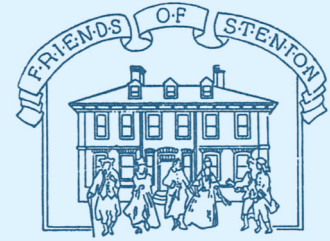


FRIENDS OF STENTON

Newsletter & Appeal

FALL 2025



MAJOR WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT AN EDUCATION CENTER AT STENTON

In August, the William Penn Foundation announced that Stenton was one of fifteen grant recipients in its new *Improving Public Spaces* initiative, the goal of which is to help improve at least one hundred existing public spaces that support recreation, refuge, and social interaction by 2035. The \$450,000 grant was among the largest awarded in the round and will help kick off the NSCDA/PA's *Legacy in Motion* campaign, to create desperately needed room for our award-winning educational programs and an accessible, inclusive, community-driven landscape. This 24-month award, part of the foundation's Environment and Public Space initiative, is a pivotal first step toward transforming Stenton's grounds into a welcoming, inclusive public space and expanding our capacity to serve Philadelphia's young people with award-winning education programs, like *History Hunters* and *Science Sleuths*.

While this funding makes it possible to start the work, it represents only part of the investment needed to complete the project. In the months ahead, we will turn to our community of champions and friends to help carry this vision forward, ensuring that every improvement, from



Visitors crowd into the carriage house section of the wing during the annual Holiday Tea.

expanded learning spaces to accessible pathways, becomes a reality.

Specifically, the grant will fund Phase I improvements to Stenton's historic service wing, carefully transforming it into an Education Center. This first phase of the project focuses on accessibility. Renovations will begin in the center section of the wing to create a new ramped entrance, visitor reception space, and an accessible entryway to the adjacent restrooms, currently on a lower level. The restrooms will undergo a major transformation as well, with an expanded footprint, a partially raised floor connected to the greenhouse, and HVAC controlled spaces.

The Education Center is the cornerstone of a \$5.1 million initiative to revitalize Stenton's site and educa-

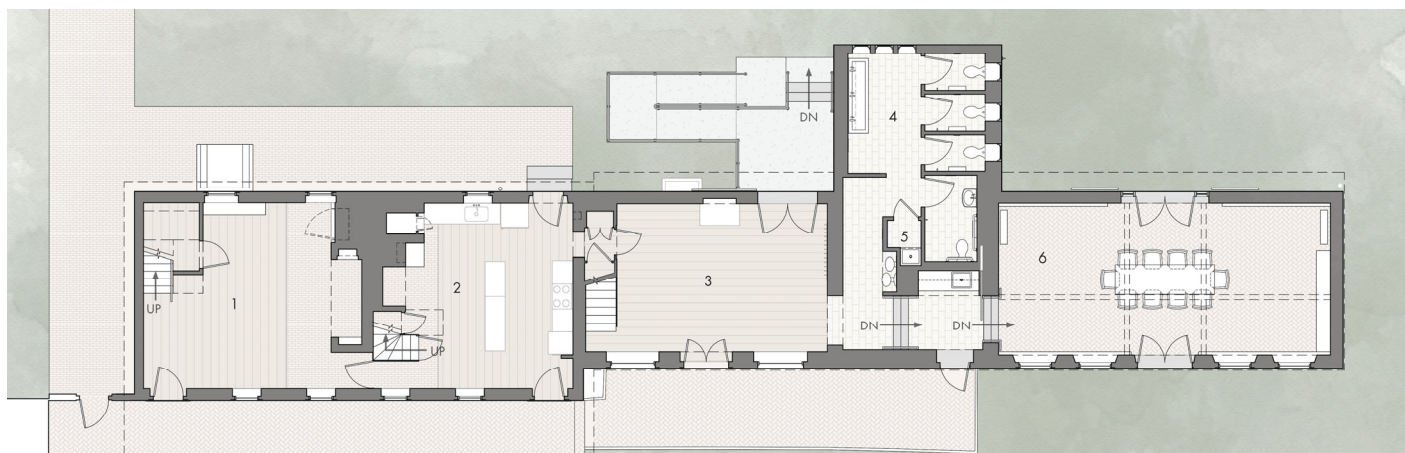
tional infrastructure. Improvements include the first dedicated classroom space in the wing, new staff workspaces, and ADA compliant walkways, visually linking the new Center to the museum.

