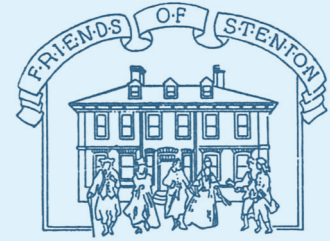


FRIENDS OF STENTON

Newsletter & Appeal

FALL 2026



LOGANIA250: STENTON COLLECTIONS REASSEMBLED

Ninety-five percent of the objects on view at Stenton are what we call LOGANIA, meaning they have Logan, Norris, Dickinson, or Emlen family provenances. For a house that was nearly empty in 1899, when the NSCDA/PA took it on as a museum project, this statistic represents an astounding accomplishment! When the objects in the house carry histories associated with the people who lived and labored at Stenton, or who were associated with the Logans



Stool, walnut, Unknown Maker, Philadelphia (1700-1715). Courtesy of the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel; Bequest of Maria Dickinson Logan to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in memory of Albanus Charles Logan, 1939.

through marriages and trading connections, the story grows broader and the picture of life in the past is more interesting and authentic.

Two thousand twenty-six has proved a significant year for LOGANIA returning to Stenton, mostly on

loan, but also by gift. This spring, Meg Hooper from Berkshire, UK, and her siblings, donated Mary Parker's 1746 whitework sampler in memory of their mother Rosemary Crawford (1933-2026). Significant objects from Loudoun, a long-closed historic house museum in Germantown, and from the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University are also now on long-term loan. Maria Dickinson Logan, who resided at Loudoun until her death in 1939, gave a number of the Atwater Kent collection's objects to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Notable highlights from this new group of loans include two Norris family silver dishes, one an exceptionally large basin. These silver objects and their story deepen our presentation of Logan-Norris family ties to enslavement and the triangular trade. The larger seventeenth-century dish bears this inscription: "Thomas Norris the Father of Isaac Norris of Fair Hill perished in the / great earthquake which destroyed Port Royal in Jamaica in 1692 with nearly / all his Family. After the sad disaster a Cradle was found floating on the / water containing a living Negro Child and this silver dish which belonged to Thomas Norris. / After



Mary Parker (1731-1799), mother of Deborah Norris Logan (1761-1839), worked this 5 1/4 x 4 5/8" sampler with alternating squares of holliepoint and lace framed by embroidered blue-green silk triangles and diamonds.

his death it became the property of his son Isaac, and descended [sic] in the Family / to the late Joseph Parker Norris by whom it was given to his son Isaac, / who now places this inscription on the dish as a memento of the great / regard with which he cherishes it. / November 1856. // T.M.N. [Thomas Norris]."

Norris and Logan family wealth, derived largely from profits made from the purchase and sale of people and goods in the triangular trade, was consolidated through multiple 18th-century marriages. Another outstanding object that descended through these marriages is a curvaceously shaped, carved Dickinson family tea (continued)

LOGANIA250 (continued from the front page)

table, made from mahogany, a commodity harvested and processed by enslaved labor in the Caribbean. Objects like these help interpret the complexities and contradictions inherent in eighteenth-century enslavement, which Stenton is exploring through *Wrestling with Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery*. Stenton's new interpretive plan will be built around the connections among Stenton itself, people, and objects, expanding our presentation of women's history, Native American history, and addressing our goal to make slavery visible at Stenton.

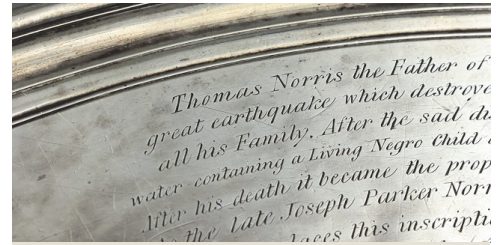
STENTON IN THE MEDIA

While America celebrated its 250th birthday, Stenton enjoyed a landmark year of visibility in the media. The year began with an article on *Next City* and *Germantown Info Hub* highlighting the December 2025 *Wrestling with Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery* community meeting. The story captured this statement from a participant: "I'm really grateful that [Stenton is] doing this work, and I'm very aware that they're doing this work in the face of a powerful federal government that's trying to rewrite history."

