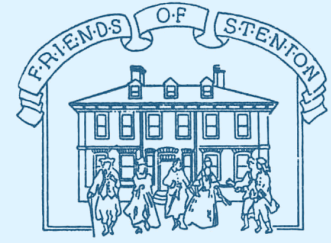


# FRIENDS OF STENTON

## *Newsletter & Appeal*

FALL 2020



### THE HISTORY HUNTERS PROGRAM GOES VIRTUAL!



The Stenton VR Tour includes engaging call-outs & images that appear.

Now entering its seventeenth year, *History Hunters* has continued to evolve and this year experienced its biggest transformation yet. Due to Covid-19, the Philadelphia School District began the 2020-21 school year virtually. With restrictions on field trips and the health and safety of students in mind, staff adapted *History Hunters* into a fully virtual program with both synchronous and asynchronous components, based on teacher feedback. Instead of visiting five sites in Historic Germantown, students will explore the sites through Virtual Reality YouTube tours. The tours were created by PWP Video, which used a 360-degree camera to film each site, so that students

can use their mouse to move the video entirely around the historic spaces and view the rooms as if they were actually in them. *History Hunters* educators helped develop scripts and voice-overs that guide students through the virtual tour.

As a follow-up to the VR tours, teachers register their classes for five live virtual sessions with *History Hunters* educators. During these 30-minute lessons, students interact with the educator, ask questions about the VR tour, and increase their knowledge through site-specific lessons and activities. Updates to [www.historyhunters.org](http://www.historyhunters.org) offer teachers additional videos, virtual lessons, assessments, and other resources to supplement their online social studies curriculum. *History Hunters* educators have also created character scripts for historical figures, so that students can video chat with costumed interpreters. For more information, please email [programs@stenton.org](mailto:programs@stenton.org).

We've also enhanced our guide-educator training, holding workshops with Pedagogy Consultant Jaime Lynn Longo, Ph.D. on how to effectively teach students through a virtual platform. The educators will continue to participate in Building Racial Competency Training, which explores how our staff can build their skills and cultural competencies, and develop professionalism around race issues through the lens of teaching slavery to 4th and 5th grade schoolchildren.

### OTHER VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

While the museum remained closed from March to September, staff found new ways to make Stenton accessible to the public. Curator Laura Keim created a blog called the "Curator's Cabinet of Curiosities," where she highlighted various objects from Stenton's



Laura leads a FB Live Tour of the Blue Lodging Room.

collections. Laura also offered Facebook LIVE tours of the site. In addition, Stenton hosted free webinars on a variety of topics including "Researching and Re-shingling Stenton's Roof" with Architectural Conservator, Sara Gdula, and " 'On the Plantation': Expanding our Knowledge of Enslaved and Indentured Workers at Stenton" with Laura Keim. To stay up-to-date on future virtual programs and to view previous programs, visit [www.stenton.org/programs](http://www.stenton.org/programs). This virtual content has helped Stenton reach new and larger audiences who were previously not engaged with the site. We look forward to continuing this virtual presence, even as we reopen, as an alternative for students and adults who are unable to visit us in-person.

#### Section 1: Preparing the Food



Students can virtually explore the barn and its collection of farm tools as well.

## STENTON EDUCATION CENTER DESIGN COMPLETE

Stenton's Capital Projects Committee, working with Krieger & Associates Architects, completed a long-awaited plan for Stenton's Education Center this spring. The design focuses on a number of improvements to the service wing which will create the first dedicated education and program space in the building, improved access for visitors, renovated and expanded restrooms, and new office space for staff. The total estimated cost of the project is \$3.5 million, which includes upgrades to the landscape and parking areas and replenishment of the Stenton Restoration Fund, which provides crucial support for maintenance of the six historic structures on the site.



North elevation of the service wing showing new accessible entrances to the Education Center.

## INVESTIGATING MID-ATLANTIC PLANTATIONS

From October 17-19, 2019, Stenton joined with the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and other regional partners to host the interdisciplinary conference “**Investigating Mid-Atlantic Plantations: Slavery, Economies, and Space.**” The goal of this conference, partially supported by the Leonore Smart Wetherill Fund for Decorative Arts Scholarship at Stenton, was to understand the distinctive qualities of planta-



Sleep-over participants celebrate their stay.

tions in the middle colonies and new states. One hundred and six attendees registered for the conference, which featured a full-day of presentations at Stenton, as well as a pre-conference tour and a post-conference program and sleep-over in the museum Saturday night. This program was led by Joe McGill, creator of “The Slave Dwelling Project,” which seeks to raise awareness of structures significant to the stories of enslaved people.

## DESIGN FOR THE DINAH MEMORIAL PROGRESSES



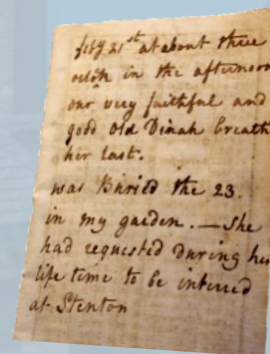
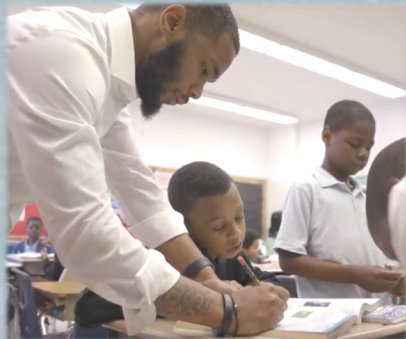
Mock-up of the tablets.

