### Table 7

## Servants of James and Sarah Logan

#### Indentured Servants

John Pickford (Pitchford): Humphry Machy: John Begland: Patrick (a boy): Grace Ward: Ja. Hutchinson: Daniel Henderson D. Henderson's Wife:	1725-1729 1718-1722 1718-1722 1718-1723 1718-1722 1719-1720 1723-1724 1723-1724	(WLMM) 1 (JLAB, (JLAB, (JLAB, (JLAB, (JLAB, (JLL, (JLL,	p. 303) p. 314) p. 406) pp. 129B, 140B, 1458) pp. 129B, 140B, 1458)
D. Henderson's Wife: D. Henderson's Son: "A Palatine Serv <sup>t</sup> man":	1723-1724 (1723- )	(JLL, (JLL,	pp.129B,140B,145B) p.140A)
Phebe Dickenson "housekeepe	er" (1748)	(JLW,4	p.524)

#### Servants

Jenkin David: J. David's Wife:	(JLAB, p.349) (JLAB, p.349)
John Steers, Plantation Manager Jane ve spin	(JLAB, p.148) (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)

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

## Slaves

Diana (JLAB p.374)

Menah: owned by Sarah, left to Hannah Smith (HLC)<sup>5</sup>

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")

\*Mary Houlton, "Housekeeper"

Mary Rothwell, "servant maid"

Betty

John Davis "overseer at Stenton"

Molly

Jno. Scotton (boy)

(TFL, p. 8)

(TFL, p. 7)

(TFL, p. 29)

(SLF 2/27/1777, TFL,p. 29)

(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.

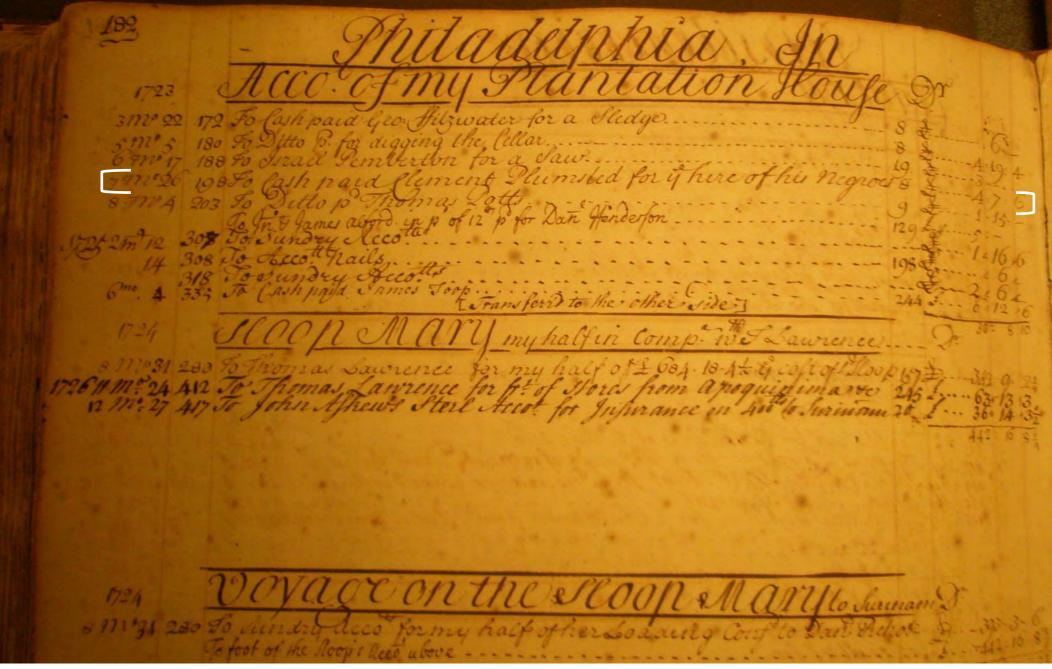
(TFL, p.23) Roger Rowe ("servant man") (TFL, p.23) Thomas (boy) Robert Southam (set free in William's will (TFL, p.23) Dinah (owned by Hannah, set free and paid (TFL, pp.3, 30) by 1777) Bess, (Dinah's daughter, set free before 1772) (TFL, p.3) Cyrys (Bess's daughter, believed set free by 1777) (TFL, 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

