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NSCDA
 —PENNSYLVANIA—

Connections

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

LOOKING WESTWARD

Unless you are in the process of working on your Lineage Papers to complete the membership process, chances are you haven't given much thought to your qualifying ancestor for some time, or indeed the Register of Ancestors (ROA) which tracks all the eligible NSCDA ancestors. Each of the Colonial States maintains their own individual list of qualifications that make an ancestor eligible for inclusion. In Pennsylvania, we include founders of towns, provincial officers, members of assemblies and conventions, town and country officers, members of the judiciary, commissioned military, clergy, physicians and educational founders. All positions which were in service to the colony prior to July 5th, 1776. We also include "women of distinction" in our list. Those women who owned businesses, were published authors, managers of proprietary affairs or any other pioneering efforts in the colony. Hannah Callowhill Penn and Polly Norris Dickinson are two prime examples.

Our current PA list was updated in July of 2020, but we are already thinking about useful ways of expanding these qualifications. For instance, New Hampshire includes midwives in their list. Birthing babies and protecting the lives of mothers was certainly an important job in colonial times. At present, there are 39 official female ancestors included in the National ROA (all societies). We'd like to find more. We also would like to expand into some other non-traditional areas, by researching Black, Indigenous, People of Color. One prime example of this is Pocahontas, who is a qualifying ancestor from Virginia. Another consideration is how we might add Dinah, who served the Logan family at Stenton.

Part of the Registrar's job is to locate

the proper proofs and submit the formal paperwork to the National Registrar to have these new ancestors considered for inclusion. It's easy to imagine the countless ancestors who might qualify, the difficult part is locating the appropriate primary documentation



Looking out from the Hans Herr House, 2013.

to prove their service. One of the things we have done in recent months is reach out to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Located within walking distance of our Latimer Street headquarters, HSP is one of the largest family history collections on the east coast, and an invaluable resource. We are also working with HSP to develop programming in support of our member candidates. Stay tuned for further details.

In recent months we have been looking westward from Philadelphia, most especially towards our Swiss and German ancestors who moved to western Pennsylvania. We are apt to forget just how dangerous "settling the frontier" could be. This notion is brought home in a report from a Provincial Council meeting held at Conestoga (present day Lancaster Co.) on June 18th, 1711. During this meeting Governor Penn spoke of his great regard for the Conestoga Indians and his plan to bestow upon them and the five nations five belts of Wampum, to ensure their "friendship" with the

Swiss settlers being "safely seated" near Pequea. Penn's plan was to protect these settlers from the fighting between certain tribes, and bluntly, to keep them alive. Their survival was key to Penn's plans, not least of which because they paid good money for this privilege to live on the frontier.

With research from former Registrar Carolyn Holt and current Registrar Mickey Herr, and one submission by Bobby McMullen, we have added 7 "frontier" ancestors since April of 2021:

Yost Dresbach (1721-1794) Member of Committee of Observation, 1774; Captain, Lehigh Co. Associators, 1775, Northampton Co. PA

Johannes Siegried (c. 1747) Founder, 1740, Oley Township, Berks County

Jacob Haldeman (1722-1783) Committee of Observation, 1775, Rapho Township, Lancaster Co, PA

Valentine Metzler (1726-1783), Ordained Minister Mennonite Congregation, 1760, North Lancaster Co., PA

Alexander Zartman (c. 1692-1762) Founder of a Church, 1730, Brickerville, Lancaster Co. PA

Hans Herr (1639-1725) Founder of Town and County, 1711, Willow Street, Lancaster Co. PA

Martin Kendig (c1670-1748) Founder of Town and County, 1711, Willow Street, Lancaster Co. PA (in process)

Do you enjoy genealogical research? We are looking for Dames to join our Lineage Committee. Being part of this committee means you will be called upon to help provide guidance and research in support of our membership candidates or help find proofs for new ancestors. It's fun! Contact Mickey Herr registrars@nscdapa.org

FALL UPDATE FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Dames,

Welcome to our new hybrid world! While some of us enjoyed traffic-free meetings, most of us are ready to give up Zooming for good. Simply put, we missed being together.

Nowhere was that more evident than at our September Board Retreat. Traditionally held each Spring, we postponed so we could meet in person. With masks, social distancing, and plenty of hand sanitizer, we started our retreat with a relationship building warm-up. It turned out to be a favorite part of the retreat for many of us. Taking time to get to know one another and to discover what inspired each of us to



not just join the Dames, but to become active members. We are of many minds and personalities. And while it was refreshing to hear differing opinions, ultimately, we discovered we came together through shared passions.

