

The Graeme Park Gazette

APRIL - JUNE 2011

Happily Ever After?

On December 7, 1771 Elizabeth's friend Benjamin Rush brought a Scotsman named Henry Hugh Ferguson to one of her attic evenings. Well-educated and handsome, Henry did not own property, nor was he in a position to inherit any. This, and their age difference (he was 11 years younger than she) made him a bad match in the eyes of her father, Dr. Graeme. After a brief, clandestine courtship, the couple married at Old Swedes' Church on April 21, 1772, without the knowledge of Dr. Graeme. Dr. Rush attended the wedding, which was held outside in the garden. It was said that after the ceremony Elizabeth stumbled on a grave and one of the guests wrote that it was an "ill omen for the future," which indeed it proved to be.



pearance, does note that he is somewhat careless about her feelings and doesn't always look others in the eye. She seems to excuse these flaws as having to do with his youth and feels his virtues out-

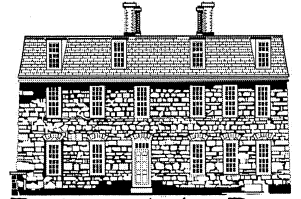
After the wedding, Henry returned to Scotland on family business while Elizabeth continued on in her father's home. She planned to tell him of the marriage one day in September and while she watched from the window, Dr. Graeme fell, apparently of a heart attack, and never regained consciousness. He died a few days later on September 4, 1772 never knowing Elizabeth's secret.

In November of 1774 Elizabeth wrote "An Advertisement" after Henry was to spend the day in Philadelphia and remained away for a week without telling her where he was or when he was coming home. She describes him in the poem as tall, blue eyed, with light brown hair and dimples, and while she seems smitten with his ap-

weigh them and that he'll mature and outgrow his vices.

During the Revolution Henry served with the British, and as a result Elizabeth's home and property were confiscated. Most of her personal property was sold at auction and she was allowed use of a small portion of her furniture and paid rent to continue living in her ancestral home while it was prepared for sale; the remaining household goods to be sold at the same time. Henry returned to England, and while he wrote occasionally the first few years, was never to be reunited with his wife. To learn the outcome of the story and the fate of Graeme Park, why not stop by for a tour? We're here Fridays—Sundays.

—Carla Loughlin



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4/16, 5/14, 6/11
Paranormal Investigations
April 20
Poetry Award
May 8
Mother's Day Brunch
May 22
Tea for Teddy & Me
June 19
Father's Day Lunch
Ongoing
Market



GRAEME PARK



Graeme Park is the site of the Keith House, an 18th-century historic house, the only remaining home of a governor of colonial Pennsylvania. It is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is supported by the Friends of Graeme Park, a 501c3 volunteer organization that raises funds and promotes the site. Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit Graeme Park should call (215) 343-0965 in advance to discuss their needs. Pennsylvania TDD relay service is available at (800)654-5984.

TOUR HOURS

Friday - Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.
Last tour starts at 3 p.m.

THE STAFF AT GRAEME PARK

Carla A. Loughlin

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Tom Corbett
Governor

Barbara Franco
Executive Director

Wayne Spilove
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From the President of the Friends

As the days are getting longer and it's safe to say spring is finally here, we all look toward the warmer weather to start getting outside and taking advantage of nature's new beginnings. Graeme Park, a quiet country setting nestled in suburban sprawl, is bursting with new flora and fauna. The property is certified by the National Wildlife Federation and we guarantee that a leisurely stroll through the park will be a serene break from everyday demands. Take the time to look, listen and enjoy.

Our calendar of events is in full bloom, as well. In April we will present the first annual Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson Poetry Award to a high school student (grades 9-12) from Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, or Philadelphia county who has submitted the best example of a poem written in any form. The award will be given at the annual Montgomery County Poet Laureate (MCPL) Awards Ceremony at The Ambler Theater on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

School tours are beginning to fill the calendar this spring. The kids are treated to an interactive and entertaining day in Colonial America and thanks to the tireless efforts of our Education Committee, the children take with them a better understanding of life in the 1700s.

May brings our Mothers' Day Breakfast, complete with a special tour of the house where costumed reenactors will take you back in time to the lives of colonial era wives and mothers. See how women made their way in what was basically a man's world.

If you have younger children, mark your calendar for May 22 to enjoy our Teddy Bear Tea, also complete with a special children's tour of the house.