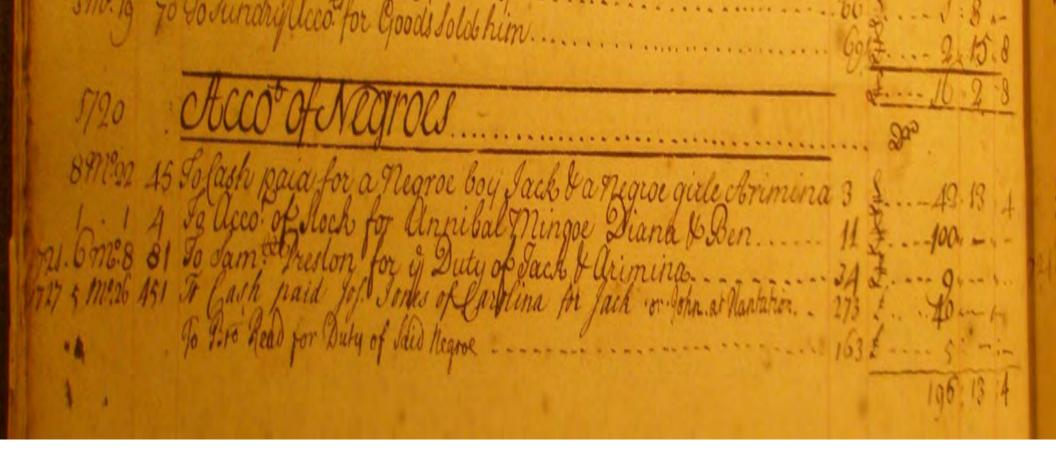
Mathew Potter



James Logan's 1720s Ledger

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

Historical Society of Pennsylvania



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

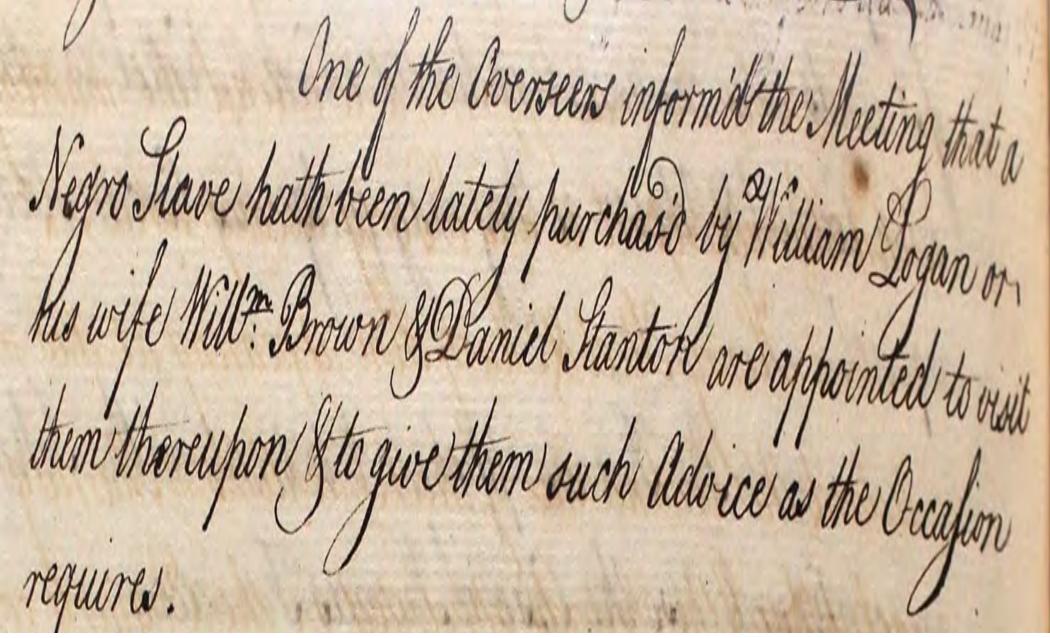
To Cash paid Jos[eph] Jones of Carolina for Jack or John at Plantation

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.



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.