Our 4th annual *Dinah Day* celebration was bigger than ever with new festival partners, including the Jubilee School, The Clay Studio, Spirit Medicine, and the Logan Branch of the Free Library. This year marked the semiquincentennial of Dinah's manumission, with widespread coverage in numerous local news outlets. Executive Director Dennis Pickeral and Community Engagement Coordinator Stephanye Watts joined Dr. James Peterson on WURD Radio to discuss *Dinah Day* and *Wrestling with Justice*, and were interviewed in a "6ABC Loves Arts" feature. ABC returned to Stenton to film our beloved Mama Carla for their weekly "Art of Aging." Stenton's community engagement philosophy includes offering free space to local groups, and for almost two years, master quilter and storyteller Mama Carla has convened her quilting club at Stenton biweekly. ABC highlighted Mama Carla's impact across Philadelphia.



Staff from WHYY, The McNeil Center, and Stenton with Dinah storyteller Irma Gardner-Hammond during the "Freedom Isn't Free" panel discussion.



Detail of the large, silver Norris basin (1675-1685). Courtesy of the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel; Gift of Charles C. Norris, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In addition to local news coverage, Stenton made notable appearances in several documentaries produced for the Semiquincentennial, including Ken Burns' *The American Revolution*, and *Becoming American: Philadelphia's Story*.

In early June, Stenton was invited to host "Dinner with Dinah," a choreopoem performance in the inaugural ArtPhilly Festival. Conceived by Philadelphia Poet Laureates Trapeta Mayson and Yolanda Wisher, "Dinner with Dinah" was an operatic piece that took the audience on a journey through Dinah's life, joys, and sorrows, from her arrival at Stenton to her passing in 1805, employing poetry, music, dance, and song. *The Inquirer* highlighted the piece in their "Art We Loved This Week" column.

Finally, Stenton collaborated with the University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies and WHYY to host a panel discussion titled, "Freedom Isn't Free: How Spirited Dissent Shaped the American Revolution." This engaging program was documented by WHYY and the partnership, like the "Dinner with Dinah" program, introduced a new cohort of visitors to the site. What a great 6 months for Stenton!

Your Support Makes All This Possible!



☑ AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Stenton's *History Hunters* field trip program has served more than **45,000** Philadelphia school-children over the last two decades. The innovative new *Science Sleuths* program uses an interdisciplinary STEM curriculum to teach science through the lens of historic sites, reaching a new audience, 6th-8th grade students.

☑ COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

40+ Local Partners help shape Stenton, with more interest in programs and site use than capacity currently allows. **135K+ Neighbors** in nearby Germantown, Nicetown, and Logan enjoy free access to the greenspace and facilities at Stenton.



☑ PRESERVATION & COLLECTIONS

The loans of more than **50** Logan objects from Loudoun and the Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel, and a new interpretive and exhibit planning project, are bringing generational change to Stenton's interpretation and collections.



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

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 1ST

RADICAL AMERICANA AT STENTON

Stenton has enjoyed participating in The Clay Studio's semi-quincentennial, contemporary art project *Radical Americana*. An ambitious Philadelphia-focused series of exhibitions that paired artists with historic sites and museums, *Radical Americana* invited artists whose work engages with craft and the decorative arts to reflect on the nation's founding, as well as the centennial, bicentennial, and our present 250th anniversary, through site-specific installations. Selected by a jury from the Clay

Studio and participating institutions, artists visited sites and collections for archival and object-based research. Stenton was both a research and an exhibition partner and hosted two installations in the house and on the grounds.

Dennis Ritter's outdoor sculpture installation, *A Place Within*, draws inspiration from the house and landscape, as well as Stenton's archeological collections. Positioned throughout the landscape's east side behind the house, in the Colonial Revival Garden, and in the meadow and along its edge, Ritter's work draws inspiration from the Logan plantation's agricultural past, the roles enslaved people of African descent and Native Americans played in Stenton's history, and the present landscape. Ritter used clay dug at Stenton to create glazes and surface treatments for some of the sculptures, materially rooting his creations in Stenton earth.

Installed in the Back Dining Room, *Sadware*, by Belle-Pilar Fleming and Bri Murphy, reflects on memory and object lifecycles through pewter and embroidery. The artists acquired unwanted pewter objects from thrift stores, estate sales, and online marketplaces. They documented each one through embroidered "portraits." Because they melted and recast the objects into pewter ingots, returning the pewter itself to a "place of potential," the embroideries serve as mnemonic devices. Responding to the questions on the Dinah Memorial, Murphy and Fleming created silk-screen prints of some large pewter dishes and platters at Stenton (the *Sadware*) embroidering their central project questions onto the prints: Can you see labor?; Do you need another one?; Who decides?



