

The Graeme Park Gazette

APRIL - JUNE 2017

Living History Sundays Return to Graeme Park

One Sunday each month from May – October, 2017 costumed volunteers will enrich the visitor experience by presenting living history activities at Graeme Park. Volunteers will interact with guests as they tour the house or grounds and will do a short presentation at 2 p.m. on the day's topic or theme.

Living History Sundays will mostly be on the third Sunday of each month (except where a scheduling conflict occurs) from 12 noon to 3 pm and are tentatively scheduled as follows:

May 21 – Colonial Hearth Cooking. The Graemes are in Philadelphia, but Miss Julie is hard at work in the Graeme Park kitchen throughout the day preparing dinner for her family at Graeme Park. If you ask, she will share her receipts (recipes) with you! There will be a brief talk on colonial hearth cooking at 2 p.m.

June 18 – Fathers and Family in the 1700s. Meet "Dr. Graeme" and learn about the father's role in the 18th c. as head of the family.

July 16 – Patriots & Loyalists: Debating Independence. Meet "Benjamin Rush" and "Henry Hugh Fergusson" and watch them debate the merits

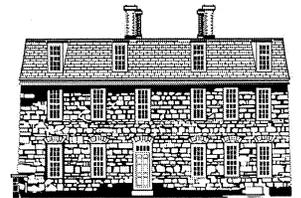
(and drawbacks) of Independence at 2 pm.

August 20 – The Revolutionary War & Its Impact on the Locals. Meet one of "Anthony Wayne's men" and learn about the encampment that occurred at Graeme Park and the impact of the Revolution on the locals.

September 17 – Slavery & Indentured Servitude

October 22 – Topic to be Determined

Living History interpretation is included in the cost of your house tour (\$6/12-64; \$5/65+; \$3/3-11). If you've been planning to visit, a Living History Sunday is a great day to come – not only will you learn about the interesting history of Graeme Park, but you'll be able to see a small segment of it come to life!



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 12
Lunch & Learn

MAY 14
*Mother's Day
Breakfast*

MAY 21 & JUNE 18
Living History Sundays

JUNE 15
*Happy Hour
with the Historian*



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 in partnership with the Friends of Graeme Park, a 501c3 volunteer organization that raises funds, staffs, and promotes the site. The official registration and financial information of The Friends of Graeme Park may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. 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
Mike MacCausland

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

Tom Wolf
Governor

James M. Vaughan
Executive Director

Nancy Moses
Chair

From the President of the Friends

Spring! Maybe? Possibly? Eh?

Many times this March, I wished it was still the milder temperatures we had in February. But I'm guessing that it's safe to say that as you read this, winter is but a memory.

This last quarter at Graeme Park was a time for regrouping, meetings and mapping out new plans and programs for 2017. This year you'll see our Mothers' Day Breakfast back on the calendar bigger and better than before. We now have our gorgeous, weather-proof wedding tent in which to set up the buffet. You may follow up your breakfast with a tour of the historic Keith House...a little something extra for mom.

Living History Sundays will be back on the third Sunday of the month from May through September, fourth Sunday in October. During a regular tour of the Keith House, you'll be treated to a colonial cooking demonstration or listen to Dr. Graeme talk about life in his time plus other topics during the season. Check the newsletter for full descriptions.

Something completely different this year will be our "Happy Hour with the Historian". After work, drop by at 6:00 on Thursday night, June 15. Enjoy a cash bar happy hour while you take in a lovely summer evening at Graeme Park. At 7:00, Jack Washington, the Vice President on Graeme Park's Board of Directors, will tell you about the fate of loyalists when pro-revolutionary neighbors took matters into their own hands.

Are any of you interested in helping the bee population? Graeme Park will be doing its share by planting a plethora of wildflowers on Saturday, May 20. Birds, butterflies and bees will thrive with the samplings and we humans can enjoy the profusion of color dotting the landscape. If you want to help us, we'd love to have you. Come by the park at 10:30, help us prepare the soil and scatter some seeds. I'll bribe you with lunch! Give the site a call or email if you are interested.

