

From the  
*Siegerland*

Trupbach's  
Virginia  
Emigrant  
1712-1734

to  
*Germanna*

by  
Horst Schmidt-Böcking  
Reinhard Daub  
Lars Bohn  
Joachim Frank

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# Preface

by

## Horst Schmidt-Böcking

It was in the early fifties, as teenager, that I learned from Arnold Schneider [2], the Trupbach village historian, that more than two hundred years ago, some people from Trupbach had emigrated to the northern American colonies. He remembered only one name, Holtzklaue. Then more than 30 years later, a chance encounter in America set me on the track of these emigrants. From July 1986 to April 1987, I was visiting professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas and at the Lawrence National Laboratory in Berkeley, California. During that time I came into contact with Henry Holtzclaw [3], the dean of the chemistry department at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. That name Holtzclaw\*immediately rang a bell, reminding me of Arnold Schneider's remarks about the early emigration.

\*'Holzklaue' was 'Holtzclaw' in Middle High German. Similar to a 'huve', a 'claw' designated an area of a certain size [6].

As I asked him about this connection, Henry confirmed his relationship to the Holtzklaue emigrant from the Siegerland and told me that his uncle Benjamin Holtzclaw [4], a history Professor at the University of Richmond/VA, had researched the whole story of the 1714 emigration from the Siegen area. Henry invited me to his home to share the story with me.

During my visit in Lincoln, Henry showed me many slides he had taken while he visited in Trupbach during his sabbatical leave at the University of Konstanz in Germany. I was of course deeply touched by watching these slides -- in the middle of America -- showing my home village Trupbach, the place where I had grown up. It stimulated

me to visit a place called Germanna in Virginia as soon as possible. It was the place where the 1714 group had build their first settlement after an adventurous journey that was fraught with difficulties and had taken about two years.



Arnold Schneider, the hobby historian from Trupbach [5].

Only a few weeks later I was able to visit Germanna and the nearby city of Culpeper where I immediately got in touch with the then-President of the Germanna Foundation [8] Willy Martin (1928-2016), a descendant of Jost Martin (Merten), born 1691 in Müsen/Siegerland and Maria Katharina Otterbach, born 1699 in Trupbach. I immediately joined the Germanna Foundation and attended the Germanna reunion in Virginia in July 1987. I was invited to give a presentation there about Trupbach, the village where most of the 1714 emigrants came from.



Henry Holtzclaw and his wife Jean in 1986 in their house in Lincoln/ Nebraska (photo [7]).

Upon my return to Germany, in April 1987, I contacted the ‘Siegener Zeitung,’ Siegen’s newspaper and told them about my findings. A journalist signing ‘Grambs’ wrote a detailed article on the Germanna Foundation, which was published on July 15th 1989 (Appendix D).



Left: Chad Holtzclaw and Heinz Prinz in 2002 in Burbach (photo Volkmar Klein);  
right: Horst Schneider and his wife 2014 at Salubria 300 years memorial [7].

After Alfred Lück's (1912-1982) [9] death in 1982, this article became the beginning of a new remembrance of the 1714 emigrants to Virginia. It was Heinz Prinz from Siegen and Chad Holtzclaw from the US (working in Cologne at that time) who started a new initiative.

They found new supporters such as Horst Schneider, Volkmar Klein, Jörg Becker and others, and created new excitement in the Siegerland about the American-German relationship based on the strong historic ties created by the 1714 emigration.

It was only later, after studying the ancestral lists, that I realized that I was related to practically all of the Siegerland descendants in America through my Trupbach ancestors Jung, Heide, Heimbach, and Otterbach. Since the relationship goes back over nine generations, it could well be that today several million Americans are descendants of these immigrants. This number could explain the frequency of my accidental encounters with people in airplanes and elsewhere who are somehow linked to the emigrants. An example of such an accidental encounter is described in Appendix II.



Jörg Becker in 2014 at Hebron church 300 years memorial [7].

Between 1987 and 2019 I attended many reunion meetings of the Germanna foundation in Culpeper/ Virginia and, in 2016, became one of the trustees of the Germanna Foundation. Reinhard Daub from Trupbach, an experienced genealogist, compiled the German family trees of the emigrants.



HSB in conversation with Willy Martin 1987 (photo [7]).

He and Lars Bohn from Trupbach helped in exploring the history of the emigrant houses and Lars provided photo material and information about the iron work in Trupbach.

*Horst Schmidt-Böcking, Kelkheim, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023*



# Preface

by  
**Joachim Frank**

**H**orst and I (Joachim) have known each other since high school, in 1951. We got our Abitur in 1960 at the Fürst-Johann-Moritz Gymnasium in Weidenau, now part of Siegen. Remarkably, four students of our small class of 20 (fifteen boys and five girls) became physicists – two working in astrophysics and NASA space flight, and two in the realm of atoms (Horst) and biological molecules (myself). Before we met again, in 2018, we had only sporadic contacts.

Our 2018 class reunion was organized on the occasion of the celebration of my 2017 Chemistry Nobel Prize by the University of Siegen, the city of Siegen, and our Gymnasium.