This year, our Fathers' Day Luncheon will take on a new twist as dads and their families will be treated to the interactive magic of Randy Snedden. It promises to be fun-filled afternoon.

In the warmer months ahead, Laura McBride, a Temple University graduate student, and Professor Dave Orr will be beginning an archaeological dig here at Graeme Park. They hope to uncover more history of the fascinating families who once called this property home.

Mark your calendar for Friday night, May 27. Come to the Friends of Graeme Park annual meeting to hear about the past year, our forecasts for the future and enjoy the new educational movie about the site. We have John Brunner to thank for his efforts in updating our video and taking our story to a higher level.

We hope to see you at Graeme Park in the months ahead, whether for an event or a quiet walk on your own time. It's a lovely place—come and enjoy.

—Beth MacCausland



Tea for Teddy & Me

On Sunday, May 22 the youngest members of our community are invited out for a special day just for them. Tea for Teddy and Me is a chance for preschool and early elementary aged children to enjoy some sweet treats with their favorite stuffed friends and take a special, child-friendly tour of the historic Keith House, where they'll learn a little bit about what it was like to be a kid in the 1800s and how people lived, worked and played. Children must be accompanied by an adult, the cost is \$10/person and reservations must be made in advance and held with a credit card by calling 215-343-0965. Seatings are at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.



Children at last year's Tea met Dr. Graeme who helped them doctor their dollies (top), enjoyed some sweet treats (above), and made a craft (left).

NEWSBRIEFS

Volunteer of the Year

The Friends of Graeme Park have selected Bruce Rader as Volunteer of the Year for 2010. For more than ten years, Bruce's enthusiasm and dedication to Graeme Park have been reflected in the many responsibilities he has undertaken on behalf of the site. He has served on the Board of Directors in the capacity of member-at-large, president, vice-president and treasurer. His willingness to accept the duties involved with his board positions and his commitment to carry out the responsibilities to the best of his ability have made him one of our most valuable members on whom we can rely to help run the site, straighten out problems and keep us moving forward. He is never too busy to lend a hand when our special events need preparation or clean-up such as grounds maintenance, barn cleaning, neighborhood sign distribution, tent erection or other less glamorous duties including trash removal. He is there for every program, whether taking admissions, tour guiding or dressing in colonial clothing. Thank you, Bruce, for everything.

Colonial Adventure Camp

Camp, for children entering 4th – 7th grades, will be held August 1-5. The focus this summer is archaeology and kids will participate in a mock dig, do spinning, weaving, cooking, writing with quills, and more. Contact us at ra-graemepark@state.pa.us for a brochure and application or look for it on our website at www.graemepark.org.

Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson Award in Poetry

Join us at the Ambler Theater on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Montgomery County Poet Laureate Awards. During the ceremony, Mariah Rachel Burke, a high school student from Friends Select, will be presented with the Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson Award in Poetry, an honor that comes with a \$1,000 award, and will read her winning poem. High school students from Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties were invited to submit poems, which were judged by Montgomery County's Poet Laureate, Grant Clauser.



THE FRIENDS OF GRAEME PARK

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Friends of Graeme Park is to provide on-going support to the staff of Graeme Park and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in their efforts to preserve, maintain, develop, interpret, and promote appreciation of Graeme Park.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Member at Large	Maureen Checchia
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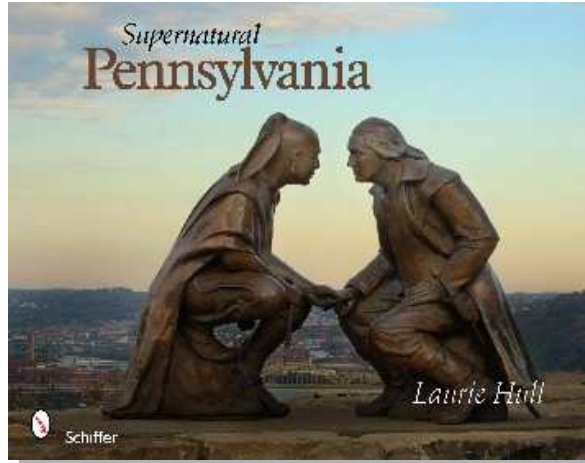
THE GRAEME PARK GAZETTE

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Editor: Carla A. Loughlin



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park



Supernatural Graeme Park

A new book, *Supernatural Pennsylvania*, by Laurie Hull features a chapter on Graeme Park as well as 38 other creepy and haunted sites, streets, towns and cities in Pennsylvania.