And what are our passions? Service, community, and a love of history.

Recent events have caused us all to think deeper about what it means to be an organization which actively promotes our national heritage. Even the words we use to describe our love of history have suddenly taken on mixed meanings. As stewards of Stenton for more than 120 years, we have devoted ourselves to the highest standards of historic preservation and site interpretation as we can achieve. Yet being stewards of such an important site means more than being of service to the history. It also requires being a good neighbor.

The neighborhood surrounding Stenton has drastically changed through the centuries. What once was a vast country estate is now a densely populated urban community. While it often appears as if time stands still inside the walls of Stenton, outside the walls we see the constant ebb and flow of an under-resourced community. Stenton is not an island, but an important part of a living, breathing, whole. And while the facts of history don't change, our understanding of those facts change over time, especially as they are reflected in the faces of those who live in the surrounding community. Such work as commemorating Dinah, the enslaved woman who lived at Stenton, and our partnership with the Historic Germantown Black Lives Matter Committee, aren't just critical steps in strengthening community, they are important steps in building a more equitable future.

This sense of community was evident during our recent Halloween Harvest Festival. Stenton's gates were open, our lawn became a pumpkin patch, and the neighbors shared great appreciation that in-person events were back. We heard stories from neighbors who were now bringing their third generation to celebrate at Stenton. Another neighbor discovered it for the first time after passing by for three years. These were important in-person connections.

Still, I think Zoom meetings are here to stay. They allow us to connect across great distances. We've also discovered that building more content on social media helps us connect on a more consistent basis, sharing information more widely and with more diverse audiences. Regardless of whether it's in-person, virtually, or even on social media, let's keep strengthening our connections!

With Warm Regards,

May Ann B. Wits

COMMITTEE NEWS



Both our Lancaster-Dauphin-York and Allegheny County Committees discovered the pros and cons of remote meetings this past year. Zoom meetings made it easier to reach across the state, but there's no doubt everyone enjoyed the return of in-person meetings.

New ACC Committee Chair Mary Odom reports on a fabulous fall return to the Rolling Rock Club on October 12, with a program led by club

historian Michael Whalen along with a tour of the Mellon Museum.

The LDY Committee also welcomed a new Committee Chair, Carolyn Holt, who just stepped down from her position as PA Registrar. This committee was able to meet in-person twice, including an outside lunch at the Lancaster Country Club in June, where they hosted guests from Philadelphia. This visit illustrates one of Carolyn's goals as LDY Chair, which is to foster closer relationships between committee members, and to extend that relationship building to the Philadelphia Dames as well as the Allegheny Committee.

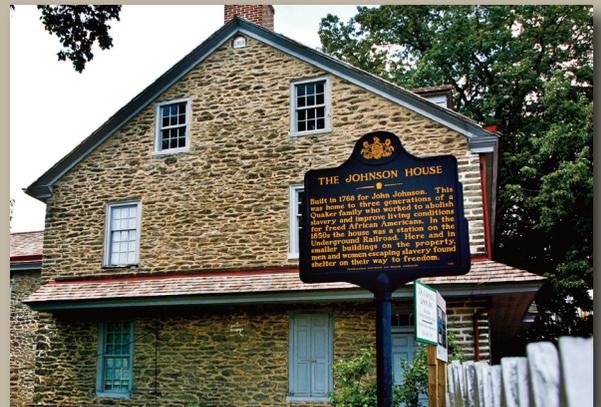
We can all agree with Carolyn as she states: "...the stronger our relationships become, combined with a bet-

ter understanding of the NSDCA/PA, will enhance our time shared, our appreciation of the Society, as well as our contributions to the many remarkable initiatives available and ongoing!"



Photo Captions: Left- Historian Michael Whalen, Mary Odom, Becky O'Connor, Rin Babson, and Lisa Todd. Above- Wylie Raab, Dennis Pickeral, Sally Wirts, Alice Lea Tasman, and Carolyn Holt.

SAVE THE DATE!