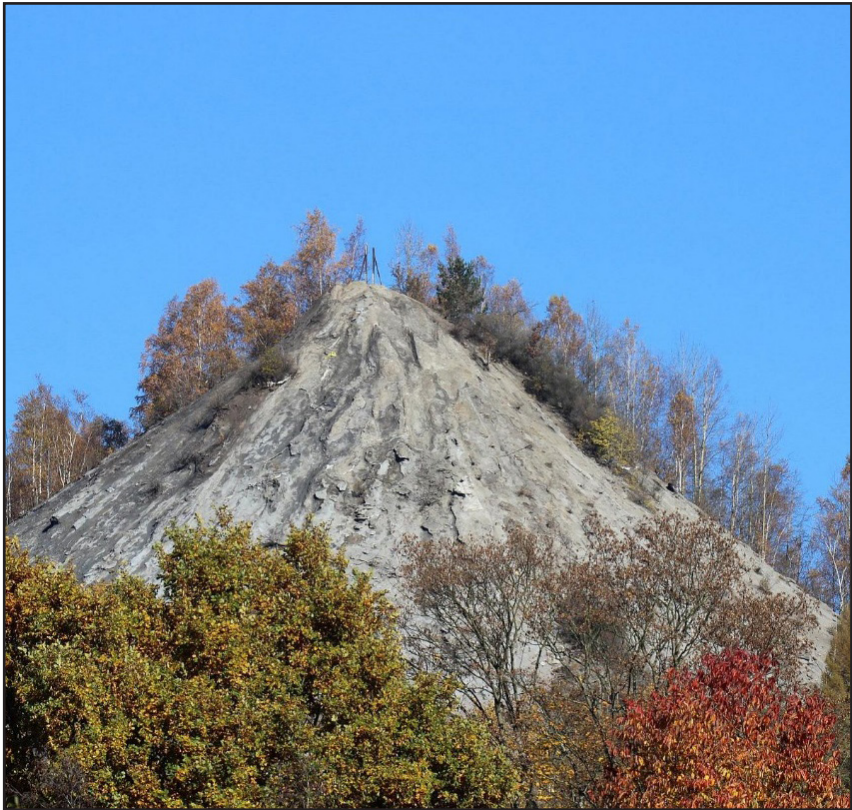


During tuition in the Gymnasium (Untersekunda) 1956. Joachim playing with his fingers and Horst behind to the right.



Class reunion 2010 – fifty years after finishing Gymnasium. Joachim forth from right and Horst far left.

I was quite intrigued when Horst told me about the Germanna story. Of course, every Siegerlander knows about the prominence of the regional iron mining, iron smelting and fabrication, which goes back all the way to the Celts. For a long time, the family of my father's mother, the Schleifenbaums, had a dominant position in the local fabrication of iron goods. From the windows of our gymnasium we saw a giant hill we called "Fujijama" (Schlackenhalde, now known as Monte Schlacko) formed from slacks of iron smelting and shaped like the namesake mountain in Japan. And of course the essential role of iron manufacture in maintaining Hitler's war efforts was the very reason for the devastating air raid by the Allied Forces on December 6, 1944, which destroyed 80% of Siegen. But Horst's story about the emigration of miners in desperate economic conditions took me completely by surprise.



The “Fujijama” or “Monte Schlacko” in the area of Weidenau-Geisweid, a 72-foot hill of slacks accumulated from centuries of iron smelting, now preserved as a park [10].

I found the witness signature of Johannes Manskopf, from my Manskopf ancestors on my mother’s side, on the 1711 emigration contract, which was the starting point of the emigration. The more I learned from Horst’s compilation of photographs, engavings, and genealogy documents, the more I was drawn into this remarkable story.

*Joachim Frank, New York, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

## Introduction

**I**n 1712, a group of Siegerland miners and smelters set out with their families to help setting up iron ore processing in North America. A total of 42 people, 21 of them from Trupbach, reached the then English province of Virginia in April 1714 and founded the Germanna colony. Their journey to the New World had been greatly delayed by an unplanned long stopover in London. This group of miners and smelters were recruited by the 'Berghauptmann,' Albrecht [11], who, on behalf of the George Ritter Company /London, had made a contract with Reformed churchmen in Siegen in 1711 so that the church would carry out the recruitment.

These Siegerland experts in iron production had decided to emigrate because the living conditions in the Siegerland were very bad at the time and the barren soil of the Siegerland could hardly feed the growing population. The first to sign the emigration contract for himself and his family at the Siegen church was Hermannus Otterbach from Trupbach.

This book is intended to give the descendants of these emigrants, who are now living in the USA, an overview on how people lived in the Siegerland in the past and what made them decide to leave everything behind. It describes the origin particularly of Trupbach miners and smelters, since they formed the largest contingent of the emigrants. One of the authors (HSB) grew up in Trupbach and is himself related to most of the Trupbach emigrant families.

For context, we show views of the city of Siegen and the neighboring village of Trupbach, and how they have changed over the past

200 years. We describe the history of iron production in Siegerland and in Trupbach along with the role of charcoal, which was absolutely necessary for iron smelting up to the end of the nineteenth century. To produce charcoal for this purpose in large quantities, a special forest management was already developed in Siegerland centuries ago, as it was of great importance for the economic survival of its population.

We were able to draw from rich sources of authentic material, among these a published compilation by Karsten Porezag [11] from Wetzlar on the 1712-1734 emigration of Siegerland miners and the “Ancestry” books by Benjamin Holzclaw [12] (Appendix III) and Irvin Utterback [13], (Appendix IV) which deal specifically with the Trupbach emigrants and with the family history of the Otterbachs/ Utterbacks. Excerpts from these sources are included in the main text and appendix material.

Last but not least, we will explain Buzz Aldrin’s [14] special relationship with Trupbach and show that the emigrant families Fischbach and Richter from Trupbach are direct ancestors of the second man on the moon (1969). In a fitting end of the book we show pictures of the ceremony on October 5, 2022, the day when the mayor of Siegen inaugurated the ‘Buzz Aldrin Platz’ in Trupbach.