Over the last year, artist Karyn Olivier has honed her vision for the new memorial to Dinah, a once enslaved and then free woman, who lived and labored at Stenton from the 1750s until her death in 1805, and who was memorialized in 1912 for saving Stenton from burning by the British in 1777. Seeking feedback, Olivier presented her vision and plan for the memorial to an enthusiastic group of neighbors and stakeholders at a community gathering in November 2019. The group registered its approval for the design, a reflective enclosure in the landscape with seating punctuated by two opposing vertical tablets configured around a shallow bubbling fountain. The Dinah tablet is inlaid with a silhouette, evocative of an imagined Dinah, overlaid with questions for her – the opposite tablet asking parallel questions of us. The group considered an additional question for Dinah. Storyteller, Denise Valentine, proposed, “Did you have moment when you wished you had let it burn?” All shared a sense that this question was poignant, important – unsettling for some. Olivier has added this evocative question to the memorial.

Olivier and Landscape Architect Claudia Levy have collaborated closely on the form and materials for the memorial. Details of the updated design can now be found on the project webpage at [www.stenton.org/dinah](http://www.stenton.org/dinah). The design has received approval from the City of Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation and will hopefully receive go-ahead from the City Art Commission in the next few weeks. It is our plan to have the materials on order from Coldspring Stone Fabricators before year end 2020. We hope to raise an additional \$100,000 to complete the installation and plantings.



# *This is How Your Support Makes a Difference*



## ☒ AWARD WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

This year *History Hunters* closes in on **40,000** Philadelphia school-children served! We know that the program can have a profound long-term impact, as in the case of former student Quamir Trice (above) who cited *History Hunters* as an important influence on his pursuit of a career in teaching. His students now participate in the program.

## ☒ COMMUNITY

Stenton is building new neighborhood partnerships through the Dinah Memorial project, and incorporating Stenton Park into our outreach and programs.



YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND HELP PRESERVE THIS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUPPORT SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS TOGETHER!

## ☒ RESEARCH

New research has led to the restoration of the Yellow Lodging Room and the telling of more diverse stories, including the recent discovery that Dinah is likely buried on Stenton's grounds.



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

**Volunteer** — Opportunities include becoming a docent, helping with our educational programs, or caring for our Colonial Revival Garden.

Contact Rachel Corma at [programs@stenton.org](mailto: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](http://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

#GIVINGTUESDAY

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 1

amazon

smile

Support Stenton when you shop! Add The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to your Amazon Smile account! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates!

## 2021 SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*

*\*COVID-19 Guidelines/restrictions permitting*

### APRIL

3 Sat Stenton's Annual Easter Egg Hunt 1 pm - 3pm Stenton

### MAY

6 Thur Stenton Garden Party 5 pm - 7 pm Stenton

### JUNE

3 Thur Wine & Design Crafting Workshop 5 pm - 7 pm Stenton

## STENTON HAS REOPENED FOR TOURS



Stenton has reopened! Our Covid-19 hours are Thursdays and Saturdays 1-4 PM. Grounds are open to visitors and house tours are by appointment only during these hours. We also have new signage and two new entrances. Pedestrians can now enter through Stenton Park, and we have a new vehicle entrance gate on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, near the intersection of W. Courtland Street. Special thanks to The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Historic Germantown Sustaining Our Sites Fund, and the NSCDA/PA Stenton Restoration Fund for providing funding support for the entrances and signage. Come spend some time in the garden or take a walk through the meadow, and enjoy a self-guided landscape tour leaflet. Visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing while on site. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

### SAVE THE DATE!

James Logan Award Dinner  
honoring Timothy Rub  
September 10, 2021  
The Union League

## NEW ROOF INSTALLED ON THE MANSION

Stenton's roof was replaced in February by Kurtz Construction with the support of generous funding from the McLean Contributionship and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program. Kurtz installed 24" thick butt western red cedar shingles from Canada that are guaranteed to last 50 years.

During the project, Fairmount Conservancy also stabilized the mansion's dormers, which needed considerable restoration, and Materials Conservation, Inc. was contracted to study the roof's historic structure and assess the condition of the two chimneys. Students from Penn's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation participated in the project as well, investigating the effects of different kinds of stains and coatings that could be applied to the cedar shingles to prolong their life.



### STENTON STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dennis Pickeral  
CURATOR: Laura Keim  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Rachel Corma  
FACILITIES MANAGER: Kenneth Robinson

4601 N. 18TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140  
215-329-7312 • [WWW.STENTON.ORG](http://WWW.STENTON.ORG)  
[INFORMATION@STENTON.ORG](mailto:INFORMATION@STENTON.ORG)

**GREAT™  
AMERICAN  
TREASURES**  
HISTORIC PLACES CURATED BY  
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE  
COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA

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