



Germanna at National Genealogical Society

Four Germanna trustees and three members of the Reunion Planning Committee were on hand at the Richmond Convention Center May 7-10 for the national conference of the National Genealogical Society.

Their mission was to staff the Germanna Foundation booth in the exhibit hall and serve as missionaries to spread the word about Germanna to the more than 2,000 convention attendees.

Dressed in bright yellow tee shirts embroidered with the Germanna 300th anniversary logo, the team made an eye-catching and cheerful appearance that attracted large numbers of conventioners to the Foundation's well-stocked booth. Many of these were people with Germanna connections, or who were searching to make them. Some were already Germanna members.

Our team recruited 13 new members and contact information for dozens more who are membership prospects.

Recent issues of *The Germanna Record* sold briskly, with more than \$2,000 in sales proceeds.

One new member made a very generous contribution to the historic preservation work of the Foundation.

Katharine Brown, the first vice president of the Foundation, had been chosen months before by the NGS program committee to make a presentation entitled "300 Years in Virginia: The Germanna Legacy."



(L-R: Stephen Chanko, Pat Conner, Cathi Clore Frost, Katharine Brown, Madison Brown, Marc Wheat)

More than 100 men and women attended her lecture, which was fully illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation.

Germanna members who will be attending Reunion in July will have the opportunity to hear a version of this talk at the Conference on Saturday, July 19.

The convention offered an ideal opportunity for networking with staff members of a number of organizations with which Germanna might work on various projects.

As usual, our President, **Marc Wheat**, was a superb ambassador on behalf of the Germanna Foundation, and when we had some free time, our booth staffers got to hear some good program sessions. ♦



Katharine Brown gave a presentation about Germanna.

Breaking News!



http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMDCDK_Spotswood_Spring_Orange_County_VA

As we go to press, we have just learned that the Germanna Foundation is the recipient of the gift of an important property adjacent to our Fort Germanna / Enchanted Castle site.

This is the **Spotswood Spring land**, an area mentioned by William Byrd II in his diary account of his visit to the Spotswood mansion.

The generous donor is **Rose Marie Martin**, who, along with her husband **Willie**, have been associated with the Germanna Foundation for their entire married lives.

Willie began coming to the Germanna basket picnic that Brawdus Martin organized before there was a Germanna Foundation.

It was the work of Rose Marie and Willie that obtained grants and donations that made the construction of the beautiful pentagonal Germanna Visitor Center possible back in 2000.

Additional information about this gift and its significance to the entire site will be available at the 300th Anniversary Reunion—just one more reason for you to register now if you have not already done so.

Join us for a ceremonial occasion associated with the historic transfer. ♦



Germannna Loses Two Beloved Friends and Supporters

ROBERT LEE YEAGER, III

The Foundation learned with sorrow the passing of **Robert Lee Yeager, III** (1926-2014) of Cleveland, Mississippi at the age of 87.

Mr. Yeager was a prominent member of his community, having served on numerous civic, professional, and educational boards, and was a charter member of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Germanna Foundation is deeply grateful to Robert Yeager for his generous sponsorship of half of the publication costs of the 690-page Germanna Record #19, *The Yeager Family: The First Five Generations*. Without his thoughtful sponsorship, which generated other donations through a challenge to Yagers, this large and valuable genealogical resource could not have been published.

Mr. Yeager was born in Natchez, Mississippi, grew up on a farm, served in the Army Medical Corps in Korea and Japan, and graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Agricultural Education. He farmed successfully and happily until his retirement in 1991.

Genealogical research was his passion, and he was proud of his descent from Nicholas Yeager, the 1717 colonist from Falkenstein in the Palatinate.

The Foundation extends its heartfelt sympathy to his wife **Margery**, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. ♦

Consider Planned Giving to leave a lasting legacy by supporting the mission of the Germanna Foundation.

More information:

<http://www.germannna.org/get-involved/become-a-member/planned-giving-2/>

CORNWELL MARTIN

Cornwell Martin, an enthusiastic and generous member of the Germanna Foundation, died in April 2014, at his home in Forest Hills, New York, at the age of 84.

Cornwell was a proud member of the Kemper, Otterbach, Weaver, Coons, Heimbach, and Fischbach families. His Martin family was English.

His grandfather, **Retherford Brawdus Martin**, started the first "basket picnic party" in April 1949 at the site of the long-vanished Fort Germanna and Spotswood mansion. Out of that effort, the present Germanna Foundation was created in 1956.

