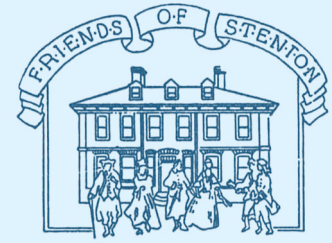


FRIENDS OF STENTON

Newsletter & Appeal



FALL 2023

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BRINGS NEW AUDIENCES AND ENERGY TO STENTON

The past year has seen exponential growth in community engagement by Stenton. Understanding that building community trust takes time, we are proud of the progress we have already made through organic connections!

LOGAN ELEMENTARY

Our partnership with Logan Elementary truly deepened during the 2022-23 school year. We volunteered at Parents' Night, seasonal festivals, and the Back-to-School Clean Up. Staff read to students during Literacy Week, and thanks to donations from members of the Pennsylvania Colonial Dames, who steward Stenton, 72 students participated in the Scholastic Book Fair, at no cost. Logan convenes monthly meetings of community stakeholders who bring resources to support the school. Stenton hosted two of these meetings, leading to many new collaborations. Logan has plans to "green" the campus, and Stenton is excited to join in the effort. In addition to helping establish garden boxes, we connected the school with an urban landscape organization that places community equity and trauma informed engagement at the heart of the work they do.

SECOND SATURDAYS

Second Saturdays is a Historic Germantown initiative to open the eighteen member sites to the public for an afternoon of special, free programming, from May through October. Equity is a tent pole of

community engagement, and this year's Second Saturday programs are guided by the philosophy that we should empower neighbors to be a part of our processes and deem what is culturally relevant. In partnering with community members and local organizations, we opened Stenton's gates and offered them the opportunity to turn this space into their playground.



Members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority strike a pose following the HER-ITAGE program.

In May, Stenton hosted the Philadelphia chapter of Charms Inc., a national women's organization focused on service. In July, Eat Right Philly celebrated Culinary Month with food demos, kitchen tool giveaways, and free cookbooks. Bringing Everybody Together (BET), hosted its annual cookout in August at Stenton with a scavenger hunt designed by BET youth. In September, the Museum of the American Revolution brought James Forten's story to life at Stenton. Harnessing the theme of Philly Black entrepreneurship, we also hosted an art gallery exhibition by a 7-year-old prodigy who is part of BET.

HER-ITAGE at STENTON

Another focus this year was centering women's stories at Stenton. For Women's History Month, we partnered with Piney Grove Baptist Church and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Philadelphia Alumnae chapter to host "Her-itage," a brunch, tour series, and special exhibit focused on telling the stories of Deborah, Dinah, and the Dames.

The carriage house was packed for both of these brunch programs in March. The following month, Stenton hosted our first annual Dinah Day celebration, in honor of her release from bondage on April 15, 1776. Working alongside the Stenton Park Advisory Council, we invited neighbors to hear Dinah's story from storyteller Irma Gardner-Hammond at the new Dinah mural on the Stenton Park Rec Center. Afterward, guides led attendees on a tour of the museum, focusing on Dinah's life, which was very well received! We look forward to continuing to amplify past and present women.

ACTIVE COLLECTIONS

Active Collections is a best-practices book and manifesto that advances the notion that a museum's collections should be active – relevant, meaningful, and useful (<https://www.activecollections.org/>). The objects that Stenton exhibits and stewards must advance the interpretation and help us tell stories of Stenton's inhabitants – members of the Logan family, enslaved and free workers, and Dames as stewards. The spirit of *Active Collections* underpinned this busy year for collections projects at Stenton.

Last fall, Stenton welcomed Kaila Temple as Curatorial Assistant to undertake a cataloging and digitization project. In the first phase of work, Stenton transferred the collections database from PastPerfect to CatalogIt, a newer, cloud-based software. This shift makes the objects database more easily accessible to staff (It has a phone app!), and eventually to public users when the online catalog launches. Transferring data between platforms necessitated updates to some catalog entries, including the digitization of loan and acquisition paperwork.



Lara Kaplan at work on the shell grotto.

We also received a grant from the Decorative Arts Trust for conservation of Anne Emlen's c. 1757 shellwork grotto box. Working with Winterthur objects conservator Lara Kaplan, the Stenton team opened the box for the first time in decades in February for a closer condition assessment and pre-treatment photography. Over the summer, Lara has been reattaching fallen shells, stabilizing grotto components, and cleaning away centuries of sooty dirt. This has led to many new insights about the materials and construction of the grotto, and we are eagerly awaiting the results of scientific testing from Winterthur's conservation labs for comparison to eighteenth-century instructional primary sources on shellwork crafting.