The need for expanded space is urgent. Currently, programming takes place in small, shared multipurpose rooms with staff desks and site storage—limiting our capacity. These upgrades will expand programming and greatly enhance our ability to serve schoolchildren and community partners. The initiative also includes a landscape plan to transform Stenton's three-acre grounds—once part of James Logan's 511-acre plantation, with improvements designed to break down physical and cultural barriers to access for local youth and families.

(Article continued on page 2)

STENTON EDUCATION CENTER, CONTINUED

Thanks to the William Penn Foundation grant and other generous donations, we have raised \$1.6 million of the \$2.1 million needed to begin the first phase of construction. We hope to break ground early in 2026. Future phases include transforming the carriage house into dedicated classroom space, creating a collaborative workspace for our staff on the second floor, and renovating the kitchen. For more information about how you can support the *Legacy in Motion* Campaign, contact Dennis Pickeral at dennis.pickeral@stenton.org or 215-329-7312.



The ground floor plan of the Stenton Education Center, showing new accessible entrances on the north side of the building, expanded ADA-compliant restrooms, and dedicated education/classroom space.

GREENSPACE ENHANCEMENTS OFFER MORE FOR VISITORS TO EXPLORE

Stenton's landscape continues to evolve and offers new features and experiences for visitors, who can enjoy the Colonial Revival Garden, walk woodland paths at the edges of the landscape, explore the meadow, and visit and reflect at the Dinah and Logan memorials. This year, Stenton installed nine new signs with QR codes in the landscape, which visitors can follow using an online map to learn about the history of the landscape, how we care for it today, and what you can do to help the environment. The project was funded by Historic Germantown, which was awarded a grant from the William Penn Foundation to help activate member sites' greenspaces.



David Brothers Landscape Services planting near the new woodchip path.

In July, Stenton's Garden and Grounds Committee oversaw the completion of a new woodland walk leading from the Dinah Memorial along 18th Street. The Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America funded many new plants in the woods' edge and in a nearby meadow area. Stenton is grateful to the PCGCA's Fertilizer Fund for supporting this and many previous planting projects.

Your Support Makes All This Possible!



✓ AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Stenton's award-winning *History Hunters* field trip program continued in the 2024-25 school year, having served more than **45,000** Philadelphia students over the last two decades! We also partnered with Historic Germantown to pilot *Science Sleuths*, an interdisciplinary program modeled on *History Hunters* that uses HG sites to teach science to 6th - 8th graders.

✓ COMMUNITY

The **Dinah Memorial**, unveiled in April 2024, draws neighbors, schoolchildren, and tourists to its benches to sit and reflect on her life and legacy. The new "Wrestling with Justice" project will delve further into the complicated history of Quakers, abolitionism, and slavery in the North.



✓ PRESERVATION & COLLECTIONS

The curatorial team continued the "Going Global" cataloguing project, with a goal of publishing many of Stenton's archaeological ceramics online by the end of the year, and initiated the conservation of paintings of Dr. William and Anna Parsons Logan.



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 2ND

“WRESTLING WITH JUSTICE” EXPLORES THE HISTORY OF QUAKERS AND NORTHERN SLAVERY

Stenton kicked off its new interpretive project, “Wrestling with Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery,” with a series of three community meetings in August and September. Supported by a \$300,000 grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, “Wrestling with Justice” aims to create an updated interpretive framework and new exhibits, tours, and programs that address the public understanding of Northern slavery and the misconception that Quakers were strictly abolitionists. The goal is to rebalance our narratives and contextualize the history of slavery at Stenton.



Germantown Friends Meeting member and clerk Karen Lightener discusses Quakerism and “waiting for worship in silence” at the second community meeting.



Dina Bailey, who served as the conversations facilitator for the “Dinah Memorial Project,” again helped steer the discussion in the first three meetings, which began with sharing information about Quaker involvement in slavery and abolitionism in northwest Philadelphia from Stenton’s Historic Germantown partner sites, such as Cliveden and the Lest we Forget Museum of Slavery. In the second meeting, we convened neighbors and stakeholders to discuss the impact of northern slavery, the promise of abolition, and Quakers’ current social justice practices. Finally, participants partnered with Stenton to reimagine how our tours and future exhibitions can better interpret and grapple with enslavement narratives. In the coming months, we’re planning additional programming and community meetings, and Stenton will host a scholars summit with public and academic historians in December.

For more information and to stay abreast of new research and future meetings and programs, visit:

www.stenton.org/wrestling-with-justice.

