

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

WALNUT CHAIRS, MAPLE CHAIRS - YES, STENTON CANN!

by Laura Keim, Curator, Stenton



A Logan object “coming home” to Stenton is always exciting! Americana Week at Sotheby’s Auction House in New York proved successful for Stenton’s ongoing quest to “furnish the house as far as possible with Logan things.” Two lots in the Peter Pfaffenroth sale on January 19th captured our attention – 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 on January 22nd, a silver cann that had belonged to Isaac Norris and James Logan was a rare prize to go on the auction block.

Logan objects rarely appear in the marketplace, and there is often little lead time to raise money in advance of the auction. Emboldened with support from a dedicated group of Dames and donors, Stenton Curator, Laura Keim, bid on the phone. The chairs were only several lots apart, and the luck of the day was with Stenton. Heart beating, Laura was pleased to secure first the walnut chairs and then the maple chairs, both for below the auction estimate. Several days later, there was real competition at the du Pont sale, but Stenton was able to purchase the Logan silver cup. The cann is now on view in the Parlor buffet cupboard where it was stored in the 18th century.



When Stenton can collect (through gift, bequest, purchase, or loan) objects that had been at Stenton in the past, it sets the stage for an increasingly resonant and authentic visitor experience. Objects with family provenance tell family stories. They offer us the opportunity to see, feel, and connect to the past. That connection fosters understanding of history and holds the potential to deepen the relationship with the past that also helps us to understand and connect to each other in the present.

Stenton is most grateful to these generous donors: Hannah Henderson, Kevin Kerchner, Richard Snowden, Wylie Raab, Tom Johnson, Cathy Keim, Gwen Bryant, the Society of Colonial Wars, George McNeely, Lisa Street, Jay Robert Stiefel, and the Allegheny County Committee of The NSCDA/PA.



Photo Captions (Top to Bottom): 1-2) Descended in the Fisher-Fox line of the Logan family, the Philip Syng silver cann is inscribed “I N to I L,” noting its transfer from Isaac Norris to James Logan. The cann appears on the list of silver on Sarah Logan’s 1754 probate inventory as, “2 large Cups 2 ditto smaller.” 3) Philadelphia, Queen Anne, maple, slip-seat side chairs with trifold feet and serpentine stretchers. Identical to a pair already at Stenton through a partial gift from Jay Stiefel, the six represent half of the “12 maple chairs w[i]th yellow worsted [wool] damask bottoms” that stood in Stenton’s Yellow Lodging Room in the 18th century. 4) Philadelphia, Queen Anne, walnut, side chairs with paneled pad feet and single turned rear stretchers are outwardly identical to a chair with a Logan family connection and similar to other single rear-stretcher Logan family chairs.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Dames,

Education. Preservation. Service. That is our mission. And we are moving forward on all fronts.

This edition of *Connections* contains many exciting updates: new acquisitions, a new ancestor, new grants. Believe it or not, we didn't have room to report on everything we wanted! I will quickly note how great it's been to get back together at Latimer Street. We've enjoyed interesting speakers, good food, and seeing our friends at the past two Stated Meetings. Our book club has enjoyed their Civil War focused-reading so much, they have added a trip to Gettysburg. Both members and staff are judging National History Day events. *History Hunters* has continued to thrive in its virtual format and was recently honored with an Institutional Award of Merit by PA Museums. Students can now meet two new historical interpreters, Harriet Tubman and Henry "Box" Brown, for a Zoom chat. And if you missed our virtual programs, including one in conjunction with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, you can access them on the "programs" page on Stenton's website.

Our Spring calendar is already chock-full. The return of Stenton's annual Easter Egg Hunt means welcoming back hundreds of our neighbors in April. **Our annual Garden Party on June 2nd will also feature the long-awaited unveiling of our Dinah Memorial.** We are in deep planning mode for the James Logan Award Dinner coming up quickly in September.

Most of all, I want to encourage you to read the list of committees (page 3) and find one that speaks to you. Jump in, get involved. You won't regret it!