The book investigates the ghosts of murderers, maids, Major Generals, and even a monster or two – all who want their story told – and incorporates historic facts and legends along with Hull’s findings.

Hull has had a lifelong interest in the paranormal and is the founder and director of Tri-County Paranormal Research. Her investigations have been featured on radio, television and in the papers and she’s also authored two other books, *Philly’s Main Line Haunts*, and *Brandywine Valley Ghosts*. She will be leading Graeme Park’s paranormal investigation on April 16 and will be available to sign any of her three books, all of which can be purchased in the Graeme Park museum shop.

Please call us at 215-343-0965 to reserve your spot on the April 16, May 14, or June 11 paranormal investigations. The cost is \$40/ person and space is limited. Investigations run from 7 p.m. to midnight and include an historic tour and refreshments.

Graeme Park Marketplace

Graeme Park will be hosting a Wednesday evening marketplace every 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. beginning on May 11 and continuing through the end of September.

Come out and shop a for a variety of flea market items, crafts, and more. Vendor spaces are still available too.



Honor Thy Parents

Looking for a unique way to treat your Mom on Mother's Day? How about a breakfast of scrambled eggs, smoked sausage and bacon, French toast, waffles, fruit and pastries on the beautiful grounds of Graeme Park, followed by a tour of the historic Keith House?

On Sunday, May 8 from 9:30—12:30 the Friends of Graeme Park will be serving up a catered breakfast with seatings approximately every half hour. Once you've finished dining, you'll take a tour of the Keith House, where you'll encounter costumed actors presenting vignettes related to the history of the women of Graeme Park and what it was

like to be a woman and a mother in the 18th century.

Kids will also have the opportunity to make a special craft as a gift for Mom.

On June 19, celebrate the magic of Father's Day with an all-you-can-eat buffet of pulled pork sandwiches, sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, and assorted side dishes beginning at 12:00 noon. At 1:00 p.m. the focus moves to the stage for a family-friendly magic and comedy act by magician Randy Snedden (www.magic4laughs.com) and at 2:00 p.m. the entire family can take a guided tour of the historic Keith House if they wish.

The cost of either program is \$22 per person and \$12 for 3-12 year olds. Reservations are required and must be held with a credit card. Call us at 215-343-0965 to reserve your spot.

Mother's Day Breakfast
May 8

Seatings Every Half Hour
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
\$22/person (\$12, 3-12)
Reservations Required

Father's Day Lunch
June 19

All-you-can-eat buffet at Noon
Magic Show at 1 p.m.
House Tours at 2 p.m.
\$22/person (\$12, 3-12)
Reservations Required

NEWSBRIEFS

Dumpster Diving

Thanks to the powers in Harrisburg, we again have trash pick-up at Graeme Park. Even better, a small dumpster has been installed in the parking lot, eliminating the logistical problems of curbside pick-up.

Shop for Museums

Don't forget to start your online shopping at www.ShopforMuseums.com. Select Graeme Park as your museum partner, link to the online retailers they feature, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to Graeme Park. Our last two checks totaled \$31.42. Keep on shopping!

Charter Day

Charter Day was held on Sunday, March 13 and nearly 70 visitors, many of whom were on their way to or from other state-owned historic sites, took advantage of the opportunity for a free tour of Graeme Park.

*Join us for Progress,
Pirates, and Pye*

What: Friends of Graeme Park Annual Meeting

Who: All members and their guests

When: Friday, May 27 @ 7 p.m.

Where: Where else? (The Graeme Park Visitor's Center)

Progress report and update of the site.

*Premier showing of our new educational video
which begins with Keith chasing pirates.*

Pyes for dessert. Pych your favryte.

No charge, of course.

Questions? Ring up 215-343-0965



Winter at Graeme Park

This winter was another season of repeated and deep snow-storms, and as a result we ended up canceling the January paranormal investigation and our Colonial Valentine's Day tours. We were, however able to hold our Valentine's Day Around the World program for kids, which was new this year, and had 21 children and their families out to learn about the customs of other countries on this sweetest of days. Children circled around the Visitor's Center, visiting tables representing about a dozen countries and at each they learned a little bit about how the country celebrated and did a little craft or sampled a little treat. In Germany, they learned about the custom of putting a bay leaf on your pillow the night before St. Valentine's arrival so that you'd dream of your future spouse. In England they sampled a small raisin muffin, and in ancient Rome they learned how the tradition of spring cleaning came about and made little brooms out of pencils and construction paper.

