



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

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[www.germanna.org](http://www.germanna.org)

April 19, 2013

Herrn Jörg Müller  
Vorsitzender:  
Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Siegerland-Wittgenstein e.V.  
Veit-Stoß-Straße 1  
57076 Siegen

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of The Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, I bring greetings to you, to Germanna Foundation Trustee Horst Schneider, and to our fellow members of the Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Siegerland-Wittgenstein e.V. We invite you and your countrymen to come to the United States to help us celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement of your countrymen in America at Germanna.

Over the weekend of July 18-20, 2014, you will be able to walk the ground that was carved out of the wilderness by Siegerlanders three centuries ago. You will be able to enjoy interesting bus tours to the farms settled by the Siegerland colonists in the years following 1714 as they migrated away from Germanna. And you will be offered a wide choice of lectures about the settlement and growth of Germanna families, and you will meet many Germanna descendants from all over the United States who will return to their point of origin in America.

Please come to renew old ties!

The tie that binds many Americans to Siegerland-Wittgenstein began with a momentous decision to leave their homeland forever in the hope of establishing a new community in America.

After wintering in England, the hopeful group of Siegerlanders prepared to set sail for America. Undoubtedly, Pastor Henrich Haeger of Oberfischbach administered Holy Communion to his flock, asked God's blessing for the dangerous transatlantic crossing, and prayed that He would prosper their families and their descendants in the New World.

And, God did prosper those who came to what was known as Fort Germanna.

Could Pastor Haeger have ever hoped that over 250 years later his descendant, Apollo 11 Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, would remember God's blessings by becoming the first man to take Holy Communion on the surface of the Moon?

Thanks to the generosity of your countryman, Ernst W. Flender of Siegen, the Germanna Foundation owes its founding in 1956 to the purchase over 100 hectares of the original Germanna settlement along the Rapidan River. A portion of that gift was in turn donated in 1969 to make Germanna Community College a reality.

Today, the Brawdus Martin Germanna Visitor Center, built by Germanna descendants in the year 2000, stands at the center of a far-flung community of memory and hope. With members in the United States, Germany, and Australia, the Germanna Foundation keeps green the memory of deeds past to inspire the exploration of tomorrow's New Worlds.

Let the people of Siegen-Wittgenstein know that we are enriched more than you know by your friendship across space and time.

We invite you to come to America July 18-20, 2014 to share in our celebration of 300 years of family life lived in community, and by accepting our hospitality will help our transatlantic ties endure for the next 300 years of a shared journey. When you come to join with us next year, we will all gain a deeper insight of the words of one of America's greatest poets, T.S. Eliot:

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

With best wishes from a son of Siegerland-Wittgenstein,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Marc Wheat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Marc Wheat  
President

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