

The Graeme Park Gazette

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011

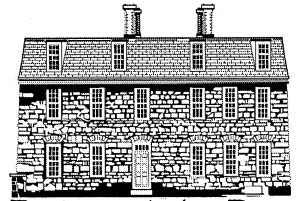
Celtic Heritage Festival

On Saturday, July 16 Graeme Park will once again be celebrating the Scottish Heritage of the Keith, Graeme, and Fergusson families who called Graeme Park home in the 18th century when we host our 15th annual Celtic Heritage Festival. Spend an afternoon on the shady grounds enjoying a variety of musical entertainment, Irish dancers, and food; browse the vendor booths for Celtic and other jewelry, knitwear, t-shirts, pottery, gourmet food items, music CDs, woodenware, and unique gifts; or check out the kids' area for a juggling act, moon bounce, games and crafts. If you've never been to Graeme Park before, a tour through the historic Keith House will give you an appreciation for this National Historic Landmark and the interesting lives of the families who called

it home; and if that isn't enough there will be a hearth cooking demonstration in our summer kitchen, a kilt making demonstration in the courtyard outside the house, and Celtic Clans and non-profits will be on-hand to help you learn about Celtic culture, history, and genealogy, so be sure to stop by and learn a thing or two. If Celtic cuisine tickles your fancy there will be bridies and meat pies available from F.J. Donovan, and if not, ice cream, hotdogs and other all-American choices are also available. Our visitor's center is air conditioned when you need a break from the heat and the grounds are shady. The festival runs from 10 am to 6 pm and is \$10/person or \$5 for kids 6-17. Plenty of off-street parking.



Bucks Caledonia, McKay, and McGregor Pipe and Drum Bands (top right); Wireharp (left)



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS	2
AS YOU LIKE IT	2
CELTIC FESTIVAL WHO'S WHO	3
NEWSBRIEFS	3
ELIZABETH GRAEME POETRY AWARD WINNER	4
KIDS' EVENTS AT GRAEME PARK	5
SYCAMORE TREES	6
WORLD WAR II WEEKEND	7

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 16
Celtic Festival
- July 24
As You Like It
- August 1-5
Colonial Camp
- September 21
Homeschool Day
- September 24-25
WWII Encampment & Swing Kings Concert
- Ongoing
Market, Ghost Hunts



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
Chairman

From the President of the Friends

Fun in the sun is in full swing and I don't know about you, but I'm right there swinging with the rest of them. I'll take summer over any season, hands down. Winter has its stark, quiet beauty and certainly spring and fall offer so much in milder temperatures, nature's colors and things to do. But there is something about summer where, as the song says, "The livin' is easy".

It's a time to be carefree. The schedules in our lives are less complicated. And though we still have obligations that naturally fall to those of us in the human race, they are somehow easier to handle. Even if there is more to do, those things are usually family times, fun times.

So along with vacations, cookouts, picnics and a multitude of other summer activities, why not plan to drop by Graeme Park's Annual Celtic Festival on July 16. We offer an entire day filled with a variety of things to see and do.

July 24th will showcase Theatre Horizon's Shakespeare in the Park with a live production of "As You Like It". What a nice way to spend a beautiful summer evening!

This year, our Living History group will present "Yellow Fever, 1793" on August 21. An additional attraction with this year's performance will be the doctor's tent which will showcase the actual treatment methods used back in those days.

Over the summer months, The Friends of Graeme Park, in partnership with Open Aire Affairs in Newtown, will be erecting an event tent on the property. You'll have to agree that Graeme Park is one of the most beautiful settings and will make a fine backdrop for weddings. Part of this is due to the fine job Carol and John Brunner have done with the gardens—John with the kitchen garden and Carol with the plantings at the entrance to the property and around the Visitors' Center.

Homeschoolers will, once again, be treated to a day prepared especially for them with our Annual Homeschool Day on September 21. The kids and their families will be transported back in time and they will have a chance to see and experience first-hand what life was like in Colonial times.