With Warm Regards,

May Ann B. Wits

HOW THE LDY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE NSCDA/PA MISSION

By Carolyn Holt, LDY Committee Chair, NSCDA/PA



Naturalization—the process of granting U.S. citizenship to foreign born individuals—began in 1790, in the early part of our country's history. Although changes in the process have occurred through time, the importance of this life changing event has not. Welcoming new citizens from across the globe, the Lancaster Dauphin York Committee takes great pride in having supported this initiative since the early years of our Committee. Under the leadership of Margaret "Peg" Adams, Anne Williams, Susan Davis and more recently, Ann Carter, we are proud to state that our support has not wavered, even during these pandemic times. Unique to our Committee is the lovely United

States flag, the lyrics of the "Star Spangled Banner", and our well-known matching bow, presented to brand new Americans! Our presence at the Lancaster County Courthouse has spanned decades and without question, we plan to continue our support of welcoming new citizens, to this grand country of ours!

Calling All Dames!

What are your hidden talents and what do you most enjoy spending time doing? There are many ways to get involved as a PA Dame. And doing so is a great way to get to know new friends and get the most out of your membership. Do you like to write or edit? Or are you a numbers person who enjoys a good spreadsheet? Do you have fundraising experience? Perhaps you would enjoy proposing and cultivating new members? Or your heart lies with the collections at Stenton? Or you just love history. Sharing it or learning something new? Do you have ideas for programs you'd love to see during our Stated Meetings? Or daytrips you'd like to plan? Do you enjoy genealogy research? We can go on and on! The point is there's really a place for everyone and every skill:

Development

Finance/Audit

Governance (Bylaws & Board Retreat)

Headquarters/Gardens/Rental

Historical Activities

Membership

Museum Properties (Stenton)

Patriotic Service (Flag events & Naturalization)

Communications (*Connections*)

Lineage Committee

Programs

Lancaster/Dauphin/York Committee

Allegheny County Committee

All are welcome to attend committee meetings. We take our commitments seriously, but we have fun in the process. Adriana (adriana@nscdapa.org) can put you in contact with the current/future Committee Chairs. We hope you will reach out and join in!

Why Is Joining a Committee Important for New Members?



"I have always found when I engage in something new that it can be a bit intimidating; not knowing anyone or understanding how the organization works. Joining the board has made that transition easy and has allowed me to enjoy bigger events by not feeling isolated. There is so much you get back when you are involved; new friendships, connections, and of course knowing that you are serving a great mission that supports wonderful programs. Being a member of the Dames has been a rewarding experience, and I am proud to be an active participant. I encourage everyone to find a small group that speaks to their heart and give a few hours of time. The return is worth it!" - Michele Thackrah, Recording Secretary

FY2022-2023 Annual Dues have gone digital!

Please be on the lookout for an email from Headquarters on **May 1st** with links for paying your dues online. For those who would prefer a hardcopy invoice mailed to them, please reach out directly to Adriana at adriana@nscdapa.org or 215-735-6737.



REGISTRAR

ROA UPDATE DINAH & ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

By Mickey Herr, Registrar, NSCDA/PA

Our National NSCDA president, Katherine Cammack, wrote in her eDispatch address of March 7, 2022, about the work being done by the NSCDA to become more inclusive. Specifically, she mentioned the need to “broaden our list of qualifying ancestors to include more people that made important contributions to the founding of our country...” We here at NSCDA/PA were happy to read this National initiative, as we have been discussing and pondering how best to update our current PA eligibility list.

As we reported in our Fall 2021 edition of *Connections*, we’ve been looking westward at some of our non-traditional ancestors. But we have also been giving specific thought about our female ancestors, and how best to acknowledge them, given they weren’t often awarded an honorific or leadership title. This is particularly true with original land-grant settlers (“historic founders”) as well as church founders and clergy. In addition, we have been thinking about one specific ancestor important to all of us who love Stenton. If not for Dinah, the formerly enslaved woman brought to Stenton as dower property in the 1750s, there might not be a historic house to care for today. As we looked deeper into what it means to be a “Woman of Distinction”, we saw we had a unique opportunity, especially on the heels of our two-year *Inequality in Bronze* project. We asked ourselves, what would it mean to be able to add Dinah to our Register of Ancestors in a useful and meaningful way? In the words of Stenton’s curator Laura Keim: “It’s truly symbolic to claim an African American ancestor. While we have women of color as NSCDA members, this might offer them someone other than a white enslaver to claim as their ancestor.” With all of these thoughts in mind, our board of managers discussed and agreed upon the following updates in 3 specific areas, to our official Pennsylvania Eligibility List:

