



**Genealogy of the Fishback family in America, the  
descendants of John Fishback, the emigrant, with  
an historical sketch of his family and of the colony  
at Germanna and Germantown, Virginia, 1714-  
1914**

*Willis Kemper*

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### **PREFACE**

A greater number of years than the compiler cares to acknowledge has been spent in collecting the data contained in the pages of this book. When first interested in the Colony at Germana there was no assurance that there were

any records in existence concerning its origin in Europe, the cause and manner of emigration; its establishment upon the frontier of Virginia, or its early history there; and the prospect of preparing a true chronicle did not seem promising. However, actuated and encouraged by the discovery of a few reliable records, it was felt that by diligent effort it would be possible to assemble sufficient material for an authentic history.

The undertaking has been tedious and the search a long one, but it is hoped that the facts here presented will prove of interest and value to every descendant of a member of the Germanna Colony, as well as to students of Colonial Virginia. Exact references to only the more important sources of information consulted have been given, but great care has been exercised to avoid inaccuracies of statement. In places when it seemed essential to discuss records not indubitably established, pains have been taken to indicate clearly that there is some uncertainty. At least one personal journey to the district of Germany from whence the immigrants came, and various visits to the several homes of the colonists in Virginia were made, before this historical sketch could be concluded.

A few portraits and several views of Siegen and its vicinity have been introduced with the hope of adding interest to the pages. A convenient index containing both given and family names completes the volume.

Compiling the genealogical records of a family for over two hundred years and assembling the names of 2300 members thereof in their order with correct dates and proper spelling is no small task. Much indifference was encountered among those from whom data were expected and when requested to prepare biographic sketches of the more distinguished members of their families their inertia was remarkable indeed. On the other hand the loyal and energetic cooperation of a large number of contributors who pursued the lines into almost every State and Territory of our Country has made this work possible. To them is largely due the successful accomplishment of our undertaking.

W. M. K.

Cincinnati, August, 1914.

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