



Germanna FOUNDATION

Honoring Our Historic Heritage

GERMANNA.ORG

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC *Discovers* Germanna!



The Germanna Foundation is pleased to announce that the National Geographic Society visited Germanna and is producing a video on the story of the Germanna settlement.

The National Geographic Society first published on the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition in August 1896, and is revisiting it on the cusp of the 300th anniversary of Governor Alexander Spotswood's Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition made from Fort Germanna.

"*National Geographic* readers have been dying since 1896 for an update on the work to rediscover Germanna, and we're excited that the Germanna Foundation's 21st century technologies to expand our knowledge will be featured in *National Geographic*'s latest video release," said Germanna Foundation President **J. Marc Wheat**.

The *National Geographic* crew interviewed Marc, along with Foundation trustee and genealogist **Cathi Clore Frost**, and staff archaeologist **Dr. Eric Larsen** for the video.

The crew took footage and photographs of the Foundation's Brawdus Martin Visitor Center, memorial garden and cloister, the Rapidan River and Siegen Forest grounds, and Dr. Larsen collecting data using ground-penetrating radar at the Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle archaeological site.

We'll let you know how to access the video as soon as it is released by National Geographic—so check your Germanna emails, and visit our Facebook page or website regularly. ♦

Germanna Exhibit at the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC

Until mid-March, the German-American Heritage Museum, located in Hockemeyer Hall in the historic Penn Quarter of Washington in close proximity to the National Archives and the Newseum, will feature Germanna as its main exhibit.

Using reproductions of the display panels on permanent exhibit in our own Brawdus Martin Visitor Center, the new exhibit promises to get the Germanna story out to many more people with an interest in German-American heritage and history.

Along with the exhibit, the Museum is planning two lecture events about Germanna: one featuring Germanna Trustee **Dr. Katharine Brown**, to discuss the history of Germanna and describe the process of researching and producing the exhibit; and one featuring Germanna Archaeologist **Dr. Eric Larsen**, to talk about the new archaeological exploration being undertaken by the Foundation.

Following the exhibit in the Museum, the German-American Heritage Foundation plans to make the Germanna exhibit panels available to its member clubs around the country as a traveling exhibit about Germanna.

Let those organizations in your area know about this, and we can help the Germanna exhibit come to your town! ♦



EXHIBIT PROVIDED BY THE



Germanna FOUNDATION



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The Germanna Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the historic heritage of the Germanna colonists and their descendants, through genealogical research and publishing, historic preservation and interpretation, archaeological exploration, and conservation. The Foundation owns and maintains several historic sites and properties that were part of or closely connected to the Germanna colonies, the town of Germanna, and the other early colonial Virginia settlements and towns in the Piedmont area of Virginia.



FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR
THE HUMANITIES AND BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GERMANNA
FOUNDATION MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

J. Marc Wheat

Thank you for your generosity to the Germanna Foundation since its founding on March 14, 1956. This year being our 60th birthday, forgive us if we unwrap our presents early and share our excitement!

Soon, the National Geographic Society will release a new video on Germanna, helping us reach the widest audience worldwide since our founding.

As you read this, the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC has kicked off a year-long "German Entrepreneurship" series of exhibits, the first being "Colony 1714: Germanna and the Ironworkers."

And lastly, the Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will recommend to the U.S. Department of Interior that Germanna be designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL), the Stanley Cup of historic preservation!

"I have always thought the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle site ranks among the most sig-

nificant historical archaeological sites certainly in Virginia and arguably in the nation," argued **William M. Kelso**, C.B.E., Ph. D., F.S.A., the famed archaeologist who rediscovered the fort at Jamestown.

Dr. Kelso is right! While Germanna Foundation's **Dr. Eric Larsen** uses non-invasive Ground Penetrating Radar to explore 300-year-old disturbances in the soil to rediscover Fort Germanna, behind the scenes we are coordinating DNA testing to augment our database of 100,000 Germanna descendants. Watch this space as we explore using LIDAR and other technologies to make discoveries about Germanna and ourselves.

