



Visitor Center Exhibit Opens

The long-awaited interpretive exhibit for the R. Brawdus Martin Germanna Visitor Center opened in July to honor the delegation from the German-American Association of Siegen-Wittgenstein.

Now members, descendants, and visitors can learn the dramatic and inspiring Germanna Story through the eleven large, colorful panels with their dozens of period illustrations, documents, and portraits.

The exhibit was developed with a planning grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities several years ago, with a script by **Dr. Katharine L. Brown** and Trustee Emeritus **John Pearce** of the University of Mary Washington. **Cheryl Lyon** of LDA Creations in Dayton, Virginia, designed the panels. Education and Publications Committee members **Barbara Price** and **Cathi Clore Frost** assisted Dr. Brown with text updates and image selection.

Funding to construct and install the panels was provided by an additional grant from The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy and by sponsorships of individual



panels in honor of various Germanna families. **Keith Hoffman** spearheaded this successful effort to raise the funding. ♦

Above: Four of the eleven panels in the new exhibit at the Germanna Visitor Center in Locust Grove, VA. The coats of arms (Wappen) for Germanna ancestral villages are the gift of Werner Hoffmann-Gassner of Eisern.

300th Jubilee Celebrated in July

2014 marked the 300th anniversary of the Germanna Colonies first coming to America and in July, the Germanna Foundation held its biggest and best reunion to celebrate.

We were honored to have a delegation attend from the colony's ancestral home in Siegen-Wittgenstein, Germany. Two of these, **Eric Utsch** and **Joerg Becker**, became members of the Germanna Foundation's Board of Trustees

to replace outgoing Trustee **Horst Schneider**.

Germanna descendants were able to visit and walk on the land where their ancestors first built their homes in Fort Germanna. Thanks to the efforts of **Dr. Michael Frost**, **Ellis Hitt** and **Mitch Filipowicz** of HITT Contracting, the historic property was made into a park-like setting, ready for future archaeological study.

One of the German delegation, after listen-

ing to archaeologist **Dr. Kerri Barile** talk about the history of Fort Germanna, remarked what a brave and courageous act it was for people to leave their homeland and journey to the frontiers of a new country.

Below is a group photo with the Johannes Walk headstone from the last day of the 2014 reunion. More reunion photos are on page 4 as well as on the Germanna website. ♦





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

J. Marc Wheat

Welcoming Buzz Aldrin back to his ancestral homeland is a fitting bookend to the 300th Jubilee: starting in anticipation with the acquisition of the 62-acre Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle archaeological site, and closing with a visit by a descendant beloved for exemplifying exploration.

At the 57th annual reunion this July, speakers from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources laid down a challenge that was our Sputnik Moment: to seek Federal recognition for Germanna as a National Historic Landmark.

The Germanna Foundation is rising to the challenge. This is our moon shot, an un-

dertaking that will challenge our talents and strain our resources.

Think of it: there are over a million properties on the National Register of Historic Places, mostly as contributing resources within historic districts. Of those properties, only 85,000 are listed individually—such as the Germanna Foundation's Salubria (1970) and the Germanna archaeological site (1978). Only 2,500 of all these properties are listed as National Historic Landmarks, an official designation by the United States government to recognize sites where events of national historical significance occurred.

Germanna is where our American story

This is our moon shot.

began—but it is also nationally significant to the American story. Although we will seek help from all quarters, this legacy project must largely be borne by Germanna families. As JFK said in launching the Apollo program, “our eagerness to share its meaning is not governed by others.”

I am so proud of our Board of Trustees, our volunteers, our donors, and our staff. Be sure to read COO Steve Hein's important announcement below—everything is A-OK and we are ready to launch. ♦



CHIEF'S REPORT

Steven L. Hein

I'm pleased to be writing my first newsletter column as the Germanna Foundation's Chief Operating Officer. It is a privilege to serve you on the Foundation staff in these exciting times for Germanna. Since I'm new to most of you, let me share just a bit about my background: I served 20 years on active duty in the Coast Guard following my graduation from the USCG Academy. I served at sea in Alaska and as the skipper of a patrol boat in southern California, earned my MBA, and directed recruitment marketing efforts for the Coast Guard and my alma mater, among other assignments that took me to New York City, Buffalo, and even the country of Qatar. Following my Coast Guard career I served in senior marketing positions for several organizations, most recently for a national nonprofit veterans advocacy association.

