## FRIENDS OF STENTON

# Newsletter & Appeal



**FALL 2022** 

#### ANOTHER ACTIVE YEAR – COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS AND LOANS 2022

Logan objects rarely appear in the marketplace. When they do, there is often little lead time for fundraising in advance of an auction. Emboldened with support from a dedicated group of Dames and donors, Stenton Curator Laura Keim bid in the Sotheby's Americana sales in January. From the Peter Pfaffenroth sale, she successfully acquired a pair of walnut chairs, similar to known Logan chairs, and four maple chairs with slip seats, identical to a pair already in the Stenton collection. And from the William K. du Pont sale Stenton acquired a silver cann by Philadelphia silversmith Philip Syng, which belonged to Isaac Norris and James Logan. It is most exciting to have the cann in the Parlour buffet cupboard, one of two "large [silver] cups" on Sarah Read Logan's 1754 probate inventory. The chairs represent those recorded in the house on the 18th-century probate inventories - "the 12 maple chairs" in the Yellow Lodging Room and the sets of walnut chairs that stood in the Entry and the Parlour.

A tiny, wonderful object made its way across the Atlantic to Stenton this summer. Logan descendant Rosemary Ellis Crawford gifted Sarah Logan Norris' (1715-1744) unmarked, inscribed, silver-and-shell snuffbox. This personal object, that Sarah likely kept close to her body in her pocket, provides an interpretive companion to her portrait and offers a glimpse into the common practice of snuff-taking

among genteel women in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At 2½" long, the hinged box features a carved mother-of-pearl lid and opens like a bivalve. Sarah's initials coarsely engraved on the bottom mark her ownership, and a later inscription with her life dates confirms her ownership.

Loans of Logan and Norris family objects have enriched Stenton's presentation. This year brought two



Sarah Logan Norris Snuffbox. Silver and shell, c.1735. Initials "S \* L" Gift of Rosemary Ellis Crawford

short-term loans from a private collection – a Charles Norris-Logan family stool, a mate to a pair in Stenton's collection since 1915, and a so-called Loganian Library Arm Chair that descended in the Wood family and may have been part of a set of eight large Queen Anne style arm chairs built for the building that housed James Logan's books for the first two decades after his death. [Please see the video STUNNING STOOLS on Stenton's program page for the full story on the stool.

#### https://www.stenton.org/programs

Finally, with a gift from an anonymous donor, Stenton purchased three late-19th-century sketches of Stenton by John Richards from Lisa Minardi of Philip H. Bradley Antiques in memory of her husband, Philip W. Bradley. The ink-wash sketches depict the front and rear facades of Stenton as well as "the house once occupied by James Logan while building Stenton," which is also known to antiquarians as the Naglee House.

Special thanks to: Hannah Henderson, Kevin Kerchner, Richard Snowden, Wylie Raab, Tom Johnson, Cathy Keim, Gwen Bryant, the Society of Colonial Wars in PA, George McNeely, Lisa Street, Jay Robert Stiefel, the Allegheny County Committee of The NSCDA/PA, Rosemary Crawford, David Hickok, Art Hickok and Emily Grand and their neighbors, Gary Sergeant, and Lisa Minardi. It takes a village to interpret a historic house!



Walnut chairs acquired from the Pfaffenroth Sale.

#### **INTRODUCING STENTON'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS**



Greetings Stenton family! My name is Stephanye Watts, and I am the recently appointed Community Engagement Coordinator for Stenton and Historic Germantown. As a daughter of Logan, this is an exciting opportunity to return to my neighborhood and serve the community that raised me. In this role, I'm tasked with bridging the gap between Stenton and the 17 other historic sites, cultural centers, and greenspaces with their near neighbors, who have often felt unwelcome in these spaces. I was once one of those people who passed by these sites daily, unaware of the history they held and convinced that there was no place for me within them.

I grew up a few blocks away from Stenton, where my mother still lives today. My education began at Miss Marty's Daycare, which has operated directly across from Wyck for decades. I then went on to Germantown Montessori School just up the street from Cliveden. My elementary and middle school years were spent at Ivy Leaf School (founded by Germantown Hall of Fame Inductees Liller and William Green) one block away from Awbury

Arboretum. I am a proud graduate of Central High School (262!) which is only separated from the LaSalle Art University Museum by a thin gate. Even with such close proximity, these sites all felt so inaccessible.