Join us for the annual off-site Stated Meeting on April 20, 2022 to visit two of Stenton's Historic Germantown and *History Hunters* partners: Wyck & The Johnson House. Wyck (left photo) is a National Historic Landmark house, garden, and farm that served as the ancestral home to one Philadelphia family for nine generations (1690-1973). Johnson House Historic Site, Inc. (right photo) is one of Philadelphia's few accessible, intact Underground Railroad stops. Lunch and a brief business meeting will be held at Wyck after the morning tour, followed by a visit to The Johnson House.

MUSEUM PROPERTIES

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



BET Youth tour Stenton with History Hunter Guide Kerry Bryan.

The Dinah Memorial Project has helped Stenton forge new community partnerships with institutions, groups, and individuals in the Logan and Nicetown neighborhoods of Philadelphia. In coming issues of Connections, we will highlight these partners and the ways in which we work together. One of the first groups that Stenton reached out to in 2018 was Bringing Everybody Together (BET), a mentoring organization whose mission is “to provide the youth of Philadelphia with the support and direct services necessary to

become well balanced, functioning members of society.”

BET is led by Richard Washington, who founded the organization 27 years ago. Washington works tirelessly and voluntarily to ensure that BET youth have the opportunities and a support network that can help them transcend the challenges of growing up in an underserved neighborhood, and to learn skills that will prepare them for successful lives as adults. BET offers a variety of activities that promote physical and mental well-being, including basketball, a chess club, afterschool programs, and mentorship, to name just a few.

Washington and BET youth were first invited to Stenton to participate in a community needs assessment at the beginning of the Dinah Memorial Project, in part to determine neighbors’ perceptions of the museum. BET youth were soon active participants in our community meetings and programs, providing fresh perspectives on the questions of why and how to commemorate Dinah’s story. BET youth cheerfully helped with meeting setup and breakdown,

and their helping hands were appreciated! During the pandemic, Washington set up a regular Facebook LIVE program called BET Talks, so BET youth and community partners could remain connected. Members of BET’s Youth Council emceed the programs and interviewed guests, which featured Stenton Director Dennis Pickeral in one episode. In another episode, Stenton hired storytellers Irma Gardner-Hammond and Bob Branch to portray Dinah and Richard Allen for BET’s Black History Month program.

As we grow our partnership with BET, we hope to develop new ways to involve these exceptional young men and women at Stenton, and perhaps to inspire one or two of them to become the next generation of historic house museum leaders in Germantown!



To learn more about BET, visit <http://www.mybetfamily.com/>

STENTON SHORTS



Left: The Stenton Park & Community Partnership Group hosted a Juneteenth Celebration in Stenton Park. Storytellers from Keepers of the Culture, Inc., The Women’s Sekere Ensemble, & The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble performed in the park. Over 90 neighbors toured the museum. Many were first-time visitors! *Center:* The Logan Library hosted their Summer Kick-Off event at Stenton with the Philly Goat Project which included story time, book giveaways, and fun time with goats. *Right:* Stenton Park Summer Camp visited Stenton once a week for historic tours and activities. They even learned about bees with Stenton Caretaker & Beekeeper Jeff Eckel, who showed them a beehive up close!

PROVENANCE IS PARAMOUNT

Did you know that Stenton has a Facebook LIVE series? This season's edition, "Provenance is Paramount" highlights Stenton's collecting of Logan family objects. The October episode highlighted Laura Keim's curatorial sleuthing talents. As part of understanding all that she can about the Logans and Stenton, Laura identifies and tracks Logan objects, a feat considering the 100+ known in collections files and other institutional collections.

William Macpherson Hornor, Jr.'s 1935 *Blue Book: Philadelphia Furniture*, which includes items owned by Robert Restalrig Logan (1874-1956), is a veritable social directory of historic furniture and touchstone for family objects. In the last twenty years, fifteen R.R. Logan pieces have come to Stenton by bequest, purchase, and gift, or are on loan from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), to which R.R. Logan bequeathed his estate.

Hornor identified a walnut Logan family bookcase with glazed doors as, "James Logan's Pewter Press, Which

Stood in the Back Dining Room at Stenton Mansion from About 1730 until after the Scholar's Death in 1751."

