DUMBARTON HOUSE: A COLORING ADVENTURE
DUMBARTON HOUSE
A Federal Period Historic House Museum
Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Built around 1800, the historic house has been restored to show how it might have appeared
during the time of its first resident, Joseph Nourse, who served as Register of the U.S. Treasury
for the first six Presidents of the United States. The museum presents a unique opportunity to
catch a glimpse of what life was like in Washington during the early days of the young Republic.

Today, Dumbarton House offers public and school tours, special exhibitions, lectures, concerts,
family programs, and holiday open houses relating to the Federal period. Its beautiful Belle Vue
Room and outdoor gardens are available for private and corporate rentals.

Dumbarton House is owned by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, an
organization dedicated to historic preservation and education. Through its societies in states across
the country, the NSCDA owns or administers some 40 historic properties open to the public around
the country. Dumbarton House is The Society’s national museum and also houses its national
headquarters.

Come visit Dumbarton House today! For more information, please view our website,
www.dumbartonhouse.org

Dumbarton House
2715 Que Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007-3071
Phone: (202) 337-2288 Fax: (202) 337-0348
info@dumbartonhouse.org
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Colored by ____________________

Text and illustrations by Christina Smiraglia

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Joseph Nourse was fifteen years old when his family moved from England to the American colonies in 1769. The trip across the ocean took two months onboard the ship “Liberty.”
Joseph became an American citizen who served in the army during the Revolutionary War when the American colonies fought for freedom from England. Joseph met many important men, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.
Joseph served as Register of the Treasury for George Washington, the first president of the United States. Joseph kept track of all the money for the new government. He even signed the money using a quill pen!
Since Joseph worked for the government, he lived in Philadelphia, the country’s capital city before Washington. Joseph and his family moved to Georgetown in 1800 when the City of Washington became the new capital.
In 1804 the land where Dumbarton House now sits was called Cedar Hill. When the Nourses moved in, there were few other houses around, only fields, farms, and the cedar trees for which the land was named.
Joseph Nourse moved to Cedar Hill with his family, servants, and enslaved workers. He had a wife named Maria and two children, Anna Maria Josepha and Charles Josephus. The family brought nice furniture, hosted dinner parties, and had family and friends come to visit and stay in the upstairs chambers.
The Nourse family ran a farm at Cedar Hill. They owned horses and cows, and they grew wheat, hay, celery, and cabbage. They built a smokehouse to preserve meat, an icehouse to keep food cold, a barn, and other farm buildings.
In 1813, the Nourses decided to move. They packed their trunks and sold Cedar Hill to the Charles Carroll family.
The Carrolls were friends with First Lady Dolley Madison. She was President James Madison's wife. When the British invaded Washington in 1814, Dolley stopped at Dumbarton House on her way out of the city.
The Carroll family eventually moved out of the house, too. Many other families lived in the house after they left. In 1928, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America purchased the house. The NSCDA is a group of women who preserve historic buildings. They opened Dumbarton House to the public in 1932, and it has been a museum ever since.
Dumbarton House Crossword Puzzle

Use the story to help you complete the crossword!

Across
2. Joseph Nourse fought in this war.
4. A building used to smoke meat.
5. The first President's first name.
7. The time period in which the Nourses lived.
9. The type of pen Joseph Nourse used.
10. The first name of the First Lady who visited Dumbarton House in 1814.

Down
1. The initials for the organization that now owns Dumbarton House.
3. What the Nourses used like a refrigerator.
6. The type of land on which the Nourses lived.
8. The country where Joseph was born.
Draw your own picture of Dumbarton House or life in the Federal period!