ECCLESIASTIC - Clergy (ordained in a duly established religion) Founder of a Church (of a duly established religion)

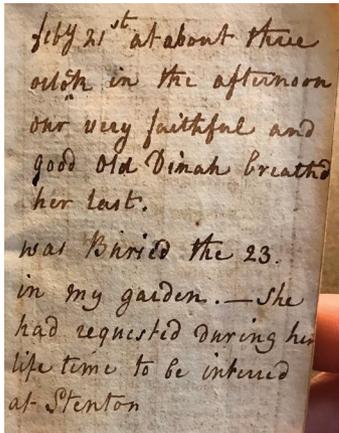
Our founder, William Penn, welcomed practitioners of all faiths. These various faiths come with unique titles of leadership and ministry. We will review non-traditional leadership roles on an individual basis.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION - Women who were business owners, published authors, managers of proprietary affairs for the colony and/or women leaders or pioneers contributing significant achievements in the colony of Pennsylvania.

These achievements may be in the arts, civic, ecclesiastical, educational, commercial or patriotic. Additionally, we will consider women who fought oppression and/or worked to redefine or expand the roles of women beyond traditional motherhood and housewifery. Reviewed on an individual basis.

OTHER - Physician, Midwife, or Healer, practicing in the colony prior to 5 July 1776.

It is important to note, any changes in our eligibility list does not negate the high bar in providing proper proof of said service. We also understand it is often especially difficult to find primary documentation indicating service provided by women.



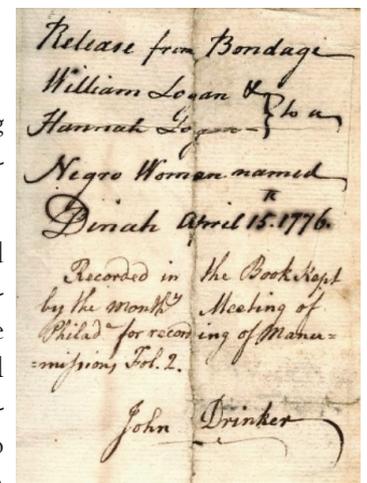
July 21st at about three o'clock in the afternoon our very faithful and good old Dinah breathed her last. was buried the 23. in my garden. — she had requested during her life time to be interred at Stenton

Dinah's death date: February 21, 1805. Entered in Deborah Norris Logan's pocket almanac.

Case in point is Dinah. But we are quite lucky, as Laura Keim and Rachel Corma have undertaken some key research that helped us understand the facts surrounding her manumission and her death. Because of this research, we were able to submit the proper proof to the National registrar to review Dinah as a potential candidate to our Registrar of Ancestors. And we are excited to report she has been officially added to the NSCDA ROA as a “Woman of Distinction”- Requested and won her freedom from Hannah Emlen Logan and William Logan of Stenton, April 15, 1776.

We have much more work to do. Updating our PA Eligibility List is only the first step. Identifying additional ancestors comes next. The difficult part, of course, is the research. Finding the right primary documentation (or a secondary source with excellent citations) takes time and persistence. As of March 2022, there are a total of 43 women who have been included in the NSCDA Register of Ancestors. Pennsylvania claims only two; Hannah Callowhill Penn and Dinah. Surely, each of you is naming several qualified Pennsylvania women in your head as you read this. In the months ahead, we will be thinking through ways we might advance this research in an efficient manner. Whom would we like to partner with? Should we be exploring grant opportunities to fund this research? The important part is to be thoughtful about our approach and to remember our goal of expanded inclusion.

