

The Graeme Park Gazette

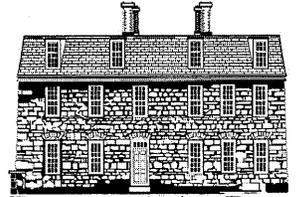
JANUARY - MARCH 2007

A Sweetheart of a Tour

Love is in the air as we prepare for our candlelit Sweethearts Tour of the Keith House. Not just for couples, this tour explores the life, loves, and losses of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson.

Meet Elizabeth in her early days as a romantic teenager engaged to William Franklin. Follow her through her marriage to Loyalist Henry Hugh Fergusson and learn the profound effect this relationship would have on the rest of her life. And finally meet an older, wiser Elizabeth as she reflects on it all – the good, the bad, the bittersweet. Throughout the tour, additional figures from Elizabeth's life – gossiping servants, dear friends, doting parents – will also tell you parts of her story from their own perspectives. Hollywood could not devise a better plot filled with romance, heartbreak, and intrigue!

Tours are limited and must be reserved and prepaid. Light refreshments and "sweets" are included.



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

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Event Details

Saturday, February 10

4:30*, 6:00, 7:30 and 9:00* p.m. ♥ \$10/person

Adults and Mature Youth Accompanied by an Adult Only

215-343-0965

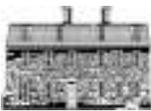
Reservations required. Please call for details.

* May be combined with 6 and 7:30 tours if there are not enough reservations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 10
Sweethearts Tours

March 11
Charter Day



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

Site Administrator Joan Hauger
Museum Assistant Carla A. Loughlin

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Edward G. Rendell
Governor

Barbara Franco
Executive Director

Wayne Spilove
Chairman

NEWSBRIEFS

Sue's Clues



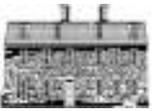
If you tuned into the Fox 29 morning show, *Good Day Philadelphia*, on Tuesday, November 28, you may have seen a familiar sight. Yes, that was the Keith House at Graeme Park that was featured on "Sue's Clues." For this popular segment, weather anchor Sue Serio broad-

casts from a "mystery" location and gives clues as to where she is every ten minutes along with the local weather forecast. It seems most viewers who e-mailed in guessed she was at Graeme Park or "Thomas Jefferson's house." They even had their own paranormal experience in the parlor during the 7 o'clock hour when their camera battery, which was at 80% capacity, suddenly went dead on them in the middle of the broadcast—we warned you Sue! Special thanks to Beth MacCausland who contacted the producers of *Good Day* to suggest Graeme Park as a location for "Sue's Clues," and to her and Tom Bugno who were here at 4:00 a.m. (yes, you read that right—four o'clock, *in the morning!*) to open up the site for the live broadcast.

Shop for a Cause

Graeme Park is now registered with [Shop forMuseums.com](http://ShopforMuseums.com) so you can help us raise money while you shop online. When you register, select Graeme Park as your museum partner, and over 300 participating merchants such as Amazon, eBay, Eddie Bauer, PetSmart, and Target will donate a percentage of the money you spend online with them to The Friends of Graeme Park, as long as you access them through the Shop for Museums homepage. There is no cost to you, and in fact, many of the merchants offer special shipping and product discounts exclusively to members, so you may even save some money while helping Graeme Park. So what are you waiting for? Get out those credit cards and ready, set, shop for a cause!





Charter Day

Charles the Second, by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c., To all to whome these presents shall come Greeting. Whereas our Trustie and well beloved Subject, William Penn, Esquire, sonn and heire of Sir William Penn, deceased, out of a commendable desire to enlarge our English Empire, and promote such usefull commodities as may bee of benefit to us and our Dominions, as alsoe to reduce the Savage Natives by gentle and just manners to the love of civill Societie and Christian Religion hath humbley besought leave of vs to transport an ample colonie vnto a certaine Countrey hereinafter described in the partes of America not yet cultivated and planted. And hath likewise humbley besought our Royall majestie to give grant, and confirme all the said countrey with certaine priviledges and Jurisdictions requisite for the good Government and saffie of the said Countrey and Colonie, to him and his heires forever.

