

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

A MONUMENTAL EVENT: THE GARDEN PARTY & LOGAN MEMORIAL

By Kristin Cahn von Seelen, Stenton Committe Chair

Si hortum in bibliotheca habes, nihil deerit.

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

~ Cicero

Don your hat, brush up on your Greek and Latin, and join us at Stenton on Thursday, 10 May at 5:00PM for a Monumental Garden Party! The Stenton Garden Party has always been monumental, to be sure, but this year it's official: We will celebrate the installation of the Logan Memorial, a monument commissioned in 1939 by the Fairmount Park Art Association. The eight-foot tall, three-sided bronze memorial, designed by Logan descendant Thomas Pym Cope (1897-1977), stood until 1969 at the Library Company of Philadelphia, honoring Logan as founder of the Loganian Library. It then went into hibernation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art until last year, when it was given to the NSCDA/PA by the Association for Public Art. We have had the memorial restored and you will find it later

this spring by the Stenton Meadow, at a curve in the front drive, amid flowering plants currently or formerly in the genus Loganiaceae. Stroll over and inspect its inscriptions, including some of Logan's favorite quotes by Aristotle (384-322 BCE):

Ἡ ἐνδαιμονία ἐνεργεῖα τις ἐστὶν.

Happiness is a kind of mental activity.

and Cicero (106-43 BCE):

Animi cultus ille erat ei quasi humanitatis cibus.

Cultivation of the mind was for him almost the food of humanity.

When you have finished cultivating your mind, rest assured that other foods will await you, including delicious savories, salads, drinks, and desserts.

The Logan Memorial's restoration and installation at Stenton embody both the Preservation and Education portions of our mission, the latter by incorporating a significant, mid-twentieth century acknowledgment of Logan's legacy into our historical narrative. Just as our beautiful Colonial

Revival garden grew out of a renewed commitment to Classical and Enlightenment principles during the American Centennial—its form and substance inspiring us to reflect upon what mattered to the Dames in the late-nineteenth century—the Logan Memorial inspires us to ponder what mattered to America and the Dames some fifty years later, on the cusp of the Modern Era. It is an exciting new point on a continuum that spans the nearly three centuries since Stenton's founding—truly something to celebrate!



Above: Rendering of Memorial in Landscape, by Claudia Levy.
 Left: Watercolor of the Logan Memorial at Stenton.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

EDITH R. DIXON TO BE HONORED AT JAMES LOGAN AWARD DINNER

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

The NSCDA/PA will honor Colonial Dame Edith R. Dixon and pay tribute to the Society's Past Presidents at the sixth James Logan Award Dinner, to be held at the Union League on September 21 at 6:00pm. Throughout the years, Mrs. Dixon and her late husband F. Eugene (Fitz) Dixon Jr. have generously given their time, energy, and treasure to many causes in Philadelphia and beyond, embodying the spirit of leadership, generosity, and excellence that William Penn's Secretary demonstrated. Mrs. Dixon has been involved with many aspects of Philadelphia's civic life across the arts, healthcare, horticulture, education, and historic preservation fields. She has been a member of the NSCDA/PA for over sixty years. In Pennsylvania, Mrs. Dixon currently serves on the Board of Abington Memorial Hospital. She is also a member

of the Board of the Hill at Whitemarsh, and at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, she is a member of the Advisory Board of Managers. She is a Trustee Emerita of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and has helped with collections acquisitions at Stenton, the museum property of the NSCDA/PA. The James Logan Award Dinner is held bi-annually and is the Society's biggest fundraiser. Proceeds help ensure the preservation of Stenton and support our national award-winning History Hunters educational program, which serves more than 3,000 schoolchildren each year. During the Dinner, we'll debut a short video highlighting the experience of two History Hunters alumni, who have gone on to become a teacher and Ph.D. candidate in history, respectively. We're especially grateful to our Co-Chairs, Barbara Rogers



and Sally Wirts, and Development Chair Alice Lea Tasman, who have been leading the efforts to organize the dinner and raise funds, and we thank all of you who have already pledged your support. We hope to see you on September 21!

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE UNVEILED THIS SPRING

By Barbara Rogers, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

The Society's new Strategic Plan is soon to be completed. The plan will outline a vision and necessary roadmap for our hopes and dreams for the next five to ten years. Over the previous year many of you helped gather information, participate in interviews with both internal and external stakeholders, and attended a weekend long visioning conference. It was through these methods, that the Strategic Planning Committee

formulated a number of ambitious goals and strategies grouped under the categories of Educate, Elevate, Engage, Energize and Endure. The Committee is now finalizing the tactics of the plan, which identify three key pieces necessary for its success. They are one, the projects under each category, two, the timeline, and three, the financial costs and the sources to fund them. Our goal is to share the completed ver-

Want to stay up-to-date with Dames happenings between Stated Meetings and issues of Connections?

- Visit the "Members Area" at www.nscdapa.org, PW: PADames1891
- Like the NSCDA/PA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nscdapa
- Like Stenton on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stentonmansion

sion of the plan with you by June 30th. Until then, here is a sampling of some of the major projects that have emerged in our tactics discussions:

- Renovate the service wing at Stenton to create dedicated educational programming spaces and offices for our staff.

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Dear Ladies,

When you receive this issue of Connections, the NSCDA Region II & IV Conference will be right around the corner. What an honor it is for the PA Society to be hosting the Conference, a role that has involved over a year of planning, and hours of volunteer time, working together to develop a fun lineup of educational activities and tours showcasing our city and state's rich history and culture.