Belle-Pilar Fleming and Bri Murphy's "*Sadware*" (left);
Dennis Ritter's "*A Place Within*" (right).

FOR THE COMMON GOOD: THE WOMEN WHO SHAPED OUR NATION

Dinah's story is one of nine episodes featured in *For the Common Good: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* (FTCG). This docuseries, produced by the NSCDA/PA in partnership with You'll Never Forget Productions, grew out of the work the PA Dames have been doing to expand their Register of Ancestors, through which future Dames might join. With a goal of honoring women and women's service to the colonies prior to July 5, 1775, Dinah was officially added for her role in fighting oppression. She is one of 73 documented women now a qualifying ancestor of the PA Dames. The FTCG docuseries was a result of the PA Dames' wish to share and uplift the stories of these incredible women: ministers, healers, merchants, frontier interpreters, a mill owner, an inventor, an optician, a fur trader, a wharf owner, and more! Women might not have picked up rifles to fight the Revolution, nor did they sign the Declaration of Independence, but they did everything else that mattered!

The PA Dames hope this docuseries will help plant the seeds for an expanded view of a founding generation.

More information about FTCG: www.nscdapa.org/common-good

View FTCG teaser reels here: <https://www.youtube.com/@PADames-1891>



Behind the scenes: filming the
Dinah episode of the FTCG
docuseries.

LOG HOUSE RESTORATION: PHASE II COMPLETE

Frank Stroik, a specialist in the restoration of log structures, resumed work on the gable end of Stenton's log house last year. The log house is the only structure on the property moved to the site. Relocated in 1969 to save it from demolition, the house was a caretaker's dwelling for a Quaker Cemetery that became the site of Friends Select School. When it was moved, the gaps between the logs were daubed with Portland Cement, causing damage and deterioration over the following decades. Former Site Manager Jeff Eckle removed much of the Portland Cement.

Stroik's work involved replacing the daubing with a historically appropriate mix, stabilizing, repairing, and replacing logs as necessary, and replacing the modern windows with salvaged early 19th century versions. The replaced windows fit the openings much better and large trim boards were removed from around the window openings.



A newly hatched butterfly in the log house monarch nursery.



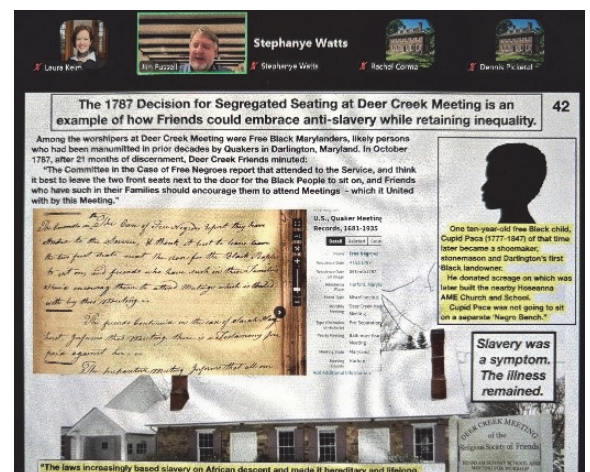
Close-up of the newly installed 19th century windows (left); completed restoration of the gable end facing the parking lot (right).

Frank previously restored the north elevation of the house, and work now shifts to the façade facing the service wing. In this jumbled construction zone, crowded with five-gallon buckets of Portland Cement fragments, plywood sheets, and other materials, a monarch butterfly laid her eggs on milkweed and under a plywood sheet this summer. Site Manager Dawn Reid alerted the staff, who enjoyed witnessing butterflies emerging from their chrysalises in the monarch nursery!

WRESTLING WITH JUSTICE: QUAKERS AND NORTHERN SLAVERY UPDATE

Stenton kicked off the project *Wrestling with Justice: Quakers and Northern Slavery* last fall with a series of community meetings. Supported by a \$300,000 grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, *Wrestling with Justice* aims to create an updated interpretive plan and new exhibits, tours, and programs to educate visitors about northern slavery, the labor force at Stenton, and the history of Quakers as both enslavers and abolitionists. Over the last year, the project team has focused on developing a draft interpretive plan to share with Stenton's community and stakeholders.