None of this would have been possible without the creative application of resources to energetic ideas. A special thank you to our friends who have committed to support the Foundation at the Germanna Pentagon Society and Germanna Pioneer annual giving levels. I know you will join me

in thanking these very generous individuals and families for their leadership and support:

- **Russell and Joan Hitt**, and **The Hitt Family Foundation**—Pentagon Society
- **Dr. Michael D. Frost and Ginger Frost**—Pentagon Society
- **The Fishback Family** of Brookings, South Dakota, in honor of John Fishback who was a founder of our Germanna Colony and all of the Fishback descendants since—Pioneer

These gifts will help us inspire our fellow Americans with the story of Germanna, envisioned by Governor Spotswood as an outpost of ingenious labor and exploration on the westernmost edge of the British Empire.

For many of us, this is a sacred place where our American story began: where the first births, baptisms, deaths occurred on American soil—even where the first Christmas carols were sung!

I am grateful to be part of the generation given stewardship over the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle archaeological site, and that we live in an age when new technology affords us to do more with less. ♦

J. Marc Wheat
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Editor's note: Please watch for donor acknowledgments from our end-of-year campaign in the Spring edition of your Germanna newsletter.



CHIEF'S REPORT

Steven L. Hein

Thank you to all who responded to our annual campaign! Your generous donations in response to the campaign and throughout 2015, along with several leading gifts, and ongoing financial support from your Board of Trustees, has enabled the Foundation to enter this 300th anniversary year of Alexander Spotswood's Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition from Germanna with a running start.

Marc and I have set the process in motion toward attaining National Historic Landmark status for Germanna, beginning with a conversation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, Ms. **Julie Langan**, to garner her support right after the New Year started.

The Foundation will now send a letter of inquiry to the National Park Service, which is the first step in the lengthy nomination process. Next, I met with our Virginia legislative delegation (our Delegate and State Senator) in Richmond during

the Virginia Museum Advocacy Day in mid-January to ask for their support of our nomination as well as a joint resolution from the Virginia General Assembly commemorating the Golden Horseshoe Expedition anniversary.

In the next few months, we will be asking for you to help us too by asking your elected officials and other prominent historians and supporters to write letters of support for Germanna's nomination as a National Historic Landmark.

This is also a great time to reach out to your extended family members who are not already Germanna members. Tell them about the exciting archaeology work, new genealogy research, ongoing preservation and restoration work at Salubria, and our interesting and fun reunion and conference annual event. Encourage them to join, or give them a gift membership so they can stay up-to-date on Germanna Foundation activities and our progress.

2016 will be a great year in the history of the Foundation, and your membership and support makes it all possible. ♦

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 (cjkcreative.com)



Preparations

Preparing the rise above the bend in the Rapidan River in 1714 must have taken considerable efforts. They would have needed to determine the best placement for the planned 5-sided, wood-walled fort that was to be built there. The land itself—155,000 square feet or 3.56 acres—would need to be cleared.

The corners would need to be marked on the ground and then long trenches would need to be dug connecting the corners to serve as footers for the palisade walls. Perhaps the trees that had been cleared would give enough material to build the 1,500 linear feet of palisade wall that would just serve as the outer skin of the new fort. . . . There was much work to be done even before getting to the shelters for the Germans who would inhabit the fort.

My past year with the Germanna Foundation has also seen preparations. I've scanned through 13 linear feet of records from the past archaeology at the Enchanted Castle. I've drawn up lists of materials needed for excavations and for artifact processing.

We've begun collecting some of the basic tools and equipment we will need. We have readied the site, mapped it, and placed new reference points out on the ground. These winter months will be spent collecting Ground Penetrating Radar data that will hopefully help us relocate the fort walls.