Fally -2 day afternoon Nurse Noble Trunk to, alwhite peacoch with a Common Deasten - Let them be put in one of y recens foops thatis made under the Thes in the other fire your where the Greefe was to be Kept I let them before lung day for about to days Carefully tell they are God weed to theplace - Tell Dinich to be June note let them get out or they wile go away of Lewis the Head major former to Works, ask him Whether he lamplaister they green house thether he will underlake to do it without leave git tillet is finished - those much he wile have a fait ford. Molly Sends by Thomas - 6# Lugar - 1 bothe mustand - Jam with hove to they mother they Thy Afect Father your

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 Mm Wishart & his Sister Wife brought in the following Narrative of the Fate of the Case relating to them which was read & directed to be entire on the Menutes the Meeting appearing ratisfyed therewith: I I greeable to the Minute of the Monthly Meeting ,we have endeavourd to gett a Narrative of the base which inducid Min Logan or Wife to purchase that Negro; she had a Negro Girl born in her Fathers Family & after some time a foung man of the same Family had a desire to take her for hed Wife & proposed it to her Master & Mistrefs who consented they were married & had Children, but since her Father yeorge Comlen died, the Man was sold out of the Family &he sproved tender Sunhealthy & the Surchaser determined to well him again Sount him to seek himself a Master who came to his Wifes Master & Mistrefs & beggids hard for them to buy him, but they being one with Friends in the concern to discourage the Impor station of Negroes refused to buy him, & adviso him to go to his or Father who was able to free him & he went but his father would not do it & the Man was much Trouble fearing he should be sale far from his Wife & Children into a strange Family the which prevailed on Mr. Logaris Wife to purchase him, but finding it gave Friends more Uneaviness than she expected as the the was in neumstaned & thinking what they had done might be an on occur agement for others to purchase for View of Interest revolute to file him the Offer of his Freedom & did so which he refuse Saying he was not in a State of Health to gett his own Living , therefore he chose to live in his present Lituation with his William Brown . glife" Daniel Fanton

## June 24, 1757

## Explanation of Purchase

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

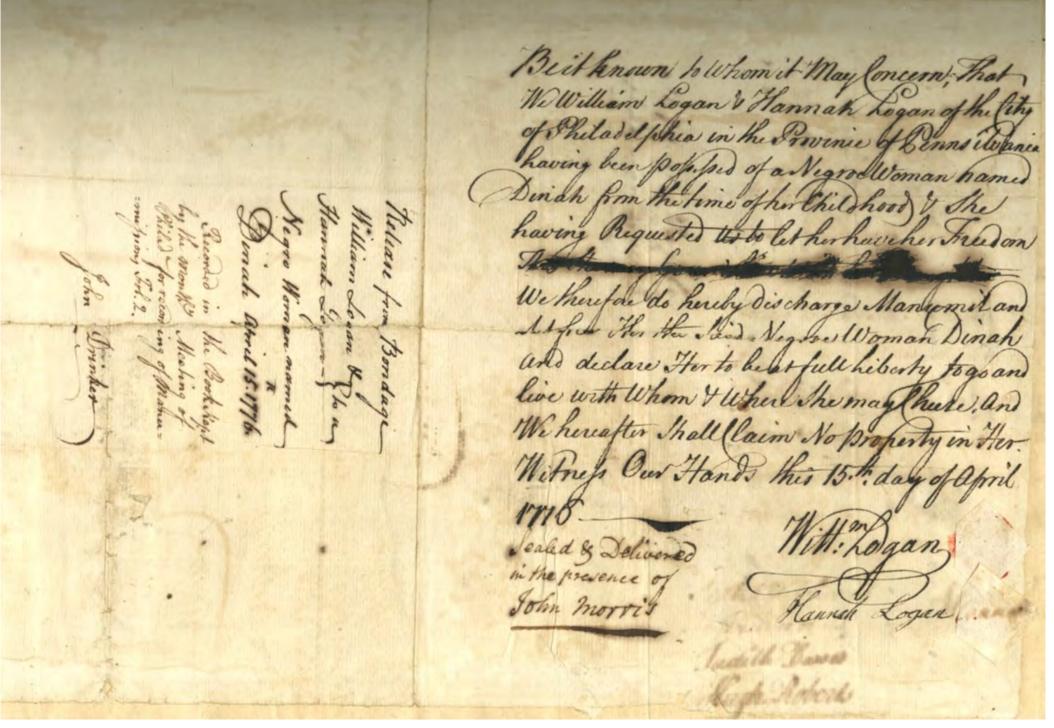
Dinah's husband was sold out of the Emlen family when George Emlen died. His purchaser wanted to sell him again due to his ill health. He begged William and Hannah Logan to buy him so he could be with Dinah.