I went off to Clark Atlanta University, a historically Black college in Atlanta, and did a 10-year stint in fashion, before a chance follow on Twitter led to a job in museums. It was my time at Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn, where I honed my innate skill of community building and discovered engagement was my calling. I increased visitorship by 200%, implemented programming created by neighbors, and increased our visibility in the press. I am looking forward to doing the same here at Stenton so that the next generation can take ownership and have great pride in where they live. I want them to know that not only is this place for them, but it will also cease to exist without them. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all.

My name is Kaila Temple, and I've joined the team this fall as The Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II Curatorial Assistant at Stenton. As a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and Smith College, I have previously completed internships at Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Deerfield, and the Maine Historical Society. Most recently, I served as Collections Assistant at the Betsy Ross House. I come to Stenton with a depth of experience and a specialty in textiles, and my research interests lie in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Additionally, I am experienced in digital exhibits and interpretation and worked on developing the groundbreaking digital exhibition "Re-Presenting Black Womanhood," while at Winterthur. When I'm not examining an eighteenth-century quilt or under a piece of furniture, I can be found working on several unfinished needlework projects or eventing with my off the track thoroughbred, Spanky.



Over the next two years with partial funding from the Colonial Dames of America Chapter II, the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, and the Leonore Smart Wetherill Fund for Decorative Arts Scholarship, Curator Laura Keim and I will work to bring Stenton's collections online for the first time. The core goal of the project is to re-catalog Stenton's collections to reflect and present current research and to ensure that objects are well-researched and accurately recorded. This new, more comprehensive catalog will be available to the public online, enabling greater access to and knowledge of Stenton's treasures and the ways Stenton's artifacts connect to other collections and broad interpretive themes. The project will include transferring the current catalog to a cloud-hosted collections management system, as well as the development of new, dynamic, digital interpretation. By bringing the collection and its interpretation to the world wide web, Stenton hopes to reach more community members, students, and researchers. The ability to easily browse collections online is crucial to scholars in the twenty-first century, and we hope that our online catalog will enable new and innovative research.

## This is Why Your Support Matters!







#### ☑ AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Our innovative virtual adaptation of *History* Hunters, developed in response to the pandemic, received AASLH's most prestigious award this year, while Philadelphia school students return to Stenton and its Historic Germantown partner sites this fall for the first time in two years. We can't wait to bring history to life again for more than 3,000 students!

#### **☑** COMMUNITY

Thanks to a grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, we've hired our first Community Engagement Coordinator, to help us create and grow more partnerships with our neighbors.



YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY, AND PRESERVING THIS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUPPORT SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THESE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES TOGETHER!

### ✓ PRESERVATION AND RESEARCH

A new collections cataloguing project, funded by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II, and the Richard C. von Hess Foundation, will make Stenton's extraordinary collection of early America furnishings accessible online for the very first time.



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

<u>Volunteer</u> — 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 <u>programs@stenton.org</u> for more information.

<u>Make a one-time gift</u> — 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 <u>www.stenton.org/donate</u> to download the form or make an online donation.

<u>Become a monthly donor</u> — 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

#GI**VINGTUESDAY**°
SAVE THE DATE

November 29



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, Amazon donates!



#### THE DINAH MEMORIAL PROJECT

Supply chain delays have pushed back the completion of the Dinah Memorial, while we wait for the stone fabrication to be completed. This year, the site was laid out by the general contractor who will assemble the memorial, engineering tests were performed for the footings, and the site was cleared of trees. Some plantings were installed in areas around the memorial that won't be affected by construction, thanks to a grant from the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America. We anticipate that the stone will be delivered early next year, at which point construction can proceed.

Though construction of the Dinah Memorial is on hold, we celebrated the completion of a mural of Dinah on the Stenton Park Recreation Center with our partners, the Stenton Park Advisory Council. The mural is the brainchild of Artiss Smith and Curtis McCallister, leaders of the Stenton Park Advisory Council, who serendipitously had the idea to honor Dinah with a mural four years ago when we were beginning our project to memorialize her at Stenton. We initially weren't aware of each other's efforts, but soon met and became partners. Since then, Artiss and Curtis have served as community ambassadors for our project, and we now work together to



develop collaborative programs between the recreation center and museum. The NSCDA/PA also financially supported the completion of the mural, thanks to a generous gift from Dame Hannah Henderson. An unveiling event on September 29 brought together community members, Stenton staff, Dames and Stenton supporters, and representatives of Mural Arts to dedicate the mural by artist Russell Craig, who created a bold and powerful likeness of Dinah. Craig's mural of Dinah now watches over Stenton Park and points the way to the museum!