As I joined the staff in September, we submitted a Special Use Permit zoning application for a new museum and library to be

built adjacent to the Visitor Center to Orange County, VA, and we are halfway through that process with a unanimous vote (4-0) recommending approval of our permit from the County's Planning Commission. Next is the Orange County Board of Supervisors' public hearing, scheduled for early December. Once our permit is approved, we then continue the design and engineering process.

Driving our plan for a new building is our acquisition of the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle archaeological site last year, and our plan to re-start the archaeological exploration there. I'm very pleased to be able to announce to you that we are hiring our own archaeologist—**Dr. Eric Larsen**. Thanks to a special pledge of financial support from Dr. Michael Frost, Eric will be joining the Germanna staff before the end of the year to start this exciting new chapter of telling the Germanna story.

I attended a Virginia Department of Historic Resources sponsored conference on Bat-

tlefield Preservation in Petersburg, VA, and had the opportunity to visit Pamplin Historical Park. This private nonprofit organization owns about 420 acres of Civil War battlefield land, and has built and operates two museums on the property, a living history encampment area, and several interpretive trails combining archaeological battlefield earthworks with replica construction and the natural environment very effectively. As I think about Fort Germanna and the Enchanted Castle site, this park can serve as one of the models for Germanna.

Our annual fund campaign is underway! Your generous support has made all the achievements of the past year possible for the Germanna Foundation, and I thank you. 2015 promises to be even more exciting as we re-start the Fort Germanna archaeology, continue our genealogical research and restoration of Salubria, plan a new building, host our annual reunion and conference, and welcome even more people to our Visitor Center to hear the stories that are Germanna. Thank you for your continuing support. ♦

Johannes Walk Headstone Homecoming

By Cathi Clore Frost

On the 19th of October, the Germanna Foundation officially returned the headstone of Johannes Walk to Friedberg Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Johannes Walk, who was born in 1769 and died at age 6 months, was the first child baptized at that church and the second child buried in the boys section of the church cemetery.

The headstone was found by a cleanup crew in a wooded area behind the Southridge neighborhood in Culpeper, Virginia in December 2013.

Upon its discovery, the headstone was turned over to the Culpeper Public Works Department. Officials with the department contacted the Museum of Culpeper History which in turn contacted the Germanna Foundation.

Because Johannes Walk was the great-grandson of 1717 Germanna Colonist Michael Clore and had been included in Germanna Record 16, he was quickly identified in Foundation records.

After some publicity about the find in local newspapers, a former resident partially solved the mystery of how Johannes Walk's headstone came to be in Culpeper.

He had purchased the headstone at an antique shop in Fredericksburg about 30 years ago but, because of its weight, decided not to

take it during a recent move to Arizona and placed it in the wooded area behind his Culpeper home.

After display at the Germanna Foundation and receiving a blessing at the Hebron Lutheran Church church service on reunion day in July, Foundation member **David Fishback** was tasked with returning the headstone to Friedberg Moravian Church.

It is not known how or when the headstone was removed from Friedberg Moravian Church Cemetery or how it came to be in an antique shop in Fredericksburg. Church Historian **Jimmy Snyder** found only a record that in 1951 the church authorized replacing missing children's headstones.

A replacement headstone for Johannes Walk is located in the cemetery but the actual date of replacement is not known. The original headstone will now be safely kept in the Historical Room of the church. ♦



Representing the Germanna Foundation at the homecoming of Johannes Walk's headstone were, from left to right, Elisa Frost, Cathi Clore Frost, Larry Hall, Dustin Hall and Elke Hall. The Frosts are distant cousins of Johannes Walk while the Halls are the several times great-grandnephews of Johannes Walk.



Jim Hoy of the Town of Culpeper Public Works Dept and Germanna Foundation President Marc Wheat at the transfer ceremony for Johannes Walk's headstone that took place March 2014.

Blue Ridge Heritage Association

Judith Mahanes of Madison County and Alexandria is the representative of the Germanna Foundation to the Blue Ridge Heritage Association. This nonprofit organization has a mission of honoring the families displaced from their homes in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia when Shenandoah National Park was established.

Eight Virginia counties border the park, including Madison, home to so many Ger-

manna descendants. Some of the families displaced bore Germanna names while others had strong Germanna ancestry. The organization hopes to establish various memorial sites and history exhibits telling the stories of the people.