So as spring has sprung, wedding season begins in high gear, school tours are right around the corner and Graeme Park has come alive with exciting things to do. We hope you'll join us and see for yourself what makes Graeme Park the special place that it is.

- Beth MacCausland



Happy Hour with the Historian: Loyalists During the Revolution



Join us on Thursday, June 15 for an evening happy hour on the lovely summer grounds of Graeme Park, and a lecture on Loyalists during the American Revolution.

During the Revolution your neighbor may have been a Loyalist! Jack Washington will present some of these local Loyalists and their fate at the

hands of their pro-Revolutionary neighbors.

He will also provide enlightenment on the attempts by General Howe during the occupation of Philadelphia in 1777-78 to recruit some of these disaffected persons into his military establishment.

Jack Washington is a long time Revolutionary War reenactor, volunteer and board member at Graeme Park, and Chair of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission, which operates the 1682 Richard Wall House.

\$5 admission (free admission for members). Cash bar. We start pouring at 6 p.m. and the lecture starts at 7 p.m. Details to follow.



NEWSBRIEFS

Horsham's Tri-Centennial Celebration

2017 marks the 300th year of the founding of Horsham Township and there will be events all year long celebrating our history and community. There are events scheduled each month throughout the year, including a dance party with food and a DJ at Graeme Park on May 13, a movie night at Lukens Park, a picnic at the library and a gala at Talamore Country Club. In between there are lots of activities and events, which you can learn more about on the Township's [website](#) under the "Community" tab. Planning is still in progress so check back often for more details and additional events.

2017 Wedding Season

The 2017 wedding season is set to begin on April 22 and we currently have 30 weddings booked for the season! Bucks Mont Party Rental, our exclusive rental company, will be upgrading the tent with new carpeting, custom built bars, and new lighting. In addition they have new farm tables that our couples can choose as an upgrade.

Join Our Mailing List

If you're not receiving event notices by email, and would like to, please make sure you sign up for our mailing list by visiting www.eepurl.com/VY_IT or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham and look for the link to "sign up for GP news" on the left-hand side. In general we send 2-3 emails per month, we don't share our list, and you can easily unsubscribe if you change your mind (we'll only cry a little if you do).

Garden Party

On Saturday, May 20 we'll be beautifying Graeme Park and helping Mother Nature by planting a border of wildflower seeds along the woods behind the Keith House. Bring your garden gloves, tools to scratch up the dirt and cut back vines if you have 'em (rakes, hand tillers, pruners, etc.), and a few packs of wildflower seeds if you'd like to donate them. We're starting around 10:30 a.m. and we'll supply lunch, whatever tools we have, and seeds.

**THE FRIENDS OF
GRAEME PARK**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Friends of Graeme Park is to provide on-going support of preservation, maintenance, development, interpretation, education and promotion of Graeme Park.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Beth MacCausland
Vice President	Jack Washington
Secretary	Melissa Kurek
Treasurer	Diane Horan
Member at Large	Tony Checchia
Member at Large	Deedie Gustavson
Member at Large	Laura MacBride

**STANDING COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS**

Education	Carol Brunner John Brunner
Finance	Vacant
Fundraising	Vacant
Governance	Jack Washington
Grants	Beth MacCausland
Hospitality	Vacant
Insurance	Vacant
Legal	Vacant
Membership	Carla Loughlin
Museum Shop	Carol Brunner Carla Loughlin
Newsletter/Publicity	Carla Loughlin
Programs/Events	Beth MacCausland
Volunteers	Beth MacCausland
Website	Carla Loughlin

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



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

Lunch & Learn – April 12
Health Care, 18th Century Style

Any assessment of health care in the 18th century, when life expectancy on both sides of the Atlantic averaged about 43 years, must include personnel ranging from educated physicians through barbers and mid-wives to neighborhood quacks. Diseases were attributed to superstitions, bad behavior, or inhalation of foul air. Remedies included everything from herbal extracts, poultices, and cold baths to the most “advanced” treatments of bloodletting by non-sterile instruments or even leeches. During the entire century people lived in constant fear of smallpox and yellow fever. Important events happened in the last decade of the century regarding these two diseases: the horrendous epidemic of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia and the startling circumstances that led to development of a vaccine for smallpox.