Thus begins the March 4, 1681 Charter which granted Pennsylvania to William Penn. In honor of its founding, the state of Pennsylvania opens all of the PHMC-administered sites to the public free of charge one day per year (all are open other days



William Penn receiving the Charter for Pennsylvania from Charles II

for paid tours and special events).

Graeme Park will be open on Sunday, March 11 from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. and offering free guided tours of the historic Keith House up until 3 p.m.

If you haven't toured the Keith House recently, now is a great time to come out.

We could also use some volunteer tour guides to help out with the tours, so if you're a guide and haven't been around lately, please contact us to volunteer.

NEWSBRIEFS

Newsletter Goes Digital

Can't find your Graeme Park Gazette in amongst all your other papers? Spouse accidentally threw it away before you were done reading it? Now you can access it online at the Graeme Park website – www.ushistory.org/graeme/info/friends.htm. Get all the news and get it in color. You will of course continue to receive your paper copy in the mail too!

Don't Forget to Add Elizabeth to Your "Friends" List

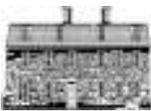
If you're on MySpace don't forget to help us spread the word about Graeme Park by adding Lizzie to your list of online friends – www.myspace.com/elizabeth_graeme or search on User ID Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson. You will receive bulletin announcements of upcoming events and news too.

Volunteers Needed for Sweethearts Tour

We need volunteer actors, baked goods, and food servers. Want to help but not available on February 10? We can use people in advance to help prepare the house and luminaries and on Sunday too to help with clean up. Please contact Beth MacCausland by email at BethGPFriendsVP@aol.com or give her a call at 215-641-0757 if you can help.

C2 Creative Films Video in the Keith House

The Keith House at Graeme Park was the setting for a Vanguard training film on retirement planning produced by C2 Creative of New York, who were in need of a period setting in which to place Ben Franklin. Joan Hauger worked with the creative team to secure access to the house and ensure proper care was taken around our collections.



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	Andrée Mey Miller
Vice President	Gwyn Ennis
Secretary	Cindy Bashore
Treasurer	Margaret Lotter
Member at Large	Carol Brunner
Member at Large	Rodney Mader
Member at Large	Doug Oberreit
Past President	Bruce Rader

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Fundraising	Ellen Mueller
Governance	Andrée Mey Miller
Legal	Bruce Rader

Membership Coord.	Sue Tafel
Museum Shop Mgr.	Cindy Bashore
Newsletter	Vacant
Program Mgr.	John Brunner
Property Mgr.	Vacant
PR Mgr.	Beth MacCausland
Volunteer Coord.	Beth MacCausland

EVENT CHAIRPERSONS

Camp	John Brunner Carol Brunner
Celtic Festival	Beth MacCausland
Ghostly Gatherings	John Brunner Beth MacCausland
Native American	Vacant
Sweethearts Tour	Gwyn Ennis Beth MacCausland

THE GRAEME PARK GAZETTE

is published quarterly by
The Friends of Graeme Park
in cooperation with the
PA Historical and Museum Commission

Editor: Carla A. Loughlin

Letter from the Administrator

Winter is here and with its arrival, I am experiencing Graeme Park under different conditions than those under which I started working here last spring. The leaves on the trees are gone and so are many of the visitors that kept everyone busy giving tours and presenting programs during the warmer months. Museum assistant, Carla Loughlin and events chairpersons, Beth MacCausland, John Brunner, Carol Brunner and Gwyn Ennis finally have time to catch their collective breaths after a very busy round of public programs.

But is anyone taking time to rest? Not us! Carla, Beth and Gwyn are hard at work to produce the Sweethearts Tour in February. Carol and John are scheduling presentations to Horsham Township teachers and principals that will spread the word about our school programs. Besides coming in every week to give tours, volunteer

Sue Tafel is busy making period costumes and volunteer Herb Levy is delving into the architectural history of the Keith House and its surrounding buildings. Negotiations are under way to have a transcript of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson's Willing Commonplace Book published with scholarly commentary. The Friends Board, led by President Andrée Miller, is preparing to start the process of reviewing and improving both our historical interpretation and our financial development. I am conducting the search for our new Custodial Guide and I hope to have that new staff person join us early in the new year. Like the new rows of leeks planted in our kitchen garden, Graeme Park is alive and continues to grow despite the cold of winter. To all of you who make that happen, I send a warm, "thank you."