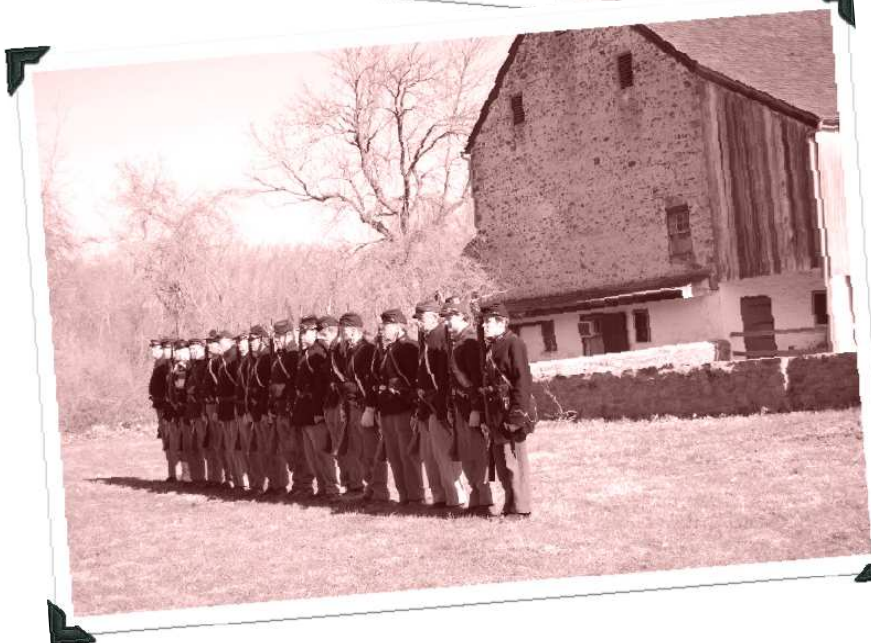
Anita Brennan did most of the research on the customs and much of the prep work on the crafts, along with Toni Kistner, Beth MacCausland, and Deedie Gustavson, and thanks to their hard work and dedication, the kids had a great time.





Civil War Encampment

On Friday, March 25—Sunday, March 27 the reenactors representing the 69th, 71st, and 104th Pennsylvania Voluntary Infantries braved below freezing temperatures and predictions of snow (which thankfully never materialized) to camp out and hold their annual School of the Soldier training weekend on the grounds of Graeme Park. This year's event was hosted by the 69th Pennsylvania, originally a regiment recruited in Philadelphia and made up mostly of Irish immigrants. On Saturday the public was invited out to view the reenactors, many of whom were new recruits, learning how to march, handle and fire their guns, and perform tacticals, all skills they would need for upcoming Civil War reenactments. The grounds were full of campfire smoke and the sounds of fifes and drums and gun fire as an appreciate crowd toured the campsites, viewing the typical sleeping and eating arrangements of the soldiers and watched them go through their drills. Visitors were also able to take a tour of the Keith House and learn a bit about the Colonial-era residents at Graeme Park and the Revolutionary War soldiers who did actually encamp here during Elizabeth's time. View more photos from the event on the Graeme Park Facebook page.





Address Service Requested

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859 County Line Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044
(215) 343-0965
www.graemepark.org

Poetry Award - April 20 • Mother's Day Breakfast - May 8
Tea for Teddy & Me - May 22 • Father's Day Lunch - June 19

Photogenic Graeme Park



PHMC Trails of History Photo Contest Winners: Overall Best photo by Jan Goltz (above) and Best Exterior photo by Carla Loughlin (right)

Two photos of Graeme Park were chosen as winners in the recent PHMC Trails of History Photo Contest. The categories were Exterior Shots and Creative Interpretations (digitally altered or Photoshopped entries) with a top prize of Overall Best being awarded from the entries in the two categories. Jan Goltz, who shoots here often and has some stunning shots of the grounds and our Celtic Festival, won Overall Best; Friends of Graeme Park employee, Carla Loughlin, won



Best Exterior. Their photos, along with the other winners, appeared in the Spring 2011 issue of *Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine*, published by the Pennsylvania Heritage Society.