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.



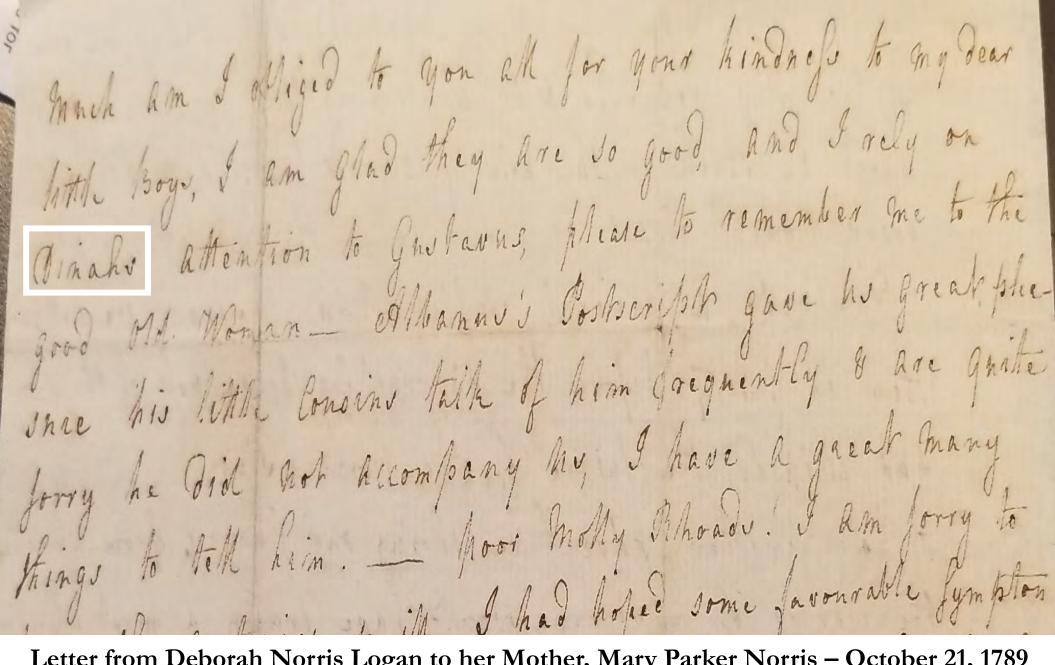
"Release from Bondage," Dinah's Manumission, April 15, 1776 Haverford College Library, Quaker Collection

Hannah Logan of the bity of Philadelphia do hereby set free from bondage, my Negro Boy named Cyrus when he shall arrive at the age of twenty one years which day of the month, will be on the anno Domini, one thousand seven hundred and and do, for myself, my executors and administrators, release unto the faid byrees final all my right, and all person, or to claim whatsgever, as to hu any estate he may acquire, hereby declaring the said byrus absolutely free, without any interruption from me, or any person claiming under me. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this four tenth day of the Twelfth Month in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy six Hannah Logan Sealed and delivered? in the Presence of S

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."



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 conto make many reflections and remarks on virginia had I leisnie, it is a fine fertille louwbry hereabouts. James Briser i very beautiful it is not very Geep, I have crossed it four times in a lance, pulled, or rather hold over at first I though it Gangeron, tot at last was quite at easy Sister Mong is Jomewhat afraid but takes her baby over whenever the vist on the other side. Charles has a great many slaves and I believe he is a hind marter to them. \_\_ I do not think I should ever get so hernitomed to them but to Tive without perpetual regret in a Country where Maver har berome so Greenary At all rawhs 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

Space Coures to be affection attely remember to thee, & Jo does my dear doutor Logan, onr children are bravely, but poor Vinah palded. her foot gutterday. Hemember m to Joseph & Berry, & to the family. fare well my dear mother if we are permitted to mut again Without Tofking any hear connection how thankful should we be. 24th 1/2. 1493. thy truly affect Ornghters O. D.