- Joan D. Hauger

Mark Your Calendars for 2007 Events

As always, the volunteers at Graeme Park are hard at work planning this year's events. We can always use more helpers in many different roles, but if you'd rather just come and enjoy the event we always need an audience too—bring your friends and family members and spread the news. You can now send them online links to the Newsletter from our website (www.ushistory.org/graeme) or subscribe to our blog on MySpace (www.myspace.com/elizabeth_graeme) to stay in touch. We hope to see you at Graeme Park this year!

In the meantime, mark your calendars for these upcoming family events. All dates are subject to change, so please call to confirm before making your plans.

February 10 – Sweethearts Tour

This guided tour features costumed interpreters acting out scenes from the life of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson. Read more about it on page 1.

March 11 – Charter Day

The Keith House is open for free tours in honor of the granting of the Pennsylvania Charter.

June 10 – Living History Sunday

Patriots and Traitors. Explore the Revolutionary conflicts inherent in the forming of a new nation.

June 25 to 29 – Colonial Living Camp.

Kids entering 3rd grade through 6th grade get a taste of colonial life in this weeklong camp.

July 21 – Celtic Heritage Festival

Celebrate the Scottish heritage of the Keith, Graeme, and Fergusson families in this fun-filled day of music, crafts, dance, and even a dog show.

August 19 – Living History Sunday

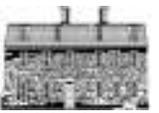
Learn about life in Colonial America.

October 19 to 20 – Haunted Moonlight

Tours. Learn the history of Graeme Park and why Elizabeth's spirit may not rest easily on these haunted tours of the Keith House.

October 25 to 27 – Ghostly

Gatherings. Explore local lore and legend on these night tours of the house and woods.



Object Lessons

Tick Tock, the Tall Case Clock



By Carla Loughlin

With the new year upon us, our thoughts naturally turn to the count-down to 2007 and the passage of time, so what better excuse to revisit the history of one of Graeme Park's most remarkable collections objects – the tall case clock in the parlor of the Keith House. The eight day clock, housed in a walnut case, was made by Thomas Stretch c. 1740. Stretch was the son of one of Philadelphia's earliest and best clockmakers, Peter Stretch, and is most known himself as the manufacturer of the State House (Independence Hall) clock.

In today's fast paced, time-obsessed world, it is hard to imagine that in the 18th century clocks and pocket watches were rare, expensive objects owned only by the wealthy class and public clocks were non-existent. As trade and business advanced in the cities, it became more and more im-

portant to know the correct time, and gentleman who owned pocket watches were constantly being stopped on the streets and asked the time. In the late 1740s, Ben Franklin, allegedly having been asked the hour one too many times, suggested to his friend Edward Duffield that he construct Philadelphia's first public clock outside his clock making business.

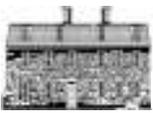
In 1762 Thomas Stretch was hired by the Province of Pennsylvania to construct a public clock for the State House. Stretch was paid just over £494 for the manufacture of this clock and for his services cleaning, maintaining, and repairing it for six years. The clock works were housed in the center of the building with faces on both the eastern and western facades which were controlled by shafts connected to the works. The western end had a masonry structure designed to look like the clock case. The clocks apparently were generally incorrect and did not always work at all.

In addition to his work making clocks, Thomas Stretch was involved in Philadelphia life and society as a member of the Union Fire Company and as one of the founding members and first Governor of the "Colony in Schuylkill" (name changed to State in Schuylkill in 1783) which was a private, exclusive "fishing club" and is the oldest existing social club in Philadelphia.