A very special Friday Dames' evening at the Museum of the American Revolution kicks things off. Conference opening and closing sessions, on Saturday and Sunday mornings, respectively, will highlight recent work of your national organization, including an update on important NSCDA strategic initiatives. Workshops will offer helpful information and ideas on a variety of topics, with a special all-attendee session on communication tools and technology. Saturday afternoon includes a bus tour to Stenton and Cliveden, affording attendees a

firsthand look at the History Hunters Program, as well as a visit with Ben Franklin. None of this would be possible without the help of our PA Dames conference volunteers. during the conference. We thank you! I look forward to seeing to seeing many of you here in Philadelphia, April 27-29th!

Spring marks not only the regional conference, but also our Annual Meeting, an important Society meeting open to all members, at which we vote for a slate of NSCDA/PA officers and Board of Managers, and hear brief reports summarizing the year's accomplishments. This year's Annual Meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 16th, and marks my last as NSCDA/PA President. Succeeding me will be Barbara Rogers, our current 1st Vice-President and Strategic Planning Chair. Barbara brings proven skills, energy, and experience to the job, along with a cheerful approach that's infectious. NSCDA/PA could

not be in better hands.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve all of you, and to work with you and our amazing staff in positioning our corporate Society for a promising future. An ambitious new strategic plan, including governance work on leadership development and succession planning, plans for wing renovations at Stenton and major maintenance upgrades at Headquarters, upcoming membership recruitment events – all are initiatives you are helping set in motion, and we hope you'll continue to support them with your 'time, talent, and/or treasure.' In this ever-busy age in which we live, your participation is so valued, and makes achievable the goals we've set together.

With sincere thanks for your support, and friendship,

Anne L. B. Burnett

LANCASTER-DAUPHIN-YORK NEWS

By Margaret Broussard, Committee Chair

The Lancaster-Dauphin-York Committee held a Christmas party on the first Sunday in December, 2017, at the home of Nancy Gingrich. About 25 members, spouses, and guests attended. On February 6, 2018, the stated meeting was held at the Lancaster Country Club, with sixteen members present. The group voted \$1000 to partner with LancasterHistory.org to begin conserving the account books of John Miller, the founder of Millertown, and \$1300 to partner with the Rock

Ford Foundation to restore a portrait of Catherine Frey. Bobbi McMullen and Diane Murry were elected vice-chairman and secretary respectively. Chairman Margaret Broussard announced the appointment of Carolyn Holt as assistant secretary and Susan Ashbey Davis as historian. The Speaker was Robert A. Frick, who gave a talk on William Henry and George Ross from his series "Together They Made Lancaster Great."



Pictured is the newly elected Committee Board members Diane Murry, Secretary, Dr. Frick and Roberta McMullen, Vice Chair.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMITTEE NEWS

By Betsy Teti, Committee Chair

Allegheny County Committee Dames have enjoyed two outstanding programs this year. We were delighted to welcome David Michener, CEO of Allegheny Cemetery in January and Roger Galbraith, Superintendent, to our Open Stated Meeting in January, to hear the history of the Cemetery. Several of the ACC Dames have family interred at Allegheny Cemetery which made the program very personal.

In March, George Kaliada, PhD. presented "The Nobility of American Silver: Encompassing Traditions, Continuity and Achievements of Most Notable and Recognizable Names." Dr. Kaliada was most informative and provided his expertise as members were invited to bring a silver treasure for "show and tell." His attention to detail and engaging presentation was enjoyed by all.



Roger Galbraith, Betsy Teti and David Michener

MUSEUM PROPERTIES

Last year, two sisters who descend from George Emlen (1695-1754), father of Hannah Emlen Logan (1722-1777) of Stenton, each donated a c. 1730-50 Philadelphia, Queen Anne-style, side chair to the NSCDA/PA for the Stenton collection. Together, the chairs constitute a pair for the



Yellow Lodging Room. From a decorative arts perspective, the black walnut chairs represent a classic Philadelphia Queen Anne form with round shoulders, solid vase-shaped splats, compass seats, and cabriole legs. They feature shell-carved crests,

shells on the knees, flat serpentine stretchers, and tongues on rounded slipper feet. An identical pair is in Ima Hogg's collection at Bayou Bend in Houston, Texas. We know that after James Logan's death in 1751, Stenton's furnishings included seventy five chairs. While in the 21st century, this number sounds like a great many chairs, their presence reinforced the flexibility and sociability of Stenton's primary rooms on both floors in the 18th century. The sets included "Cane Chairs," "Leather Chairs," "Black Leather Bottomed Chairs," and "Maple Chairs w[i]th yellow Worsted Damask Bottoms." These chairs will help us to increase the number of Queen Anne chairs in the Yellow Lodging Room to better represent the set of twelve once there.

One chair was completely refinished, and the other suffered some compromising repairs and structural damage in the past. Both chairs are in furni-

EMLLEN CHAIRS

By Laura Keim, Stenton Curator

ture conservator Mike Podmaniczky's workshop for repair and conservation. We have raised \$1,400 toward the cost of the chairs' treatment. To cover the complete cost, we seek to raise another \$1,100.

Please contact Laura Keim, Stenton Curator, laura.keim@stenton.org to contribute to this project or other collections initiatives.



Left and Right: The rear seat rails of the chairs are branded "GE" for owner George Emlen. Gifts of Mary June McPherson and Jane Green Cooper. Photographs by Chris Storb.

STENTON SHORTS



Left: Gwendolyn Bryant and Nina Schaefer serving tea to one of one hundred guests at Stenton's Holiday Tea. Center: Work has begun on the gate, thanks to a grant from Historic Germantown's Saving Our Sites Fund. The gate will be open for the Garden Party! Right: Lori Tharps, author of 'Same Family Different Colors' with Stenton curator, Laura Keim at Tharps' book talk on February 17th.