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

Algernoon is altogether well, I am afraid he has worms Md Binah hrefends her Outy, and accept that & adjutionate 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

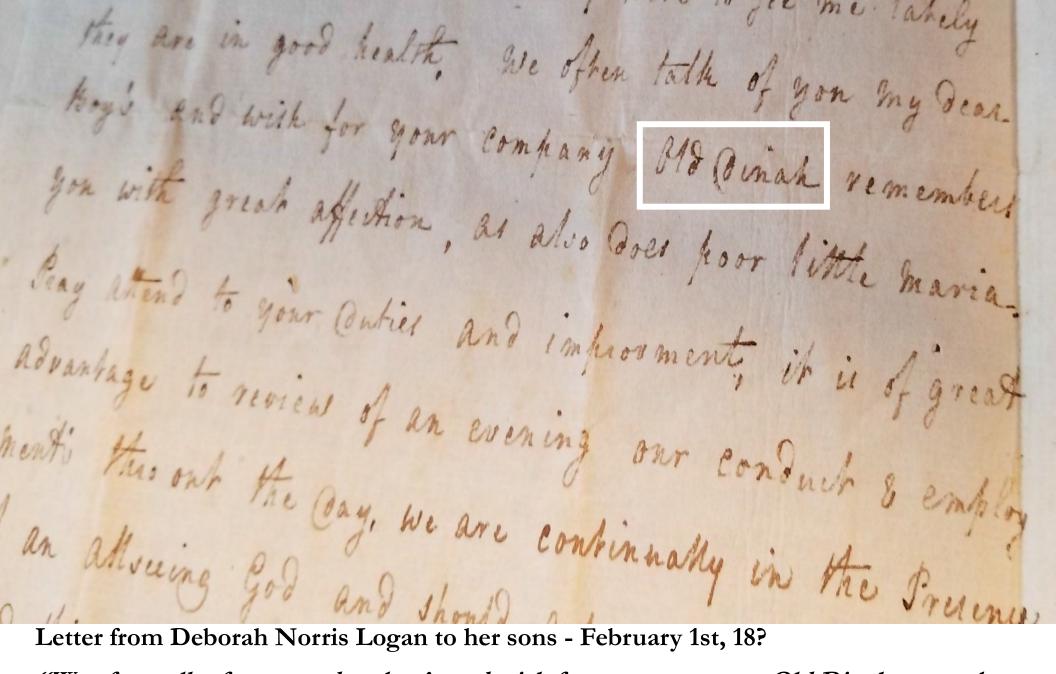
make me mather nowining to go mind no not de harary about he, he will endeavour to be quite I think to much of my dear little Algernoon to return Home without going farther moinly to enjoy the pleasure of being him. I hope good old (binah with take cloaths enough for herself & him, I gave her repeated charges. with thee be for hind as to releave lome evan. terries & sweet potatoes for me against my re. Ann, I thought to have left AMy Walth some honey

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 changes."

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

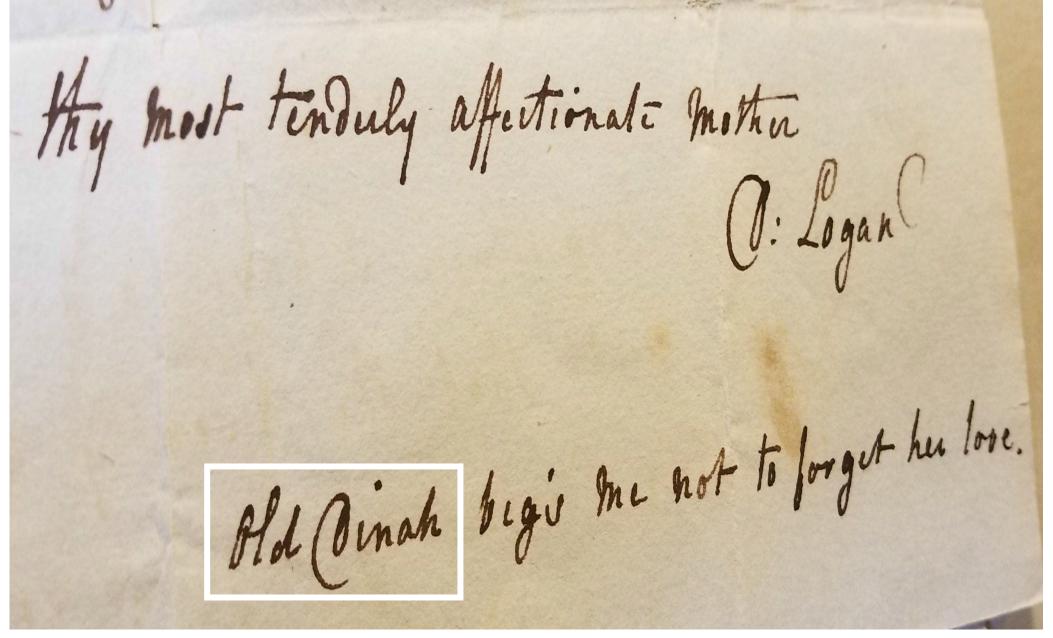
When we were going to Bed had an alarm with a knowling at the Over after 10 at highly whon Engineeing what they wanted a voice begad me le Come down with a light for he had a letter for s Or L. from the Governor. I accordingly put on a morning gown I went down attended by (binah! & from an apprehension of fear we Inmmont Sherman to go with hr. - & then we admitted an old Gentliman who from a Porket fuh of letters Selected the One for Gr. L. he made me certify the Receipt of the letter & hoging 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



