Going beyond one-time programs and exhibitions
Richard Stockton ("The Signer"), (1730-1781), Oil on canvas, Princeton University, bequest of Mrs. Alexander T. McGill

Morven second floor temporary exhibition galleries
Morven first floor permanent history galleries c. 2014
Kristin Galls of *Interpreting Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites* at Morven’s community supper.
The Stories of

ENSLAVED PEOPLE

WHO LIVED HERE

As wealthy lawyers, the first two generations of Stocktons at Meven owned enslaved men, women, and children. At the expense of the enslaved, the Stocktons lived a comfortable lifestyle and increased their wealth with forced labor. Like other signers of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Stockton did not seem to struggle with the inconsistency of owning people in bondage while signing a document that declared “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The rhetoric of revolutionary America—freedom, equality, and liberty—was inescapably intertwined with the practice of slavery.

The identities of enslaved people are difficult to uncover, as their stories were not valued by those recording history. Census records help, although only men who were able to work were required
"To civilize this degenerate people [of Africa], to change their ignorance into knowledge, their horrible superstition into a right understanding of the Christian Religion, their treachery into good faith, and their slothfulness into industry, are among the results contemplated by the proposed Plan of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY."
— Robert Field Stockton, addressing the New Jersey Colonization Society, July 14, 1824
The STRUGGLE for LIBERTY

It is the Revolutionary period at Morven that first gave the Stockton family and this site national significance.

A distinguished lawyer and judge, Richard Stockton was born in Princeton in 1730 and died in 1806. He was known to his peers as a gentleman scholar. Stockton was a member of the New Jersey delegation to the Continental Congress and was one of the first New Jersey delegates to the Continental Congress who signed the Declaration of Independence.

The Stockton family was among the first women to publish a newspaper in the colonies.

As a home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Morven's walls were filled with conversations on liberty, freedom, and justice. However, these walls were not as open as the same way of full freedom for all Americans. The struggle for true freedom and equality continued long after the Stockton family's time.

1968

1969

REBELLION IN NEAR & FAR

3828

1950

1969

WILLIAM T. CAHILL
1932-1990
Inhabitants of Morven who are known to have been enslaved are labeled as such, while names without labels represent inhabitants whose status at Morven is unclear. They may have been paid servants or enslaved. In the twentieth century, not all employees lived on site. However, many are included here, as they were key members of the Morven household.

*Italics indicate the next head of household.*
Richard Stockton the Signer & Annis Boudinot Stockton
(1730–1781) - LAWYER, SIGNS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Julia Stockton (1759–1848)
Mary Stockton (1761–1846)
Susannah Stockton (1761–1821)
Richard Stockton (1764–1828)

Lucius Horatio Stockton (1768–1855)
Abigail Stockton (1773–1803)
Marcus Marsh ENSLAVED, FREED 1795
Samuel Tucker ENSLAVED

Houghton ENSLAVED
Jasper

Richard Stockton the Duke & Mary Field Stockton
(1764–1828) - LAWYER & CONGRESSMAN

Mary Stockton (1790–1865)
Richard Stockton (1791–1827)
Julia Stockton (1793–1854)
Robert Field Stockton (1795–1866)
Horatio Stockton (1797–1815)
Caroline Stockton (1799–1856)
Samuel Witham Stockton (1801–1836)
William Bradford Stockton (1802–1845)
Annis Stockton (1804–1862)
David Maple TENANT FARMER
Theodore Kline SERVANT

Thomas Jewell ENSLAVED, FREED 1825
Anthony ENSLAVED, B. 1806 AT MORVEN
Batty ENSLAVED
Catherine ENSLAVED, B. 1805 AT MORVEN
Dinah ENSLAVED
Fan ENSLAVED
Nancy ENSLAVED
Phillis ENSLAVED
Sampson ENSLAVED, RUNAWAY 1806
Susan ENSLAVED
Enslaved Female NAME UNKNOWN

Free Man of Color NAME UNKNOWN
Free Woman of Color NAME UNKNOWN
Jack
James
John
Michael
Patrick
Peter
Tunis

Robert Field Stockton & Harriet Maria Potter Stockton
(1795–1866) - COMMODORE & U. S. SENATOR
(1801–1862)

Richard Stockton (1824–1876)
Julia Stockton (1829–1878)

Annis Stockton (1843–1890)

Agnus Rhodes SERVANT
Morven hosts Slave Dwelling Project Community Day

Supper and discussion with Morven director Jill Barry and Joe McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project

Discussion circle are firepit in Morven’s demonstration garden
Jake Blount, ethnomusicologist and fiddle/banjo scholar

Sleepover in Morven’s West Wing gallery
Moving forward

- Incorporating new-to-Morven community members into the museum’s institutional fabric
  - Three members of our community advisory committee have now joined Morven’s Education and Public Programs Committee.
- Using Morven’s gardens to help tell this history
  - Over the next 2-3 summers Morven’s Demonstration Garden beds will help interpret what types of gardens enslaved people at Morven may have grown.
- Devoting time and resources to continued research of enslaved people at Morven and the legacies of slavery
- Updating Morven’s permanent exhibition as new research comes to light and making content available on Morven’s website