

Position: Grant-Funded Researcher – African American History & Community Engagement

Organization: Historic Germanna

Location: Remote with travel to archives, libraries, and community sites within Virginia's Piedmont region (Orange, Spotsylvania, Culpeper, Fauquier Counties)

Type: Part-Time Contract (15-20 hours/week over 10-12 weeks, with flexibility to extend the timeline)

Overview:

Historic Germanna seeks a dedicated and passionate Historic Researcher to contribute to its ongoing projects focusing on African American experiences and connections to Germanna's history. This position, funded by a Virginia BIPOC Historic Preservation Grant, will combine traditional research methods with community engagement. The ideal candidate will conduct archival research and work closely with local African American knowledge-keepers, helping preserve and document their historical narratives.

The researcher will collaborate with nearby African American communities and serve as a bridge between academic research and community-driven knowledge. Historic Germanna will provide support through regular meetings with project leads, but the researcher must be a self-starter, comfortable working independently and traveling to various research locations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Conduct comprehensive research using primary and secondary sources such as courthouse records, library collections, historical association archives, and personal collections.
- Build relationships and engage with local African American knowledge-keepers, ensuring their stories and perspectives are an essential part of the research process.
- Compile and organize findings into well-structured reports, integrating archival and community-based knowledge.
- Assist in developing historical narratives that reflect diverse perspectives and experiences.
- Collaborate with the Historic Germanna team to contribute to broader research initiatives, including public programming and exhibit planning.
- Present research findings in accessible and engaging formats for both academic and public audiences as available.
- Maintain a strong awareness of current research methodologies and best practices in community engagement.
- Support the planning and execution of project-related events and outreach efforts.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's or master's degree in history, Anthropology, Archaeology, African American Studies, or a related field (candidates pursuing a degree or with proven relevant experience will also be considered).
- Experience conducting historical research, especially in African American history, community-based research, or public history.
- Strong analytical, organizational, and critical thinking skills.
- Demonstrated experience working with communities, particularly African American or marginalized communities.
- Excellent research skills and familiarity with both traditional and digital research tools.
- Ability to synthesize complex information and present it in a clear, engaging manner.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Proven ability to work independently and manage time effectively, with a keen attention to detail.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Previous experience with community engagement, oral histories, or collaborative research with African American communities.
- Familiarity with the history of African American communities in Virginia's Piedmont region is a plus.

Compensation:

\$20 – 28 per hour (depending on experience)

We are looking for a March, 2025 start date.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled (consideration will begin March 10, 2025). Interested candidates should e-mail a resume and cover letter to Dr. Eric Larsen, Director of Archaeology, at elarsen@germanna.org.