The Keith House clock was purchased by the state in 1967 for \$2,800 from an antiques dealer in Lambertville, New Jersey. It is an eight day

clock, which needs to be wound every 8th day, although most likely you would wind it on the same day each week, with the extra day to give some leeway if you were forgetful or traveling. There are two weights that control the clock – the one on the left makes it strike and the one on the right makes it run. There are two keyholes in the face – one to wind each weight – and the clock is wound clockwise (of course!). Our particular example also marks the seconds, the date, and the phases of the moon. Eighteenth century clocks were often designed with this moon-phase feature so that one could plan nighttime travel to correspond with the full moon when there would be enough light by which to see – an important consideration when roads were rough and there was no artificial light to guide the way.

While the clock currently on display at Graeme Park did not belong to the Keith or the Graeme families, Governor Keith's inventory lists "two large clocks – one table clock," Dr. Graeme's lists "a clock on the stair case" of his Philadelphia home valued at £10, and Elizabeth's inventories, taken in 1778 at the time of the confiscation, list "1 eight day clock and case," valued at £30, among the items she requested she be allowed to keep. The next time you tour the Keith House, take a minute to appreciate this beautiful piece of craftsmanship.



Halloween Recap

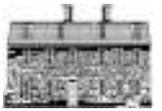
Once again the ghosts and goblins took over Graeme Park for two fun-filled weekends of Halloween hijinks. On October 20 and 21 we entertained five sold-out crowds, totaling 115 visitors, for our popular Moonlight Tours in the Keith House. Twenty volunteers helped us out portraying historical characters, serving food, checking in reservations, and working the gift shop. Thank you all! Your time and talents helped raise money and awareness of Graeme Park's rich and interesting history and the program got rave reviews from those who attended.

On October 26, 27, and 28 nearly 300 visitors came to be scared and entertained on our Ghostly Gatherings tours through the dark and haunted woods! The volunteer effort put forth for this program is phenomenal. While there are too many to name each one and the contributions they made, rest assured all efforts were appreciated and valuable to ensuring the success of this program. A few dedicated "souls" who put in weekend after weekend of work on this program must be acknowledged. Beth MacCausland organized all the details of both weekends – from writing the scripts, to casting and scheduling all of the volunteers, to mowing the grass – if it needed to be done, she did it or made sure someone else did. John Brunner was here every weekend getting the grounds in shape, preparing the scenes, putting out signs, and staging the props. Ed Connolley took care of the logistics of some of the scenes and prepared the barn for the big finale. Mike MacCausland mowed grass, dug graves, put out signs, and prepared the bonfire area to welcome guests. Debbie Poffarl helped with grounds prep and luminaries and any other task large or small that we needed done. Debbie Hayes procured financial support in the form of sponsorship from Care Express. Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in making both of these programs a success.

Photo Captions:

