

Table 7

Servants of James and Sarah Logan

Indentured Servants

John Pickford (Pitchford):	1725-1729	(WLMM) ¹	
Humphry Machy:	1718-1722	(JLAB, ²	p. 303)
John Begland:	1718-1722	(JLAB,	p. 303)
Patrick (a boy):	1718-1723	(JLAB,	p. 303)
Grace Ward:	1718-1722	(JLAB,	p. 314)
Ja. Hutchinson:	1719-1720	(JLAB, ³	p. 406)
Daniel Henderson	1723-1724	(JLL,	pp.129B,140B,145B)
D. Henderson's Wife:	1723-1724	(JLL,	pp.129B,140B,145B)
D. Henderson's Son:	1723-1724	(JLL,	pp.129B,140B,145B)
"A Palatine Serv ^t man":	(1723-)	(JLL,	p.140A)
Phebe Dickenson "housekeeper"	(1748)	(JLW, ⁴	p.524)

Servants

Jenkin David:	(JLAB, p.349)
J. David's Wife:	(JLAB, p.349)
John Steers, Plantation Manager	(JLAB, p.148)
Jane ye spin ^r	(JLL, p.140A)
Peter Shienkmiere "my servant"	(JLL, pp. 178A, 180)

Miscellaneous Hired Hands or Tenant Farmers

Thomas M Ghee	(JLAB, p.380)
Thomas Howard	(JLAB, p.380)
Clement Plumsted's Negroes	(JLL, p.229A)
James Boyd, Moses, Jno.Dixy	(JLL, p.140A)
Stephen Alkinson "yeoman"	(JLAB, p.299)
Thomas Armstrong	(JLW, p,524)
Jared Irwin "farmer"	(JLW, p.524)

Slaves

Diana	(JLAB p.374)
Menah: owned by Sarah, left to Hannah Smith	(HLC) ⁵

John Dickey and Reed
Engle, Historic Structure
Report for Stenton,
1982.

Table 8

Servants of William and Hannah Logan

Indentured Servants

Edward Jones (boy): 1754-1763 (WLJB, ¹ p.96)
"A Dutch Boy": 1741 (WLJA, ² p.18)

Servants

*Mary (Hannah's "citchen maid") (TFL, ³ p.90)
*Mary Houlton, "Housekeeper" (TFL, p. 8)
Mary Rothwell, "servant maid" (TFL, p. 7)
Betty (TFL, p.29)
John Davis "overseer at Stenton" (SLF 2/27/1777⁴, TFL, p.29)
Molly (SLF 2/27/1777)
Jno. Scotton (boy) (TFL, p.29)

(William's manservant who lived in house and had been with him "many years" in 1756: William Logan to John Churchman, 8/19/1756, Maria Dickinson Logan Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

Jacob Comfort (hired to fill position noted above; Smith manuscripts, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol.7, p. 83, William Logan to J. Smith, April 7, 1767).

*Catherine Phillips (wet nurse for James) (TFL, p.8)
*Ann Durburrow (wet nurse for William) (TFL, p.8)
*Left annuities in William or Hannah's will.

Slaves

Roger Rowe ("servant man") (TFL, p.23)
Thomas (boy) (TFL, p.23)
Robert Southam (set free in William's will) (TFL, p.23)
Dinah (owned by Hannah, set free and paid by 1777) (TFL, pp.3, 30)
Bess, (Dinah's daughter, set free before 1772) (TFL, p.3)
Cyrus (Bess's daughter, believed set free by 1777) (TFL, p.3)
Priamus (owned by Hannah, given to Dr. Shippen, but bought and set free in Hannah's will) (TFL, p.98)

Miscellaneous Hired Hands

"Washerwoman" (TFL, p.30, WLJA, 1751)
ye painter at Germantown (WLJA, p. 250)
two dutch men...Scouring the Great Ditch (WLJB, p. 107)
Dutch Philip for glazing two hot bed...lights (WLJB, p. 108)

Tenant Farmer

Mathew Potter (1748)

Philadelphia, In
Acco. of my Plantation House Dr

1723

3 ^m 22	172	To Cash paid Geo. Fitzwater for a Sledge	8		
5 ^m 5	180	To Ditto p. for digging the Cellar	8		
6 ^m 17	188	To Isaac Pemberton for a Saw	19		4 19 4
7 ^m 26	198	To Cash paid Clement Plumsted for ye hire of his Negroes	8		3 19 4
8 ^m 4	203	To Ditto p. Thomas Lott	9		4 7 6
		To Mr. James abrid. in p. of 12 p. for Dan. Henderson	129		1 15 0
1724 2 ^m 12	307	To Sundry Acco. ^{ts}			5 0 0
14	308	To Acco. ^{ts} Nails	198		1 16 6
	318	To Sundry Acco. ^{ts}			2 6 2
6 ^m 4	333	To Cash paid James Toop	244		2 6 2
		[Transferred to the other Side]			6 12 6
					38 5 10