When the summer begins to wind down, keep an eye out for our new WWII weekend on September 24 & 25, complete with the big band sound of the West Chester Swing Kings in an evening concert. Something totally different...something totally educational...something totally fun!

So kick back, take it easy, take it slow. Regroup with your loved ones and yourself. Summer does that to us if you let it. Enjoy!

- Beth

Shakespeare in the Park

As You Like It

On Sunday, July 24 at 4:30 p.m., Theatre Horizon of Norristown will be presenting a performance of *As You Like It* on the shaded grounds of Graeme Park. *As You Like It* is the story of Rosalind, who disguises herself as a man when she flees the court of her uncle. Her suitor Orlando, knowing she is hiding in the Forest of Arden, wanders about looking for her and leaving love poems on the trees. The two of

course meet up but Rosalind is still disguised as a man and has Orlando practice wooing Rosalind while "he" pretends to be "she." Other couples pair off and at the wedding of Orlando's brother Oliver and Rosalind's cousin Celia, Rosalind reveals her identity to Orlando and they too are married, along with two other couples.

Admission is \$10/person and \$5 for kids 12 and under.



Who's Who at this Year's Celtic Festival

Vendors

Blackthorn Stick
 Broken Wings Native
 American Crafts
 Celtic Myth & Moonlight
 (www.celticmythmoon.com)
 Celt Wares LLC
 (www.celtwares.com)
 Darach Recordings
 (www.darachweb.com)
 Dopey Dragon Dry Goods
 (www.dopeydragon.com)
 Fiorentino Jewelry (www.fiorentin jewelry.com)
 Fisher Sportswear
 (www.fishersportswear.com)
 Gail Adams Jewelry
 Highland Bears & More
 Irish Jewels by Jill
 (www.irishjewelsbyjill.com)
 JT's Shirts
 Just Peachy Jewels
 (www.justpeachyjewels.com)
 McCeltic Wholesalers
 RedEarthWorks

Reflections of Ireland
 R.E. Piland Goldsmiths LLC
 (www.repiland.com)
 Tastefully Simple
 (www.tastefullysimple.com/web/njones1)
 WizardsTower Beads & Gifts
 (www.wizardstower1.com)

Clans & Non-Profits

Bucks Co. Scottish American Society
 Clan Carmichael
 Clan Donald Society
 (www.clandonaldusa.org)
 Clan Irwin Association (www.clanirwin.org)
 Clan MacAlister Society
 (www.clanmacalistersociety.org)
 Pennsylvania Cornwall Assoc.
 (www.pacornish.org)
 Scottish Historic & Research Society (www.shrs.org)

Food

F. J. Donovan's Fine Celtic Food

Sundae School Ice Cream Shop
 Water Ice by John Young

Sponsors

Power Homes Remodeling Group (www.powerhrg.com)

Other

Psychic Readings by Laurie Hull
 Moon Bounce
 Kids' Craft & Game Area
 Balloon Animals by Randy Sneed

Please Note: List is accurate and complete as of June 19. There may be additions or changes by the time this reaches you.

Main Stage

11:30 – Flag Raising & Pipe Bands
 12:00 – Carl Peterson
 12:30 – Sabo School of Irish Dance
 1:00 – Timoney School of Irish Dance
 1:30 – Bucks Caledonia, McGregor, & McKay Pipe & Drum Bands
 2:00 – The Martin Family Band
 3:00 – Sabo School of Irish Dance
 3:30 – Timoney School of Irish Dance
 4:00 – The Martin Family Band
 5:00 – The Hooligans
 5:45 – Bucks Caledonia, McGregor, & McKay Pipe & Drum Bands
 6:15 – The Hooligans

Barnyard

Carl Peterson

Front of House

Now & Then

WireHarp

Bonnie Kilts (Kilt Making Demo)

Kids' Area

The Kilted Juggler

NEWSBRIEFS

Marketplace at Graeme Park

Graeme Park will be hosting a Wednesday evening marketplace every 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm through the end of September. Come out and shop a for a variety of flea market items, crafts, and more. Vendor spaces are available too for just \$10/space (tables can be rented for an additional fee or bring your own). Vendor set-up begins at 4:30 pm.