The lecture will include an overall assessment of health care in colonial America and England; specific treatments and procedures available at the time and a demonstration of several items of medical equipment used during the period; and a focus on two events in the last decade of the 18th century – the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia and the development of smallpox vaccine in England.

Presented by Jim Miller. Jim is a Graeme Park volunteer and former board member. He holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology and was a professor at Delaware Valley University before retiring.

Lunch will include:

- Hot entrée
- Deli tray with rolls and sandwich “fixins”
- Vegetarian option
- Salad, dessert, beverages

Schedule

- 10:15 a.m. - Check-in & breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. - Lecture
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- After Lunch - House Tour

\$25/person* *Includes lecture, continental breakfast, lunch & tour*

Please add my email to your list to receive occasional notices of Graeme Park news and events including the next Lunch & Learn Lecture

My check for \$25/pp is enclosed. Please make checks out to “The Friends of Graeme Park”

Please bill my credit card

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ eMail: _____

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

*** \$20/ Members**



Updated 2017 Calendar

March 12—Charter Day—A self-paced tour of the Keith House. *FREE*

April 12—Lunch & Learn: 18th C. Medicine—Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on medical practice in the 18th century, and a hot and cold lunch buffet. Reserved Event. \$25 / \$20 members.

May 14—Mother's Day Brunch—A professionally catered hot and cold brunch buffet in the tent followed by a tour of the historic Keith House. Reserved Event. \$25 / \$20 members.

May 21—Living History Sunday: Colonial Hearth Cooking—The Graemes are in Philadelphia, but Miss Julie is hard at work in the Graeme Park kitchen throughout the day preparing dinner for her family at Graeme Park. If you ask, she will share her receipts (recipes) with you! There will be a brief talk on colonial hearth cooking at 2 p.m.

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June 18—Living History Sunday: Fathers and Family in the 1700s. Meet "Dr. Graeme" from 12–3 pm with short presentation at 2 pm.

July 16—Living History Sunday: Patriots & Loyalists: Debating Independence. Meet "Benjamin Rush" and "Henry Hugh Ferguson" from 12–3 pm with a debate at 2 pm.

August 17—Happy Hour with the Historian: 18th C. Medicine—Health care in colonial America; specific treatments and procedures and a demonstration of several items of medical equipment. Bar opens at 6 pm; Lecture at 7 pm. \$5 + cash bar. Free admission for members.

August 20—Living History Sunday: The Revolutionary War & Its Impact on the Locals. Meet one of "Anthony Wayne's men" from 12–3 pm with short presentation at 2 pm.

September 14—Life in William Penn's Woods—Guided walk around the grounds of Graeme Park learning about the plants and trees that are here now and would have been here in the Graemes' time, along with how they were used. After your walk, sit

down and enjoy light refreshments while you learn about the animals that would have populated our woods. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to join in. \$2 suggested donation. Members free.

September 15—An Evening with the Graemes—Join reenactors portraying the Graeme family for an evening of upper class entertainment, including dancing with the Tapestry Dancers, Whist, Put & Take, and other tavern games, wine, cheese, and other snacks. Reserved Event. \$23 / \$18 members.

September 17—Living History Sunday: Slavery & Indentured Servitude. 12–3 pm with short presentation at 2 pm.

September 29—Homeschool Day—A day for homeschooling families to discover Graeme Park and life in 18th-century America. Demonstrations around the grounds change annually, but include things such as open hearth cooking demonstrations, animal displays, military drills, colonial games and toys, and quill writing. \$6/pp. Members free.

October 11—Lunch & Learn: Topic TBD—Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on an historical topic, and a hot and cold lunch buffet. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be available after lunch. Reserved Event. \$25 / \$20 members.

October 22—Living History Sunday: Topic TBD. 12–3 pm with short presentation at 2 pm.

