort this summer—click and give on May 3!

Please note you may also donate by sending a check in the mail, however, to count as part of this campaign, you must make your check payable to The Community Give and your check must be dated May 3, and you will need to write Germanna Foundation in the memo line. Then send it to: The Community Give, PO Box 208, Fredericksburg, VA 22404, in enough time to arrive on or about May 3rd. Germanna will receive the entire amount of your donation.

<https://thecommunitygive.org/npo/germanna-foundation>

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent deaths of three longtime friends and active members of the Germanna Foundation and extend our sympathy to their families.

◆ **Norma Wilhoit** was a distinguished mental health professional in North Carolina. She, her husband Don, daughters Lynne and Valerie traveled to Germany with Germanna and rarely missed a Reunion.

◆ **Gordon Coons**, an avid genealogist was also a traveler to Germany with the Foundation. He was a skilled stained glass craftsman who shared his talent for Germanna's benefit.

◆ **Craig Kilby**, known for years of research relating to Germanna and its families, had been a Reunion speaker. Craig was also a former Missouri state legislator.



**Germanna Genealogy
Database
GermannaFamily.org**



*Honoring our
Historic Heritage*

THE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION OF THE
GERMANNA COLONIES IN VIRGINIA, INC.
THE GERMANNA FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 279
LOCUST GROVE, VA 22508-0279



Visitor Center and Hours:
2062 Germanna Hwy
Locust Grove, VA
Tues-Sat, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
540-423-1700
foundation@germanna.org
GERMANNA.ORG

DETAILS INSIDE!

**Make Plans to Attend the
Germanna Foundation's 59th Annual
Reunion and Conference
July 14 - 17, 2016**

Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of
Governor Alexander Spotswood's
Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition



Register online at GERMANNA.ORG