## **The Lay of the Siegerland <sup>[15]</sup>: Siegen and Trupbach**

**G**eologically, the Siegerland belongs to the part of the Rhenish Slate Mountains on the right bank of the Rhine. Its most important urban center is the city of Siegen. Both the names of the region and the city go back to the name of the Sieg, a tributary of the Rhine that has its source in the Rothaargebirge in the east. The Siegerland is very densely wooded. Mostly small rivers run through the valleys, surrounded by meadows and fields. Deciduous forests are mostly found on the mountain peaks. The Siegerland is characterized by a lot of precipitation. Sunshine duration is therefore relatively low.

The first traces of mining date back to the times of the Celts. The Siegerland, which was documented for the first time under this name (as 'Sygernlant') on November 13, 1351, was long characterized by the mining of iron ore and its further processing. Excavations on the Altenberg prove that shafts were already being dug there before the year 1000. One of the most well-known mines there was the 'Stahlberg'\*with its unique iron ore deposits.

\*Under that name, this mine is first mentioned in sources dating to the 17th century. It is probably not identical with the 'Stenberg' mentioned in the certificate of May 4, 1313, which was given by the Duke of Nassau to the brothers Friedrich and Gottfried vom Hain as a redeemable feud. See Philipp, Friedrich, Siegener Urkundenbuch, 1. Teil bis 1350, Siegen 1887, No. 132, S. 82-83 [6].

With the closure of the pits on March 31, 1965, more than 2,000 years of ore mining in Siegerland came to an end. Today there is not much to see apart from isolated, closed tunnel entrances and slag

heaps in the forests. An estimated 175 million tons of iron ore were mined in almost 5,000 pits in the Siegerland ore district. Most and the deepest were in the area around Siegen. The deepest pit had a total depth of over 1300 meters.

The iron ore collected in the mines was often processed into steel and iron in the same place. The steel production took place in blast furnaces in the so-called 'huts' [Hütte in German]. In most places in Siegerland there was at least one hut. In 1444 there were already 35 ironworks in the Siegerland\*. For instance, there was the 'Eisfelder Hütte' in Eisfeld, in operation from 1463 to 1972, 'Boschgotthardshütte' in Weidenau (from 1467 to 1952), 'Haardter Hütte' in Weidenau (from 1417 to 1929), 'Birlenbacher' Hütte in Geisweid (from 1463 to 1971).

\*See Schubert, Hans: Geschichte der nassauischen Eisenindustrie von den Anfängen bis zur Zeit des Dreissigjährigen Krieges, Marburg 1937, No. 104, S. 258-259, one finds this list of the Nassau state bursar Hermann von Hupstorf, named Illequait, of 1444/45: there are a total of 36 companies that manufacture iron: 8 hammer mills, 25 blast furnaces or smelters, and 3 companies that are out of service. The hammer mills can be unequivocally identified by the mill fees (water rates) as they pay between 5 and 10 guilders, more than the blast furnaces which are only charged between 1 and 4 guilders [6].

After Henry the Rich died in 1250, his sons divided his lands among themselves\*\*. Otto I received the lands to the right of the Lahn and thus also the Siegerland. After Otto's death (1290) and initial reign in 1301, his three sons divided their land into the tribes of Nassau-Hadamar, Nassau-Dillenburg and Nassau-Siegen. Since the land was allocated to Prussia in the Congress of Vienna in 1814/15, the core of the Siegerland, which previously belonged to the Principality of Nassau-Siegen, first belonged to the Koblenz administrative district of the Grand Duchy of the Lower Rhine Province and was from 1817 till today a part of the Arnsberg administrative district of the Westphalian province.

\*\*Here we deal with Heinrich II the Rich, along with his father Walram I (ca. 1146-1191 Duke at Laurenburg; from 1193 Duke at Nassau) with



# Appendix I

## **V**or 275 Jahren: 42 Siegerländer versuchten in Virginia ihr Glück

Translation of the Newspaper article:

### **275 years ago: 42 Siegerlanders sought their fortune in Virgin**

1714 erstes befestigtes Palisadendorf- Pioniere der US Montanindustrie- Arnold Bilder 1990 ins Getty Museum? Siegener Gäste nach USA

#### **Arrival of the settlers in America**

Daniel Defoe wrote his popular adventure and travel novel “Robinson Crusoe” in 1719. A hundred years earlier, the legendary “Mayflower” had landed on Cape Cod, bringing Puritan pilgrims. America and its British colonies also aroused curiosity, adventure and enterprise in Germany. In 1714, 13 emigrant families, mainly from Trupbach and Müsen, made the revolutionary decision to find their luck in the American colony of Virginia named after Elizabeth I. Energy, tenacity, hard work and, above all, the skills they had acquired at home as miners and smelters brought the ambitious pioneers lasting success.

#### **Nine log houses—first blast furnace in 1721**

Soon after their arrival in April 1714, the Siegerland settlers built a residential complex that was fortified with palisades to protect against Indian raids, which they called Germanna. This name was supposed to combine the name of their country of origin, Germany, with that of Queen Anna (1704-1714) from the House of Stuart, who was ruling England at the time. 42 people dwelled in nine larger log houses. A separate church served the daily worship of the devout Reformed. Incidentally, all 13 families were related to one another through family ties, the same professions, the same language and religion. The opening of the first working blast furnace in Virginia in 1721 marked the first chapter in American industrial history.



Jubiläumstreffen von 300-400 Deutsch-Amerikanern am Wochenende

### Vor 275 Jahren: 42 Siegerländer suchten in Virginia ihr Glück

1714 erntet befestigtes Palisadenort - Pioniere der US-Montainindustrie - Otto-Arnold-Bilder 1990 ins Getty-Museum? - Siegener Gäste nach USA



Der am Truppbuch gebräutete, beste aus der Universität Frankfurt am Main: händische Prof. Dr. Schmidt-Böcking mit Begleitung vor einem der Germanna-Gedenkstätten zur Erinnerung an die Siegerländer Einwanderer.