November 25—Continental Christmas—In the winter of 1777-78 nearly 2,000 men were encamped at Graeme Park with their officers taking over the Keith House. Visit this time in Graeme Park's history and learn what it must have been like for Elizabeth, as she saw her grounds being trampled and her food stores being ransacked. \$2 suggested donation. Members free.

December 7—Ladies Night: Gingerbread Houses—Decorate a homemade, pre-constructed gingerbread house while enjoying light refreshments. Reserved Event. Pricing to follow. Special members-only price.

** Event details, times, prices subject to change. Please call or check our website for details.*

Horsham 300 Dance Party

Join Horsham Township in their year-long tricentennial celebration with a family-friendly dance party at Graeme Park on Saturday, May 13 from 3–7 pm.

In addition to a DJ and dancing, there will be a cold buffet dinner, anniversary cake, games, inflatables, tours of the historic Keith House, craftsmen demonstrating 18th century crafts, and Revolutionary War reenactors.

The cost is \$5 but the tickets/seating is limited, so please purchase in advance on their website www.horsham.org. This is a no alcohol event.





Spring Cleaning: Hygiene in Colonial Times

By Beth MacCausland

Ah, spring. A new beginning. New possibilities. Let's start fresh with a good bath. Wash the winter off of our bodies. Dress in freshly laundered clothes. And...wait. What? You shower every day no matter the season? You always have clean clothes? This is no big deal? Ah, 21st century people you surely are. Certainly not 18th century American colonials. For them, a bath was a huge ordeal and the population didn't know the meaning of hygiene. Body odor was a fact of life, forever wafting from the skin and deeply embedded into clothing.

Can you picture the fancy silk shirt and velvet coat of a gentleman? And the beautiful silks, brocades and damasks worn by the ladies of fashion in the mid-1700s? Try to imagine these graceful garments in a perpetually non-laundered state being worn by unwashed bodies and, well, you get the picture. Of course, there were accessories, too. Like the all-important lace handkerchief, that itty-bitty piece of lavender-scented material daintily brought to the nose to hide the stench coming from fellow colonials.

Why the stink? There were a few reasons.



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Highest on the list was the thought of the time period. It was believed that washing removed important oils from the skin, which left the person vulnerable to disease. So really, the colonials thought it was unhealthy to bathe. I can only say I'm glad we evolved beyond that train of thought. Once in a while, those in that generation would wash their hands or face but everything else? Not so much.

Mid-Atlantic colonials might have bathed three or four times a year. New Englanders, on the other hand, may have only accomplished a body wash once a year. It was too cold to slip into a tub more often than that in their climate. One can only imagine the smell inside a Boston tavern or meeting hall as the patrons had heated discussions on such-life changing ideas as in-

dependence from England. I can picture those hankies waving about in the fervor of the times, but we all know what those hankies were *really* doing.

However, even if they were like us today and wanted a daily bath, it would have been an arduous, time consuming ordeal. We jump in the shower with its handy-dandy indoor plumbing, with temperature controlled running water, we use all the scented products on the market to help us along with the task, step out and towel off. We get dressed in our clean clothes and go about our lives. Back then, though, it began with preparing a fire, filling tubs of water from the nearest water source (be it a well, stream, river, etc.) and lugging them to the fire to heat. When warm, the heavy tubs had to be lugged again, this time to the washing vessel. It took a few hours to get to that



Mother's Day Breakfast

Celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14 at historic Graeme Park with a breakfast buffet catered by A&J Catering in our floored, enclosed event tent. Tours of the 1722 Keith House, which retains much of its original architectural detail and was home to Pennsylvania Governor Sir William Keith and the writer Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson, following breakfast.

Seatings at 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 and 11:30 a.m.

Reservations and prepayment required.

\$25/person; \$20/members; \$12.50/kids 6-12

High chairs are not available but children 5 and under are welcome at no additional charge.

Please go to www.eventbrite.com and search for "Graeme Park" to purchase your tickets.