1724

Sloop MARY my half in Comp. wth Lawrence Dr

8 ^m 31	280	To Thomas Lawrence for my half of £ 684. 18. 4 1/2 by cost of Sloop	167		3 12 9 24
1726 11 ^m 24	412	To Thomas Lawrence for ft ^s of Horse from a poquimauc	245		63 13 13
12 ^m 27	417	To John Ashew's Steel Acco. for Insurance on H ^o to Surinam	25		36 14 3
					44 0 5

1724

Voyage on the Sloop Mary to Surinam Dr

8 ^m 31	280	To Sundry Acco. for my half of her Loading Comp. to Dan. Nichol			37 5 6
		To foot of the Sloop's Acco. above			44 10 5

James Logan's 1720s Ledger

"To Cash paid Clement Plumsted for ye hire of his Negroes"

5717 19 70 Summary Acco^t for Goods sold him..... 60 1 8 -

5720 Acco^t of Negroes 2 15 8
..... 16 2 8

871^o 22 45 To Cash paid for a Negroe boy Jack & a Negroe girle Arimina 3 \$ 42 13 4

1 1 4 To Acco^t of Rock for Annibal Mingoe Diana & Ben..... 11 100 -

721 6^o 28 81 To Sam^l Preston for ye Duty of Jack & Arimina..... 34 9 -

727 5^o 26 151 To Cash paid Jos. Jones of Carolina for Jack or John at Plantation..... 273 40 -

To Bro^r Read for Duty of said Negroe 163 5 -

196 13 4

James Logan's 1720s Ledger

"Account of Negroes....

To Cash paid for a Negroe boy Jack & a Negroe girle Arimina

To Acco[un]t Of Rock for Annibal Mingoe Diana & Ben

To Sam[uel] Preston for ye Duty of Jack & Arminia

To Cash paid Jos[eph] Jones of Carolina for Jack or John at Plantation

To Bro[ther] Read for Duty of said Negroe"

333: 31 Aug 1723, JL Phila to Gibbons and Allen at
Carolina

‘I at present take the liberty to consign to you a Negro boy of mine of whom I [?] very good service being both able and willing to work but that his manhood rousing upon him he has happened unluckily to direct his Inclination to the wrong colour and Servants at the Plantation where he lived being generally of the fairer sort his company was no longer tolerable there nor did I think fitt to keep him anywhere in the Province.

The Lad really deserves a good price being strong and ambitious in other respects besides ye above [hinted?] to do ye work of a man ye same humour has also led him into some knowledge of his Letters.

James Logan Letterbook 1717-1731. (HSP)

One of the Overseers inform'd the Meeting that a Negro Slave hath been lately purchas'd by William Logan on his wife Will^m. Brown & Daniel Stanton are appointed to visit them thereupon & to give them such Advice as the Occasion requires.

March 25, 1757

“One of the Overseers inform'd the Meeting that a Negro Slave hath been lately purchas'd by William Logan...”

Philadelphia Monthly Meeting Records (1757-1762); Haverford College Library.

D Sally -

2^d day afternoon -

I send by Thomas who is coming with
Nurse Noble Trunks &c, a white peacock with a
Common Pea Hen - Let them be put in one of your
have order ~~loops~~ traps made under the shed in the hen
before yard where the geese used to be kept & let them be fed
every day for about 10 days carefully tell they are
got used to the place - Tell Dinah to be sure not to
let them get out or they will go away -

If Lewis the Head Mason comes to work, ask him
whether he can plaster the Green house & whether
he will undertake to do it without leaving it till it
is finished - & how much he will have a yard for
Molly sends by Thomas - 6th Sugar - 1 bottle Mustard
& some flax - I am with love to thy Mother & thy
self
Thy Affect Father
Wm Logan

Letter from William Logan to daughter Sally Logan

"Tell Dinah to be sure not to let them [the white peacock and common pea hen] get out or they will go away -"

Logan Collection #383, Box 6, Folder 5, William Logan Correspondence, 1733-1761

Prior to 1755, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting stipulated that Friends who imported or purchased imported enslaved Africans should be admonished.

From 1755–1776, the Quakers worked at freeing slaves and became the first Western organization to ban slaveholding. So when William and Hannah Logan purchased Dinah's husband in 1757, the Overseers of the Monthly Meeting appointed William Brown and Daniel Stanton to investigate the Logan's purchase of Dinah's husband.

