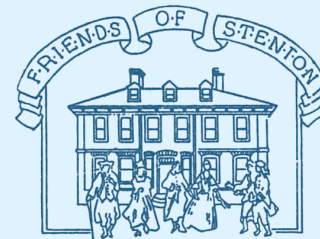


FRIENDS OF STENTON

Newsletter & Appeal



FALL 2024

HUNDREDS GATHER TO CELEBRATE UNVEILING OF THE DINAH MEMORIAL

On a bright, sunny afternoon in April, hundreds of Stenton supporters, neighbors, community partners, and the public gathered to celebrate the unveiling of a memorial to Dinah, who was enslaved by the Logan family in the 18th-century but gained her freedom. Until recently, Dinah was largely remembered for her role in saving the house from burning by the British during the Revolution, a story that was commemorated on a plaque erected in Stenton Park in 1912 by The Pennsylvania Society of The Colonial Dames and The Site and Relic Society of Germantown. The new memorial incorporates this plaque but moves away from its singular focus on the “saving story,” encouraging visitors to reflect on Dinah’s full life, humanity, and experiences.



Nashid Ali offered a libation to the ancestors.

The unveiling celebration was held on April 20, Stenton’s second annual “Dinah Day,” which commemorates the date when Dinah was manumitted—April 15, 1776. The memorial is the



Guests gather outside of the mansion for the unveiling program.

culmination of a project launched in December 2018, with support from a major grant by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage. Stenton Committee member Hannah Henderson, Logan descendants David Hickok and Stewart and Sidney Spahr, and other donors provided generous support which made construction of the memorial possible. One of the primary goals of the project was to elevate and give more equity to Dinah’s story, creating a new memorial in Stenton’s landscape to honor her life and legacy. Titled “Right Here,” by artist Karyn Olivier, the Dinah Memorial helps shift Stenton’s interpretation to a constellation of stories that incorporates the untold history of all who lived, labored, and interacted with the site.

The unveiling program kicked off at 2:00pm, featuring community partners and neighbors who provided input during the design process and helped choose the artist, representatives from the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and Stenton staff and Board members of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (NSCDA/PA).

Coby Haynes and Karen Smith welcomed arriving guests with African drumming. Stenton Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanye Watts served as emcee of the event, handing it off to Keepers of the Culture artist and storyteller Nashid Furaha Ali, who opened the program with a libation ceremony and music.



Community Ambassador Alvina Brown (left) thanks Hannah Henderson for her gift in support of the memorial.

Stenton Park Advisory Council Board Members Artiss Smith and Curtis McCallister, who were key collaborators and organized the creation of a Dinah mural on the nearby recreation center, shared heartfelt messages about Dinah’s meaning to them. *(Continued, page 2)*

DINAH MEMORIAL UNVEILING, CONTINUED



Guests gather in the newly unveiled Dinah memorial.

Alvina Brown, who served as a Community Ambassador for the project, spoke about the importance of the Dinah Memorial as a life-long resident of the neighborhood, and then recognized artist Karyn Olivier, donors, and Stenton board members with flowers. Representatives Chris Raab and Darisha Parker remarked on the importance of elevating Black history in our community, and artist Karyn Olivier delivered an emotional speech about her piece. NSCDA/PA President Sally Wirts, Stenton Committee Chair Dora Rogers, and Executive Director Dennis Pickeral offered remarks, and former Philadelphia Poet Laureate Trapeta Mayson concluded the program with a moving poem about Dinah's birth.

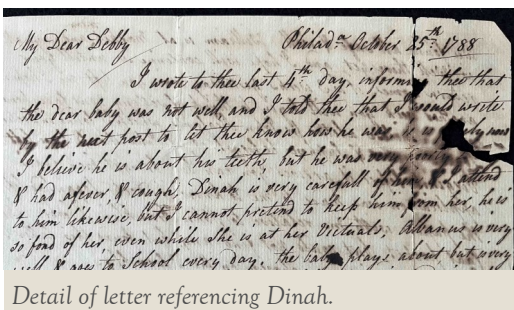
Following the remarks the crowd walked to the memorial, and after a brief countdown, youth from the Bringing Everybody Together (BET) mentoring program removed coverings from two large stone tablets set into the memorial's benches. These tablets, which are the focal points of the memorial, feature silhouettes representing Dinah and engraved questions for viewers to ask about her and of themselves, as they reflect on her story. Guests were invited to join a reception in the courtyard behind the mansion afterward. It was an emotional, joyous, and wholly fulfilling conclusion to the project, and the memorial is currently Philadelphia's only monument to a historical Black woman. To learn more about the Dinah Memorial Project, visit www.stenton.org/dinah.

