



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

**Female Ancestor Number:** 044

**Name:** (Unknown), Dinah

**Dates:**

**Born** btw. c. 1720 & c. 1730, (likely New Jersey)

**Died:** 21 Feb 1805, Philadelphia, PA

**Colonial Society:** PA

**Date added to ROA:** March 2022

**Service:** Woman of Distinction- Requested and won her freedom from Hannah Emlen Logan and William Logan at Stenton, April 15, 1776.

**Authority:** The Original Papers of Manumission... of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, p. 69, Quaker and Special Collections Library at Haverford College.

### **Biography:**

There is much we still need to learn about Dinah. We can only speculate about who her parents were.

Here is what we know:

Dinah was born to enslaved African American parents. Likely the family lived in Burlington, New Jersey as property of George Emlen and his wife Mary Heath Emlen. As a young girl, Dinah was brought to Stenton (Philadelphia) as the dower property of Hannah Emlen (daughter of George & Mary), upon Hannah's marriage to William Logan in 1740. William was the son of James Logan, the Provincial Secretary to William Penn. Dinah was able to gain her freedom on 15 April 1776, after she requested it from Hannah and William Logan, as stated on her manumission papers. (The original document is held in the Quaker and Special Collections Library at Haverford College.)

It was Hannah Emlen Logan's daughter-in-law, Deborah Norris Logan (wife of Dr. George Logan), who mentions Dinah in her journal: "Feby 21st at about three o'clock in the afternoon our very faithful and good old Dinah breath'd her last. was Buried on the 23 in my garden.---she had requested during her life time to be interred at Stenton."

After she was set free, she remained at Stenton. Some speculate it was because her grandson Cyrus was enslaved on the property and she wanted to remain close. Evidence indicates that Dinah was more than a "faithful servant" as she was able to express personal autonomy, resistance and resiliency. Yet, it is through oral tradition that Dinah's story lived on in the surrounding community to present day. It is said that Dinah, through her quick thinking, "saved" Stenton from British destruction after the Battle of



## FOUNDING FEMALES Female Qualifying Ancestor Index

Germantown in 1777. Her bravery is celebrated and remembered. (April 15th is now Dinah Day at Stenton!)

We are currently following leads on grandson Cyrus, whom we believe moved to Delaware when he gained his freedom. It's through him that Dinah's family lives on and we are hoping to verify and locate her descendants soon.