The Friends appointed to visit Wm. Nisburt & his Sister are continued; also those appointed to visit James Logan.

The Friends appointed to confer with Wm. Logan & his Wife brought in the following Narrative of the State of the Case relating to them which was read & directed to be entered on the Minutes the Meeting appearing satisfied therewith;

Agreeable to the Minute of the Monthly Meeting we have endeavoured to gett a Narrative of the Case which induc'd Wm. Logan or Wife to purchase that Negro; she had a Negro Girl born in her Fathers Family & after some time a young man of the same Family had a desire to take her for his Wife & propos'd it to her Master & Mistress who consented & they were married & had Children, but since her Father, George Comlen died, the Man was sold out of the Family & he prov'd tender & unhealthy & the Purchaser determin'd to sell him again & sent him to seek himself a Master who came to his Wife's Master & Mistress & begg'd hard for them to buy him, but they being one with Friends in the concern to discourage the Importation of Negroes refus'd to buy him, & advis'd him to go to his Father who was able to free him & he went but his Father would not do it, & the Man was in much Trouble fearing he should be sold far from his Wife & Children into a strange Family the which prevail'd on Wm. Logan's Wife to purchase him, but finding it gave Friends more Uneasiness than she expected as the Case was circumstanced & thinking what they had done might be an Encouragement for others to purchase for View of Interest resolv'd to give him the Offer of his Freedom & did so, which he refus'd saying he was not in a State of Health to gett his own Living therefore he chose to live in his present Situation with his Wife.

William Brown
Daniel Stanton

June 24, 1757

Explanation of Purchase

Interesting that the names of the enslaved are not recorded here.

Dinah's husband was sold out of the Emlen family when George Emlen died. His purchaser wanted to sell him again due to his ill health. He begged William and Hannah Logan to buy him so he could be with Dinah.

Dinah's husband refused the offer of freedom because his poor health prevented his earning a viable living. "...he chose to live in his present Situation with his Wife."

The Logans were neither disowned nor partially disowned by the Meeting because their purchase was in its own way a humanitarian act.

*“And I do hereby give further unto my said Wife [Hannah Emlen Logan] as her own property the **negroe Woman Dinah** and her **Grand Child Cyrus**, having already set her **Daughter Bess** free and desire they may not be dunned or valued as part of my Estate my said Wife’s Father George Emlen deceas’d having given Dinah to her in his Life time.”*

William Logan, Will, 1772.

Be it known to Whom it May Concern; That
We William Logan & Hannah Logan of the City
of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania
having been possessed of a Negro Woman named
Dinah from the time of her Childhood & she
having Requested us to let her have her Freedom
~~That we should~~

We therefore do hereby discharge Manumit and
set free the said Negroes Woman Dinah
and declare Her to be at full liberty to go and
live with Whom & Where she may please, and
We hereafter shall claim No property in Her.
Witness Our Hands this 15th day of April

1776
Sealed & Delivered
in the presence of
John Morris

Wm Logan
Hannah Logan

Judith Davis
Hugh Roberts

Release from Bondage

William Logan & Hannah Logan

Negro Woman named Dinah

April 15, 1776

Recorded in the Book kept
by the Monthly Meeting of
Philadelphia for recording of Manu-
=missions Oct. 2.

John Stricker

“Release from Bondage,” Dinah’s Manumission, April 15, 1776

I *Hannah Logan* — of the *City of Philadelphia*
 do hereby
Widow —
 set free from bondage, my *Negro Boy named Cyrus*
 when *he* shall arrive at the age of *twenty one* years which
 will be on the _____ day of the _____ month,
 anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred *and*
 and do, for myself, my executors and administrators, release
 unto the said *Cyrus* _____ all my right, and all
 claim whatsoever, as to *his* _____ person, or to
 any estate *he* may acquire, hereby declaring the said *Cyrus*
 _____ absolutely free, without any inter-
 ruption from me, or any person claiming under me. In wit-
 ness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this *fourteenth*
 _____ day of the *Twelfth Month* in the year of our Lord,
 one thousand seven hundred and *seventy six*

Sealed and delivered }
 in the Presence of }
Thomas Fisher
Nicholas Waln

Hannah Logan



Cyrus' manumission December 14, 1776
 Note that it is a pre-printed form.

