

Germanna FOUNDATION

Dear Germanna Family & Friends

Christmas 2011

Thank you for a wonderful year!

I am pleased to report that the Germanna Foundation has done much to bring recognition to the people of Germanna through the hard work of preserving and weaving our shared heritage into the fabric of American history. This last July was one of our largest reunions ever, the midpoint of successes throughout the year partnering with others concerned about the health of American culture:



■ The National Geographic Society (!) featured the Germanna Visitor Center Museum and Library on their new map called *"The Journey Through Hallowed Ground."*

■ The Germanna Foundation worked with the Yorktown Victory Center on the exhibition entitled *"The Legacy of Yorktown: Virginia Beckons."* On display are portraits of Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood and Knight of the Golden Horseshoe John Fontaine, the Ger-

manna Foundation's sketch of Fort Germanna based on Fontaine's description, Woodford Hackley's map from Germanna Record No. 2, and an iron ingot from one of the Spotswood ironworks. Make your plans to visit in 2012 while the exhibition runs, and remember the sacrifices rendered at Yorktown by Germanna's Jesse Rector, Christopher Tanner, and John Wilhite.

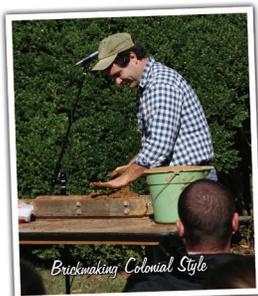
■ Volkmar Klein, a member of the German parliament, came in February to explore the area that emigrants from his district settled nearly 300 years ago. Traveling with Rüdiger Lentz, executive director of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, Klein visited the



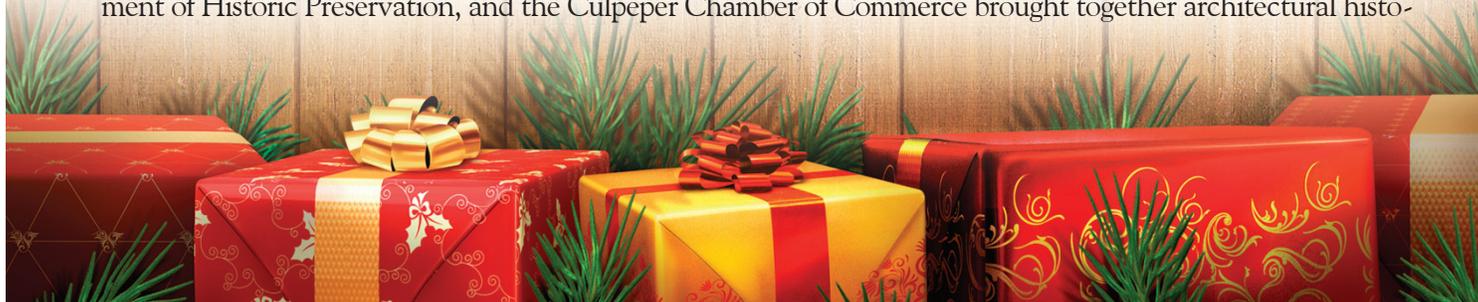
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archaeological site Fort Germanna, the log stockade his constituents' ancestors built in 1714, and spoke at the Germanna Visitor Center. "It's really exciting to be with you and learn about the people who left my area in Germany, came here and played a role in creating America," Klein told a standing-room-only audience of about 100 people. Now, in an intensely competitive global marketplace, it is even more important to encourage strong trans-Atlantic ties, Klein said. "We have many shared values. We believe in the dignity and the freedom of any individual," he said. "And we are friends."

- The Germanna Foundation provided timely research to the German-American Heritage Foundation (I'm now a board member) and the U.S. Capitol Historical Society to create a new series of exhibits on the contributions of German-Americans to the history of the United States Congress. This 14-panel educates the public about the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the German-American Caucus, and current members of Congress with German ancestry – including Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-MO), a descendant of the Germanna Carpenter, Finks, Aylor, Crigler, Kerker, Christler, Garr and Blankenbaker families. The exhibit was displayed in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, the next stop being the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC before traveling on to the Bundestag in Berlin.
- Germanna's good stewardship of Salubria has made it a source of local pride, serving as an educational campus for events throughout the year. This Spring, nationally-renowned Marty Moon volunteered to make Salubria the site for a special exhibit on Germanna quilting, which featured Blankenbaker, Carpenter, Clore, Crigler, Fishback, Rector, Spilman, Yager, and Yowell quilts for study and admiration.
- After the devastating earthquake this past August, many historic homes were severely damaged. Thanks to Germanna members who earmarked their donations for Salubria, within 24 hours of the quake, work crews were on site to dismantle Salubria's chimneys down to the roof line to prevent a collapse that endangered the rest of the structure. Seeking to bring some good out of such a tragic event, in October the Germanna Foundation hosted a symposium at Salubria concerning the care of historic masonry – and it was the top story in the Culpeper Star-Exponent. The Germanna Foundation, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Preservation Virginia, Hitt Contracting, Inc., Germanna Community College, the University of Mary Washington Department of Historic Preservation, and the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce brought together architectural histo-