Hat sich das Leben des ersten Siedlers in Virginia überhaupt? Zuerst waren in dem waldreichen Land Blockhäuser errichtet. Diese romantisch gezeichnete Zeichnung zeigt den Emigranten-Alltag eindeutig zu idealisieren.

**Siegen-Colony-Virginia.** David Defoe schrieb 1719 seinen schmal behaarten Abenteuer-und Romanen "Robinson Crusoe" hinterließ Jahre vor der legendären "Maßfreier" aus England emigrierte portugiesische Pflanzler an "Cap Cod" (Amerika und seine britischen Kolonien wuchsen auch in unserer Region Nordsee, bewickeln Abenteurer und Ostermeinsgergeln. Im Jahre 1714 fallen so 13 Auswandererfamilien, vornehmlich aus Truppbuch und Moser, den revolutionär anmutenden Entschluß, in der nach Elizabeth I. besetzten amerikanischen Kolonie Virginia ihr Glück zu versuchen. Zuerst, Zahlgeld, Freilohn und vor allem ihre in der Heimat erworbenen Fähigkeiten als Berg-, Holz-Handwerker besuchten den strebsamen Pioniere beiderlei Art.

#### Neu Blockhäuser - erste Hochöfen 1721

Die Siegerländer Siedler errichteten bald nach der Ankunft im April 1714 eine zur Siedlung vier Industrie-Öfen für den Palisaden befestigte Wohnanlage, die sie "Germanna" nannten. Dieser Name sollte die Blockhäuser German mit dem der zu dieser Zeit regierenden Königin Anna (1704-14) aus dem Hause Stuart honorieren. 42 Menschen fanden in neun großen Blockhäusern Unterkunft. Eine eigene Kirche diente dem täglichen Gottesdienst der evangelischen Reformierten. Thüringen waren alle 13 Familien durch verwandtschaftliche Beziehungen durch gleiche Berufsgründe und Religion miteinander verbunden. Daß sie 1721 den ersten funktionstüchtigen Hochöfen in Virginia in Betrieb setzten, bedeutet zugleich ein erstes Kapitel amerikanischer Industriegeschichte.

#### Acht Generationen zurück

1714-1989 - das 275-Jahre-Jubiläum dieser Pionierstadt wollen an diesem Wochenende 300 bis 400 Amerikaner deutscher Herkunft zuzugeln, wenn sie in Colopier/Virginia aus allen US-Bundesstaaten zusammenkommen. Viele Nachfahren, deren Familien einige ihren Siegerländer Stammbaum komplett "Aton-Forsker aus Truppbuch auf Spanische in Virginia

Im Siegerland wird seitensamerische kaum offiziell von diesen Erinnerungstreffen Kenntnis genommen. Um so erfreulicher ein Berliner Amateur-Historiker, der aus Truppbuch stammende, an der Universität Frankfurt als Aton-Forscher lehrende Prof. Dr. Horst Schmidt-Böcking, ergreift im kühnen Alleingang die Initiative, Germanien mit der Familie Dorer Arnold aus Siegen, die 1865 mit der Foto-Dokumentation des Rechts Otto Arnold (1819-94) über die Siegerländer Arbeitwelt, die Haubergwirtschaft und typische Landschaftszonen hervorgehoben war, wird er eine kleine informelle Siegerländer Delegation auf dem Virginia-Meeting anführen.

Um den Deutsch-Amerikanern eine schon nostalgisch angehauchte Vorstellung ihrer Heimat zu vermitteln, will Obermundstein Hans-Lee Arnold aus dem 1800-Bilder-Schatz die brillantesten Aufnahmen im College der "Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies" vorführen. Diese 1851 von dem aus Siegen nach New York übergesiedelten Mäve Ernst Biedner im Leben geradene Stiftung weist in ihrer Funktion Parallelen zum Siegerländer Heimatsverein auf - nur hat es entfallen mehr Geld.

Schon 1887 auf Spanische mit professioneller Akribie war Prof. Schmidt-Böcking übrigens schon 1887 an Ort und Stelle auf historische Spurensuche

nachte nach den Siegerländern in der Neuen Welt gezogen. Er wurde bald fundiert, identifizierte Mitglieder eines traditionell-wahligen Familien-Clans der Hiltbräuer, deren Vorfahren aus Obere- oder Niederholländisch zur ersten Emigranten-Welle 1714 geflohen, als auskunftsfreudige, kompetente Informanten. Grundtat für den gelungenden Truppbuch: Er entdeckte am Germanna Highway drei Gedenksteine, die aus das Schicksal der zurechtgewandten Siedler erorterten. Darunter ein Memorial zur Erinnerung an die Gründung der ersten Reformierten Kirche in America durch "a colony of thurten families from Nassau-Siegen", wie der Frankfurter Naturwissenschaftler im SZ-Gespräch bemerkte. Die Gründung waren in Germanen außer dem Bauesen so den alten Hochöfen keine Reste der Pionier-Revolution mehr geblieben.

#### In der Bibliothek der Mormonen in Salt Lake City

Für Prof. Schmidt-Böcking, der einer Odyssee gleich zweifelt, Manassah River, Rocky Mountains und Jordan River im USA unterwegs war, zahlte sich seine Ausdauer aus. Kurzerweilung sein es für ihn bei der antiken Bibliothek der Mormonen-Kirche in Salt Lake City die interessantesten Erkenntnisse seines Hinfahrt und biographische Schicksal fast aller Bergarbeiter und Eisenmeister ließen sich hier einwandfrei ermitteln.