As Executor to William Logan's estate, his son-in-law, Thomas Fisher, recorded in August, 1777, "Negro Dinah was **paid her wage** in full -- £12."

much am I obliged to you all for your kindness to my dear
little boys, I am glad they are so good, and I rely on
Dinah's attention to Gustavus, please to remember me to the
good old Woman — Albanus's Postscript gave us great plea-
sure his little Cousins talk of him frequently & are quite
sorry he did not accompany us, I have a great many
things to tell him. — poor Molly Rhoads! I am sorry to
hear she is ill. I had hoped some favourable symptoms

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris – October 21, 1789

“... and I rely on Dinah's attention to Gustavus, please to remember me to the good old Woman —”

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #1, 1780– 1794

I could make many reflections and remarks on Virginia had
I believe, it is a fine fertile Country hereabouts. James River
is very beautiful it is not very deep, I have crossed it four
times in a canoe, pushed, or rather poled over, at first I thought
it dangerous, but at last was quite at ease, Sister Molly is
somewhat afraid but takes her baby over whenever she visits
on the other side. — Charles has a great many slaves
and I believe he is a kind Master to them. — I do
not think I should ever get so accustomed to them as to
live without perpetual regret in a Country where Slavery
has become so necessary to all ranks of People as it is here.

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris – October 21, 1789

“Charles has a great many slaves and I believe he is a kind master to them.— I do not think I should ever get so accustomed to them as to live without perpetual regret in a country where slavery has become so necessary to all ranks of people as it is here.”

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #1, 1780– 1794

I have desired to be affectionately rememb-
to thee, & so does my Dear Doctor Logan, our
children are bravely, but poor Dinah scalded
her foot yesterday. Remember me to Joseph
& Betsy, & to the family. Farewell my
Dear Mother. if we are permitted to meet
again without losing any dear connection
how thankful should we be.

27th Sep. 1793. Thy truly affec^d. Daughter
D. L.

Excerpt from Deborah Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris - September 27, 1793

"...but poor Dinah scalded her foot yesterday."

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #1, 1780-1794

Please to give my love to Phebe, I dont think
Algeroon is altogether well, I am afraid he has worms,
Old Dinah presents her duty, and accept that &
affectionate love from thy
D. Logan.

Letter from Deborah Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris - December 27, 1795

"...Old Dinah presents her duty, and accept that &"

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #2, 1795 - 1799

make me rather unwilling to go there. I do not
be uneasy about it, We will endeavour to be quite
sensible.

I think so much of my dear little Algernon
that I could be contented to return Home without
going further merely to enjoy the pleasure of being
him. — I hope good old Dinah will take cloaths enough
for herself & him, I gave her repeated charges.
Will thee be so kind as to reserve some cran-
berries & sweet potatoes for me against my re-
turn, I thought to have left Polly Walsh some money

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris—September 30, 1796

“I hope good old Dinah will take cloaths enough for herself & him [Algernon], I gave her repeated charges.”

Logan Collection #383, Box 6, Folder 10, *Deborah Logan outgoing corresp., 1777-1797*

When we were going to bed had an alarm with
a knocking at the door after 10 at night; upon
inquiring what they wanted a voice begged me to
come down with a light for he had a letter for
Dr L. from the Governor. — I accordingly put on a
morning gown & went down attended by Dinah
& from an apprehension of fear we summoned
Sherman to go with us. — & then we admitted
an old Gentleman who from a Pocket full of letters
selected the one for Dr L. he made me certify
the receipt of the letter & urging me to dispatch

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her Mother, Mary Parker Norris — August 16, 1799?

“I accordingly put on a morning gown & went down attended by Dinah”

Logan Collection #383, Box 6, Folder 6, *Deborah Logan outgoing corresp., 1777-1797*

they are in good health. We often talk of you my dear
boy's and wish for your company. Old Dinah remembers
you with great affection, as also does poor little Maria.
Pray attend to your duties and improvement, it is of great
advantage to review of an evening our conduct & employ-
ments thro' out the day. We are continually in the presence
of an Allseeing God and should

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her sons - February 1st, 18?

"We often talk of you my dear boy's and wish for your company. Old Dinah remembers you with great affection"

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #3, 1800-1808

My most tenderly affectionate Mother

A: Logan

Old Dinah begs me not to forget her love.

Letter from Deborah Norris Logan to her son Albanus Logan -- December 4, 1800

"Old Dinah beg's the[e] not to forget her love."

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; *Logan, Deborah*, Folder #3, 1800-1808

If my letters have not come to hand
they must have been taken to Mr Dick
I sent Maria some cotton seed which
you say nothing about - I now send
some for Dinah which desire her
to plant -

I wrote to you on Saturday by
Mr Dickson fully respecting the matter
but agreeably thereto or otherwise
as you think best -

Letter from George Logan to Deborah Logan — Thursday

“I sent Maria some cotton seed which you say nothing about - I now send some for Dinah which desire her to plant —”

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, George (Dr.), 1800-1808

dined a sudden & violent tornado came on accompanied by
thunder, lightning, Hail & Snow, I thought for a few minutes
that the tree's would have been blown up by the roof's
and damage done to the buildings, but happily we sustained
none, tho' I am afraid some accidents may have happened.
Poor James Crofs was buried yesterday, he was an affectionate
old servant. Our Dinah mourn's after him, but the good
old woman is pretty well in her health.
How much
If thou hears any thing of Maria Logan, do

Letter from Deborah Logan to her son, Albanus — February 3rd, 1803

“Poor James Crofs was buried yesterday, he was an affectionate old Servant. Our Dinah mourn's after him, but the good old woman is pretty well in her health.”

Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, Deborah, Folder #3, 1800-1808

who were in attendance being out of order, and their places supplied
by some of the most distinguished Gibyans.

I have already mentioned that Doctor Logan had the mis-
fortune to lose his father soon after he embarked for England, the
death of his mother followed in a few months; and when he return-
ed to take possession of his paternal estate, he found it little bet-
ter than a wretch, — his house at Stenton had indeed been more
fortunate than many other mansions in the neighbourhood for it had
escaped being burnt by the British soldiers at the time that they filled
Fairhill and sixteen other seats and houses in its vicinity; and it
seemed to owe its preservation to the presence of mind of an old do-
mestic who had remained in it thro' all the vicissitudes of its being
for head quarters to both armies: — on the memorable day that they
committed their wanton depredations, two British soldiers came to the
house, and, as an act of special favour, (said the old woman, if
she possessed a bed or any furniture of her own, to move it out di-
rectly, for they were going to burn the house. She remonstrated, but
they were deaf to her oratory, and went to the barn for some straw
to effect their purpose; happily at that moment, an officer with a
drawn sword in his hand, galloped down the Lane and enquired of
the Domestic if she could give him any intelligence respecting Quarters?

She

a natural and goodhumoured, (not sarcastic) wit, played cheerfully along, and
beguiled you into maxims of wisdom and virtue. The man who could make
the sayings of Poor Richard fashionable in France, must have had no or-
inary power of conversation. (This note to be rewritten in the Copy)

The first written version of the "Saving Stenton" story appeared in Debo-
rah Norris Logan's 1821-22 manuscript sketch of Dr. George Logan.
DNL referred to Dinah as "an old domestic" and an "old woman." She did
not use a name. 18th, 6th mo., 1822. Loudoun Papers, HSP.

*“I had a little nest full [of robins] myself, hatched out in the tree which overshadows **good old Dinah’s** grave and kept Becky [a cat] in with sedulous care while the little ones were learning to fly.”*

Deborah Logan to Sarah Miller Walker, 1827

Loudoun Papers, HSP

“It [Stenton] was used for a short time by General Howe, and at one time was preserved from intended conflagration by the British, by the adroit management of the house-keeper then there, in charge of it.”

John Fanning Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia*, Vol. II,
1844

Country Seats.

portion of it, but the difficulties of the Penn family made it necessary to yield it to others. Jonathan Dickinson bought a part; and a part was given to Andrew Hamilton for useful professional services as a legal counsellor, &c., to the Penn family.

A few country seats were located along the Ridge road, having the rear of their grounds extending back to the beautiful banks of the Schuylkill. Among such were Millin's place, Fritzel's place, Peck's hall, and others. Those named were all set fire to at the same time, by the British—saying, as their excuse, that they could or did serve for look-out shelters for their enemies. Two country seats on Germantown road were also burnt—say Norris' place at Fairhill, and Charles Thomson's at Sommerville.

Stenton, near Germantown, the residence of the Logan family, was originally taken up by James Logan, secretary, &c., of William Penn. The family mansion was built in 1727, in a very superior manner. At one time the fields there were cultivated in tobacco. It was used for a short time by General Howe, and at one time was preserved from intended conflagration by the British, by the adroit management of the house-keeper then there, in charge of it.

Familiar as I have been with the history and manuscript remains of the honoured proprietor, the first James Logan, I approach the secluded shades of Stenton, in which he sought retirement from the cares and concerns of public life, with such emotions as might inspire poetry, or soothe and enlarge the imagination.

In truth, I feel, with Sir Richard Steele, that on such an occasion, "I can draw a secret, unenvied pleasure from a thousand incidents overlooked by other men." A picture of the house, as now seen, is given in this work.

At the present time there are standing some three or four old brick country residences distinguished in their day. One of double front, from the road, in the lot on the northern side of the Arsenal; another stands opposite to the Arsenal, back from the road, having a circular window in the gable-end to the street, and a piazza around the whole square of the building. Another stands at the angle of the ferry-road, below the Arsenal, and shows its circular window to the road. It was built and resided in by Wise, who inherited it from the Swedish family of Cocke. This Wise was the first man to bring Lehigh coal to Philadelphia for experiment. He, bringing what he had, in his saddle-bags, and was laughed out of his hopes therein, on its being tried for ignition in his cousin Dupuy's silver-smith furnace!