NSCDA/PA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP

In May, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (NSCDA/PA) celebrated 125 years of preserving Stenton! At the urging of Mary Chew, the Society made an agreement with the Logan family in 1899 to steward Stenton, and opened it to the public in May of the following year. Chew noted, “...the Society believes that this fine old mansion will prove to be an important acquisition, not only to The Colonial Dames, but to the City of Philadelphia, ~ in itself an object lesson, keeping in memory the worthy lives and deeds of the founders of the Province.” Stenton remains the Society’s largest project and a critical way in which it fulfills its mission of preservation, education, and service. NSCDA/PA members from across the commonwealth convened in Philadelphia from May 19-21, 2025 to mark the anniversary, culminating in the members’ annual meeting at Stenton.



*Upper right: NSCDA/PA members gathered in front of Stenton on opening day, 1900;
Lower right: NSCDA/PA Board members at Stenton for the June Board Retreat, 2025.*

DOCUMENTING REFLECTIVE COLLECTIONS AND FEMALE OWNERSHIP

This spring and summer, as part of Stenton's ongoing project to better catalog, document, and digitize collections, the curatorial team commissioned photography to produce high-quality, professional images of Stenton's "reflective objects," silver, pewter, and looking glasses. The Leonore Smart Wetherill Fund for Decorative Arts Scholarship, which supports Stenton's collections-related projects, funded this work. These high resolution images show Stenton's and borrowed Logan and related family silver and pewter objects in their best light, making details such as engraving, wear, and makers' marks visually accessible without handling that could generate wear and damage.

Mike Myers, a specialist in object photography, carefully lit each item to capture form, details, and any identifying marks. Metals and other reflective objects are difficult to light and photograph without also capturing the photographer's reflection or creating glare that obscures details. After photography, Myers adjusted the photographs' lighting



Mike Myers photographing at Stenton.



Rococo English silver salver engraved SL for Sarah Logan, granddaughter of James and Sarah Logan.

and tone, working with the curators to ensure that the final images were balanced for overall appearance and clarity while accurately representing the objects.

Stenton's updated collections database will also contain interpretive information. As an example, Stenton's silver and pewter collections are notable not only for their Logan, Norris, and Emlen family provenances, but also for the high proportion of objects bearing women's initials, crests, or cyphers. Stenton's rococo English silver cruet set, covered sugar bowl, and salver are engraved "SL," for Sarah Logan (1751-1796), who married Thomas Fisher in 1772. A silver porringer is inscribed "HL to SS," marking its descent from mother Hannah Logan (1720-1761) to daughter Sarah Smith (1749-1769). As everyday utilitarian objects and of lesser monetary value, the pewter marked with the cyphers and crests of Sarah Logan (1693-1754) and Hannah Emlen (1722-1777), underscores

an association of women with the table. Items like a cruet set, a salver, or pewter dinner plates and serving platters, represent the female centered culture of 18th-century dining and food hospitality.

A highly valuable object like a silver porringer marked with women's initials tells an important story about women, wealth, and property in eighteenth-century America. Single women and widows could hold property, but the colonial coverture law, part of the English legal system, gave a woman's husband control over his wife's property upon marriage. In Pennsylvania, property brought to a marriage by a woman, such as land, valuable objects, and enslaved people, was controlled by her husband for the duration of his life. Dower laws ensured that a widow was entitled to one third of her husband's property upon his death, as well as any property she had brought to the marriage. The cyphers on these silver objects are women owners' monograms. Marking valuable objects with a woman's initials ensured return of her possessions in widowhood and easily separated her property from her husband's during a probate process. Sarah Logan's pewter platters marked with her initials appear on her own probate inventory recorded after her 1754 death, showing that she did indeed retain these objects as her property after her husband's death in 1751. With these new images ready to post to the Catalog IT database, Stenton will be better able to widely share these important objects and their stories through our forthcoming online catalog.



Hannah Emlen's initials mark her English pewter plates as her own property within husband William Logan's household.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

It has been a busy year at Stenton as we continue to strengthen long-term relationships with near neighbors and community organizations. A core tenet of community engagement is continuous partnership, which we've honed in on as we expand our reach. Second Saturdays, a Historic Germantown-wide program, offers a gateway to meeting many new people who frequently return to Stenton. We kicked off the series with Mama Carla's quilting workshop, which has since become a quilting circle that meets at Stenton twice a month. In June, *In Color Birding Club*, a local group of Black birders, returned as we sought out species that inhabit Stenton during the summer months. Logan-based youth organization, *Bringing Everybody Together* (BET), hosted its annual cookout at Stenton for the third year in a row. And after an amazing turnout for last year's foraging session, Jeannie Gerth returned to close out the 2025 Second Saturdays season.



Stenton staff and History Hunters Educators take a break from volunteering at Logan Elementary's Fall Festival.