Als wertvolle Hilfe erwies sich dabei die ca. 400 Seiten dicke genealogische Übersicht der Siegerländer Emigranten, die der 1898 verstorbene Hammerker Prof. B. C. Schmidt in einschlägiger, neveluagier Sammelarbeit erstellt hatte. "Eines Truppbuchs" durchläuft die 17 Jahrbücher, mit den Angaben etwa "war ein unerwarteter Überraschung" bekannte der historisch ambitionierte Papyler.

Dabei berichtete er der SZ von drei Kolonisationsgruppen von 1714, 1714 und 1718 das Geheimnis der Energiegewinnung als das wohl wichtigste Gespräch mit sich führten. Denn beste Voraussetzung für eine Eisenverhüttung waren in den kaum erschlossenen, von Indianerstämmen bedrohten Landschaften ungezügelter Wälder Lieferungen der Wildder Holz zur Verkohlung, der Fluid schenkte die nötige Wasserkraft zum Antrieb der Blaseöfen, und ein seinen Ufern konnte Erz gewonnen werden, das sich in den benachbarten Blue Ridge Mountains abbauen ließ.

#### Seelotzer aus Anhausen als "streusere Erker"

Daß die 13 Familien aus Muench, Niederösterreich, Truppbuch, Kieren, Kaan-Marienberg, Oberhiesbach und Oberschieden, zu denen übrigens 20 Kinder zählten, in Begleitung ihres aus Anhausen stammenden Pastors Johann Heinrich Haeger als treuen Schützlinge in die Neue Welt aufbrachen, drängt zu Vergleichen mit das von reformatorischen Missionaren, deren Lehren durchdrungenen englischen Puritanern.

In der Nähe von Siegen sollte die kleine Blockhäuser-Kirche die Keimzelle der evangelisch-reformierten Kirche in den USA dar. Daß das Leben in der ersten Siegerländer Kolonie aufgrund der rudimentären Dienstleistungen der Emigranten nach blockhieslichen Gesichtspunkten eher geduldet wurde, ist kaum zu beweißen. Landeseigentliche Unterdrückungskämpfe der Nassau-Graener, hohe Steuern und heftige Glaubenskämpfe im Siegerland dürften die Auswanderer zu ihrem mutigen Schritt motiviert haben.

Daher blieb die Emigration zahlreicher Bergleute, Huttenmänner und Hammermeister aus Nassau-Siegen auch kein Einzelfall. 1724 folgte eine zweite Siedlergruppe, die mit einem englischen Schiff mit dem verhängnisvollen Namen "Hoffnung" nach ca. 1700 Seemeilen in dem von William Penn 1682 gegründeten Philadelphia, der Hoehring der Quaker, an Land ging. Demmal waren es 24 meist Truppbucher, die nach Erzurkern um diese Stadt angeblieben durften.

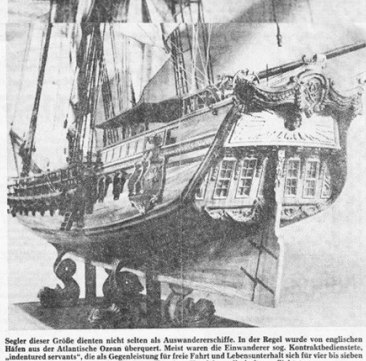
dem. Loberkränze einen erfolgreichen Pioniergestes zu schicken.

#### Beitrag zur deutsch-amerikanischen Freundschaft

Nicht wenige werden dabei an diesem Wochenende auf dem erst 1899 wiederentdeckten, 270 Acres großen historischen Terrain des "Siegen Forest" am Rappahannock River in Virginia zusammenströmen. Dabei werden thematisch die weit ausgedehnten Siegerler in Lichtbildern und Büchern die Heimat der Auswanderer präsentieren, wie sie sich vor den Zerfallungen des Zeitens Weltkriegs 1939 dem amerikanischen Propagandisten Otto Arnold darstellte. Mit der Kulisse von verbliebenen Fachwerkbau, intakten Feuerstellen, Gruben, Stollen, Höhlen, Schmieden, Wäldern, Mehlsteinen, Lohmühlen und Walkbänken. Aber auch Mythen und hochschaligen Wäldern, die inzwischen dem Fortschritt der Zeit zum Opfer fielen.

#### Reisepilger Wangemann

Thüringen ging nicht zuletzt ein ebengleicher Wunschraum mit auf die 7 600 km-lange Reise. Als Beitrag zur deutsch-amerikanischen Freundschaft möchten die Arnold 1990 das Siegerland als Waage der klassischen europäischen Montan-Industrie



Im berühmten Getty-Museum in Kalifornien vorstellen. Ca. 130 der aussagekräftigsten, etruskischen Vasen-Plattenschilder sind für die Reise über den großen Teich schon gerüstet. ... Gf.



Die waldreiche Spurensuche nach in Germanen auf dieses Gedenkstätte die Siedler, die wurden nach Virginia eingeladen, um seine Eisenindustrie an erfolgreich und diese Ortsteile zu schätzen, heißt es

## Appendix II



Honoring Our Historic Heritage  
GERMANNA.ORG

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

**A Chance Encounter on a Plane:  
A Germana Descendant meets a German Relative**

by Robert Britton and Horst Schmidt-Böcking  
*In memory of Anne Britton, a Spilman descendant*