Over time, Laura grew skeptical of Hornor's identification. The walnut and glass alone were more costly than the £1 value ascribed to the Pewter Press on Logan's 1752 probate inventory. So where was the actual Pewter Press? While Laura calls it "happencance," surely her keen eye for detail led to its discovery. Early in Laura's tenure, she saw a photo featuring R. R. Logan in front of a pewter cupboard at his house Sarobia. The second clue came years later inside *Stone Houses: Traditional Homes of Pennsylvania's Bucks County and Brandywine Valley* (2005), which featured the pewter press located in the Thompson Neely House at Washington's Crossing, where Laura knew the PHMC had installed many of R. R. Logan's furnishings. The identical press appeared in both photos, its form and simplicity consistent with the £1 value.

Confident she had truly identified the Logan pewter press, Laura later arranged to borrow it, along with

MUSEUM PROPERTIES

other R. R. Logan objects, from the PHMC, for the LOGANIA exhibition in 2014. We are grateful it remains installed in the Back Dining Room. And we are especially grateful to Laura and her continued visual "sleuthing" as she remains ever-on-the-chase for the many more Logan objects that remain at-large.

The next Facebook LIVE will be Wednesday, **November 17th at 12:30 PM**, when Laura presents "**By Loan, By Gift, By Bequest: New Objects at Stenton.**" You can find YouTube recordings of past and future programs at <https://www.stenton.org/programs>



Robert Restalrig Logan seated in front of the Logan Pewter Press at Sarobia, his Bucks County estate.



Left: The Stenton Garden Party took place in-person for the first time since 2019 on a very stormy September day. Thank you to all who supported this annual fundraiser. Pictured: Carol Rush, Alice Lea Tasman, & Dora Rogers with Senator Art Haywood, a strong supporter of Stenton & Historic Germantown. **Center:** During Historic Germantown's Revolutionary Germantown Festival, Dinah interpreter Irma-Gardner Hammond shared her revolutionary life story with visitors at Stenton. **Right:** Dames & Stenton Staff welcomed over 150 visitors at the Halloween Harvest Festival on October 30th. Pictured: Eleanor Peterson, Joyce Keller, & Joyce's son Cyrus.

MEMBERSHIP

One of our longtime members be-moaned the fact that with three sons, she wasn't able to pass her love of the Dames down to her children. She'd have to wait and hope for granddaughters. But thanks to a newly approved membership category, she can now invite her daughters-in-law to join her in the PA Dames.

Last May, the Board of Managers approved a new category called **Pennsylvania Society Affiliates**. While this name is unique to the PA Dames, we are the second Corporate Society to approve this type of affiliation. The first state was New Hampshire, and both they and National

refer to it as "Friends."

There are three distinct affiliations with a current member of the Pennsylvania Society (or another Corporate Society) that serve as qualification; daughter-in-law, adopted daughter or granddaughter, and the mother of a Dame. The candidate will not need to present lineage papers but must show proper proof of their stated relationship.

As an Affiliate of the Pennsylvania Society, her association is non-transferable to any other Corporate Society, and she will not be considered a member of National

(NSCDA). Affiliates are welcome at all meetings and events and may also serve on the board and local town committees. She may serve, but she may not vote. She may not serve any positions with National responsibilities such as but not limited to President, Registrar, or chair a National Committee. Affiliates will pay an annual fee equal to the Pennsylvania Society membership dues.

We are still working out the details of the Affiliates application process. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Membership Chair, Lynn Salvo at lynmsalvo@gmail.com with any questions.



Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that demonstrates how every act of generosity counts, especially when we give together. Please keep Stenton in mind this **Giving Tuesday, November 30th**. Donations will support the preservation of Stenton, outreach to our community, & our national award-winning educational program, *History Hunters*, which serves over 3,500 Philadelphia schoolchildren annually. On November 30th, make your donation here: www.stenton.org/givingtuesday.

A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE



We were deeply saddened to learn that NSCDA/PA member Sheila Traub passed away on September 21, 2021. A Dame since 1999, Sheila served on the Board of Managers from 2004 to 2007 and in leadership posts as 2nd Vice President and Chair of the Patriotic Services Committee. In addition to her service, we recently learned that Sheila left a surprise legacy to the Society, a bequest of over \$36,000. Her generous gift

will be invested in the endowment to support the NSCDA/PA's mission of education, preservation, and service, and she will be added to **1891 Society**, which recognizes all members and supporters who have named the Society in their will. Planned gifts ensure that our work will go on for many years to come. For more information about how to leave a gift to the NSCDA/PA in your will, contact Adriana Robinson at 215-735-6737.