Strange to tell, a former country-seat is even now in the centre of Philadelphia! It is No. 2 South Thirteenth street. The same house where the five wheelbarrow men murdered a ~~man~~, and were hung for it, on the Centre square.



Barrington and Hassell.
Logan House at Stenton, near Germantown, p. 477

had been the theatre of war. Sir William Howe, when he held Philadelphia, gave orders to destroy the country seats and other places of obnoxious persons, in its vicinity. In consequence of this, on Saturday, the 22d of November, 1777, the house at Fair Hill and sixteen others, including that at Somerville, then the residence of Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, were burned. By orders of Col. Twistleton, two dragoons came to fire Stenton, telling the negro woman servant there, what they intended to do, and that she could remove her bedding and clothing while they were gone to the barn for straw. An officer, with his command, happening to come up at this time, inquired of the woman if any deserters had been about the place. With the quick apprehension that so often marks the well-trained negro servant, and the fidelity, too, quite as characteristic of them, she told him that at that very moment, two were in the barn. The supposed deserters were at once secured, and notwithstanding their protestation, were carried away as prisoners. The burning of so many buildings naturally excited much remark, and no doubt led to a reconsideration of the orders, which were revoked, and so Stenton was saved. In the movements of the contending armies around Philadelphia, the house was alternately used as head-quarters by Sir William Howe and by General Washington.

Townsend Ward, GERMANTOWN ROAD AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS. 1: PART SECOND. Townsend, Ward The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (1877-1906); 1881; 5, 2; American Periodicals pg. 121.

During the Revolution the important letters which were to present the ancient Pennsylvanians to their descendants in their daily dress were near being lost. The British burned seventeen houses between Philadelphia and Germantown in retaliation for alleged aggressions from some of the houses. They ordered Stenton to be burned and two men came to burn it, and told the housekeeper, a colored woman, to take out her private property while they went to the barn for straw to set the house on fire. A British officer just then rode up, asking for deserters. The housekeeper, with quick wit, replied that they had gone to the barn to hide in the straw. He cried: "Come out! you rascals! and run before me into camp!" They protested and alleged their commissions, but the Logan house, with its important manuscripts, was saved.—Watson's Annals, Vol. II, p. 39, edition of 1857. The faithful colored woman is buried in the garden at Stenton. The old barn of stone still stands.

This Hotchkin version of Dinah's story includes some dialog by the British Officer and draws emphasis to the notion that Dinah saved not only the house but its contents including "important manuscripts." Some of the Colonial Revival language noting that Dinah is "faithful" and "colored" appears here. Dinah's burial place is un-specifically described as "the garden at Stenton."

which are visible the imprints of little child's feet and hands. It is believed that these imprints were made by one of the little Logans.

In the later years of his life James Logan was greatly afflicted, suffering much because of a fall, as well as from other infirmities which were the natural accompaniments of advanced age. He now retired as much as possible from the active cares of life, and spent much of his time in meditation and literary work. In speaking of his death, Mrs. Deborah Logan says:—"He finished his useful and active life at his seat at Stenton, October 31, 1751, having just entered into the 77th year of his age. He was buried in the Friends' Burying Ground, at Fourth and Arch Streets."

After the death of James Logan, his eldest son, William, who was born at Stenton, occupied the ancestral mansion. He married Hannah Emlen, and September 9, 1753, their son, Dr. George Logan, was born. Dr. George Logan married the gifted Deborah Norris, a grand-daughter of Isaac Norris, Senior, the close friend of William Penn. This unusually intelligent and accomplished lady, with her distinguished husband, long presided over the affairs of the Logan estate at Stenton. In their time, within the walls of the stately old mansion were often gathered in social intercourse many of the most distinguished men and women of the period. The literary labors of Mrs. Deborah Logan have been of great importance. In the attic at Stenton, she found, all dusty and neglected, a large amount of James Logan's correspondence. With loving and devoted care she collated and arranged this mass of material, adding such explanatory notes as were necessary. The Penn and Logan correspondence has been published in two volumes, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and has been the means of throwing much light upon the condition of affairs in Pennsylvania during the earlier years of its history.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Dr. Logan was in Europe studying medicine, and the place was in charge of a colored woman named Dinah. She proved herself a "faithful steward", indeed, and on one occasion, by the exercise of her ready wit, she was fortunate enough to be the means of saving the mansion from destruction. After the battle of Germantown, the British, greatly angered at the unexpected resistance they

had met, became very much incensed at those who adhered to the cause of the colonies, and, feeling now secure in the possession of Philadelphia, they commenced to put into effect measures of retaliation. It was determined to destroy a number of estates, and a force of soldiers was detailed for that service. Between Germantown and Philadelphia seventeen important houses were destroyed, one of the most noted of which was Fairhill Mansion, the home of the Norris family, which had been erected by Isaac Norris between 1717 and 1719. At the time of the Revolution it was the home of John Dickinson, who had married Mary Norris, the grand-daughter of Isaac Norris. Dickinson was particularly obnoxious to the British. It is worthy of note that a portion of his library escaped destruction, and became the nucleus of the library of Dickinson College, which institution was founded by John Dickinson.