All of this has prepared us to begin our own search. Preparations are under way for a field school. Field schools are the primary training grounds for new archaeologists. A field school is typically offered through colleges and universities for credit. We are currently working out the details with a Virginia school to hold such an offering at the Fort Germanna Site this summer.

That will be the beginnings of the Foundation's excavations at the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle site. It will also be a jumping off point for what I hope will be a long term archaeology program with the Foundation. Very exciting times! ♦

How I Came to Germanna

by Richard Roy Martin

I came to Germanna by adoption and by biology. You see, my adoptive father, **Roy Martin**, was a descendant of John Joseph Martin, and my biological father, **Herman Meyer**, was a descendant of Peter Hitt.

If my story is not unusual enough, then it becomes more unusual. According to family tradition, John Joseph Martin and Peter Hitt married sisters whose parents were Hermann Otterbach and Elizabeth Heimbach, which means that my adoptive and biological fathers were eighth cousins. My story is thus the story about a wonderfully rich Germanna ancestry.

My adoptive family in America begins with John Joseph Martin and Mary Catherine Otterbach who were members of Germanna's First Colony of 1714. They eventually established their home at Germantown, Virginia.

John Martin, the son of Joseph and Catherine Holtzclaw Martin, married Sarah Jeffries, and they moved from Fauquier County, Virginia to Shelby County, Kentucky in the 1780s.

Their daughter, Elizabeth Martin, married John Martin, the son of Peter and Sarah Redding Martin, and they moved from Shelby County, Kentucky to Washington County, Indiana in the early 1800s.

John Richard Martin, the son of Lemuel Daniel and Welthy Gilstrap Martin, married Malinda Hauger, and they moved from Washington County, Indiana to Furnas County, Nebraska in the late 1880s.

Ralph W. Martin, the son of Jacob Lemuel and Emma Catherine Andre Martin, married Alice Joyce Johnston, and they moved from Superior, Nebraska to Dinuba, California in 1937. Their son, Roy Martin, moved to Chico, California, and married Priscilla Jane Wyckoff. Un-

able to have children, they adopted me in 1960.

My biological family in America begins with Peter Hitt and Elizabeth Otterbach who were also members of Germanna's First Colony of 1714 and who also lived at Germantown, Virginia.

Their son, Henry Hitt, married Alice Katharine Holtzclaw, and they moved from Halifax County, Virginia to Edgefield County, South Carolina in the 1780s.

From there, John and Frances Banks Hitt moved to Washington County, Georgia and then to Cape Girardeau County, Missouri in the early 1800s.

Their daughter, Mary Katherine Hitt, married John Randol, and my Randol line from Samuel Harker Randol and Cynthia Caroline Whitney to Trusten Polk Randol and Cynthia Ann Giboney to Silas Almond Randol and Etta Iona Turner continued to live in either Cape Girardeau County or in neighboring counties well into the 1900s.

Irene Randol married Arville Walter Meyer, and they moved from Missouri to various parts of the country, eventually settling in Northern California in the 1950s. Their son, Herman Aaron Meyer, met Virginia Dee Root in the spring of 1959 while working in Chico, California.

In 2013 I learned the full truth of my Germanna ancestry when I was reunited with my biological father. That my two fathers, Roy Martin and Herman Aaron Meyer, were eighth cousins was certainly a surprise to me, yet it shows the richness of the Germanna legacy in America. Indeed, my story is an unusual one, in that I came to Germanna twice. Once by adoption. Another by biology. ♦



Richard Martin with Roy Martin; Richard Martin with Herman Meyer



MISSing

Butler Brayne Spotswood Thompson the Lady of Salubria

By Dale Payne Sayers

As with so many early maternal ancestors, our knowledge of Butler Brayne is limited. Fortunately, there are a number of primary documents which supply vital statistics and a timeline for our subject. We have a portrait and a miniature, so we are able to make generalizations about her appearance. Much of her personal character remains in the shadows.