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

NSCDA/PA 2021-2022 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)

2021	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
November	4	Thu	Collections Committee Meeting	9:00 am	Stenton
	4	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 am	Stenton
	12	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Meeting	9:30 am	HQ House
	21	Sun	Thanksgiving Service	2:00 pm	Washington Memorial Chapel
December	2	Thu	Garden Committee Meeting	9:00 am	Stenton
	2	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 am	Stenton
	4	Sat	Stenton Holiday Tea	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Stenton
	7	Tu	LDY Private Yutlde Tour_President James Buchanan's Wheatland Home & covered dish luncheon	10:00 am	Wheatland
	15	Fri	NSCDA PA Christmas Luncheon and Orpheus Concert	11:00 am	HQ House
2022					
	11	Tu	ACC Stated Meeting_Myth and Mysteries of the French Indian War, by Andrew Masich, PhD, President & CEO of the John Heinz History Center	10:30 am	Pittsburgh Golf Club
January	14	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Meeting	9:30 am	HQ House
February	1	Tu	LDY Luncheon Meeting: Susquehanna National Heritage Area, Americas's National Area by Mark Platts	11:00 am	Lancaster Country Club
	3	Thu	Collections Committee Meeting	9:00 am	Stenton
	3	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 am	Stenton
	15	Tu	ACC Board Meeting	TBA	TBA
	16	Tu	Becky Diamond-"Lydia Morris's Sweet Tooth" Chocolate Tasting	11:00 am	HQ House
March	3	Thu	Garden Committee Meeting	9:00 am	Stenton
	3	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Stenton
	11	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Meeting	9:30 am	HQ House
	15	Tu	ACC Stated Meeting_Speaker and Topic TBA	TBA	Pittsburgh Field Club
	16	Wed	Hannah Boettcher - "The Women Who Saved the Washington Relics at Arlington"	11:00 am	HQ House
April	7	Thu	Collections Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	7	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton
	19	Tu	ACC Board Meeting_optional dutch treat Luncheon	10:30 am	Pittsburgh Golf Club
	20	Wed	Off-site trip to Wyck and Johnson House with Lunch	TED	Wyck, 6026 Germantown Ave

The Historian's Report for fiscal year 2020-2021 will be posted on the NSCDA/PA Website. For access, visit www.nscdapa.org, click the "Member's Area" tab, and log in with password: PADames1891

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW MEMBERS

DECHANT, Elizabeth Y.
(Elizabeth Ruth Younger)
Ancestor: Edward Digges, VA
PA-7005

HUTH, Mrs. Edward J.
(Carol Elizabeth Monnik)
Ancestor: Pieter Danielse
Van Olinda, NY
PA-7006

RESIGNATIONS

BALES III, Mrs. John Foster
(Jane Lee Black)
PA-6895

CAHN VON SEELEN, Helena Markley
PA-6799

SLAYMAKER, Mrs. Samuel R.
(Sarah Elizabeth Hazzard)
PA-3802

BURKE, Rachel Nicole
PA-6807

DILLARD, Mrs. Robert H.
(Elizabeth Ann Claves)
PA-6586

SMITH, Charlotte
(Charlotte Anne Ziesing)
PA-6566

DECEASED

BIRCH, Mrs. Donald L.
(Suzanne Williams)
Admitted: March 9, 1973
Died: August 3, 2021
PA-3889

STONE, Mrs. Charles H.
(Elizabeth Humber Hean)
Admitted: May 13, 1966
Died: June 1, 2021
PA-3651

TRAUB, Sheila S.
(Sheila Joan Smolens)
Admitted: May 11, 1999
Died: September 21, 2021
PA-6350

NSCDA/PA Staff

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

About Connections...

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Coordinator: Adriana Robinson
Printing: Affordable Offset



What were the PA Dames doing during WWI? Plenty! From knitting, making surgical dressings, and selling Liberty Bonds, our ladies were quite busy. Pictured here is Marion Harding Curtain Winsor. Both her mother-in-law Rebecca Winsor (a founding member) and her mother Harriet Fuller Curtain were PA Dames. Among her many tasks, Marion served as a Lieutenant at an American Red Cross Canteen, served on the Belgian Committee of Emergency, and chaired the Liberty Loan Committee of the NSCDA/PA, running their booth at Independence Square. Follow us @nscdapa on Instagram and Facebook (“National Society of Colonial Dames- Pennsylvania”) for more content like this!

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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