Stenton is just a short walk away from an elementary school named after James Logan, and we've developed an extremely active partnership that is ongoing throughout the school year. Stenton serves as a host location for Logan's Community School partnership meetings, which bring together local grassroots organizations, healthcare providers, and education centers in the neighborhood, just to name a few, to leverage resources to support Logan Elementary School's student body. Through this partnership, Stenton has supported Logan Elementary's desire to "green up" the campus by providing start-up materials for their vegetable garden, participating in tree planting events, and connecting them to a consultant to help design a new, greener schoolyard.

As a result, Logan Elementary received a major grant this year that will transform its tri-level blacktop and parking lot from an asphalt desert to a park-like oasis. NSCDA/PA members doubled their contribution to Logan Elementary's annual Scholastic Book Fair in 2024, making it possible for every Logan student to purchase a book. The Dames also gifted the staff and teachers a massage chair for Teacher's Appreciation Day. Stenton staff attended Logan's career day and participated in reading hours, perfect attendance roll calls, an art exhibition opening, the end of year carnival, BET expo, and the first day of school clap in.

The NSCDA/PA also became more engaged with near neighbors this year. In the spring, the Society co-sponsored a grief workshop led by counselor Naila Francis. The event was filled to capacity and was truly a healing experience for all who attended. Special thanks to Board Member Gwen Bryant for organizing this activity. Spearheaded by NSCDA/PA President Gina Whelan, the Dames partnered with Mama Carla to hold a fabric swap. Following the swap, participants sat in the quilting circle, sharing family stories and working on fiber arts. Stenton Committee Chair Carol Rush gave each person a piece of material from her great-grandmother's collection. The afternoon was a testament to the power of sisterhood.

Who could have imagined such a moment, when Stenton first opened its doors to the public 125 years ago? This extraordinary historic site has been the heartbeat of the NSCDA/PA since they assumed its stewardship in 1899. Now, in 2025, we can confidently say that the surrounding neighborhoods of Nicetown, Logan, and Germantown are just as deeply invested in Stenton's future!

STENTON PROGRAMS

It was another fun-filled and educational year of programming at Stenton! From family-friendly events, like the Stenton Egg Hunt 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 all programs, free of charge. To learn more about Stenton's upcoming programs, or to RSVP, visit www.stenton.org/programs.



Hundreds of children combed Stenton Park for eggs during the annual Egg Hunt in April. Families returned to Stenton's grounds afterward for an afternoon of crafts, face-painting, and fun!



The In Color Birding Club led birdwatching at Stenton for the second time. Excited birders point to a woodpecker high in the trees.



During July's Second Saturday program, attendees learned to make botanical ink from black walnuts in a sold out workshop led by Nicole Dupree.



In partnership with the Free Library at Germantown Friends School and Historic Germantown sites, Stenton offered a two-part "Wild Philly" book talk and nature walk this fall.



Stenton's "Wrestling With Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery" project kicked off this fall with three community meetings to discuss a new interpretive plan for Stenton.

2025-26 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER				
25	Sat	Halloween Harvest Festival	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
NOVEMBER				
9	Sun	“Wild Philly” Nature Walk	10:30am	Historic Rittenhouse Town
DECEMBER				
6	Sat	Holiday Tea	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
JANUARY				
19	Mon	MLK Day of Service Landscape Clean-up	TBD	Stenton
MARCH				
28	Sat	Egg Hunt	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
APRIL				
18	Sat	Dinah Day	1:00–4:00pm	Stenton
MAY				
7	Thur	Garden Party	5:00–7:00pm	Stenton
9	Sat	Second Saturday	12:00–4:00pm	Stenton

STENTON PILOTS SCIENCE SLEUTHS PROGRAM

During the 2024-25 school year, in partnership with Historic Germantown, Awbury Arboretum, Historic Rittenhouse Town, Grumblethorpe, and Fair Hill, Stenton piloted *Science Sleuths*, a new program based on the *History Hunters* model, targeted to 6th–8th grade students. Stenton’s science curriculum is based on James Logan’s scientific contributions, and students learn about Logan’s corn experiments, dig deeper into genetics, and even extract visible DNA from strawberries (pictured, right)! This school year, Stenton will be involved in “Pilot Year 2.0,” where we will continue to develop the curriculum, working closely with our HG partners, an advisory board, and four local schools.



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

4601 N. 18TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140
 215-329-7312 • WWW.STENTON.ORG
INFORMATION@STENTON.ORG



*The NSCDA/PA has
 administered Stenton since 1899.*