Mahanes, an active Germanna volunteer, organizes the vendor hall at the Foundation's annual Reunion in July. ♦

Germany Trip Filled

The Foundation's traditional trip to Germany for June 2015 already has a full roster of 36 travelers. Those still wishing to take part in the trip may place their names on a waiting list with the office in case a cancellation should occur. Phone 540-423-1700 or e-mail bbounds@germanna.org.

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

Katharine L. Brown, Chair and Editor
Cathi Clore Frost
Barbara Price
Cindy Kwitchoff, Designer (cjkcreative.com)



Germanna 2014 Reunion

The 300th Jubilee of Germanna in America



Werner Hoffmann-Gassner, the Germanna Foundation Herald from Eisern, Germany.



President Marc Wheat welcomes new German trustees Eric Utsch and Joerg Becker in background.



Members of the DAG group from Siegen-Wittgenstein visit the Fort Germanna site.



Three Heide / Hitts: Ellis from Ohio, Russell from Virginia, and Burkhard from Netphen, Germany.



Robert Britton (left), one of the Spilman descendant hosts greets Prof. Dr. Horst Schmid-Boecking of Trupbach on his return visit to The Oaks.



Reunion attendees experience 1770s box pews in the historic Little Fork Church.



Germanna President Marc Wheat is interviewed by ARD, a large German TV network based in Cologne.



Elizabeth Williams Gookin, a Spilman descendant, and her husband Richard Gookin welcomed our large tour to their gracious home, The Oaks.



Germanna service at Hebron Lutheran Church.



Germanna descendants walk where their ancestors first settled in America: Fort Germanna.



(L-R) Mitch Filipowicz, Vice President of HITT Contracting, and Trustees Dr. Michael Frost and Ellis Hitt at the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle site.



Surprise visit by Volkmar Klein of the German Bundestag and his daughter Rebecca, outgoing Germanna trustee Horst Schneider, Germanna President Marc Wheat and his wife Marie.

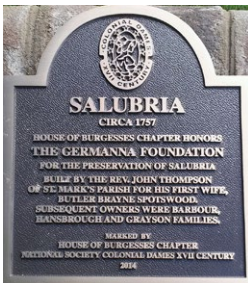


Hannah, Lisa, and Tommy Rector of Kentucky provided traditional folk music for the dinner at Salubria.

Recent Germanna Activities



The Germanna Foundation's ongoing effort to preserve Salubria was recognized in September with the dedication of a historic marker erected by the House of Burgesses Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVII Century.



COO Steve Hein, left, and President Marc Wheat, right, flank Dr. Michael Frost after presenting him with a copy of "The Chesapeake House" as a token of gratitude for his support of the work at Salubria.



German exchange students and their host families hike down to the Rapidan River from the Germanna Visitor Center in September. The 28 students were studying at Culpeper and Eastern View high schools, and the visit to Germanna was scheduled by Ulrike "E.K." Mello, a former Culpeper County German teacher and Germanna Foundation member.



Foundation President Marc Wheat (l) and COO Steve Hein talk with Orange County Supervisor Jim Crozier (r) at a visioning session for Germanna Community College's Locust Grove campus held on 7 November. Several participants agreed with us that they'd like the College's new building at Locust Grove to complement the look of the Germanna Foundation's existing and planned buildings right next door, and use German "green technology" to decrease the building's impact on the environment.



Some of the trustees who attended the October board meeting inspected the Memorial Garden. From left: Keith Hoffman, Bruce Davis, Katharine Brown, Ellis Hitt, Skip Poole, Cathi Clore Frost, Marc Wheat, Steve Hein. A few stones are still available for engraving in honor of your Germanna family. To reserve one of these, phone the office, 540-423-1700.



Students, teachers and parents from the German language programs of Courtland and Chancellor High Schools (Spotsylvania County) held their Honor Society induction ceremony in our Memorial Garden and a luncheon at the Brawdus Martin Visitor Center in October.



The Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society provided a generous donation to the Germanna Foundation's preservation efforts at Salubria this fall. In true colonial fashion, the Society's Andre Du Mont delivered the contribution to Germanna's Office Manager Barbara Bounds at the Brawdus Martin Visitor Center with a wax-sealed, handwritten note.



Astronaut and Germanna descendant Buzz Aldrin visited Germanna Community College. See back page for photos.



