



Germanna

The Newsletter of The Memorial Foundation
of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc.

Ein Bild sagt mehr als tausend Worte



A highlight of the 2012 Reunion was the presentation of coats of arms of villages from which Germanna settlers emigrated. These were the gift this summer to our Germany travelers from **Werner Hoffmann-Gassner**, a good friend of the Germanna Foundation who lives in Eisern. His goal is to make one for each of the villages in the Siegerland, the Kraichgau, and the Palatinate where Germanna settlers lived before coming to Virginia. Each person holding one of these fine examples of craftsmanship has been on one of the Germanna Foundation's trips to Germany. The coats of arms, or Wappen in German, will be exhibited in the Germanna Visitor Center.



Foundation members **Laura and Keith Hoffman** and President **Marc Wheat** listen to 18th century flute music performed by **Deborah Kemper** in the parlor of Clifton Farm, the Crigler family farm in Culpeper County. Former trustee **Kathy Ellis**, a Crigler, Clore, Fishback, Haeger and Spilman descendant, and her husband Robert graciously opened their home and grounds to both of our Reunion tour groups.



RED BUS PHOTO: Large buses skillfully maneuvered the back roads of Madison, Culpeper, and Fauquier Counties, carrying more than 100 Germanna members to sites associated with their ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Capt. **Gary Clore**, Regional Chaplain, Naval District of Washington, performed worship service and communion celebration at the Fort Germanna site on Sunday. Blowing rams horns to call the members to worship are **Laura Elizabeth and Benjamin Wheat**, carrying on a Biblical tradition initiated at a Germanna Reunions in 1949 by Martin Kemper.



Germanna Fishback **Connie Anthony** (above right), hosted her German 9th cousin **Ricarda Ernert** (left) in America. Connie passed away in March. Ricarda said, "What I remember is that she has always been so good to me. I remember when she took me and fellow intern Alex Marhenke to the Blue Ridge mountain parkway. The sun was shining and we've been chatting so much that Connie actually got pulled over by the police for speeding. We spent a lovely day up there and Alex fell asleep in the back of the car. She even wanted to take me up north to visit her daughter. She cared so much about me and I loved watching "Tour de France" with her or crime movies like *Sherlock Holmes* or *Miss Marple*. I totally felt welcomed at her place and she was like a grandma to me. I teared up when I read the sad news. What a lovely lady she was! She even took me with her to have dinner with her "girlfriends."



The 2012 Germany tour group attended worship at the Protestant Church in Winnweiler in the Palatinate, one of the churches that the Yager family attended before emigrating to Virginia.

From left, front row: **Phyllis Frymire, Katharine Brown, Mary White, Robin White**. Back row: **Richard Phillips, Jr., Richard Phillips, Ron Brelsford, Madison Brown, Richard Frymire**.



The First Colony group visited Clovelly, a Kemper home later acquired by Spilman descendants who enlarged it into an elegant estate, while retaining the cellar and two rooms above in the Kemper house. Standing by the mantel in the Kemper bedroom are descendants **Jean Kemper Helwig** and her daughter **Janet Helwig Fortney**. Jean's grandfather was the last Kemper to own the property.

A Germanna Wedding



In a lovely ceremony witnessed by the Germanna families gathered at the Saturday banquet, two longtime Germanna Foundation members, **Barbara Gregory Price**, a Holtzclaw descendant, and **David Fishback**, were united in marriage. Barbara's mother, daughter, and granddaughter accompanied her. David's two sons and their families and his brother and sister-in-law were on hand for the Fishback side. President Marc Wheat officiated under special license from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and read part of the ceremony from the German translation of the Book of Common Prayer, which was sent in 1720 by the London-based Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to the people of Germanna.



Salubria Reconstruction Project



1. Salubria's South Elevation, featuring the reconstructed East and West chimenys. (Price Masonry)
2. Peter Post Roofer craftsman working on "fishscale" pattern roof
3. Peter Post laying out swept shingle pattern at West Chimney cricket.
4. Daniel Parker (Post Roofing) hoisting a bundle of fishscale cedar shingles.
5. South Elevation Hip Roof Detail, showing decorative "fishscale" shingle pattern. (Peter Post Roofing)
6. Peter Post nailing distinctive "tear drop" shaped hip ridge shingle.
7. Peter Post and Justin Emerson (Post Roofing) installing shingles at West Chimney cricket.
8. West Chimney stack Detail, with Pennsylvania Bluestone cap installed.
9. Jimmy Price preparing East Chimney for bluestone cap.
10. Restored Hip Ridge Detail, in the style of the original 1757 "tear drop" ridge shingle.
11. Kevin Simmons (HITT Contracting) installing vent screens on West Chimney cap.
12. Tim Winther (Price Masonry) excavating earthquake-induced wall stress cracks.



**The Memorial Foundation of the
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TRANS-ATLANTIC FRIENDSHIPS: Bundestag Member **Max Staubinger** (seated with his family, son standing on right) in the offices of Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC), both of whom represent hundreds of BMW employees in Berlin and Washington, Joining the Staubingers for a tour of the Capitol Building are (standing, L to R) Senate committee staffer **Virginia Heppner** (Spotswood descendant), **Marc Wheat**, House committee staffer **Sharon Utz** (multiple Germanna families), and Utz's colleague **Henry Kerner** (grew up in Munich).

The First Colony Tour and the Gift of Membership

You might wonder what the First Colony Tour and the Gift of Membership have to do with each other, but they actually went together nicely at the 56th Annual Reunion.

This year's First Colony Tour was unique in that we visited the homes of many of the immigrants, or their descendants, and the homes were opened to us to explore!

We gave each of our hosts/hostesses the Gift of Membership. Not only is it a great way to show our appreciation for their hospitality, but it also establishes and continues their link with the Germanna Foundation.

When you are considering how to keep the work of the Germanna Foundation continuing in

the present and into the future, please consider the Gift of Membership.

This is an ideal gift, not only for your relatives, but for your local historical society or library.

It is a very economical way to support the Germanna Foundation's work at \$35 for an individual membership or \$45 per year for a family membership. This is only \$.08-10 per day—what a bargain in heritage! ♦

Join or Renew your Membership in the Germanna Foundation

As a new, or renewing, member of The Germanna Foundation, you will receive all the benefits of membership:

- Preserving the historical legacy of those who blazed a trail in the frontier of colonial Virginia
- Post messages on the Germanna Message Board
- Access to important premium data and genealogical reference material on the Germanna website
- A listing in the Germanna membership directory
- Future benefits as they become available to members

Your membership dues support the operations of The Germanna Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization sustained primarily by the volunteer efforts of its members.

Membership dues are only \$35/year single membership or \$45/year family membership. Fill out the below form or join securely online at: http://germanna.org/join_germanna.

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NAMES OF GERMANNA ANCESTORS (if any):

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With Us!**

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