Feel free to drop your thoughts to Registrar@nscdapa.org



Release from Bondage
William Logan & Hannah Emlen Logan
Negro Woman named
Dinah April 15. 1776
Recorded in the Book kept
by the monthly Meeting of
Philad^a for redeeming of Manu-
cipions Feb. 2.
John Drinker

“Release from Bondage” Dinah’s Manumission. April 15, 1776.

With the death of **Jane Buckman Aylward** on April 8, 2009, the 1891 Society was officially launched. Stewarded by Alice Lea Tasman, Stephen Hague, and Beatrice Childs, Mrs. Aylward's very generous and unrestricted gift to the NSCDA/PA, set the example for her fellow-Dames in creating a Legacy Giving program. We will be forever grateful for her foresight and for the ladies who followed suit, including:

Viola Bement	Adair M. Curtiss	Dorrance H. Hamilton	Jean P. McDonald
Gail McKnight Beckman	Edith Armason Harrison	Mr. John M. Kennedy III	Elizabeth Thieme

A Charitable Bequest to NSCDA/PA ensures the prosperity of the organization and the future resources needed in furthering our mission work. As a donor, you may designate a specific area of the Society that holds significance, such as Stenton, Latimer Street, the gardens, *History Hunters*, Naturalization ceremonies, or you may make an unrestricted gift to be used as needed. Gifts can be made of specific dollar amounts, or specific percentages of your estate, or particular assets – anything that works best for the donor. We are thankful to the following Dames who have informed us that they have included NSCDA/PA in their estate planning documents:

Current Members of the 1891 Society:

Anne L. B. Burnett	Barbara J. Gillis	Lee McIlvaine Manonian	Lisa S. Street
Elise W. Carr	Janet Kimbleton Grace	Anne S. C. Nimick	Alice Lea Mast Tasman
Sarah B. Congdon	Dorothy W. Hocker	Dora L. Rogers	Sheila S. Traub
Margaret M. Conver	Sharon D. Holt	Carol F. Rush	Jane Foster Willson
Julia S. Forbes	Martha Green Lewis	Margaret L. Shaver	

One current member, Carol Rush, shared her reasons for her estate plan with us:

“When I was in third grade my Brownie troop took a field trip to a Native American rendezvous site. We hiked up the trail to the top of a bluff. When we reached the top, we had a 360° view and could see for miles. Our troop leader, an archeologist, showed us what she knew to be fire circles, told us that digs had revealed arrowheads and tools that were many centuries old, and explained that hundreds, perhaps thousands of people used to gather there. I immediately envisioned an 8-year-old with braids (just like mine!) and was awash with the knowledge that I was not the first little girl to walk that trail and inhabit that spot. My reverence for history began that day.

When I was in college my Mother signed me up to be a Dame. I was intrigued to learn that I had ancestors who had been in America before it was America. As an adult I became active at Stenton and in the PA Society, and I realized that the Dames' three-pronged mission of Preservation, Education and Patriotic Service resonated with that sense of history and sense of place that I had experienced so many years before. My service to the Society reflects my desire to keep that alive for myself but more importantly to create a place where others can recognize the importance of the people who have lived their lives in the exact places where we stand.

Of course, it takes money to preserve historic sites and to create and provide educational programming. I have named the NSCDA/PA in my will to assure that the Society's work with historic sites, programming, patriotic service, and all we do, will have the funding needed to continue this work for future generations.”

For more information, please contact development@stenton.org.



Important Reminder to our Member Candidates

In the Spring of 2021, the Board of Managers voted to change the dues procedure for our new Member Candidates. In the past, Candidates who were in the process of completing their lineage papers were not required to pay any annual dues. Starting with the May 1, 2022 annual billing cycle, regardless of where you are in your paperwork process, all Member Candidates will be billed for the annual Pennsylvania Society dues. This is a charge separate from your genealogy verification fee, new member fee, and National dues, which will all be billed after you have completed your membership application and are assigned an official membership number. Any questions, please reach out to Adriana@nscdapa.org or Registrar@nscdapa.org.