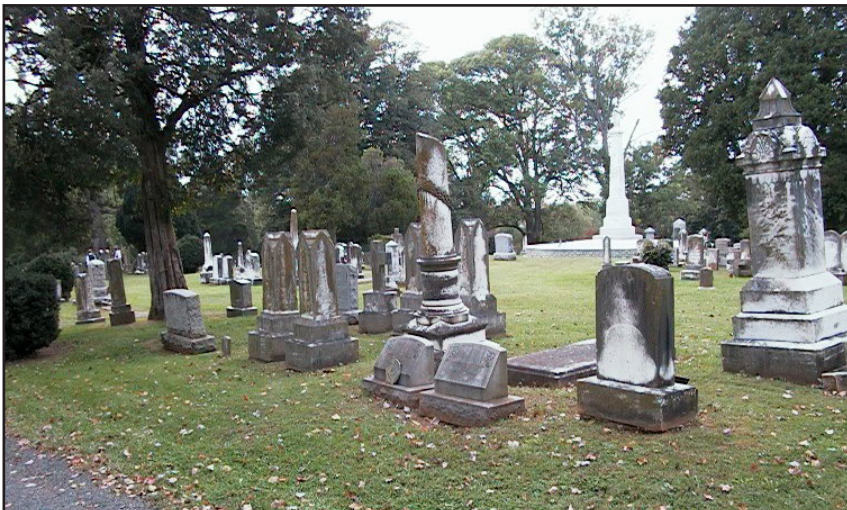
Germana Logo

**I**t was in 1999 on an United Airlines flight from Washington to San Francisco that accidentally a Germana descendent from Virginia, Anne Britton, who was living with her family in San Francisco, and a Trupbach descendent, Horst Schmidt-Böcking, by chance were sitting next to each other. Fortunately, they began to talk.



Anne Britton (photo Robert Britton)

She told her neighbor that she had visited her sister and family in Virginia for the last time. Because of her cancer she did not expect to visit her family in Virginia again. She was quite astonished when her German neighbor, who was born in the Siegen area, in return asked her in which part of Virginia that she grew up in. She thought “Why would this German citizen ask me such a question?” He cannot possibly know of my little home village? Nevertheless, she answered: “I grew up in Warrenton.” Horst had attended several conferences at the Warrenton Airley conference center, when the United States Department of Energy had organized special meetings there on Atomic physics. However, since Horst had been since 1986 a life member of the Germanna foundation, he had also visited the 200 year old Warrenton cemetery a few times, where many graves can still be seen of Germanna descendants from the very early German immigrants. On their grave stones, which are still in very good condition, one can still read the names: Utterback, Spilman, Rector, Fishback, Coons, Hanback etc. When he mentioned the name Spilman, she suddenly said: “Oh, my grandmother was a Spilman.” This was the start of a long enthusiastic talk on family ancestry on that United flight. Fortunately, the flight took more than 4 hours. Anne Britton was about 70 years old in 1999, and Horst was just 60 years old.



Old cemetery in Warrenton, VA (Photo [7])

## Appendix III

### **A**ncestry Research on the American side by Benjamin Clark Holtzclaw Jr. [12]

The following chapter is an account written in 1936 by Benjamin Clark Holtzclaw Jr. (1894 - 1986) on all 1714 immigrants from the Siegerland.

Holtzclaw wrote in his book: *Ancestry and Descendants of the Nassau-Siegen Immigrants to Virginia 1714-1750* [12].

Zweihundvierzig Personen in dieser Kolonie wurden vom Virginia House of Burgesses (Kemper Genealogy, S. 20-21) davon befreit, Taxis zur Established Church zu zahlen. In meinem Artikel über die „Little Fork Colony from Nassau-Siegen“ („The Story of Germanna Descendants in Reunion“, 1960, S. 21-24) habe ich versucht, die Identität dieser 42 Personen festzustellen. Meine damalige Schlussfolgerung scheint bis auf folgende Korrekturen immer noch gültig zu sein:

Forty-two persons in this colony were excused from paying taxis to the Established Church by the Virginia House of Burgesses (Kemper Genealogy, pp. 20-21). In my article on the “Little Fork Colony from Nassau-Siegen” (“The Story of Germanna Descendants in Reunion,” 1960, pp. 21-24), I tried to determine the identity of these 42 persons. My conclusion at that time seem still to be valid, except for the following corrections:

Peter Hitt's [Heide] first wife, Mary Elisabeth Freudenberg, was born at Ferndorf in 1674, was apparently older than her husband and was 40 years old in 1714. She was too old to have been the mother of Peter's six children, all born in Virginia. Elizabeth, wife of Peter Hitt in 1724, who came over in 1714 also, must have been his second wife, married after coming to Virginia. She was most probably Elizabeth, born 1689, daughter of the immigrant, Harman Utterback [Hermannus Otterbach].

**The constituency of the 1714 group at that time of their arrival in Virginia in April, 1714, was probably as follows:**

1 Person Brumbach: Melchior Brumbach [Brombach], b. ca. 1685 at Müsen in the north of Protestant Siegen, probably a bachelor, but married soon after arrival Elizabeth Fishback [Fischbach], b. 1687 of Philip Fishback).

## Appendix IV

### **A**ncestry Research on the American side by William Irvin Utterback [13]

Beside Benjamin Holtzclaw, William Irvin Utterback from Huntington made in 1937 an early attempt to get contact with the Siegerland. He wrote on March 14th , 1937 this letter to Herrmann Otterbach in Siegen. It is not known by the authors of this article whether somebody from Siegen sent an answer back to Irvin Utterback. This letter came in some unknown way to Trupbach and then to Dieter Otterbach in Ahlen near Münster /Westfalen. Dieter's father was born in Trupbach and is also a relative to the emigrant Hermannus Otterbach. Dieter has send this letter in about 2010 to his cousin (2. stage) Horst Schmidt-Böcking (one of the authors of this article).

In 1937 Irvin Utterback wrote this letter to Hermann Otterbach in Siegen to obtain information on the family background of his ancestors.