"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



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 MDeich Goent Maria some (other out which you say nothing about I now sind same for Dinah which durive her to plant\_ I wrote to you on datanday by M Duhuson fully respecting the mile but agreeably thereto or otherwa as you think lessel

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—"

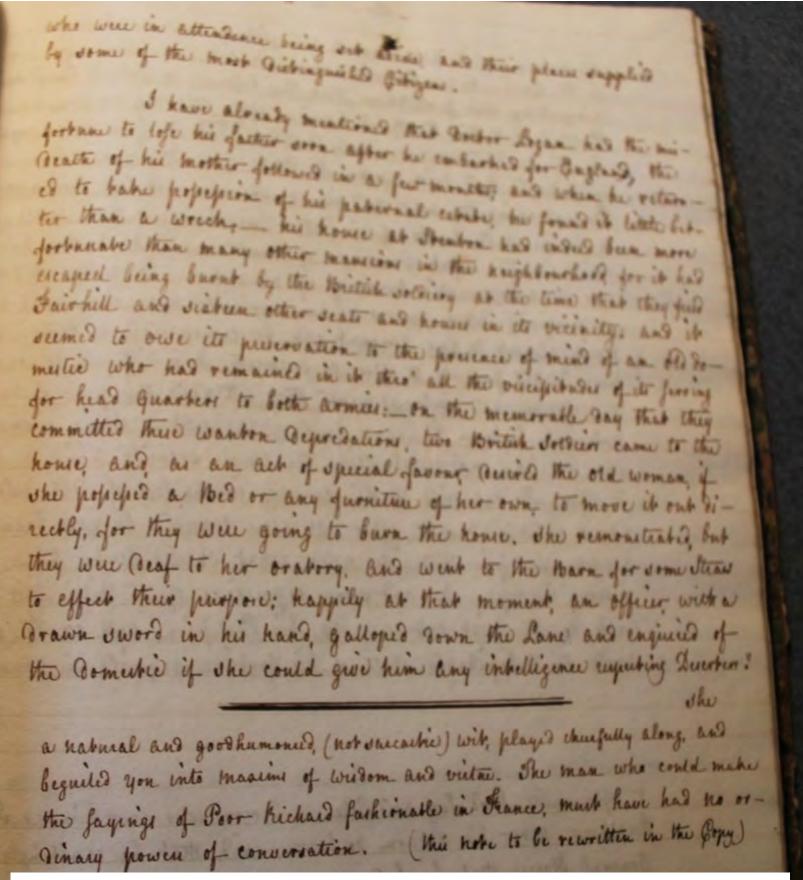
Maria Dickinson Logan Family Papers, Box #2; Logan, George (Dr.), 1800-1808

dined & Jadden & violent tornado came on huompanies thunder, lightning, Hail & Snow, I thought for a few minutes that the tree's would have been blown up by the rook's and Camage done to the Buildings, but happily we surfained hone, tho' I am afraid some huidents may have happened. Poor James Cross was buried yesterday, he was an affectioned Ald Servant. our Olivah monin's after him, but the good If the hears may thing of maria Logan to

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



The first written version of the "Saving Stenton" story appeared in Deborah Norris Logan's 1821-22 manuscript sketch of Dr. George Logan. DNL refered to Dinah as "an old domestic" and an "old woman." She did