When the soldiers charged with the destruction of Stenton arrived, Dinah was alone in the house. They informed her of their errand, and told her that they had just burned the house of "that d—d rebel Dickinson." She protested against the destruction, but in vain. They gave her permission, however, to get out her personal belongings, telling her to be quick about it, while they went to the barn to get some straw. While they were in the barn, a British patrol came up and inquired of Dinah if she had seen any straggling soldiers or deserters. "Oh, yes, you will find them in the barn," she said. Despite the vehement protests of the supposed deserters, they were carried-off by the patrol, and no further effort was made to destroy the mansion. Dinah spent the remainder of her days in the Logan family, and at her death she was buried under an old pine tree southeast of the house.

Just previous to the battle of Germantown, Stenton was occupied by General Howe as his headquarters; his guard was stationed on the northern part of the estate, the First Battalion being encamped about where Little Wakefield was afterwards built, and the Second Battalion about where the Reading Railroad cuts through the hill above Fisher's Lane Station.

August 23, 1777, the American army, while on its way to the Brandywine, encamped for a single night at Nicetown, and Washington for the time made his headquarters at Stenton.

Dr. George Logan was a man of considerable prominence and

In 1907, Keyser used the language of the times, the wording that would find its way onto the 1912 bronze memorial. His version of the story is told in dialog with quotes.

MEMORIAL TO A NEGRO WOMAN AT STENTON

Site and Relic Society Will Join With the Colonial Dames and Albanus Logan in Placing a Stone at the Grave of Dinah, Who Frustrated a British Attempt to Burn the Mansion.

*Independent - 7/4 1910
Gazette
Nov. 4, 1910*



1910

GENERAL VIEW OF STENTON AS IT APPEARED IN 1900

One of the markers which the Site and Relic Society proposed to erect soon will be a memorial to a negro woman. She was a servant—probably a slave—of Dr. George Logan, who occupied Stenton, the Logan homestead below Wayne Junction, and by her quick wit she frustrated an attempt of the British military officials to destroy Stenton at the time of the Revolution.

The board of directors of the Site and Relic Society, at a meeting last Friday evening, took action on the matter. The society will co-operate with Albanus Logan, a descendant of the builder of Stenton, and with the Colonial Dames, who now occupy the

building, in the erection of a granite memorial at the grave of the woman, on the Stenton grounds. The Stenton property is now a city park.

James Logan, William Penn's secretary, built Stenton in 1728. It was for a century one of the notable buildings of the neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Dr. George Logan, the owner at the time of the Revolution, was then in Europe, and the place was in charge of a negro woman named Dinah. The story of how Dinah saved Stenton is told thus in the "History of Old Germantown":

After the battle of Germantown, the British, greatly angered at the unexpected resistance they had met, became very much incensed at those who adhered to the cause of the colonies, and, feeling now secure in the possession of Philadelphia, they

commenced to put into effect measures of retaliation. It was determined to destroy a number of estates, and a force of soldiers was detailed for that service.

Between Germantown and Philadelphia seventeen important houses were destroyed, one of the most noted of which was Fairhill Mansion, the home of the Norris family, which had been erected by Isaac Norris between 1717 and 1719. At the time of the Revolution it was the home of John Dickinson, who had married Mary Norris, the granddaughter of Isaac Norris. Dickinson was particularly obnoxious to the British.

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house of "that rebel Dickinson." She protested against the destruction, but in vain. They gave her permission, however, to get out her personal belongings, telling her to be quick about it, while they went to the barn for some straw.

While they were in the barn, a British patrol came up and inquired of Dinah if she had seen any straggling soldiers or deserters.

"Oh, yes, you will find them in the barn," she said.

Despite the vehement protests of the supposed deserters, they were carried off by the patrol, and no further effort was made to destroy the mansion. Dinah spent the remainder of her days in the Logan family, and at her death she was buried under an old pine tree southeast of the house.

Faithful Negress' Memorial. A Stone to be Placed On Her Grave at Stenton.