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rians, master craftsmen, and owners of historic properties. At the symposium, Virginia Department of Historic Resources Director Kathleen Kilpatrick said, “This is the type of information that property owners and practitioners need.”

Like every year, not everything has been received with joy – some of it has been painful and difficult. But even the loss of important neighboring historic sites to a proposed Wal-Mart SuperCenter has had a mixture of good coming from it:

- We are involved in on-going negotiations with Wal-Mart to safeguard Civil War earthworks that run across Germanna Foundation property from the Rapidan River to the Wal-Mart site, and preserve a tree-line that will soften the visual and auditory impact on the Germanna historic site. This struggle has brought us unexpected friends and support from scholars and new members.
- In speaking against the proposed construction of a Wal-Mart SuperCenter near Germanna, Orange County historian Frank Walker said, **“The people there [at Germanna] and what they did are historically far more important than the Battle of the Wilderness,”** he said. “Wal-Mart has been driven from hallowed ground and is now on sacred soil.”
- Historian Ann Miller called **the Germanna Foundation property “one of the most significant historic sites” in the country.** “It was the outpost of westward expansion; one of the earliest settlements of non-English settlers, the German laborers brought to Virginia by Governor Spotswood; a center for commerce, industry, transportation; and Civil War history.”
- Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors Lee Frame recognized the Germanna Foundation as an “Economic Driving Force” Leading Up to 300th Jubilee in 2014.



While 2011 has been a time of growth, it has been a time of transition as well – our beloved Executive Director Frank Turnage retired as planned, and Office Manager Melissa Hook moved on to new challenges. This year, I hope you will make time to get to know Office Manager Barbara Bounds, who has a background in accounting and hold a legal assisting certificate from Germanna Community College. A resident of Lake of the Woods, she taught French in Culpeper and Spotsylvania Counties for eight years, and is bringing Germanna’s story to local schools and Scouting units.

Executive Director Karen Quanbeck brings over two decades of business administration, government contracting, development and archaeology to Germanna. She earned an M.S. degree in Systems Management from the





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University of Southern California and an M.A. in Applied Anthropology and Archaeology from Northern Arizona University. We recruited her from the Hospice of the Rapidan, where she was Director of Development.

The Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Trustees at the Foundation's annual meeting maps out an ambitious agenda for 2012 that will surpass all the amazing things we were able to do in 2011 – but plans are only paper if they don't get funded.

Can I count on you to send the Germanda Foundation the most generous gift you have ever given to Germanda?
We have assembled a team of excellent volunteers and staff who have proven to be good stewards of the resources given them – please be very generous to help us take it to the next level.

Don't let Christmas arrive without telling us how you can offer your time and expertise to help tell the story of Germanda's families. Send along your Christmas card list of other Germanda descendants, and tell us how they tie in to Germanda's story. And be sure to send us a photograph of your family to help decorate the Germanda Visitor Center for Christmas!

To me, it is a privilege to serve as a Germanda Foundation volunteer and donor. As people of Germanda, let us work together in 2012 to “mount up with wings like eagles ... run and not be weary.” [Isaiah 40:31].

Merry Christmas to you and your branch of the Germanda family!

Sincerely,

Marc Wheat

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PS.: I will be asking my friends and relatives to donate to the Germanda Foundation before Christmas. And I'll be sending a photograph of my family of four to the Germanda Visitor Center to decorate for Christmas. Will you join me in doing the same? *Thank you!*

Add your support with every purchase when you use the Memorial Foundation of the Germanda Colonies in Virginia, Inc. Platinum® Visa Rewards card. Apply at <http://www.cardpartner.com/app/germanda-foundation>.