MUSEUM ALLIANCE

MAJOR GRANTS GIVE MOMENTUM TO STENTON EDUCATION CENTER FUNDRAISING

by Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

THE
HAMILTON FAMILY
CHARITABLE TRUST

Stenton was treated to an early Christmas in December, when we received word of two major grants for the Stenton Education Center project. The Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, established by NSCDA/PA member Dorrance (Dodo) Hamilton (1928–2017), granted \$300,000 in support of the project, the largest gift we have ever received from the foundation!

The foundation, comprised of two generations of the Hamilton family, has long been supportive of the Society’s educational programs at Stenton, especially *History Hunters*.

On the heels of this exciting news, the NSCDA/PA received its second award from the National Endowment for the Humanities, another \$300,000 grant. The Society received its first NEH award during the 2007-2011 Capital Campaign, which helped create an endowment for educational programming at Stenton. The latest award, which comes from the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants Program, was one of just eleven grants awarded nationwide by the program in December. The grant requires a 3-1 match, and the NSCDA/PA will need to raise \$900,000 to secure the release of the funds, but with the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust award and a \$333,333 grant from Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program in December 2020, we are well on our way to meeting the challenge!



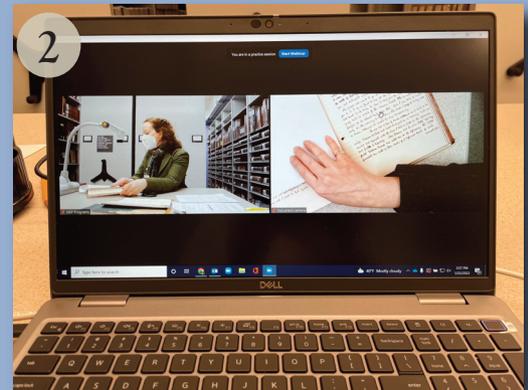
These grants, together with generous gifts from individuals, bring our fundraising total to \$1.2 million of the \$3 million that we hope to raise for the Stenton Education Center. Education is one of the three pillars of the NSCDA/PA’s mission, and the Stenton Education Center project helps us advance this mission by creating the first dedicated educational program and teaching space at Stenton. The ambitious effort involves sensitive rehabilitation of Stenton’s historic service wing, including new accessible entrances to the structure, renovated and expanded restrooms, and the creation of offices upstairs, so that the carriage house can be converted to program space. The new space will enable us to expand our program offerings, serve more schoolchildren, and build on the success of initiatives like *History Hunters*. For more information about how you can support this project, contact Stenton Director Dennis Pickeral at 215-329-7312, or email dennis.pickeral@stenton.org.

STENTON SHORTS

1) Stenton’s *Holiday Celebration*- Students from *Bringing Everybody Together (BET)*, a local mentoring organization, volunteered at the event and collected toys for their *Holiday Toy Drive*, which benefitted James Logan Elementary School. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated!



2) Stenton & The Historical Society of Pennsylvania hosted a virtual program in January. Curator Laura Keim and Librarian Lee Arnold highlighted documents from the Logan Family Papers. Over 180 people viewed the program in realtime! You can view a recording of this program and all past virtual programs at www.stenton.org/programs.



3) Piper Burnett, formerly of Thailand, has been a *History Hunters Educator & Stenton Tour Guide* since 2016. In January 2022, Piper became a citizen of the United States of America. Working with *History Hunters* inspired Piper to pursue citizenship. “As someone who came to this country as a refugee, I was looking for a sense of belonging as I taught U.S. history. Now, when I teach *History Hunters* lessons, I feel proud because it’s my history, too!”



NSCDA/PA 2022 Calendar

National Meetings & Events

LANCASTER/DAUPHIN/YORK Meetings & Events

STENTON Events

STENTON Committee Meetings

1st Thursday of Every Month (except Jul & Aug)

ALLEGHENY Meetings & Events

NSCDA/PA EVENTS

NSCDA/PA Board Meeting

2nd Friday of Each Month (except Jul & Aug)

