



Spotswood News



Governor

Descendants of Governor Alexander Spotswood and Lady Butler Brayne

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Editor: Grace Karish

SPRING 2016

Dear Cousins,

Springtime in Virginia is a glory to behold! An early spring has brought the native plants and perennials almost bubbling out of the ground. The redbuds are in full bloom, and the dogwoods are beginning to dot the forests with their brilliant white.



It was a pleasure to represent you on the Germanna Reunion Planning Committee in March. This year's Spotswood Reunion will be held in conjunction with the Germanna Reunion on July 14-17 in Culpeper. Since this year marks the 300th Anniversary of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition, Germanna has incorporated many Spotswood events in its schedule. You may go to the Germanna Foundation website, www.germanna.org to register for all events. At the top of the screen,

next to the Home tab, you will see the Reunion tab. Click there to see all of the events and to register online. When you register, you will be asked to indicate your ancestral family—Spotswood, of course! An outline of our Spotswood schedule is included in this newsletter. The most important thing to do now is to reserve your hotel room. The spaces will fill up very quickly. If you change your mind, you can always cancel. There are three motels in Culpeper (all listed on the schedule). There are many other hotels available in Fredericksburg. However, the Spotswood Golden Horseshoe bus tour leaves from Culpeper on Friday morning, and the lectures are held there. If you elect to stay in Fredericksburg, you must plan an additional 20-40 minutes for travel, depending on traffic.

We are hoping to have a great Spotswood representation. From visiting the archaeological site of the Enchanted Castle to the Octoberfest Dinner at Salubria, it should be a grand 300th celebration. I'm so looking forward to seeing you there.

Dale Sayers
President General



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Dr. Michael Frost Receives Virginia General Assembly Resolution



Our own Past President General, Dr. Michael D. Frost, received a ceremonial copy of a Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly Joint Resolution commending the 300th anniversary of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Expedition. Led by Alexander Spotswood, Lieutenant Governor of the Virginia colony in 1716, this group crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains, claiming the land to the west for England. Frost serves as a trustee of the Germanna Foundation, a historic preservation organization that collects and records the history of the German colonists settled in Virginia by Spotswood from 1714 to 1717. These German descendants now live all across the United States. Pictured with Dr. Frost are R. Christian Heiens (center), legislative aid to Virginia Delegate Nick Freitas who sponsored the resolution, and Germanna Foundation Chief Operating Officer Steve Hein. The photo was taken at the Germanna Visitor Center in Locust Grove, Virginia, at the March 18th meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.



Dues Reminder

This is a gentle reminder that your dues of \$30.00 for 2016 should be sent to our Treasurer, Mrs. Molly Carey, 9250 Stony Crest Cir. #832, Richmond, VA 23235-6890. Checks should be made out to SFD. Most of you have already responded, but we need your continued support to make our family grow and thrive. Thank you in advance for contributing your part to the group effort.



Sword of Nathaniel West Dandridge

Sword of

Nathaniel West Dandridge

The sword to the left was owned by Nathaniel West Dandridge, the husband of Dorothea Spotswood. It is housed at the King William Historical Society Museum at King William Courthouse, Virginia. The inscription on the sword is dated April 1738, given to N. W. Dandridge by John, Duke of Montagu. These photos were taken during a visit by Richard Weaver and his family. The Dandridge home, "Elsing Green," is in King William County--thus the family connection to that county.



Emma Weaver Just Can't Resist Touching This Family Treasure

Exceptional Spotswood Descendant



As most of you are aware, Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, to Arthur H. Keller and Kate Adams on June 27, 1880. At the age of 19 months, Helen contracted an illness that left her both blind and deaf. Through the amazing efforts of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, Helen learned to understand sign language, read Braille, and speak. In 1904, she graduated "cum laude" from Radcliffe College.

Helen Keller became a world-famous speaker and author. She traveled to over 40 countries, drawing from her personal experiences to inspire others with disabilities. She campaigned for voting rights for women, peace, workers' rights, and birth control. She and George Kessler founded Helen Keller International, an organization devoted to research in vision, health, and nutrition. Helen published 12 books, including *The Story of My Life* and *Light in My Darkness*.

On September 14, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1965, she was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame at the New York World's Fair.

In later years, Keller devoted much of her time to raising funds for the American Foundation for the Blind. She died on June 1, 1968, at her home in Easton, Connecticut, just short of her eighty-eighth birthday.