It is important to understand something of Butler Brayne's English roots. She was the daughter of Richard Brayne and Anne Bignold. The Bignold family owned property in the parish of Shere in Surrey County and in Hampshire. The Bignolds moved into Surrey County and appear in records in the late 1500's and early 1600's. Family members were all baptized at the Church of St. James in the parish and village of Shere. Many of them were married and buried there as well.

The Bignolds were working craftsmen. Within the family, there were blacksmiths, coopers, and weavers. The progenitor, George Bignold, was a tanner. Living just outside of London in an age when not only shoes, belts, and clothing, but saddles, straps, book bindings, and a multitude of other items were made from leather, the Bignolds did exceedingly well. In the nearby village of Gomshall, George Bignold and his son James built the home that came to be called the "King John House."¹

This home eventually passed down to our Ann Bignold, mother of Butler Brayne, through her parents, James Bignold and Ann Clifton.²

In London, Mrs. Ann Bignold of St. Bride's Church, on April 18, 1687, settled an agreement with Richard Brayne, Gentleman, of St. Martin in the Fields in the marriage of Mr. Brayne with her daughter Ann. The marriage settlement consisted of 9 closes (a piece of land held as private property) and other land and messuages (a dwelling house and adjacent outbuildings) in Shere and Gomshall, including land in Gomshall common field, and a tanyard.³ The revenue from these properties would have generously increased Richard Brayne's cash flow. We know virtually nothing about Richard Brayne's parentage, as the parish register at the time of his birth is missing. Richard and Ann were married at Temple Church in London on April 18, 1687.⁴

Richard Brayne and Ann Bignold began to raise their family in the neighborhood of Westminster. All of their known eight children were baptized at St. Margaret's Church. Also, we know that Richard and Ann Brayne, along with their daughters Diana and Ann were buried in St. Margaret's main and second cemeteries. Butler was baptized there on Oct. 9, 1704.⁵

We know nothing of Butler's younger years, except that they were passed in a bustling neighborhood of London, in the very shadow of Westminster Abbey. At the time that Alexander Spotswood appears on the scene, Butler was the youngest of four surviving Brayne daughters. Alexander and Butler were married at St. Mary le Bone, Middlesex, on March 11, 1723/24.⁶ It was probably during this period that the miniatures of Butler Brayne and Alexander Spotswood, currently owned by The Virginia Historical Society, were painted.



The Spotswoods remained in London where their first son, John Spotswood, was born on December 26, 1725.⁷ Their first daughter, Anne Catherine (named for her two grandmothers, Ann Bignold and Catherine Maxwell) was baptized on October 19, 1728, in St. Luke's Church, Chelsea, London.⁸

Alexander and Butler left London and took their two children to Virginia. There they were blessed with another son, Robert, and a daughter, Dorothea. Their home would be called "The Enchanted Castle" by William Byrd in his diary, built on the foundations of the Germanna Fort in Orange County. This was an amazingly large house, built much earlier than Madison's Montpelier or any other house in the Piedmont of this size. We know that it had terraced or falling gardens and a fresh water fountain close to the river.

Byrd recalled being greeted by Butler with "gracious smiles," and her good humor, when a tame deer (roaming the house "which cheered the lady's solitude"), toppled her table and tea set.⁹ The Spotswoods raised their children in this luxurious setting on the very edge of civilization until, at the age of 64, Alexander Spotswood died in 1740, in Annapolis, Maryland.¹⁰

Butler was not to remain an unnoticed widow for long. By the next year, an Anglican priest,



the Rev. John Thompson, was wooing her, using all of his talents to highlight his assets and rebut any objections. In 1897 a treasure of old letters and documents were found in the garret of Mr. David S. Forbes of Fredericksburg and published in the *Atlantic Monthly*. These letters provide us with his very words of courtship, in which he professes "a passionate affection" in which "my very life and soul is wraped up in you." Overcoming the objections of her family, Rev. Thompson was eventually successful. Butler and John Thompson were married Nov. 9, 1742, by James Marye, Rector of St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County.¹¹

The Rev. Mr. Thompson was indeed pleased with his new bride, and he wrote a letter home to his father in Ireland, which tells us that Mr. and Mrs. Thompson began their married life in the Enchanted Castle.¹² As John Spotswood would come of age in just four years, we see Rev. Thompson asking the parish to make both improvements and additions to the glebe house. They almost certainly lived at the glebe, once John Spotswood entered his majority and assumed ownership of the Enchanted Castle.