2022	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
April	19	Tu	ACC Board Meeting - optional dutch treat Luncheon	10:30 AM	Pittsburgh Golf Club
	20	Wed	Off-site trip to Wyck, Johnson House & Concord Schoolhouse with Lunch	10:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Meet @ Wyck (6026 Germantown Ave)
	29	Fri	Zoom Program- 'Women's Work: Childbearing and Motherhood in Early America'	2:00 - 3:00 PM	On Zoom
May	5	Thu	Garden Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	5	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton
	11	Wed	James Logan Award Dinner Committee Meeting	2:00 PM	Stenton
	12	Thu	Book Talk- <i>Germantown Legacies: Women, Healing, and Medical...</i> by Susan Brandt	5:00 PM	Stenton
	13	Fri	NSCDA/PA Board Meeting	9:30 AM	HQ
	17	Tu	ACC Stated Meeting		
	18	Wed	Annual Meeting & Elections	10:00 AM	HQ
June	1	Wed	LDY Mtg/Events		
	2	Thu	Stenton Garden Party & Dinah Memorial Unveiling	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Stenton
	9	Thu	James Logan Award Dinner Committee Meeting	10:00 AM	HQ
	10	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Retreat	9:30 AM	Stenton
	18	Sat	Stenton Juneteenth Celebration	TED	Stenton Museum & Stenton Park

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW MEMBERS

BROSTROM, Susan Jane
(Susan Jane Barnhart)
Ancestor: Henry Antes, PA
PA-7010

CLARK, Kaelyn
(Kaelyn Barr)
Ancestor: Thomas Petit, NH
PA-7012

FUNK, Virginia A.
Ancestor: John Hathaway, MA
PA-7013

PAGANO, Stacie Lauren
(Stacie Lauren Crumbling)
Ancestor: George Ross, PA
PA-7014

SKIC, Kelsey
(Kelsey Earhart)
Ancestor: John Strong, PA
PA-7015

TERRAMANI, Catherine Anna
(Catherine Anna Brostrom)
Ancestor: Henry Antes, PA
PA-7011

RESIGNATIONS

HALLAHAN, Cynthia
(Cynthia Kohlsaas Harkness)
PA-6489

THOMPSON, Curtiss R.
(Curtiss W. Richardson)
PA-5007

DECEASED

JUSTI, Helen Milne
(Helen Bingham Milne)
Admitted: October 9, 1953
Died: December 11, 2021
PA-3113

MCNEIL, Nancy M.
(Nancy M. McKinney)
Admitted: December 8, 1967
Died: January 18, 2022
PA-3711

TRANSFER IN

ELLIOTT, Dorsey
(Susan Dorsey Eshelman)
PA-5022

NSCDA/PA Staff

Executive Assistant: Adriana Robinson
 Curator: Laura Keim
 Stenton Director: Dennis Pickeral
 Director of Education: Rachel Corma
 HQ & Stenton Facilities Manager:
 Kenneth J. Robinson
 Stenton Site Managers: Dawn Reid & Jeff Eckel

About Connections...

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WE ARE BACK AT LATIMER STREET! SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW NEIGHBOR!



Commonweal is Rittenhouse's newest commercial art gallery and features two-person exhibitions of emerging and mid-career artists from Philadelphia. The gallery's programming seeks to highlight artists whose works engage important local conversations which relate to issues being discussed at a regional, national, or potentially even a global, level.

Opened by owner **Alex Conner** in October of 2021, the gallery's exhibitions have engaged with themes such as "belonging" - whether in one's own body, community, or environment - as a radical act, contemporary definitions of queerness and the transformation of urban spaces through redevelopment. Each month, Commonweal hosts a series of intimate programs intended to broaden an appreciation of how and why featured makers engage the world. Through Commonweal, Alex works with local collectors and businesses in an advisory capacity to assist in developing collections guided by personal taste and that feature works by Philadelphia's most remarkable artistic talents thoughtfully reflecting the dynamism of our shared humanity. **Commonweal is open Tuesday - Saturday, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.**

Mission Statement

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is dedicated to preserving our State and National heritage through preservation of historic properties, conservation of antiquities and archives, education, scholarships, patriotism and respect for our Colonial ancestors whose distinguished service prior to 1776 and ideals are the foundation of our Country.

Adopted by the Board of Managers, October 10, 2003