BAKER FAMILY DONATES FAMILY LETTERS TO STENTON

In June, rather exhausted from attending the Archives of Revolution Conference at Brown University, Stenton Curator Laura Keim paid a spontaneous visit to Logan descendant Steve Baker and his wife Glone, arranged by their daughter Letitia Camire following Letty's visit to Stenton in the spring. After brunch, Letty invited Laura and Mickey Herr back to her parents' home, where Steve revealed a portfolio of family papers, the earliest dated 1757 and initialed "HG," from Hannah Griffitts to her "Uncle." The Baker collection includes a letter and receipts related to John Dickinson, correspondence between George and Deborah Logan, from Deborah to her sons, and to Deborah from her mother. A particularly fragile letter mentions Dinah. One never knows what might be found stowed in boxes, drawers, trunks, or between the pages of old PUNCH magazines, where Steve found these letters.



Stenton Curator Laura Keim visited the Bakers, Logan-Wright descendants, who gifted family letters to Stenton.



Detail of letter referencing Dinah.

Stenton is most grateful to the Bakers for this gift, from which threads of information can be woven into Stenton's broader interpretation. Every document holds the potential to deepen the history we can tell and share at Stenton. Thank you, Bakers! And thanks also to generations of generous Logan family descendants who keep Stenton in mind when thinking about the future of their family heirlooms.

This is Why Your Support Matters!



✓ AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Stenton's award-winning *History Hunters* field trip program is back this fall, having served more than **40,000** Philadelphia schoolchildren over the last two decades! This fall, we'll partner with Historic Germantown to pilot *Science Sleuths*, an interdisciplinary program modeled on *History Hunters* that uses HG sites to teach science to 6th and 7th graders.

✓ COMMUNITY

Stenton unveiled the **Dinah Memorial** in April, which received the American Association of State and Local History **Award of Excellence**. James Logan Elementary School nominated Stenton Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanye Watts for a **2024 Community Schools Award**.



✓ PRESERVATION & COLLECTIONS

The curatorial team continued the "Going Global" cataloguing project, completing professional photography of some of the most important furniture and archaeological ceramics in our collection. Thanks to a grant from the Decorative Arts Trust, conservation of the shell box grotto was also completed.



YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS OUR MISSION OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY, AND PRESERVING THIS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. WE HOPE YOU'LL RENEW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!

AT STENTON, EVERY GIFT COUNTS. MAKE YOUR IMPACT TODAY.

Volunteer — Opportunities include leading tours as a docent, helping with our educational and public programs, caring for our Colonial Revival Garden, and more!

Contact Rachel Corma at programs@stenton.org for more information.

Make a one-time gift — Use the enclosed remittance envelope, donate online, or use our convenient ACH form on our website to set up automatic donations from your account. Visit www.stenton.org/donate to download the form or make an online donation.

Become a monthly donor — Check the "recurring gift" box when donating online to make an automatic gift on your credit card each month, or use the ACH form found on our website to set up automatic donations from your account.

Stenton is administered by the NSCDA/PA, an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

STENTON PARTICIPATES
IN

#GIVINGTUESDAY™
SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 3RD

FURNITURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPOSES THE INSIDE DETAILS

During the collections cataloging project's second year, the Stenton curatorial team continued updates and enhancements to the collections database. A major facet was a photography project for Stenton's furniture collection in collaboration with conservator and photographer Christopher Storb.

Over the course of several weeks, Chris and Curatorial Assistant Kaila Temple turned the parlor and yellow lodging room into photo studios to document Stenton's furniture highlights. Chris photographed forty-one pieces of furniture, which will soon be available online as part of Stenton's public collections database. Many of the objects had never been professionally photographed.

As a furniture conservator and maker, Chris paid special attention to the construction of each piece. The detailed shots are exhaustive, and Stenton's online furniture catalog will stand out for the level of detail accessible to furniture enthusiasts. These images capture wood grain, carving, dovetails, and interior case construction.



Desk and Bookcase photographed open, revealing details not usually on display.

the complexity and craftsmanship of this desk and bookcase. The exhaustive photo documentation that will be available in Stenton's online catalog offers digital visitors a view of the object usually only seen by curators and researchers.

Stenton's distinguished furniture collection is a highlight of the house, not necessarily the focus of a standard tour. These photos offer the public a new view into these objects and showcase their fascinating features. Stenton and the NSCDA/PA are grateful to the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II, the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, and Jay Stiefel, for their generous support of this project.



Blade fragment used as a spring lock.

Many online decorative arts catalogs offer overall images of objects, but rarely include details of ornamentation and construction. These features can be crucial in attributing objects to specific makers, regions, or patrons. Many of these important craft features are evident only when drawers are removed from cases, or when a slip seat is removed from a chair. The aim of the cataloging project at Stenton is to create a resource useful to both scholars and the general public, and these new photographs will prove captivating to online audiences.