The plan incorporates feedback collected during community meetings, input from a team of leading scholars that gathered at Stenton for two days in December, and ongoing research which continues to shed new light on this often-overlooked history. Consulting scholar Bill Hardin highlighted an example in a program at Stenton this summer. Hardin researched the case of *Pleasants v. Pleasants* (1799), which involved James Logan's grandson, Charles Logan, who married the daughter of a Virginia planter and became embroiled in a family dispute over freeing their slaves. The case landed in the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and resulted in the largest judicial manumission of enslaved persons in American history. You can view a Zoom recording of Hardin's program and other *Wrestling with Justice* programs on our website at: www.stenton.org/programs.



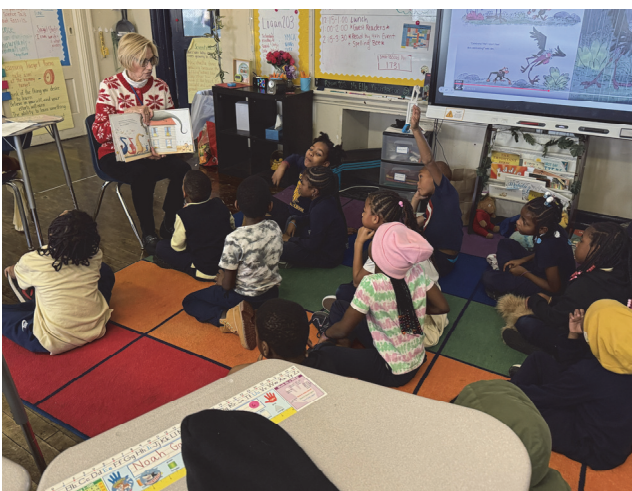
Consulting Scholar Jim Fussell presented a Zoom program on "Black Resistance to Quaker Slavery" in February, archived on Stenton's website.

SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOOD EDUCATION: STENTON & LOGAN ELEMENTARY

Each year, Stenton's relationship with nearby James Logan Elementary School continues to deepen. This year, we were excited to offer more opportunities for NSCDA/PA members to join in supporting the school's students and activities. Philadelphia-based Dames have been stalwart supporters of Logan's Scholastic Book Fair over the last few years. The Allegheny County Committee, impressed by Logan's Community School Program, raised and donated \$1,775 to this year's fair, enabling every student to take home a book. Inspired by the Dames' fundraising efforts, other community partners also contributed, creating a surplus. The balance of the funds was used for field trips that have become increasingly cost-prohibitive in recent years, as bus fees have increased by almost 40% since the pandemic.

During Logan's literacy week, Stenton staff, guides, and Dames read to classrooms across all grade levels. Dames also had an opportunity to experience Logan's extraordinary Black History Month program. The students created elaborate costumes, poems, songs, and dance performances that highlighted the importance of historically Black colleges and universities.

Thanks to a conversation started a few years ago by neighbor and future Dame, Brenda Harris, the school has embarked on an ambitious greening project. Stenton supported this effort by helping the school establish and expand vegetable gardens, plant trees around the school, and build an outdoor classroom. This fall, Logan will break ground on a new playground, recreation, and green space replacing the current three level concrete structure and massive asphalt parking lot adjacent to the school. The planning process was community-informed, and meetings were held to solicit neighbors' input on the design and community needs. Stenton staff attended and hosted planning sessions.



NSCDA/PA Member Gwen Bryant reading to Logan students.

neighbors to enhance their students' experiences. Members of the community partners network convene bi-monthly to receive updates on the school and brainstorm ways to share and secure resources to support our young people. Stenton hosts the first and last meeting each school year. To be good stewards of Stenton, we need strong community institutions as partners, and showing up for Logan Elementary is an example of this commitment!



Mama Carla's quilting club, which meets at Stenton, made quilts for Logan Elementary's emotional support students.

As a Community School, Logan Elementary works closely with local non-profit organizations and concerned



Logan's Black History Program with the Principal, Vice Principal, BET Founder, Community School Coordinator, and staff.

STENTON PROGRAMS

It was another fun-filled and educational year of programming at Stenton! From family-friendly events, like the Halloween Harvest Festival, 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.