Kaila assesses Stenton's textile collections.

During winter closure, we undertook an assessment of our textile collections. Stenton is home to many fantastic examples of eighteenth-century textiles with strong family histories, but objects without strong ties, collected in prior eras, occupied valuable storage space in the house. Working from a rubric, objects were evaluated for their condition, provenance, and relevance to Stenton and our interpretation. Objects that no longer fit our mission or collecting goals were proposed for deaccession. Most of the objects approved for deaccession will find a new home in the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection at Drexel University, where they will be used in a teaching collection that serves history, design, and museum studies students. Objects not of museum quality were consigned to Augusta Auctions Co.

Over the summer, the strengths of our new collections management software were evident when Kaila undertook photography and cataloging of mended archeological vessels, which have not been previously included in the catalog. Over 200 glass and ceramic objects were processed, and we are excited to be able to eventually share these objects as part of our online catalog. Archeological objects have been on display in Stenton's interiors since 2010, and it is important that they be represented in future digital collections interpretation and accessible to researchers.

Over the past year, Stenton has tapped our collections for exciting programming to engage both connoisseurs of decorative arts and our community. In October 2022, we hosted a furniture study day with scholar Phillip Zimmerman, during which participants closely examined less well-studied furnishings in Stenton's collection. In February, Kaila hosted a Facebook Live program showcasing Stenton's textile treasures that are rarely on view. Following our larger goals of highlighting women's stories, Kaila and Curator Laura Keim crafted a tour that highlights objects with a connection to the women who lived or worked at Stenton, which debuted at the Heritage brunch program. Overall, it has been an exciting and busy year in the collections at Stenton, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our object-based interpretation as we advance the cataloging project!

This is Why Your Support Matters!



✓ AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Our virtual adaptation of *History Hunters*, developed during the pandemic, has now received 3 national and state awards for excellence! Nearly 4,000 students will visit Stenton over the next three months, and we'll begin developing a major expansion of the *History Hunters* model this fall. The future is bright for educational programming at Stenton!

✓ COMMUNITY

With a dedicated Community Engagement Coordinator on staff, we've created more neighborhood-based partnerships, programs, and activities in the past year, than ever before.



YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS 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

The collections cataloguing project is incorporating new additions to the collection, such as a group of 19th-century illustrations of Stenton and its environs by John Richards, which were acquired last year (below).



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

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 28

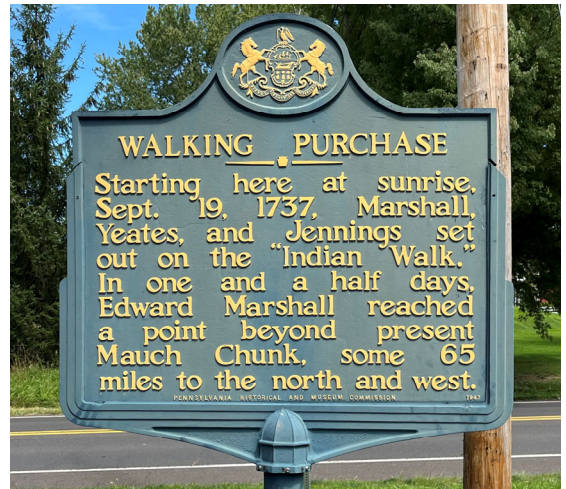
 Support Stenton when you shop! Add The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to your Amazon Smile account! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates!



WALKING PURCHASE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Supported by a Dean's Fellowship from the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, artist, curator, and public historian, Aislinn Pentecost-Farren, held a Stenton Research Fellowship this summer. Working with Curator Laura Keim, she is helping Stenton deepen understanding of the 1737 Walking Purchase and James Logan's role in deceiving the Lenape into ceding more than 1.2 million acres of their ancestral homeland in Bucks County to the Pennsylvania Colony.

Aislinn has created an annotated bibliography of secondary and published sources, and she and Laura have been conducting archival research at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, confirming the location of a map from the 1730s that falsely depicted the tract of land. Aislinn is helping lay the groundwork for enhanced site interpretation of the Walking Purchase, the negotiations that led to it, and the resulting forced removal of the Lenape peoples to the Ohio Valley and West.



Staff encountered this late 19th century stone monument at Wrightstown Meeting (left), and a PHMC marker (above) commemorating the Walking Purchase.