The text reads in German:

Gehrter Herr:

Mein Vater, Herr Professor A.D.Utterback, ist jetzt beschäftigt in der Zusammentragung der Genialogie der Familie Utterback in Nordamerika.

Er hat gefunden, dass unsere Familie abstammt ist von Hermann Otterbach, der mit seiner Familie nach Virginia zwischen den Jahren 1714 und 1720 von Trupbach ausgewandert ist. Entweder der Name wurde absichtlich oder durch Zufall verändert, wir wissen nicht.

Alexander Spottswood, damals Stadthalter in Virginia, wünschte den eisernen Mittel in jener Kolonie zu entwickeln. Dafür hat er zwölf Familien von Siegens Nachbarschaft dazu transportiert. Otterbach, Kemper, Merten, Brombach, Richter, Fischbach, Holtzklau, Heide, Spielmann, Kuntze, Hoffmann, und Weber. Der ehrwürdige Heinrich Haeger ist auch später herübergekommen und die erste reformierte Kirche in Amerika errichtet.

Untersuchung in Deutschland in der Kirchverzeichnisse besonders für unsere Vorfahren hat auch Ihre Namen unter anderem mit der Name „Otterbach“ noch in



## Appendix V

### **O**n the Origin of the OTTERBACH family [47]

There exist only speculations from where the Otterbach family originated. The name Otterbach has the following meaning: it refers to the animal 'Otter' living at or in a small river (in German: Bach). Because otters were formerly ubiquitous there exist in Germany many small villages named Otterbach [48].

For instance, there is one such place west of Siegen, near Niederfischbach, one in Rhineland-Palatinate, and one near Basel (near the Swiss border).

Most likely Trupbach's Otterbach family moved at the end of the 16th century from Eiserfeld (west of Siegen) to Trupbach. The Otterbach family in Eiserfeld probably lived before 1550 in Niederfischbach.

In 1945 Trupbach had about 1000 inhabitants and about 150 of them bore the name Otterbach. For instance, the grandmother of HSB was born in Trupbach into an Otterbach family. Therefore HSB is the eighth-generation grandson of the brother of Hermannus Otterbach, the 1714 emigrant.

Dieter Otterbach /Ahlen investigated the very early roots of the Otterbach family and he wrote [47]: A short summary of his findings is given here.

The Otterbachs in Niederfischbach (Johennchen in the Otterbach valley), Eiserfeld (Johannes Otterbach) and Trupbach (Johannes Otterbach)

About 1 mile southeast from Niederfischbach (Niederfischbach is about 10 miles west of Siegen) a small creek is named 'Otterbach'. Before 1600 a small farm in the 'Otterbach' valley was owned by 'Johennchen in the Otterbach' so called in the directory of 03/23/1587 in the Koblenz State Archive [49], where 'all houses in the Fischbach parish' (today Niederfischbach) are listed. The name Otterbach can be found still today many times in Niederfischbach.

Niederfischbach was mentioned in a document in 1342 as 'Vispe' and its name probably originated from the river Fischbach. (In the Siegerland dialect the name Fischbach is spoken as 'Feschbe', which is in the dialect phonetically very close to 'Vispe'). A farm in Vispe was already mentioned in 1377. The place was in the former principality of Sayn.

# Appendix VI

## **F**amily Trees of the emigrant relatives in German Church books Compiled by Reinhard Daub [34]

*The italic written persons emigrated to Virginia.*

*Dates are abbreviated according to the German format: day.month.year.*

### **FAMILYTREE of Johannes Otterbach**

1. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*ca. 1622 Trupbach †24.04.1696 Trupbach ⚭ ca. 1651 **Stüll**, Anna \*16.08.1629 Seelbach †03.02.1698 Trupbach, lived in "Gehans" [the name of the house spoken in the Siegerland dialect]

#### **9 CHILDREN of No. 1**

2. **Otterbach**, Anna \*11.04.1652 Trupbach † unknown
3. **Otterbach**, Elsbeth \*25.09.1653 Trupbach † unknown
4. **Otterbach**, Gerlach \*29.07.1655 Trupbach † unknown
5. **Otterbach**, Clara \*12.07.1657 Trupbach †1696 Seelbach ⚭28.08.1677 **Arnold**, Johann \*20.10.1643 Seelbach †08.05.1711 Seelbach, lived in Seelbach ("Hoffmanns/Hacklersch")
6. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*06.11.1659 Trupbach †04.06.1740 Trupbach ⚭27.07.1679 **Dornseifer**, Margreth \*1657 Langenholdinghausen -06.12.1657 Langenholdinghausen †28.07.1709 Trupbach, lived in "Gehans"
7. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*14.04.1661 Trupbach † unknown
8. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*14.09.1662 Trupbach † unknown
9. **Otterbach**, *Hermannus \*1664 Trupbach †1749 Germantown/Virginia ⚭11.08.1685 Siegen Heinbach, Elsbeth \*1662 Seelbach †1705/13 Trupbach, lived in Virginia/USA*
10. **Otterbach**, Henrich \*17.05.1668 Trupbach † unknown

#### **8 CHILDREN of No. 5**

11. **Arnold**, Philipp \*18.07.1680 Seelbach † after 1744 Langenholdinghausen ⚭22.04.1706

- Bender**, Anna Catharina \*13.11.1670 Langenholdinghausen † after 1714 Langenholdinghausen, lived in "Gewelersch", lived in Langenholdinghausen (Gewelersch)
12. **Arnold**, Margreth \*05.11.1682 Seelbach † unknown
13. **Arnold**, Elsbeth \*29.06.1684 Seelbach † unknown
14. **Arnold**, Hermannus \*20.06.1686 Seelbach † unknown
15. **Arnold**, Friedrich \*27.01.1689 Seelbach † unknown
16. **Arnold**, Jacob \*02.12.1691 Seelbach † unknown
17. **Arnold**, Maria Catharina \*16.08.1693 Seelbach †28.08.1693 Seelbach
18. **Arnold**, Johann Daniel \*13.08.1695 Seelbach †21.02.1721

