



Where the Past is your Present

COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA FARMSTEAD
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To our members and visitors,

The Board of Directors of the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation has resolved to rename the organization. Starting July 1, 2024, we will operate as the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead.

Our mission is to enhance understanding of 1760-90 farm life in Southeastern Pennsylvania by providing high-quality, research-based experiences to the public. To reach the public and fulfill this mission we rely on the public choosing to visit us. We want everyone visiting our site to feel comfortable, welcomed, and valued. After discussions with staff, volunteers, members, donors, and visitors, the Board of Directors has decided to move forward with a name change. By removing the word “plantation” we hope to remove connotations of racial bias which make potential visitors feel unwelcome or disinvited.

Our former name was chosen to reflect the 18th-century definition of “plantation” denoting the size and agricultural use of a parcel of land. Today, in most American English dictionaries, the definition includes enslaved labor. Although historic definitions for the term do not explicitly specify enslaved labor, the size of a plantation typically required some kind of residential labor, whether those individuals were enslaved, indentured, or employed. We have records of four individuals who were enslaved at our site.

It is important to us that our name change does not deny or downplay the role of enslaved people on site. We have been actively working to learn as much as possible about the lives of Cuffy, Peggy, Susannah, and York who were enslaved here, and the lives of enslaved people in rural Chester County. Further research and redevelopment of interpretation and programming is an ongoing aspect of our work. We continue to uncover new sources that provide more information that allows us to share an accurate interpretation of daily life in the early colonial period.

Visitors are the heart of our mission. We want everyone to *know* they are always welcome. We are committed to welcoming and educating everyone and want to send a clear message that everyone is a desirable audience member.

We are in the process of changing the name online, in print, and on physical materials throughout the site. We intend to have the transition complete by the end of next year. During this time you may come across instances of our old name and we apologize for any confusion this may cause. Please be patient with us as we complete this process.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead.

Sincerely,

The Board Of Directors

Charles Barr, President
Sarah Farnsworth, Vice President
Steven Johnsen, Treasurer
Susan Hodge, Secretary
Daniel Wellman
Dick Linderman
Laura M. Stokley
Lynn Webber

If you have further questions regarding this change please email info@colonialfarmstead.org.