As part of the project, Stenton staff traveled to Bucks County to Durham Iron works, where some of the negotiations took place, stopped to witness some of the late 19th-century markers that commemorate the September 19-20, 1737 Walk-Run, and finished the day at Pennsbury Manor, another site of negotiations. Through April 2024, Pennsbury Manor is offering *nkwiluntämën*, a sound installation by Indigenous artist Nathan Young.

HISTORY HUNTERS NEWS



After a two-year hiatus, Philadelphia school children once again filled Stenton's halls when the *History Hunters* program returned to in-person field trips in the 2022-23 school year. *Virtual History Hunters*, the highly successful online adaptation of the program created during the pandemic, received the PA Museums S.K. Stevens award for excellence in April. This virtual adaptation is an important addition to the program, as we face new challenges, such as bus transportation costs that have skyrocketed more than 30%. A combination of *Virtual History Hunters*, in-class outreach by our educators, and on-site field trips have helped the program continue to reach nearly 4,000 students, despite bus transportation becoming more difficult to fully subsidize.

At the same time, we will be expanding our school-age offerings. Stenton, Historic Germantown (HG), and a number of partner sites will begin developing an educational concept called *Science Sleuths* in the coming year, thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Modeled on *History Hunters*, the goal of *Science Sleuths* is to develop a similar collaborative program targeting 6-8th grade Philadelphia public school students. The curriculum will teach science and environmental studies through the lens of the historic sites, collections, and landscapes of HG's member sites.

GRANT PROJECTS DEEPEN COLLABORATION AMONG HISTORIC GERMANTOWN SITES



A representative from the Xerces Society led a program on native pollinators and insect identification at Stenton as part of the “Activating Greenspaces” pilot program.

This fall, the Historic Germantown consortium (HG), which includes Stenton and 17 partner sites, will complete a COVID Recovery Project, funded by a major grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage in September 2021. The ambitious project will result in a new strategic plan for the consortium, upgrades that help address every member’s information technology needs, and a refreshed HG logo, website, and brochure. The grant also focuses on rebuilding ties between our museums and the neighborhoods of northwest Philadelphia through community and digital engagement. Stenton, Cliveden, and HG hired two full-time Community Engagement Coordinators last June to help manage this initiative.

Over the summer, we received the exciting news that HG was awarded a \$490,000 grant from the William Penn Foundation to implement its “Activating Greenspaces” project. “Activating Greenspaces” was piloted at Stenton and other HG sites last year, and involves activities and outreach that encourage community use of the many gardens, grounds, and greenspaces that can be found at our museums.

NEW LOGS, OLD HOUSE

Stenton’s log house, moved to the site in 1969 from the Friends Select School campus, has filled a vital role as a caretaker’s quarters for more than fifty years. Built around 1797, the structure was converted into a “tenement” in 1818 and incorporated into the Friends Select grounds. The house was daubed with Portland Cement when it was moved to Stenton, which caused severe damage to the rear elevation over time.

In January, the NSCDA/PA Board of Managers appropriated funds from the Stenton Restoration Fund to engage Frank Stroik, owner of a restoration building company specializing in traditional carpentry methods, to restore this side of the log house. In February, Stroik prepped the house, bracing the rear elevation and building a shed roof that allowed the logs to dry out. Site Manager Jeff Eckel,



Stroik trained and enlisted Stenton staff in helping with daubing and other tasks. Note the replaced logs (lighter in color).

who lives in the house, removed much of the Portland Cement,

and Stroik removed the largest sections of deteriorated logs, and began replacing and restoring the logs in August.

Seven long logs were replaced on the first and second floors, using salvaged timbers from other historic structures, along with two shorter sections and a dutchman repair or “face log.” Stroik also addressed deterioration at the corners with consolidation and wood epoxy, replaced deteriorated trim around the windows and rear door, and is using a natural hydraulic lime mixed with locally sourced sands to daub between the logs. The project will be completed this fall.



Contractor Frank Stroik (left) installs a new sill after removing deteriorated logs, while Stenton Site Manager Jeff Eckel treats the interior wall for insects.

STAFF ATTEND FIRST ANNUAL NORSC CONFERENCE

Stenton's staff traveled to Philipse Manor Hall in February to participate in the first annual Northern Slavery Collective Conference (NorSC). NorSC is a cohort of museums and historic sites rethinking their current narratives by including the stories of enslaved and free people who lived and worked on these properties. Our staff had previously shared learnings from the Dinah Memorial Project through a virtual program with NorSC members.