Open Aire Affairs

The Friends of Graeme Park have completed a partnership agreement with Open Aire Affairs (www.openaireaffairs.com) which will make OAA the official rental agent for events at Graeme Park. OAA will be erecting a large tent on the grounds behind the barn and actively promoting Graeme Park as a venue for weddings and other special events. They will be landscaping around the tent and providing other small improvements to the grounds while the Friends will continue with grounds and landscape improvements as revenues increase. OAA has a similar arrangement with the Pearl S. Buck House in Perkasio and the staff has been very pleased with the arrangement and the improvements that have been made, as well as the increase in revenue that regular weddings and events have provided them.

Prudential Volunteer Grant

The Friends of Graeme Park have been awarded \$250 by Prudential on behalf of the volunteer hours provided by Margaret Lotter. She has served on the board, helped with events and represented Graeme Park in the community. Thank you Margaret.

Paranormal Investigation with Laurie Hull

Laurie Hull, author of *Supernatural Pennsylvania*, will be leading Graeme Park's paranormal investigation on August 27 and will be available to sign any of her three books, all available in the Graeme Park museum shop. Call 215-343-0965 for reservations. The cost is \$40/person. Investigations run from 7 pm to midnight and include an historic tour and refreshments.

Management Agreement

The Management Agreement between the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Friends of Graeme Park has been finalized and signed by both parties. This agreement formalizes the current operations of the site with the state continuing responsibility for grounds and building maintenance while the Friends are handling the day-to-day operations and staffing.

Graeme Park Annual Member Meeting

On Friday, May 27 the Friends of Graeme Park held its annual meeting and elected or reelected new board members and officers. Margaret Choate and Toni Kistner are both joining the board as Members-at-Large. Beth MacCausland was elected to serve an additional term as President, Jack Washington was elected to serve as Vice President, Bruce Rader moved to Treasurer, Jim Miller was elected to serve an additional term as Secretary and Anita Brennan and Maureen Checchia were elected to new terms as Members-at-Large. The evening was capped off by a screening of the new educational video, funded by the DCED grant, and a dessert buffet.



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

President	Beth MacCausland
Vice President	Jack Washington
Secretary	Jim Miller
Treasurer	Bruce Rader
Member at Large	Anita Brennan
Member at Large	Maureen Checchia
Member at Large	Margaret Choate
Member at Large	Deedie Gustavson
Member at Large	Toni Kistner
Member at Large	Holly Niemeyer-Schorpp

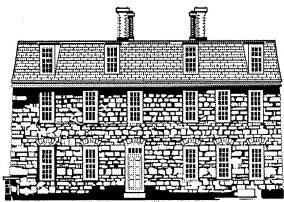
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Education	Carol Brunner John Brunner
Finance	Bruce Rader
Fundraising	Vacant
Governance	Jack Washington
Grants	Vacant
Hospitality	Maureen Checchia
Insurance	Vacant
Legal	Vacant
Membership	Anita Brennan
Museum Shop	Toni Kistner
Newsletter/Publicity	Carla Loughlin
Programs/Events	Beth MacCausland
Volunteers	Beth MacCausland
Website	Joan Stelmach

THE GRAEME PARK GAZETTE

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Editor: Carla A. Loughlin



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

Noah in Room 214C

I.

Small crabs cling to the last sandbar in
this sea
too difficult for you to comprehend
where
the wave ends, where the wake
begins—
where the cracks in the sand leave
sharp shells, prodding at you.
Piercing, lying shells.
Lying through their spliced tongues,
these snakes.
Frankie, may no one lie to you.
May no one cut your angel toes with
seashells
unsmoothed by the ripple and tide
of the sea
you wade in by the red house with the
white fence.