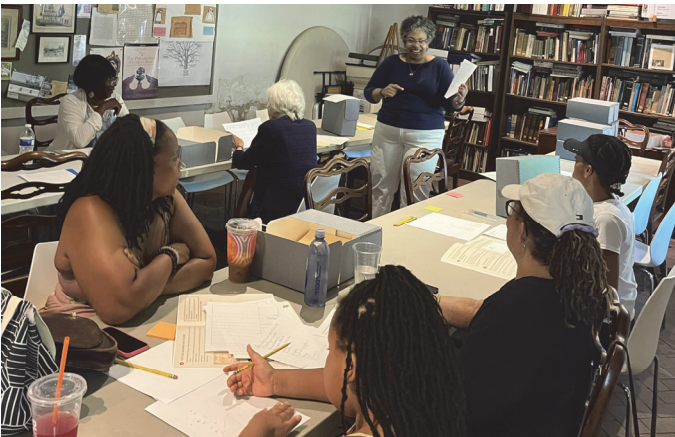
Over 200 attendees enjoyed face painting, pumpkin decorating, games, and crafts at Stenton's annual Halloween Harvest Festival last October.



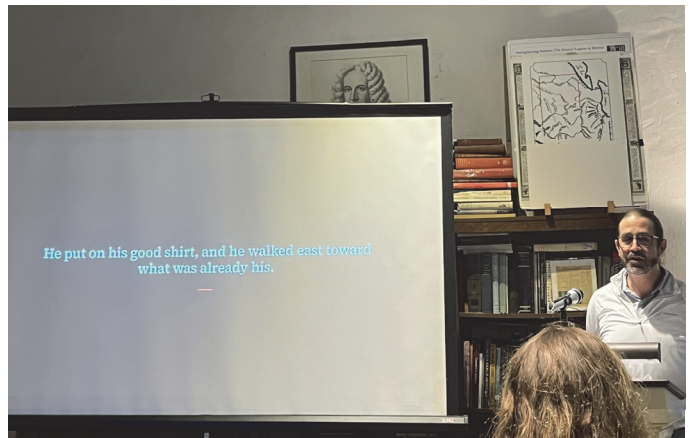
Historic Germantown offered 26 walking tours in 2026! Stenton partnered with La Salle Art Museum and Grumblethorpe to explore the lost landscapes of the lower Wingohocking Creek



April 2026 marked the 250th anniversary of Dinah's manumission (April 15, 1776). To celebrate Dinah's life, Stenton hosted our 4th annual Dinah Day.



At June's Second Saturday program, attendees learned best practices and received materials to preserve their family history through UPenn's Kislack Center's archive workshop.



As part of Stenton's "Wrestling With Justice" project, Bill Hardin presented on Charles Logan and the Pleasant's case, the largest judicial manumission in the history of the United States.

2026-27 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER				
24	Sat	Halloween Harvest Festival	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
NOVEMBER				
11	Wed	<i>Wrestling with Justice</i> Book Talk with Katharine Gerbner	TBD	GFS School Library
14	Sat	Belfield Wingohocking Walking Tour	1:00–3:00pm	La Salle University
DECEMBER				
5	Sat	Holiday Tea	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
MARCH				
20	Sat	Egg Hunt	1:00–3:00pm	Stenton
APRIL				
17	Sat	Dinah Day	1:00–4:00pm	Stenton
18	Sun	Logan-Norris-Dickinson Family Reunion	TBD	Stenton
MAY				
6	Thur	Garden Party	5:00–7:00pm	Stenton
8	Sat	Second Saturday	12:00–4:00pm	Stenton

K-12 EDUCATION AT STENTON: *HISTORY HUNTERS & SCIENCE SLEUTHS*

During the 2025-26 school year, in partnership with Historic Germantown, Awbury Arboretum, Historic Rittenhouse Town, Grumblethorpe, and Fair Hill, Stenton embarked on “Pilot Year 2.0” of *Science Sleuths*, where educators continued to work with four local schools to hone the curriculum. We are excited to offer this innovative program, modeled on our award-winning *History Hunters* program, again this school year. *History Hunters* continues to grow stronger thanks to our partnership with the School District of Philadelphia. Last spring, *History Hunters* was part of the first SPD cohort to develop a logic model for the program and to create new data tools to help better serve our students.



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
 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Adriana Robinson
 SITE MANAGER: Dawn Reid

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