Butler and John Thompson had two children, a daughter Ann, and a son William.¹³ Butler would have been 40 when Ann was born, and 45 when William was born. Ann married Francis Thornton IV, and they were the probable builders of "Fall Hill," in Fredericksburg. We do not know as much about William's family, but he married Sarah Carter, and they had three children.¹⁴

Also during this time, Butler and John began work on Salubria, the Georgian gem now owned by the Germanna Foundation. Salubria still has most of the original paneling, and some original flooring, which indicate the quality of workmanship and expense incurred. Another striking fea-



ture of this property is the terraced gardens behind the house, which would have echoed those at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg and at Spotswood's Enchanted Castle. It is believed that both Butler and John Thompson are buried at Salubria, although the location of their graves is still unknown and the object of our continuing archaeological search.¹⁵

As the Germanna Foundation worked to determine a date for the building of Salubria, dendrochronological dating (the dating of core samples from the main roof beam and from original window sashes) placed the felling of those trees at 1756. To ascertain if and how long Butler might have lived at Salubria, it was necessary to verify her death date. Surprisingly, her death was not recorded in any extant Bible or record of St. Mark's Parish.

However, in an attempt to secure Butler's English inheritance, her daughter Ann Thompson Thornton and Butler's grandchildren submitted depositions from friends of the family, testifying to their personal acquaintance with Butler, her death,

and her heirs. These depositions were sent to Highclere Castle in Hampshire, and others may have been sent to Surrey County as well. Many of you will recognize Highclere as the location of the popular PBS series *Downton Abbey*.

Highclere Castle, the hereditary home of the Herbert family, is currently owned by Lord and Lady Carnarvon. In 2010, Dale and Jim Sayers obtained permission from Lord Carnarvon to use the archives room. Archivist David Rymill met them at the castle and pulled papers relating to the Bignold, Brayne, and Spotswood families.

The Herberts were the lords of the manor, within whose domain the properties of the Bignolds resided. Thus, any land transactions had to be recorded at the castle. This would be similar to a recording fee that we would pay at a county courthouse today. At Highclere Castle, the document was found, containing the depositions and a statement that Butler did have a tombstone, with the following inscription:

Here lyeth Interred the Remains of Mrs. Butler Thompson of ye Parish of St. Mark & County of Culpeper who departed this Life the 13th day of Sep. 1758 in the 54th year of her age.

Epitaph

*Beneath this lies the best of Womankind,
Who raised the Spirits and was most Divine*

*Made pale Dejection, take a pleasant Air
& calm'd ye Rougher passions of Despair—
What Social Virtues shall we most Commend
The Tendrest parent or ye Dearest Friend—
& thence in Mournfull Strains her life deplores
Give loose to Grief till we can Weep no more.¹⁴*

If the dendrochronological tests are correct, we may deduce that Butler Thompson would have lived at Salubria a very short time, if at all. However, we can be absolutely positive that her preferences in design and details would have been incorporated in the plans for this home.