Cornwell was the son of **Kemper Cornwell Martin** and **Laura Ruth Crystal**. By profession he was a civil engineer and worked as a facility manager for a large insurance company before his retirement.

In his retirement he took great pleasure in his work with various groups that preserve our American heritage through libraries, museums, and historic cemeteries. His memberships included the Sons of the Revolution and the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society.

Until ill health prevented him, Cornwell attended Reunion every year at Germanna, where he was a generous supporter of the library, and also placed full sets of the Germanna Record in many genealogical research libraries including the German Society of Pennsylvania. He took part in the second Germanna-sponsored trip to the ancestral villages in Germany in 2004.

The Foundation extends its sympathy to his daughters **Janice** and **Lynne** and grandchildren, **Jason** and **Sarah**, as well as his cousin **Frances Nichols** of Culpeper. ♦



Robert Lee Yeager, III



Cornwell Martin

*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.*

T.S. ELIOT
THE FOUR QUARTETS

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

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

Germannna to Welcome Delegation from the Siegerland

For 11 years, members of the Germanna Foundation have been welcomed (and wine and dined!) in the Siegerland by representatives of the various village Heimatvereine and by members of the DAG/GAA (Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft/German-American Association).

This summer is our opportunity to show some old fashioned Southern Hospitality to 35 members of the DAG who will be joining us for Reunion.

Members who have been on Germanna trips to Germany will see familiar faces such as our retiring trustee **Horst Schneider** and his wife **Elisabeth**; our new German trustee, **Joerg Becker**, who always guides the walking tour in Eisern; **Werner-Hoffmann-Gassner**, who has made so many beautiful plaques and Wappen of iron and of wood for our Visitor Center; **Alida Matthey**, who always guides our walking tour of Siegen, and her husband **Reinhard**; new German Trustee **Eric Utsch** and his wife **Melanie**; and **Volkmar Klein**, Bundestag Member.

We also look forward to seeing a longtime Germanna friend and member, **Horst Schmid-Boecking**, a world renowned physicist, who has often welcomed the group to Trupbach as part of the brass quartet there.

The DAG group will be with us for dinner at Salubria on Thursday, for the BBQ at the Madison Fire Hall and concert at Hebron on Friday, the banquet on Saturday, and the annual meeting, roll call, and picnic on Sunday. ♦



THE GERMANNA STORE
Bumper stickers, playing cards, puzzles and more
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Last Call for Reunion Registration!

Places are filling rapidly for the big 300th Anniversary Germanna Conference and Reunion, July 17-20, 2014. Articles in the current Colonial Williamsburg and German Life magazines have spiked interest.

The Friday bus tours have filled and are closed.
Other events are still open, but only if you act quickly.

Don't get left out of this wonderful opportunity to see familiar cousins, meet new ones, and welcome our guests from Germany—to say nothing of hearing great talks at the conference, enjoying music and dance, and eating some great food.

Mail in your form today with a check, or phone Barbara Bounds at the office to register with your credit card: 540-423-1700. You can also register and pay online at Germanna.org. For the updated schedule and more details, see our website.



The Memorial Foundation of the
Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 279
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BREAKING NEWS!

Generous Rose Marie Martin donation of Spotswood Spring site



MORE INSIDE:

- Germanna at National Genealogy Society
- Germanna loses two beloved friends and supporters: Robert Lee Yeager III and Cornwall Martin
- Delegation from Germany coming to Reunion
- Last chance to register for the Conference & Reunion!

LEFT: Laura Hoffman, wife of Trustee Keith Hoffman, received the "Friendship Award" from the German Embassy for her work to revive the German-American Friendship Garden on the National Mall in Washington, DC. German Ambassador Peter Ammon invited her to help plant the final shrub in a widely-attended ceremony.

GERMANNA MEMBERSHIP

Go to our website, GERMANNA.ORG to join or renew your membership in the Germanna Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 educational foundation sustained by the volunteer efforts and donations of its members. Yearly dues are only \$35 single or \$45 per family for home delivery. Together, we can:

- Protect the Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle archaeology site, Salubria and the Germanna cultural landscape.
- Preserve the legacy of those pioneers who settled the frontier of colonial Virginia and their descendants.
- Cultivate closer trans-atlantic friendships.



*A Family of
Families Since
1956*

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