



## Indigenous Research Internship Program: Bringing Light to Indigenous Histories at Historic Germanna

### Overview

Historic Germanna is seeking a Research Assistant for the organization's Indigenous Research Program that has a passion for the past and connections to indigenous experiences in Virginia's piedmont region (within today's Orange, Spotsylvania, Culpeper, and Fauquier Counties). The Assistant Researcher will be responsible for conducting examinations of various historical periods, events, figures, and cultural practices related to the indigenous history and experiences at Historic Germanna. The purpose of this work is to provide accurate and comprehensive information to support Historic Germanna's ongoing projects relating to the Virginia's Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Color (BIPOC) Historic Preservation Grant award. This work will support the grant's intent to identify and preserve indigenous presences in Germanna's history.

The Assistant Researcher will need to be a motivated individual who is comfortable with traveling and interacting with supporting staff at various archives, libraries, and repositories. While the Assistant Researcher will not be responsible for tribal engagement efforts alone, consulting with tribes will be part of the research process and will help inform the direction of the Assistant Researcher's work. Staff will support the Assistant Researcher through the organization's continued tribal outreach efforts with several indigenous communities that have connections and associations to Historic Germanna. Ongoing engagement will ensure that indigenous perspectives and priorities regarding these ancestral and historical ties will lead the direction of research initiatives that will be the foundation for future program opportunities at Historic Germanna that may involve archaeological investigation, historical interpretation of the property, museum exhibition, and educational content development.

While the Assistant Researcher will be expected to largely work independently, the position will be supported by Historic Germanna Staff through regular meetings and check-ins with project leads. Because the internship program is open to individuals of various skill levels the Assistant Researcher will also be supported through training opportunities and professional development on topics such as archival research and tribal engagement methods. These learning opportunities will be provided by the indigenous owned anthropological consulting firm, Kenah Consulting LLC.<sup>1</sup> This is a part-time, grant-funded contract for 20 hours per week over a 16-week

---

<sup>1</sup> Kenah Consulting, LLC is an indigenous owned anthropological consulting firm that is supporting Historic Germanna's efforts to engage with tribal communities and to ensure its representations of indigenous histories and experiences at Germanna are accurate, respectful, and informed by tribal priorities. Historic Germanna has worked with Kenah Consulting for the past year to support the organization's tribal engagement efforts and efforts to research indigenous histories and experiences at Germanna. See [Kenah Consulting – anthropology as advocacy](#) for more information on the firm.



## **Indigenous Research Internship Program: Bringing Light to Indigenous Histories at Historic Germanna**

duration. Note that there is flexibility for scheduled hours that can be expanded over a longer period.

### Responsibilities and Deliverables

There are several anticipated responsibilities and required deliverables for the internship that the Research Assistant will be expected to complete.

#### Responsibilities include:

1. If required, attend training on archival research in the context of indigenous histories and stories; and ethical methods for tribal engagement and consultation;
2. Conduct comprehensive research using various sources such as courthouse records, library collections, and historical association collections;
3. Verify the accuracy of historical data;
4. Collaborate with Historic Germanna staff, Kenah Consulting staff, other researchers, and subject matter experts; and
5. Attend tribal engagement meetings and be prepared to discuss progress of research.

#### Deliverables include:

1. Development and use of a Research Roster to ensure tracking and organization of archival, documentary, and oral history sources;
2. Completion of an annotated bibliography of the research sources gathered throughout the internship;
3. Completion of a research report on a topic consulting tribes prioritize that is based on the research completed throughout the internship; and
4. Presentation on research and recommendations for the next steps regarding how research completed for the internship program can be utilized for interpretation, educational programming, exhibition development, etc.

### Qualifications

Historic Germanna is welcoming of an individual with varying levels and types of knowledge, skills, and abilities that they may bring to the Indigenous Research Internship Program. Below is a general outline of expected qualifications for the Research Assistant:

1. Strong analytical and critical thinking skills;



## **Indigenous Research Internship Program: Bringing Light to Indigenous Histories at Historic Germanna**

2. Ability to organize information and present findings clearly;
3. Strong written and verbal communication skills;
4. Attention to detail and accuracy; and
5. Familiarity with tribes in the Virginia piedmont region is strongly preferred.

### Compensation

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

### Apply

Historic Germanna plans to hire the Assistant Research intern by the end of March 2025. If you are interested in applying for the Assistant Research internship, please submit a Cover Letter and Resume to Jennifer Hurst-Wender at [jhurstwender@germanna.org](mailto:jhurstwender@germanna.org) and Eric Larsen at [elarsen@germanna.org](mailto:elarsen@germanna.org) by March 14, 2025. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled (consideration will begin March 17, 2025). If you have any questions regarding the position or application process, please contact Eric Larsen.