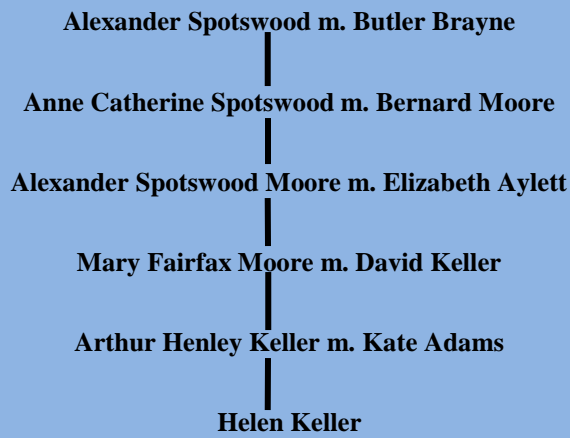


Ivy Green, The Keller Home in Tuscumbia, AL



Victorian Parlor

Line of Descent



Cottage Bedroom of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan



Cottage Where Anne Sullivan Taught Helen to Sign



How We Connect:

Eleanor of Castile m. Edward I
 Edward II m. Isabella of France
 Edward III m. Philippa of Hainault
 John of Gaunt m. Katherine Roet
 John Beaufort m. Margaret Holland
 Joan Beaufort m. James Stewart
 (The Black Knight of Lorn)
 John Stewart, 1st Earl of Atholl m.
 Eleanor Sinclair
 John Stewart m. Janet Campbell
 Jean Stewart m. James Arbuthnott
 Isabel Arbuthnott m. Robert Maule
 William Maule m. Bethia Guthrie
 Eleanor Maule m. Alexander
 Morrison
 Bethia Morrison m. Robert
 Spottiswoode
 Robert Spotswood m. Catherine
 Maxwell, parents of
 Alexander

Eleanor of Castile, Spanish Princess, English Queen

Born to Ferdinand III, King of Castile, and Johanna of Ponthieu, Eleanor of Castile became the first wife of Edward I, King of England. She traveled extensively with her husband, even accompanying him on Crusade to the Holy Land. Her recent biography, *Eleanor of Castile, The Shadow Queen*, by Sara Cockerill (Amberley Publishing, Gloucestershire, England, 2014) sheds much light on her personality and talents. The following is quoted from the book's summary paragraphs:

“She was a woman who was highly intellectual and who promoted intellectual and artistic endeavour; England would not see another queen of similar abilities until the Tudors sat on the throne. She was a woman who ran a massively demanding property business alongside discharging her job as both queen and mother of sixteen children. She was also a woman who advanced the cause of civilized life in the rather unpromising ground of medieval England. As the champion of decent bathrooms, forks, culinary variety, well-decorated rooms and exquisitely designed gardens, she was a woman much in tune with modern sensibilities.

But finally, Eleanor should now be given credit for her role as Edward's consort/adviser. Those who have concluded that she had no political role were surely wide of the mark. Close examination of the record shows again and again the traces of her subtle touch in directing his political and even his military endeavours.”

I would highly recommend this good read!

Dale Sayers



**Golden Horseshoe Wreath to be Auctioned
 At Germanna/Spotswood Reunion**



**Eleanor of Castile's Tomb
 at Westminster Abbey**

Spotswood Family Descendants Reunion 2016 July 14-17, 2016

Hotels in Culpeper:

Best Western, 791 Madison Rd., Culpeper, VA 22701, 540-825-1253

Holiday Inn Express, 787 Madison Rd., Culpeper, VA 22701, 540-825-7444

Quality Inn, 890 Willis Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701, 540-825-4900

Thursday, July 14

12:45-4:15 Registration at the Germanna Visitor Center

2:00 – 4:00 Fort Germanna/Enchanted Castle Site Tour, Eric Larsen, Archaeologist (Good walking shoes and bug spray strongly advised)

7:30 Executive Board Meeting (Place TBA)

Friday, July 15

8:00 Registration at Best Western for those arriving Friday morning

9:00-4:30 Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Heritage Bus Tour (includes lunch)

6:00-7:00 Social Hour (cash bar) at Salubria (opportunity to tour the house and grounds)

7:00 Oktoberfest Dinner at Salubria, with Bavarian Band

Saturday, July 16 Lectures at Germanna Community College, Daniel Technology Center

8:30 Registration (for those arriving on Saturday)

9:00 Invocation, Roll Call, and Greeting

9:45 Session 1 – Ann Miller, The Route Taken by Spotswood and the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe

11:10 Session 2 – Dale Sayers, Alexander Spotswood (Family Background, Challenges as Lt. Governor, and Transformation to Virginia Gentleman)

11:50 Lunch

1:00 Session 3 – Randell Jones, Daniel Boone's Connection to Stevensburg

2:45 Spotswood Family Business Meeting

3:30 Germanna Annual Meeting

6:00 Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse

7:25 Dinner at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse, followed by Spotswood Officer Installation

Sunday, July 17

10:00 Worship at Little Fork Episcopal Church

12:00 Boxed lunch at Germanna Visitor Center

12:00-3:00 Living Encampment of Knights of the Golden Horseshoe

Register for all events at www.germanna.org; click on Reunion button. If you do not have computer access, you may call the Germanna Visitors Center Tues.-Sat. 1:00-5:00 p.m. at 540-423-1700 to register. Please feel free to share this information with any other Spotswood descendants.

Attire for most events is casual. You may want to wear business /church clothes to the Dinner at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse.