Butler left no will, as all of her property would have belonged to her husband, John Thompson. As to her personality, we can only use adjectives attributed to her by those who knew her—pretty, warm smiles, good humor, divine, tenderest, dear-

est, a woman of social virtues, a Lady of exquisite and amiable qualities. Although we might speculate that the Rev. Thompson was as attracted to her fortune as to her character, we cannot say that for Alexander Spotswood. There must have been something very special,

engaging, endearing, for such an eligible bachelor to choose her from all the exciting and available young women in London. In addition, we know that it took discipline, strength, and fortitude to embrace a life on the fringes of society, raise six children, and marshal the industry of servants and slaves to produce the loving home and hospitality described by both family and guests. ♦

ENDNOTES

¹*Old Houses in the Parish of Shere*, Shere, Gomshall & Peaslake Local History Society, 2008, p. 5.

²*Ibid.*

³Surrey History Centre, Bray Family of Shere: Manorial and Estate Records and Family Papers, Estates of the Bignold Family, "Articles of Agreement; Anne Bignold of London, widow, and Richard Brayne of Westminster, Mddx, gent." 18 Apr 1687. Woking, Surrey County, UK

⁴*Temple Church Register 1628-1853*, The Publications of The Harleian Society, New Series, Vol. 1, 1929, p. 87.

⁵*The Registers of St. Margaret's, Westminster*, 2 Jan. 1700-7 Sept. 1709, Compiled by E. F. Sainty, 1994, p. 16.

⁶*The Registers of Marriages of St. Mary le Bone, Middlesex, 1668-1754, and of Oxford Chapel, Vere Street, St. Mary le Bone, 1736-1754*, W. Bruce Bannerman, Ed., Part E, London, 1917, p. 230. Published by The Harleian Society.

⁷The Registers of St. Margaret's, Westminster, Index of Baptisms 1 Jan. 1720-31 Dec. 1729, Compiled by E. F. Sainty, 1998, p. 135.

⁸England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Family Search (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:-JW8-DWG>). Accessed 8 Dec. 2015.

⁹*Alexander Spotswood, Portrait of a Governor*, Walter Havighurst, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., New York, 1967, p. 110.

¹⁰*The Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Obituary of Alexander Spotswood, From Thursday June 19 to Thursday June 26, 1740, p. 1, column 2.

¹¹*The Atlantic Monthly*, "The Lady and the Parson, A Bit of Virginian History," 1897.

¹²*Ibid.*

¹³Will of Ann Brayne of the parish of Saint Margaret in the City of Westminster, Spinster. W.W. 8 April 1774, Codicil 20 May 1774, W.P. 3 Feb. 1775. Will is located in Public Record Office, British National Archives.

¹⁴*Culpeper County, Virginia, Embracing a Revised and Enlarged Edition of Dr. Philip Slaughter's History of St. Mark's Parish*, Compiled and published by Raleigh Travers Green, Culpeper, VA, 1900, p. 80.

¹⁵Letter from John W. Herndon, Aug. 5, 1942, Charlottesville, VA to George L. Harrison, New York, NY. Leslie Grayson made a large number of letters available to the Germanna Foundation concerning the renovations done at Salubria over the years. Nancy Krauss scanned these documents for the Germanna Foundation Salubria Committee.

¹⁶Archives at Highclere Castle, Hampshire, UK, Record of Depositions taken in Spotsylvania County, VA, regarding the death of Butler Spotswood Thompson.



Highclere Castle in 2010



Dale Sayers with Archivist David Rymill at Highclere Castle



David DeBoever, Judith Mahanes, Deb Weaver DeBoever (David's mom). Deb and David are descendants of John Hoffman (first colony) and Peter Weaver (second colony).

Dedication of Blue Ridge Heritage Memorial

The Madison County memorial for the Blue Ridge Heritage Project was dedicated on Sunday, November 8, 2015. A large crowd gathered at Criglersville Elementary School along the Blue Ridge Turnpike for the unveiling of the first of eight planned county memorials.

Judith Mahanes, a Madison County resident who is active on the Germanna Reunion Planning Committee, represented the Foundation on the Madison County committee that planned and raised the funds for this impressive monument.

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project seeks to honor those families displaced from their land in the late 1920s and early 1930s when the Commonwealth of Virginia acquired land by eminent domain to donate to the Federal government for the creation of Shenandoah National Park.