Your Reunion Committee met at Germanna to iron out plans for 2015.



MISSing

By Barbara Price

You're probably wondering why I would entitle a column as "MISSing," hmmm, let's talk about that!

When I first began my genealogical journey more than 25 years ago we were in Okemah, Oklahoma. It was my first trip there and we met so many relatives, lots of great uncles and aunts, my daughter was with me and my mother and Uncle AJ, my mother's brother.

During that trip, Uncle AJ suggested that I should write the family history and I thought that was a good idea and started with my mother's side of the family.

What a shock it was to come across a woman by the name of Elizabeth Holtzclaw Burnes, my Great Great Great Grandmother, the Great Great Great Granddaughter of the 1714 immigrants, Hans Jacob Holzklau and Anna Margreth Otterbach.

I never imagined that I was a Germanna descendant and, if I would not have researched further into my mother's line, I would not have known about my Germanna ancestry.



Otterbach descendants, both German and American, at the Otterbach home in Trupbach, 2013.

Imagine all that I, and our family, would have lost if not for researching the female side of our family—the Germanna Reunions, meeting so many of our cousins, the Germany Trip where we visited our ancestor's homes in Trupbach, their church in Siegen and found their records in Oberfischbach.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one that has several female lines that are MISSing. What is your MISSing female line and how can we



Our German and American Holtzclaw cousins in Oberholzklau, 2004.



Holtzclaw cousins with Gerhard Moisel, Siegen Church Archivist, in the village of Oberfischbach, 2014.

help you discover who she is? Send your queries to: Barbara.Price@germanna.org

Don't forget the female side of your ancestry, it's 50% of who we are! ♦

More Germanna Reunions



Carpenter Family Reunion. Descendants of John Carpenter, who came to Virginia in 1721 to join Second Colony settlers, gathered in Texas on September 14, 2015. This group descends from John's fourth son William Carpenter and then from William's second son Samuel.

Their meeting included talks about Robert Washington Carpenter's Civil War service and about revisions and new information for their family tree. The family association elected **Nathan Carpenter** its new president. ♦



West Coast Germanna Gathering. The second ever West Coast Germanna Gathering was held Saturday, September 27th in St. Helens, Oregon and was attended by about 25 members primarily from Oregon and Washington. The program included presentations by **Dr. Katharine Brown** about "The Germanna Colonies Story" and "The Women of Germanna" and by **Cathi Clore Frost** about "Documents Used to Identify the Second Colonists." ♦

We encourage other Germanna family associations to send us information about their meetings and copies of papers presented that we can add to the Germanna library.



Give the Gift
of Membership!



Germanna 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.

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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.

Just Say Yes to the Annual Fund Campaign

This is an exciting time to increase your financial support of your Foundation—from our decision to pursue National Historic Landmark designation, to hiring a Germanna staff archaeologist, to construction planning for a new museum and library facility, to publishing more genealogical research in our Germanna Record series.

When you receive our 2014 annual fund campaign letter asking for your support, **please "say yes" in response**, and make an additional tax-deductible donation to Germanna today to help us continue to Honor our Historic Heritage. Thank you!



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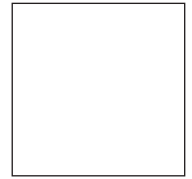


Honoring our
Historic Heritage



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

The Memorial Foundation of the
Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 279
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0279



Germanna Welcomes Astronaut Buzz Aldrin 'Home Again'

Several Foundation Trustees, members, and staff met with Apollo 11 astronaut and Germanna descendant Buzz Aldrin at the Germanna Community College's Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper on November 7th as he met with students as part of his ShareSpace Foundation's effort to inspire children to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. **Buzz is descended from the Germanna colonial Haeger, Rector and Fishback families.**

Germanna Foundation President J. Marc Wheat presented Buzz with a Cat's Meow piece depicting the Foundation's Brawdus Martin Visitor Center, the Foundation's own "command module," and a copy of Buzz's genealogy showing his family tree back to the Germanna colony's founding in 1714. Marc said,

"I was pleased to meet again my moonwalking distant cousin, and I reminded him that his explorer genes can be traced back to those intrepid German ancestors of ours, who—while not traveling as far as the moon—displayed the same questing spirit and the use of the best technologies to plant our civilization on this frontier as he did for us on the moon."