Thought provoking presentations and discussions about new findings in historical research on enslavement and interpretive challenges gave our staff much to think about as we seek to elevate the stories of enslaved African Americans who lived and labored at Stenton.



Stenton staff outside of Philipse Manor after the conference.

STONE FOR THE DINAH MEMORIAL ARRIVES!



After what seemed like an interminable wait, the stone for the Dinah Memorial arrived at Stenton the first week in September. Staff gathered excitedly to watch the stone unloaded and staged in the driveway near the construction site. Construction should be completed this fall, with an unveiling tentatively planned for November. Stay tuned for more information to come!



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ATTENDS THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL

This summer, thanks to a scholarship from The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, Rachel Corma, Director of Education, attended the 70th Attingham Summer School, a 16-day residential course in England. Rachel studied English country houses through lectures and tours by leading scholars, alongside 39 other museum professionals from around the world.

The course offered an unparalleled opportunity to study history, architecture, and furnishings of English houses, the context in which Stenton was built as an English Colonial House in 1730. Rachel also found inspiration in the innovative ways English museums are preserving these houses, educating the public, and working with their communities to reinterpret their collections.



The 70th class of the Attingham Summer School outside of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

STENTON PROGRAMS

It was another fun-filled and educational year of programming at Stenton! From family-friendly events, like our Egg Hunt and Halloween Harvest Festival, to living history and decorative arts workshops, we offered programs that appealed to a wide range of audiences. This year, in keeping with the emphasis on community engagement, we developed 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 almost all programs, free of charge. To learn more about Stenton's upcoming programs, and to RSVP, visit www.stenton.org/programs.



Logan Library partnered with Stenton to share spooky stories with children at the annual Halloween Harvest Festival!



Stenton partnered with Philadelphia's African American Genealogy Project and Mural Arts to host a community genealogy series at the Stenton Park Recreation Center for Black History Month.



Curatorial Assistant Kaila Temple led a Facebook LIVE program about the often unseen textiles in Stenton's collection. You can view this and other virtual programs at www.stenton.org/programs.



Stenton hosted the first ever "HER-itage: Women's History at Stenton" brunch, tour, and special exhibit in partnership with the Philadelphia chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Piney Grove Baptist Church Women's Ministry.

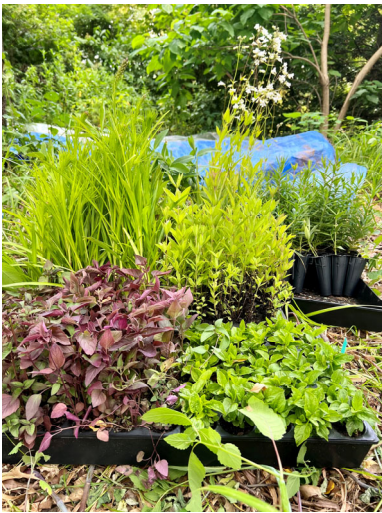


From May through October, Stenton participated in Historic Germantown's Second Saturdays, offering free tours and special community programming each month. In September, the Museum of the American Revolution brought James Forten's story to Stenton.

2023-24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER				
14	Sat	Second Saturdays: Free tours and Forest Bathing (1-2:30pm)	12:00 - 4:00pm	Stenton
28	Sat	Halloween Harvest Festival	1:00 - 3:00pm	Stenton
NOVEMBER				
29	Wed	Book talk – Philip D. Zimmerman, <i>A Storied Past: Collections of Historic Odessa</i>	6:00pm	1630 Latimer St.
DECEMBER				
2	Sat	Holiday Tea	1:00-3:00pm	Stenton
MARCH				
23	Sat	Egg Hunt	1:00-3:00pm	Stenton
APRIL				
13	Sat	Dinah Day	TBA	Stenton
MAY				
9	Thur	Garden Party	5:00 - 7:00pm	Stenton
JULY				
4	Thur	4th of July Celebration	11:30 - 1:30pm	Stenton Park

XERCES SOCIETY FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION GRANT



In June 2023, Stenton received a Northeast Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit from the Xerces Society. The kit included over 250 plant plugs (pictured left), containing native milkweed and various nectar plants to boost Stenton’s pollinator-friendly meadow. Stenton Caretaker and PA Master Naturalist, Dawn Reid, hosted three meadow volunteer days throughout the summer to prepare the meadow and plant the plugs. Stenton’s grounds are free and open Tuesday-Saturdays, 1-4pm. Come spend some time in the meadow and keep an eye out for a variety of pollinators!



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.