Some 500 families scattered over eight counties were displaced from the 1,081 tracts of land that became the park. Nearly one quarter of those families were in Madison County, and many of them were Germanna descendants who began settling the area that became Madison County in 1724.

The handsome and dignified Madison memorial, built by stonemasons **Darryl and Jackie Whidby**, is in the shape of a typical chimney from homes of those mountain families who were displaced. The plaque on the memorial lists the Madison County family surnames of those whose homes and farms are now part of the national park. ♦



Sponsor an Archaeology Explorer Grid to Help Discover Fort Germanna

Shrouded from history since John Fontaine's journal entry described the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition's encampment at Fort Germanna in 1716, the Germanna Foundation has initiated a ground penetrating radar survey near the Rapidan River to discover Fort Germanna during the 300th anniversary of the Knights' visit.

Fontaine recorded that the fort was a wooden-palisaded pentagon, with a wooden, pentagonal blockhouse in the center that served as a place of refuge and as a church for the German colonists. During previous excavations of the Enchanted Castle by the University of Mary Washington, a 10-12 foot trench area was uncovered, with soil markings indicative of just such a palisaded wooden fort wall. However, archaeologists were unable to excavate additional sections of the wall or determine the orientation of the fort at the time.

Under the direction of Germanna Foundation archaeologist Dr. Eric Larsen, new work has begun on this site to look for more indications of the fort wall. In the fall of 2015, following completion of the stabilization work on the excavated areas of Governor Alexander Spotswood's Enchanted Castle, the Foundation began a topographic mapping survey project of the open meadow of the wooded property, and began collecting ground penetrating radar data on a 1.1 acre area (50,000 square feet) we call Priority One.

This data collection and interpretation will continue into the spring of 2016, when we plan to use the data to add to the previous excavation data and determine new areas to ground-truth through limited excavation field work in 2016 as we search for the fort boundaries.

Dr. Michael D. Frost, Germanna Foundation trustee and descendant of Governor Spotswood, has generously underwritten the Germanna archaeology program—and he is asking that more sponsors step forward to help the Germanna Foundation make discoveries during the anniversary year of 2016.

It will cost approximately \$3,250 per 50 x 50 foot square area grid, or \$130 per 10 x 10 foot square area, to properly survey, ground-truth



John Fontaine writing in his journal during an encampment at Fort Germanna.

and document our site. The Germanna Foundation invites individuals, corporations, community groups and others to help us discover Fort Germanna by sponsoring one or more of our Explorer Grids at the Fort Germanna archaeological site.

Named Sponsorships for Explorer Grids are available as follows:

Sponsor a 50 x 50 foot area: \$3,250

Sponsor a 25 x 25 foot area: \$ 800

Sponsor a 10 x 10 foot area \$ 130

Sponsor the entire Priority One 50,000 square feet (20 50x50 foot grids): \$65,000

Call the Germanna Foundation at 540-423-1700 for more information or use the donation form in your newsletter to sponsor an area today! Donations may also be made online at www.GERMANNA.org. ♦



Could John Fontaine imagine the technology in the future to find Fort Germanna? Dr. Eric Larsen uses the Ground Penetrating Radar unit to discover where your ancestors first lived in America.



Germana Membership Application and Donation Form

Annual membership helps the Foundation preserve the historic heritage of the Germana colonists, their families and descendants, and ensures you stay up-to-date on Germana Foundation activities through our informative newsletter. Membership also gives you exclusive access to the Germana database (105,000+ records). **Additional contributions allow us to do even more, and are very much appreciated.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Germana Ancestors, if any/known: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

You can also become a member and donate online via our website, GERMANNA.org.