Frankie, you are Noah.
Call to your animals—
beckon them with your divine grip,
this little secret no one knows.
Call to your cattle, sheep, goats—
To your swine and ravens.
I assure you they will follow
in the wake of a garden of petals
of the jubilant titters you leave behind.

II.

Frankie is born in the winter,
light so rare
it is an immaculate conception
from the darkness.
The sun is broken into tiny spits of
glass that scatter across
the hospital floor.
He is lifted, touched, hugged,
embraced—
He is examined.
And now they think they know you.
They've got you down to a science—
with you squealing beneath, wanting
to be understood.
Frankie fails to hear his elephant's
trumpeting,
his bird's chirping—
the gray cords, sing-song notes
a rich harmony that
shake the air into smooth little ripples—
fall slowly to the ground.
Frankie does not know,
cannot feel the vibrations which hug
him close.

Ask him to believe.
The raven sticks his beak far into his
warm, moist ear.
Frankie, lead me.
But little Frankie does not respond.
Somehow understands, but
no response.
Does not twitch when his monitor clicks
twice, thrice.
The verdict is made,
carved through the stone of a moment,
unchangeable.
The sun lies in little bits and pieces
between the frosted panes of mid Janu-
ary.
The re-birth of a year.

III.

Frankie, may no one call you simple.
No one who reports that:
you fail to respond to auditory cues.
No, no, no, none.
But Frankie, you are yes.
Your eyes are half-moon crescents
that giggle as they wane.

IV.

When you raise your hands now
Everyone gravitates to you,
though you have no beard, no staff—
but I can feel them moving.
Did you lick the ground,
inhale the scattered light which
spills from your mouth
and seeps from your eyes?
Smooth ripples from oceans of truth glide
between the cracks of your baby teeth.
When you lift your hands,
cry out with this happiness,
I only wish you could spare me a slice—
You have convinced me.
Noah, may no one doubt you.

On Wednesday, April 20 the Friends of Graeme Park presented Mariah Rachel Burke, a student at Friends Select School, with the Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson Award in Poetry for the above poem, which was selected by Montgomery County's Poet Laureate, Grant Clauser. Before reading her poem at the ceremony, which was held at the Ambler Theater, she told the audience that it was inspired by a deaf child her mother works with who pretends he is Noah.

Dig Into History at Summer Camp



Campers at this year's summer day camp will become archaeologists to learn first-hand what its like to be on a simulated archaeological dig. They'll also learn about some of the material culture that archaeologists find on a dig site by making pottery and other crafts, learn about Colonial clothing, spinning, weaving, cooking, and much more! The camp is being held August 1-5 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm and is for children entering 4th through 7th grades. The cost is \$100/child. Registration forms are available on our website at www.graemepark.org.

Homeschool Day at Graeme Park

On Wednesday, September 21 homeschoolers and their families are invited out for a special day of activity-based learning just for them. From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm families can tour the Keith House, see a hearth cooking demonstration, attend a Colonial dame school, play games, visit with animals, and try out a variety of Colonial crafts and trades.



Sycamore Trees

Continued from page 6

at the end of what was a long brick walk through formal gardens, may have been one of two planted in 1795 for the wedding of Dr. William Smith and Anna Young (Elizabeth Graeme's niece).

The Latin name *Platanus occidentalis* simply means American plane tree, distinguishing it from its Asian cousin *P. orientalis*. America as we know it, with its explosive history of dispute, discovery, and development, has been around only about three centuries. Some of the sycamores we see today have been growing longer than that, aging peacefully with their roots reaching quietly into underground water. And they are still here.

New Article Published on Elizabeth

Dr. Rodney Mader, Associate Professor of English at West Chester University, has published an article Notes and Documents: Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson's "The Deserted Wife" in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. The article discusses and reprints "The Deserted Wife" a poem Elizabeth wrote between 1780-1783 about her relationship with Henry Hugh Fergusson. The original manuscript is held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and was copied by Elizabeth in 1793 for her friend Annis Boudinot Stockton. Amongst the stanzas of poetry are excerpts of Henry's letters to Elizabeth which Elizabeth copied out for her friend to review along with the poem. A copy of the article is available in the Graeme Park library.