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: STENTON PARK SUMMER CAMP & BET INTERNS



Stenton Caretaker and Beekeeper, Jeff Eckel, opened up a honey bee hive for summer camp participants!

Summer Camp - Stenton Museum and Stenton Park continued our strong relationship by partnering on a summer camp for local youth. Over six weeks, campers learned about the Logan family and Dinah, played colonial games, and got to hang out with our cool honey bee community.

Interns - Bringing Everybody Together (BET), a youth mentoring organization founded by 2022 James Logan Award honoree Richard Washington, has served the communities of Logan and Nicetown for more than twenty-five years. As partners of the museum, BET is helping Stenton build bridges with our neighbors. We were honored to host interns from BET this summer at Stenton, including Brandon, who

stole the show with a speech honoring Mr. Washington at the James Logan Award Dinner. The interns assisted with summer camp lessons, exhibit design, and community outreach.



BET student and Stenton Intern, Brandon, during his heartwarming speech at the James Logan Award Dinner.

#### GRANTS TO SUPPORT COVID RECOVERY & THE STENTON EDUCATION CENTER PROJECT



Stenton received a bevy of good news about grant awards last fall! In September 2021, Stenton, together with Historic Germantown (HG) and Cliveden, was awarded a collaborative COVID recovery grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, part of a unique program to help the Philadelphia region's arts sector overcome the effects of COVID-19. The combined grant of \$540,000, which is divided among the partners, was the largest grant awarded, and only the second collaborative grant ever awarded by Pew. Key elements of the project include funding for new community engagement staff based at Stenton and Cliveden, information technology assessments and upgrades for

HG's 18 member sites, and a new HG strategic plan focused on the 2026 Semiquincentennial. Stenton also received a \$50,000 matching grant for the project from

the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

On the heels of the Pew grant, Stenton received back-to-back news of major grants from the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust and the National Endowment for the Humanities, totaling \$600,000! These grants will support the Stenton Education Center Project, an effort to transform the wing by creating in the building, for the first time, dedicated education and program space, as well as accessible entrances and facilities, and dedicated office space for staff.



#### THE JAMES LOGAN AWARD DINNER RETURNS!



After a four-year hiatus, including two pandemic-induced delays, the NSCDA/PA's James Logan Award Dinner returned on September 9, 2022 at the Union League. Established in 2008, the dinner is the Society's largest fundraising event for Stenton and benefits the preservation of the site and the *History Hunters* field trip program. This year, we recognized three honorees: philanthropist, volunteer, and dedicated Stenton supporter, Hannah Henderson; retired director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Timothy Rub; and Richard Washington, founder and director of Bringing Everybody Together, a youth mentoring organization that serves the neighborhoods of Logan and Nicetown. We're grateful to all of the sponsors and supporters who made it an evening to remember!





The 2022 James Logan Award Dinner honorees. Clockwise from top, and left to right: Dennis Pickeral, Brandon, and Richard Washington. Wylie Raab, Laura Keim, Hannah Henderson, and Peggy Conver. Timothy Rub and Sandy Cadwalader.

#### VIRTUAL HISTORY HUNTERS RECEIVES STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

In October 2020, Stenton worked with PWP Video and History Hunters educators to develop the Virtual History Hunters program. This new program included Virtual Reality YouTube tours of the five History Hunters sites (Stenton, Cliveden, La Salle University Art Museum, Johnson House, and Wyck), as well as virtual lessons and resources for teachers to use in their virtual classrooms. History Hunters educators also wrote and performed first-person interpreted historical character scripts based on the History Hunters curriculum, so that students could Zoom with the people they learned about at each historic site. We offered the program in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, when field trips were not permitted. We were thrilled that participation in the virtual program increased in its second year to nearly 4,000 Philadelphia schoolchildren!



Director of Education, Rachel Corma, accepted the Award of Excellence at the AASLH Conference in Buffalo, NY.



State and national museum associations recognized the success of the new program, and in April 2021, *Virtual History Hunters* received an Institutional Award of Merit from PA Museums. In June, the program received a national Award of Excellence from American Association for State and Local History! The Award of Excellence is part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards program, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.