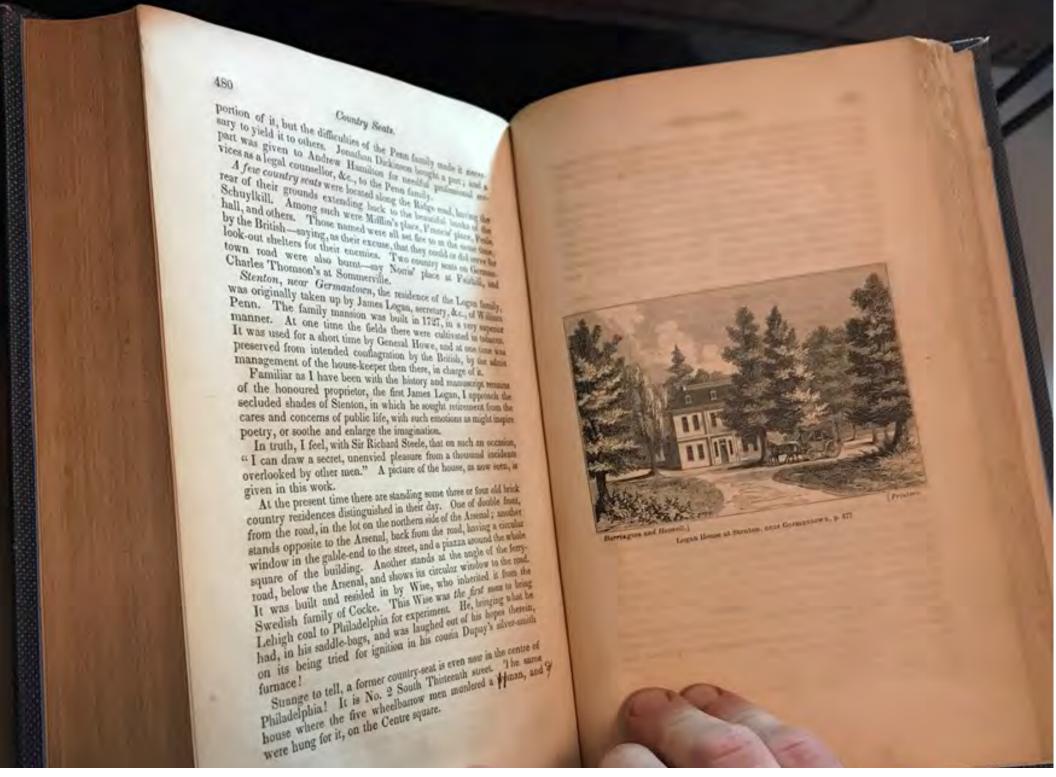
not use a name. 18th, 6th mo., 1822. Loudoun Papers, HSP.

"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 housekeeper then there, in charge of it." John Fanning Watson, Annals of Philadelphia, Vol. II,

1844



Annals of Philadelphia, Vol. II, 1844 [& 1850]

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 During the Revolution their descendants in their daily dress were 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."

It is believed that these imprints were made by one of the little

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.

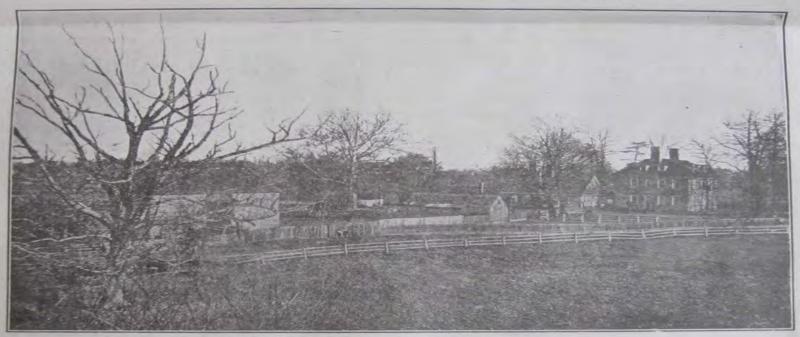
Dr. George Logan was a man of considerble prominence and

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 - 114 1910

May . H . 19 10



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 the possession of Philadelphia, they her that they had just burned the

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

of retaliation. It was determined to destroy a number of estates, and a force of soldiers was detailed for that service.

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building, in the erection of a granite, commenced to put into effect measures; 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.

"Ob, 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 When the soldiers charged with 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.

Independent Gazette Nov 4, 1910 Campbell Collection, Vol 19, HSP

## 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.



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.



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 ahiding 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