Chris' commitment to documenting the individual details of each object led to new discoveries about Stenton's furniture. A spring latch holding the prospect compartment in place within the c.1725-1735 mirror-front desk and bookcase in the parlor was revealed to be a piece of an old saw, likely from the shop of the cabinetmaker who created the piece. This feature was only identified when Chris used his smartphone to take a picture deep within the desk. The desk and bookcase photos also reveal the volume and placement of its many secret compartments, largely camouflaged to the naked eye. There are few opportunities outside of special programs to fully appreciate



Dovetail and peg construction detail on seat frame of Logan Queen Anne chairs.

PEW CENTER FOR ARTS AND HERITAGE AWARDS \$300,000 GRANT TO STENTON

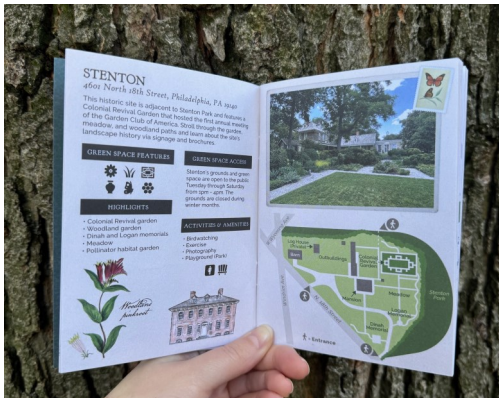


In September, The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage awarded a \$300,000 Exhibitions and Public Interpretation grant to Stenton for the project “Wrestling with Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery.” Over two years, this project will create an interpretive framework and new exhibits, tours, and programs built with input and expertise from scholars as well as diverse perspectives from local communities, which will rebalance our narratives and contextualize the history of slavery at Stenton.

“Wrestling with Justice” will challenge visitors’ prevailing views that slavery was a Southern phenomenon and address audiences’ void in understanding Northern slavery. “Wrestling with Justice” also addresses the misconception that Quakers were strictly abolitionists. The Logans enslaved, indentured, and manumitted people, reflecting Quakers’ complex attitudes toward slavery. The updated interpretive plan will illuminate the community that lived and labored on the property in the 18th and 19th centuries, whose stories have been largely neglected during Stenton’s 125-year history as a house museum.

“Wrestling with Justice” will also create new exhibits in Stenton’s garret, which served as living quarters for enslaved and indentured workers, while rethinking the presentation of Stenton’s first and second floors using objects, primary sources, and potentially new interventions throughout the museum and landscape. These interventions will bring presence to the largely invisible labor force, opening visitors’ eyes to all the people who populated the site, not just the owners. In contrast to the historic house tendency to segregate stories of the enslaved in service spaces, Stenton seeks to make slavery and labor visible throughout the house and landscape.

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN: ACTIVATING GREENSPACES



Stenton’s page in the Stamp Rally booklet.

This summer, thanks to a grant from the William Penn Foundation, Historic Germantown (HG) introduced a Stamp Rally competition and invited visitors to explore the greenspaces at all 19 Historic Germantown sites. Each site installed a branded bird house to hold the Stamp Rally booklets, filled with colorful pages describing the sites’ gardens, grounds, and natural features. Blank pages are reserved in the back of the booklet for participants to collect a unique stamp at each location. Participants who collected all 19 stamps were eligible for a prize!

Historic Germantown also distributed funds from the William Penn Foundation grant to support activities encouraging more casual use of member sites’ greenspaces.

On your next visit, try out the four new adirondack chairs by the garden, funded by this initiative. Stenton’s Second Saturday programming offered many opportunities to learn about and explore our garden, meadow, and grounds. In May, visitors participated in a guided foraging walk in the meadow and made blossom butter from native plants. The Xerces Society led an urban pollinators walk in June, educating participants about native bees and how we can help create habitat for them in the city. And in October, the In Color Birding Club hosted a birdwatching program at Stenton. These greenspace initiatives enticed more than 275 adults and children to visit Stenton this summer, just to enjoy the outdoors.



Stenton neighbor Alvina Brown and staff enjoy the new adirondack chairs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH SCHOOLS AND SECOND SATURDAYS

It has been a great year for Stenton as we continue to strengthen community bonds and make new connections!

Serving our Youth

Stenton's relationship with Logan Elementary School continues to grow! We are members of the Logan Elementary Community Partnership Group, composed of local youth programs, Jefferson-Einstein Hospital, LaSalle University, Germantown Friends, and city officials, working together to ensure a bright future for Logan's students. Stenton is now the host for the opening and closing school year meetings, cementing the relationship between Logan Elementary and James Logan's family home.