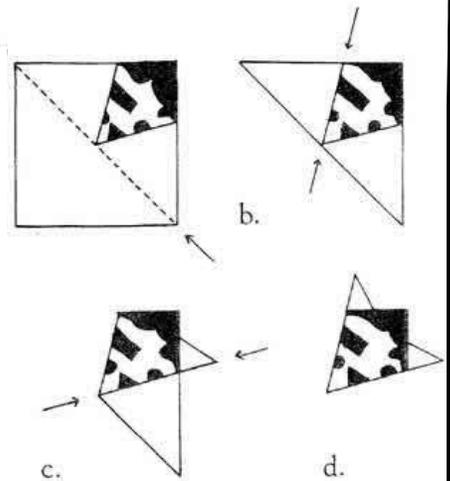
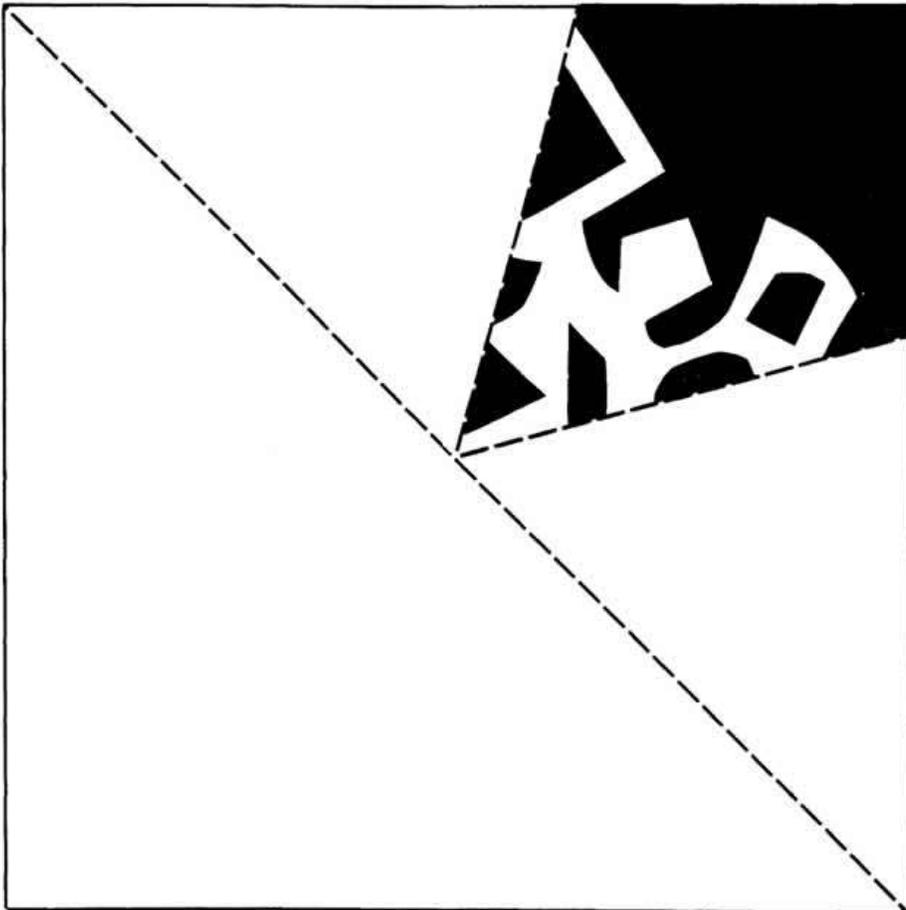
1. Anita Fleck scares a young visitor as the "Lady in the Lake."
2. Bill Keck, Irene Weiss, Marji Rio, Ed Schorpp, and Jack Rotoli pose before the Moonlight Tour.
3. Holly Niemeyer, Robin Tafel, and Ed Schorpp at Dr. Graeme's funeral.
4. Doug Oberreit and John Brunner practice battlefield medicine with cleavers and leeches!





KIDS' PAGE

PATTERN



FOLDING GUIDELINES



FINISHED SNOWFLAKE

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut around the solid lines of the square above. You can enlarge it on a copier first if you want to.
2. Refer to the diagram on the top right to fold the square down into a triangle.
3. Cutting through all thicknesses of the paper, cut away the black areas.
4. Unfold your snowflake.
5. Using the idea of this pattern, see what other designs you can create – remember, no two snowflakes are ever alike!

WPA Architectural Model of the Keith House



Berks County Historical Society Object #54-43-745Q

The Works Projects (later Progress) Administration, or WPA, was a program created by Franklin D. Roosevelt in an effort to relieve some of the nation's unemployment woes during the Great Depression by creating a series of what some considered to be "make-work" programs. Under the auspices of the WPA, Pennsylvania created the first and most successful state Museum Extension Project, which created historical and educational objects that could be loaned out to schools to use as visual aids in the classroom. Seven work units around the state employed from 25 to 1,000 workers each to create different educational aids. The Pittsburgh and Harrisburg units created over 150 scaled plaster architectural models, including this one of the Keith House which was made by the Pittsburgh unit. The model is in the collection of the Berks County Historical Society in Reading (www.berkshistory.org). Thanks are owed to John Robinson, the PHMC webmaster, who thought to snap this photo and bring the existence of the model to our attention. An online exhibit of more of the architectural models, as well as some history of the WPA, is available at <http://digital.browardlibrary.org/wpa/>



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www.ushistory.org/graeame

Sweethearts Tour - February 10

Charter Day - March 11