Sycamore: A Most Beautiful Word, A Most Beautiful Tree

By Jim Miller

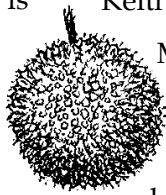
The American poet James Whitcomb Riley claimed that “sycamore” is the most beautiful word in the English language. Contemporary writer Annie Dillard agrees with him. Who wouldn’t? For not only do the rhythmic syllables of the word itself please the ear and the tongue, but the tree it connotes is truly magnificent. It does not take sophisticated botanical training to identify one; its flaky white branches against a blue sky or reflected in calm water make it uniquely recognizable.

It is not unusual to find large, old sycamores near historic homes. There is a reason for that. It is not that early dwellers planted sycamore near their homes. More likely, it is the other way around. Since the presence of sycamores

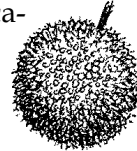


indicates availability of water, the houses were “planted” near the sycamores.

On the forty-two acres of Graeme Park there are approximately two dozen sycamores. Recall that the original name for the site was Fountain Low because of the springs and swamps, as attractive to sycamores as it was to Governor Keith.



Most of Graeme Park’s sycamores grow along the banks of Park Creek, arching over the gentle current. Several along the entrance drive are visitors first greeters to the site. Beside the pond and in the lawns near the visitor center and the Keith House are some very large and very old specimens. But as impressive as those individuals are, they are not record-holders. One of the largest sycamores in Montgomery County is found at the Roth Farm in North Wales. Its diameter has been measured at seven feet. On the campus of Delaware Valley College in Doylestown a sycamore more than 350 years old shades the president’s house.



In colonial days many deeds described property limits as measured in distance, often expressed in perches, rods, or chains, from anchoring “buttonwood” trees. That nickname may have derived from the button-like appearance of its developing fruits or perhaps early seamstresses could have actually used the wood to make buttons. The spikey, ping-pong ball



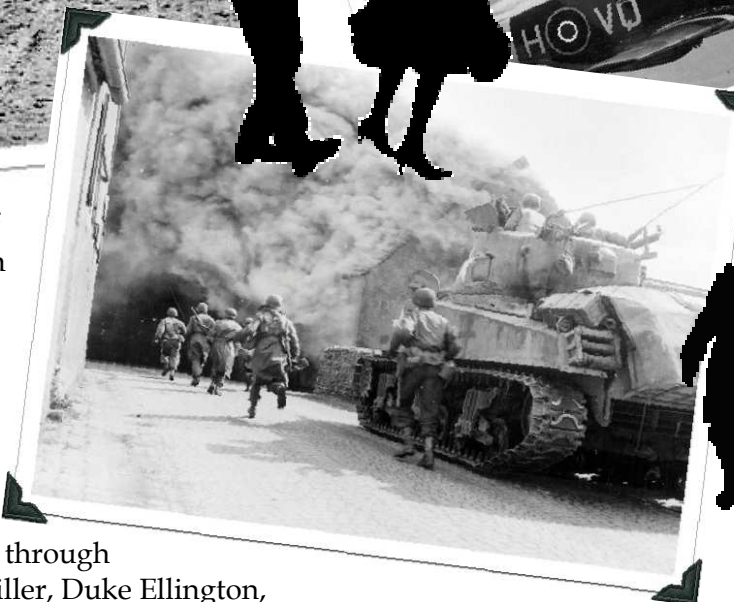
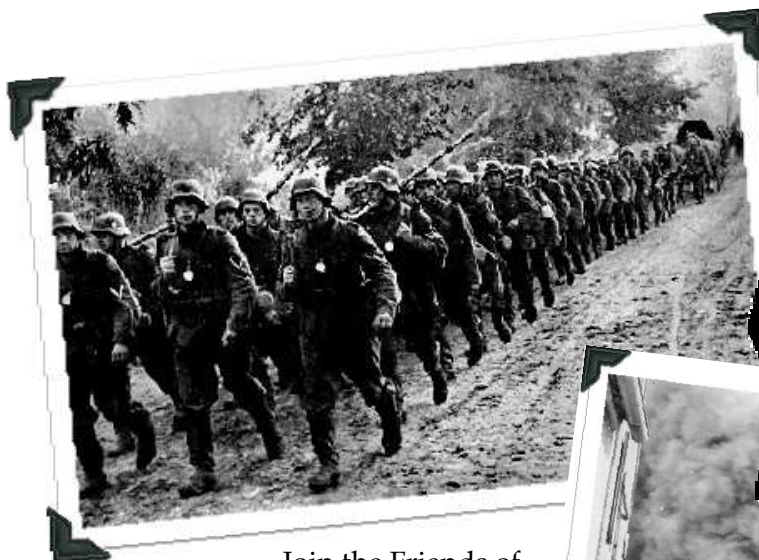
sized fruit is popular with squirrels and birds as a food source, and with human crafters designing natural ornaments for wreathes and Christmas trees. The wood is not very good for use in construction, but, since trunks are hollow, they could be used as containers. Putting a woven bottom on a section of a log made a serviceable sieve or basket. A board affixed to the base created a washtub or a pail. A large section could be sunk into the ground for a cistern or propped above the surface for use as a silo. Hides stretched across both ends of a section made a drum. It is easy to image colonial youngsters playing in large circular sycamore sandboxes.