◆ Annual Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ New ☐ Gift

- ☐ Individual membership (one year)—\$35
- ☐ Family membership (one year)—\$45

◆ Donations

- ☐ Germana **Colonist**—\$100 - \$499
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- ☐ Germana **Pentagon Society**—\$50,000+
- ☐ Other amount—\$ _____
- ☐ Please set up a recurring monthly donation of \$ _____ for a total annual gift of \$ _____ (monthly amount x12)

◆ Archaeology Explorer Grid Sponsorship

- ☐ 10 x 10 foot area—\$130
- ☐ 25 x 25 foot area—\$800
- ☐ 50 x 50 foot area—\$3,250
- ☐ Entire Priority One 50,000 sq ft (20 50x50 grids)—\$65,000

Total Amount \$ _____

- ☐ 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.

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Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Mail completed form, along with check or credit card information to:
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The Memorial Foundation of the Germana 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.

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Ensign	\$2000 - \$2999
Lieutenant	\$3000 - \$4999
Navigator	\$5000 - \$9999
Captain	\$10,000 & up

Donations to support publication of a new *Germana Record* providing an updated and documented account of the descendants of Germana immigrants Johann Michael Willheit and his wife Anna Maria Hengsteler continue to be accepted.

Willheit descendants **Don Willhoit** and **Al Welch**, who have commissioned genealogist **Cathi Clore Frost** to research and write this book, request your assistance to raise the nearly \$22,000 needed to cover research, layout, design and printing costs. Donations of research, photographs and document images are also encouraged. Please email Cathi at cathiclorefrost@comcast.net, subject Willheit Book, to get particulars about what is still needed for your line. ◆



Germana Genealogy Database
GermanaFamily.org



Germany River Cruise

A few cabins are still available for the Germana Foundation's 2016 Christmas Market Heart of Germany River Cruise!

Join many Germana Foundation cousins and friends on this Viking River Cruises journey along the Main River in Germany from Nuremberg to Frankfurt, December 2 through 8, 2016.

To book, or for more information, contact Germana Foundation Trustee Skip Poole, 703-505-7593, s.poole@cruiseone.com. ◆



*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.
THE GERMANNA FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 279
LOCUST GROVE, VA 22508-0279



Save the Date and Plan Your Own *Exploration of Discovery* to Germanna's Annual Conference and Reunion Set for July 14–17, 2016

Join with Germanna descendants and others from around the country, even the world, as Germanna celebrates the 300th anniversary of **Alexander Spotswood's Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition** at the Germanna Foundation's 59th Annual Conference and Reunion. Here's the tentative schedule. More details and registration information will be coming soon, but this is a reunion you will want to attend!

Thursday, July 14

- **Noon–4:00 pm:** Registration Open House at Germanna Foundation Brawdus Martin Visitor Center, visit the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle archaeological site
- **6:00–8:00 pm:** Trustee Reception (by invitation) at Germanna Foundation Brawdus Martin Visitor Center

Friday, July 15

- **9:00 am–4:00 pm:** Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Bus Tour
- **6:00–9:00 pm:** Germanna Oktoberfest Dinner at Salubria

Saturday, July 16

- **8:30 am–3:30 pm:** Historical and Genealogical Conference at Germanna Community College Daniel Technology Center, Culpeper
- **6:00–10:00 pm:** Banquet and Fundraising Auction at Lake of the Woods Clubhouse

Sunday, July 17

- **10:00 am:** Attend historic church of your choice (Hebron Lutheran or Little Fork Episcopal)
- Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Living History Encampment at Germanna Foundation Brawdus Martin Visitor Center

NEW this year:

Pre-Conference/Reunion

"I Dig Germanna" Archaeology Workshop Monday, July 11 through Wednesday, July 13

Join staff archaeologist Dr. Eric Larsen and assist in field work at the Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle site. Notes: A separate participation fee will apply and number of participants will be limited (fee and number TBD). Participants will need to be in good health, as field work is conducted outside with limited shelter and facilities. Participants will each receive the inaugural "I Dig Germanna" T-shirt (included in participation fee).