We are excited to report that field trips are back this school year, and we cannot wait to welcome over 3,000 students at Stenton this fall. The virtual program and resources are still available to teachers, and many schools have opted to participate virtually again this year. This new combination of in-person and virtual learning will help us reach more students than ever before.



#### SARAH LOGAN PORTRAIT RESEARCH

This summer, Stenton worked with Thomas H. Price, a University of Delaware Art History PhD candidate, in partnership with the University's Center for Material Culture Studies. Stenton's Sarah Logan Norris portrait served as Tom's point of inquiry into questions of artist attribution and about Quakers and domestic display of "dynastic" portraiture as seen in the Logan and Norris families, including Stenton's portraits of Sarah's brothers-in-law, Charles and Samuel Norris.

Tom spent much of his summer looking at portraits and mining the Logan and Norris family papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He will share his research and findings on December 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm on Zoom.

Looking inside Winterthur Museum's Paintings Conservation Studio microscope, Tom Price observed the red and gray base layers under the portrait of Sarah Logan Norris at magnified scale. Conservator Matt Cushman (in the background) facilitated Stenton's visit and generously assessed the overall condition of our painting as "good and stable."

#### STENTON PROGRAMS

Stenton returned to a full schedule of free, in-person programming in 2022, while continuing to offer online programs as well. Past virtual programs are archived on our website and can be viewed anytime by visiting <a href="https://www.stenton.org/programs">www.stenton.org/programs</a>. A complete list of our upcoming events and programs can be found on the reverse of the newsletter, which range from family friendly haunts and harvest activities, to furniture workshops and programs exploring the importance of books in James Logan's life. We hope to see you in-person or on Zoom this year!



A crowd showed up for the annual Garden Party in June. The party was cancelled in 2020, then fell victim to a horrendous storm in 2021. We were glad to share each other's company once again!



For the first time, Stenton held its annual Egg Hunt in Stenton Park. This gave the children more space to hunt and increased Stenton's visibility in the neighborhood.



Stenton hosted its second annual Juneteenth Celebration in Stenton Park. Pictured: Malidelphia, a folkloric performance-art ensemble, who joined other artists, poets, and storytellers at the event.



Stenton Curator Laura Keim led a Facebook LIVE program from antique dealer Kelly Kinzle's booth at the Philadelphia Show where they examined Norris stools from Stenton.



Stenton hosted Garden Yoga, one of four neighborhood-focused "Activating Greenspaces" pilot programs funded by the William Penn Foundation and Historic Germantown.

2022-23 CALENDAR OF EVENTS				
OCTOBER				
27	Thur	Form, Function, & Fabrication: Philadelphia Furniture with Phil	9:30am -3pm	Stenton
29	Sat	Halloween Harvest Festival	1-3pm	Stenton
NOVEMBER				
15	Tues	Books Are My Disease: Loganian Library at Stenton Zoom	12:30pm	Virtual
22	Tues	Books Are My Disease: Loganian Library at the Library Company Zoom	12:30pm	Virtual
DECEMBER				
3	Sat	Holiday Tea	2-4pm	Stenton
16	Fri	Is She by Gustavus Hesselius? Zoom Program	2:00pm	Virtual
APRIL				
1	Sat	Egg Hunt	1-3pm	Stenton
MAY				
4	Thur	Garden Party	5-7pm	Stenton
JUNE				
17	Sat	Juneteenth Celebration	TBD	Stenton Park

#### A VISIT WITH DR. WILLIAM AND ANN PARSONS LOGAN



Stenton Curator Laura Keim and Executive Director Dennis Pickeral visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art's storage facility this summer to view paintings of Dr. William Logan, brother of James Logan, and his wife, Ann Parsons. They consulted with paintings conservator Stephen Eristoty to learn what treatment might be needed to enable the paintings to be moved and publicly displayed. The paintings, which are owned by the Fairmount Commissioners and City of Philadelphia, may be loaned to Stenton for exhibit if they receive the necessary stabilization and conservation treatment. The paintings hung at Stenton after Dr. Logan's death. Though he never left Bristol, England, Dr. Logan's story would add richness to certain aspects of the interpretation of Stenton, such as servitude and disability in the 18th-century.





#### **STENTON STAFF**

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



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The NSCDA/PA has administered Stenton since 1899.