When a couple married, there was a custom in Europe and in early America to plant Husband and Wife Trees, or Marriage Tress, in front of their house. The idea was to plant them close enough together so that as they grew their branches would intertwine and be regarded as one, like the couple. The sycamore tree in front of the Keith House,

Continued on page 5



World War II Weekend



Join the Friends of Graeme Park, and the reenactors from the 3rd and 35th Infantry, the 9th S.S. and the 110th Medical Battalion for a weekend long encampment and demonstrations on the grounds of Graeme Park. Saturday's activities will be capped off with a concert by the West Chester Swing Kings, a big band who plays songs from the 1940s through today including classics from Glen Miller, Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey, and Brian Setzer.

The reenactment will take place Saturday, September 24 beginning at 10 am with the battle taking place at 2 pm and Sunday September 25 from 10 to 3. When the troops aren't engaging you may tour the camps, see period tanks and trucks, tour the historic Keith House, browse the sutlers' booths and grab some lunch. The cost is \$10 on Saturday, and includes the concert and \$6 on Sunday. The concert will be Saturday, September 24 at 5 pm and admission to the concert only is \$5.

Sept.

24-25

215-343-0965 ~ www.graemepark.org



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859 County Line Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044
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Celtic Festival - July 16 / As You Like It - July 24 / Colonial Camp -
Aug. 1-5 / Yellow Fever - Aug. 21 / Homeschool Day - Sept. 21 /
WWII Weekend & Concert - Sept. 24-25 / Paranormal Investigations -
July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 17 / Market - July 13, 27, Aug. 10, 24, Sept. 14, 28

Yellow Fever

When Yellow Fever swept through the city of Philadelphia in 1793 country homes like Graeme Park became important retreats. Guards were posted on the outskirts of towns denying possibly infected travelers access unless they could prove they had a place to go. Elizabeth had sold Graeme Park to her nephew-in-law and his second wife in 1791 but they continued to live in the city while she remained at Graeme Park. When the fever broke out, they fled to Graeme Park, bringing very little in the way of belongings. Elizabeth remained with them for the duration of the outbreak, but once they were able to return for their things and wished to make Graeme Park their permanent home, she moved out, not wanting to feel like a guest in what was once her own home. Learn the full story of how the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 affected Elizabeth and her friends and family at our Living History Theater presentation on August 21 from 12 noon to 3 pm. The cost is \$8/regular admission (12-64), \$7/seniors (65+) and \$4/kids (3-11).