At the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Germantown Site and Relic Society on Friday evening, Dr. Herman Burgin reported that a memorial stone had been made for the grave of Dinah, a negress buried in the graveyard at Stenton. This is to be erected jointly by the Site and Relic Society and the Colonial Dames. Arrangements for the dedication have not yet been made.

December 6, 1912, an article in *The Germantown Independent Gazette* reported that the Memorial was ready to be set up.



In memory of
DINAH
 the
 Faithful Colored Caretaker
 of Station
 who by her quick thought
 and presence of mind
 saved the mansion
 from being burned
 by British Soldiers
 in the winter of 1777

STANTON PARK, ST.

COURTLAND - WYOMING - 16th & 18th St's

4-5-34

1934

*the Home
 of the Sage
 of Stenton ...*



... Saved by quick-witted Caretaker

WHILE William Penn and his secretary James Logan were traveling to America in 1699, their ship, according to legend, was attacked by pirates. Penn's principles forbade resistance but Logan successfully defended the vessel.

As Penn's confidential adviser, the scholarly Logan wielded great influence in Pennsylvania, in time becoming governor of the colony and mayor of Philadelphia. His home in what is now Germantown was started in 1728 and was named Stenton after his father's birthplace in Scotland. In his own words, he was obliged to spend much time at home, "being wholly reduced to a pair of crutches and Sedentary Life by a fall off my feet." Nevertheless, the curtailment of his physical activity enabled him to devote himself to writing and to his remarkable library.

Logan was exceedingly friendly with the Indians who used to stay at Stenton for long periods, lining the staircase at night or camping in the maple grove. Because of his admiration for Logan, Chief Wingohocking proposed that they exchange names in the Indian custom. Instead, Logan suggested that the chief's name be given to the stream that flowed through the property so that "while the earth shall endure" it would be called Wingohocking. The creek, incidentally, has long since gone underground.

Owned by the Logan family for many years, Stenton was Washington's headquarters before the battle of Brandywine. At the battle of Germantown the house fell into British hands and was occupied briefly by General Howe.

Later in 1777 two dragoons arrived in Germantown for the purpose of carrying out orders to burn the homes of patriots in the neighborhood. While they were in the stable gathering straw to start a fire in Stenton, a party of soldiers came looking for deserters. Dinah, the Negro caretaker, promptly told them that two suspicious men were lurking in the barn and despite their indignant protests the two dragoons were seized. Seventeen houses had been burned, but thanks to Dinah, Stenton was saved.

Now the property of the city of Philadelphia and under the custody of the Pennsylvania Society of The Colonial Dames of America, this important landmark is open to public view.



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Advertisement for THE HOME Insurance Company, 1952
 Stenton Pamphlet Box, Germantown Historical Society Library.



1979

Bronze plaque now in front of herb garden at "Stenton" — erected in 1912.

choice was a wise one.

Following the Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777, the British, now in possession of Philadelphia, became angered by the unexpected resistance they had met in the eastern part of Germantown and Frankford. Under General Howe's orders some 16 houses, including the Dickenson's "Fair Hill," were burned to the ground.⁴ So it was that on November 22nd Col. Twisleton, determined on destruction, came to "Stenton."⁵

There is a lively account of the ensuing encounter of Dinah and the British soldiers. This story rings true and having come down as it doubtless did through several generations of historically-minded Logans, it may well be an almost verbatim account.

Dinah, in charge of "Stenton," was sitting along in the kitchen knitting. She was suddenly startled by a loud knock at the back door. Opening it, she saw two British soldiers.

"Well, Auntie," said one of them in a burly voice, "If you've got any things in the shanty you want to keep, pitch 'em out in a hurry, for we've orders to burn the place down."

"And tell us where we can get some good dry straw," said his companion.

The faithful old servant answered that she supposed they might find some in the barn and went inside with a heavy heart.

Hardly had the two soldiers disappeared inside the barn door when a squad of soldiers came galloping up to the house.

"Have you seen any deserters?" said the officer to the old lady who appeared at the second floor window.

"Oh, yes, Massa" said the quick witted negro woman. "You is just got heah in time. Der's two of the miserable critters a-hiding out dah in de barn now."

The officer and his men rode quickly to the barn and finding the two men put them immediately under arrest. To the

Dinah's story as re-told by Sarah A. G. Smith, NSCDA/PA, 1982.



The granite base was removed from the site as part of the current renovations at the Stenton Park Rec Center between November, 2017 and February, 2018



Mural on YWCA in Germantown. Artists David McShane and Carla Forte used a photograph of Irma for Dinah's likeness. HOW DO WE VISUALIZE A WOMAN WHOSE LIKENESS WE DO NOT KNOW?



Storyteller, Irma Gardner Hammond, Dinah Interpreter in Residence