This year, Stenton and the NSCDA/PA ramped up support of the school's annual Scholastic Book Fair, with Dames providing financial support that enabled 100 students to take home books and school supplies at no cost to their families. In addition, Stenton staff helped run the Scholastic Book store, read to students during literacy week, manned the games and activities at Logan's Harvest Festival and field days, planted trees around the building, and helped clean the school ahead of the students' return. We were excited to share this relationship with educators around the country when they visited as part of the National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference, held in Philadelphia last year. Stenton's Community Engagement Coordinator, Stephanye Watts, continues to lead these efforts, and her exceptional work was recognized by the City of Philadelphia and the School District when she received the 2024 Community School Award in June.

Stenton also welcomed the 2024 class of the Museum of the American Revolution's Living History Youth Summer Institute to our site as part of their six-week program. LHYSI supports young adults interested in interpreting the lives of people of African ancestry in the Revolutionary era and involves guest speakers, research projects, and field study. The course prepares participants to explore careers in cultural heritage, museum, and theater fields. This is our second year partnering with LHYSI and we look forward to continuing this association.

Second Saturdays

Second Saturdays, an initiative created by Historic Germantown, seeks to make Northwest Philadelphia a destination



Eat Right Philly leading a healthy cooking demo as part of Stenton's July Second Saturday programming.



Logan Elementary's Community Schools Coordinator, Eli Prosper, and Stenton staff at the Scholastic Book Fair

spot for locals, transplants, and tourists by offering special programming and free house tours to all who visit between May and October. During the 2023 season, Stenton joined arms with community groups, local businesses, and community members for the first time to create engaging, culturally relevant, and family friendly afternoons for our near neighbors, giving our partners the responsibility of planning programs and activities. This year, we were excited to host new partners, including Feeding Philly (a volunteer corps of Central High students fighting food insecurity) and the In Color Birding Club (a bird watching club led by Black residents).

STENTON PROGRAMS

It was another fun-filled and educational year of programming at Stenton! From family-friendly events, like the Halloween-Harvest Festival, to history lectures and nature-based activities, our programs appealed to a wide range of audiences. This year, in keeping with the emphasis on community engagement, we offered far more programs with neighborhood partners, both on and offsite. We are grateful to all our partners and supporters who ensure that we can provide almost all programs, free of charge. To learn more about Stenton's upcoming programs, and to RSVP, visit www.stenton.org/programs.



Kids in costume enjoying crafts at the annual Halloween Harvest Festival!



Dinah Memorial artist Karyn Olivier offered a design update and sneak peak of the memorial to Dinah Memorial Project community partners prior to the unveiling.



Heroic Gardens, a local veterans mental health organization, hosted the first annual Veterans and Caregivers Wellness Day at Stenton. Veterans practiced yoga, forest bathing, and mala-making.



From May through October, Stenton participated in Historic Germantown's Second Saturdays, offering free tours and special community programming each month. In October, In Color Birding Club led birdwatching.



In partnership with Wyck, Historic Germantown, and the Germantown Friends Free Library, Stenton hosted a book talk and signing with historian Catherine McNeur for her new publication "Mischievous Creatures".

2024-25 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER				
26	Sat	Halloween Harvest Festival	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
NOVEMBER				
8	Fri	The Logan Awards Dinner Fundraiser	6:00pm	National Constitution Center
DECEMBER				
7	Sat	Holiday Tea	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
JANUARY				
20	Mon	MLK Day of Service Landscape Clean up	TBD	Stenton
APRIL				
12	Sat	Egg Hunt	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
26	Sat	Dinah Day	TBD	Stenton
MAY				
8	Thur	Garden Party	5:00–7:00pm	Stenton
10	Sat	Second Saturday	12:00–4:00pm	Stenton

LAYERING THE LANDSCAPE



Recent planting projects will enhance the distinctive character of Stenton’s greenspaces. Thanks to a grant from the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America, Stenton installed hundreds of colorful new plantings around the Dinah Memorial (*left*). And with support from the Hardy Plant Society, Landscape Manager Dawn Reid and volunteers planted 365 native plants in the meadow and woodland edge to combat invasive species, increase biodiversity, and provide habitat and educational opportunities (*right*).



STENTON STAFF
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dennis Pickeral
 CURATOR: Laura Keim
 DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Rachel Corma
 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Stephanye Watts
 CDA, CHAPTER II CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Kaila Temple
 FACILITIES MANAGER: Kenneth Robinson
 SITE MANAGER: Jeff Eckel



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The NSCDA/PA has administered Stenton since 1899.