### 7 CHILDREN of No. 6

19. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*19.12.1680 Trupbach †04.06.1740 Trupbach @24.04.1704  
**Schneider**, Anna Gertrud \*12.01.1684 Trupbach †15.02.1757 Trupbach, lived in "Kursch"
20. **Otterbach**, Clara \*03.12.1682 Trupbach †07.05.1742 Langenholdinghausen @25.04.1721 Siegen **Birlenbach**, Johannes \*09.04.1676 Buschhütten †19.07.1749 Langenholdinghausen, lived in Langenholdinghausen (Schrörersch)
21. **Otterbach**, Hermann \*14.02.1686 Trupbach †08.10.1760 Trupbach @24.02.1711 Siegen **Heide**, Anna Catharina \*13.04.1690 Trupbach †21.06.1756 Trupbach, lived in „Gehanns“
22. **Otterbach**, Johann Jacob \*25.11.1688 Trupbach †30.10.1733 Seelbach @20.07.1712 Seelbach **Heide**, Elisabeth Catharina \*24.03.1693 Seelbach †04.11.1751 Seelbach, lived in Seelbach and Oberschelden
23. **Otterbach, Maria Clara** \*15.05.1692 *Trupbach †1760 Virginia @18.01.1718 Nöh, Johannes* \*04.03.1694 *Clafeld †1744 Virginia, lived in Virginia*
24. **Otterbach, Johannes** \*13.08.1695 *Trupbach †Virginia/USA, emigrated in 1732*
25. **Otterbach, Johannes Henrich** \*21.09.1698 *Trupbach †1769 Virginia/USA @ Brombach, Agnes* \*1717 *Müsen †1757 Virginia, lived in Virginia*

### 9 CHILDREN of No. 9

26. **Otterbach, Anna Margarethe** \*25.07.1686 *Trupbach †1730 Germantown/Virginia @07.08.1708 Holzklau, Hans Jacob* \*18.03.1683 *Trupbach †29.02.1760 Germantown/Virginia, lived in Virginia/USA*
27. **Otterbach, Elsbeth** \*19.05.1689 *Trupbach †1772 Germantown, Fauquier, Virginia @1715 Rectortown/Virginia Hitt, Peter* \*1683 *Rebbach/Kaan †23.03.1772 Germanna/Virginia, lived in Virginia/USA*



28. **Otterbach, Johann Philipp** \*21.03.1692 Trupbach †1718 Virginia/USA
29. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*06.05.1693 Trupbach † ca. 1694 Trupbach
30. **Otterbach**, Johann Jacob \*23.12.1695 Trupbach †03.01.1696 Trupbach
31. **Otterbach, Elisabeth Catharina** \*19.04.1697 Trupbach †1740/42 Germantown/Virginia Ⓜ1716 Kemper, **Johann** \*08.07.1692 Müsen †1758/1759 Germantown/Virginia, lived in Virginia/USA
32. **Otterbach, Maria Catharina** \*05.11.1699 Trupbach † after 1724 Virginia Ⓜ ca. 1719 Germantown/Virginia Merten, **Johann Jost** \*1691 Müsen † unknown
33. **Otterbach, Johannes** \*15.04.1702 Trupbach † after 1772 Germantown/Virginia, lived in Virginia/USA
34. **Otterbach, Anna Catharina** \*02.01.1705 Trupbach † before 1745 Germantown/Virginia Ⓜ ca. 1718 Germanna/Virginia Fischbach, **Hermannus** \*21.03.1693 Trupbach †1783 Germantown/Virginia, lived in Germantown/Virginia, lived in Virginia/USA

#### 4 CHILDREN of No. 11

35. **Arnold**, Maria Catharina \*before 1708 Langenholdinghausen † unknown
36. **Arnold**, Clara \*ca. 1710 Langenholdinghausen †10.03.1769 Langenholdinghausen Ⓜ04.09.1732 Langenholdinghausen **Ohrndorf**, Johannes \*ca. 1713 Niederholzklaue †29.05.1747 Langenholdinghausen, lived in „Gewelersch“
37. **Arnold**, Johann Jacob \*1712 Langenholdinghausen †05.10.1778 Langenholdinghausen
38. **Arnold**, Jacob \*1714 Langenholdinghausen † unknown

#### 9 CHILDREN von No. 19

39. **Otterbach**, Maria Clara \*21.01.1705 Trupbach †27.02.1705 Trupbach
40. **Otterbach**, Agnes Cathrin \*22.06.1706 Trupbach †04.07.1706 Trupbach
41. **Otterbach**, Johannes \*13.02.1708 Trupbach †15.12.1758 Trupbach Ⓜ I. 19.08.1733 **Strack**, Anna Margaretha \*13.02.1702 Trupbach †15.10.1737 Trupbach Ⓜ II. 08.04.1738 **Zimmermann**, Anna Gertrud \*29.12.1713 Trupbach †16.01.1770 Trupbach, lived in „Weese“
42. **Otterbach**, Elisabeth \*24.01.1711 Trupbach †05.05.1782 Seelbach Ⓜ09.08.1733 Siegen **Jung**, Johannes \*14.10.1708 Seelbach †25.01.1762 Seelbach, lived in Seelbach
43. **Otterbach, Johann Henrich** \*16.01.1714 Trupbach †1799 Culpepper, Virginia/USA Ⓜ USA Weisgerber, **Anna Catharina** \*10.12.1744 Niederndorf, emigrated 1734