Menu

Fresh Fruit Salad
 Bagels & Cream Cheese Danish
 Cooked to Order Omelet Bar
 French Toast
 Belgian Waffles
 Hash Browns
 Sausage, Bacon, Ham
 Orange Juice & Coffee

point alone. Oh, and was the bathing area private? Most likely not. Now that could be an uncomfortable and compromising situation!

If they were lucky enough to have some harsh, homemade lye soap available, they used it. If not, just the water would have to do. After bathing, they used some linen or whatever other piece of material they had to dry off. No fancy Egyptian luxury cotton or Peruvian pima cotton towels hung in their bathroom. Heck,

they didn't even have a bathroom!

Bathing was a family affair. The standard practice was that the men of the household bathed first, followed by the women and then the children. By the



time the baby was put into the tub, the water was so dirty and murky that "don't throw the baby out with the bathwater" was a warning to be taken literally.

After all of this, the water tub had to be hauled away and dumped. But the deed was done and the person or the family was, to a point, clean—at least until they got dressed in the same, dirty, smelly clothes. Laundry day was another laborious task that would be beyond our patience in this day and age, but the colonial American way of washing clothes is a subject for another day.

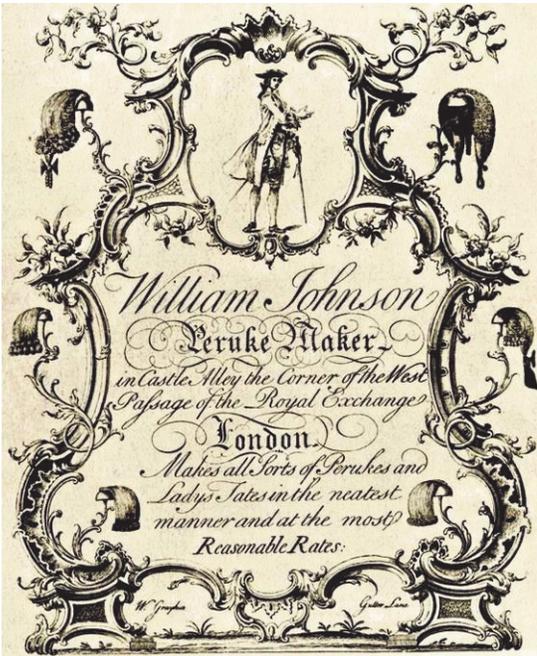


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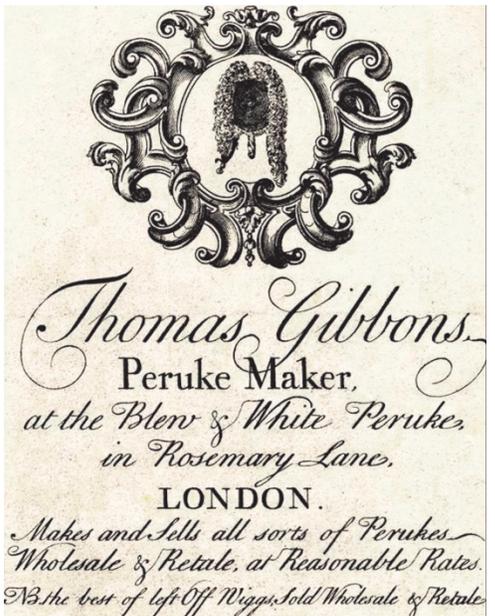
Lunch & Learn – April 12 | Mother’s Day Breakfast – May 14
Living History Sundays – May 21 & June 18
Happy Hour with the Historian – June 15



18th Century Occupations:

The Peruke Maker

While we promised “now obsolete” occupations in the last newsletter, that doesn’t exactly hold true this time around, although the nomenclature has changed from the exotic “peruke maker” to the more mundane “wig maker.” While wigs date to much earlier times, it was Louis XIII of France who is credited with helping wigs enter “the golden age” that persisted through the 17th and 18th centuries when wigs were worn by royalty and the upper classes who wanted to adopt the latest fashions and show off their style and wealth. The colonial peruke



maker used goat, yak, horse or human hair and wove and knotted individual strands around threads, which were then attached, in rows, to a base of netting. The final stages included curling, dying, powdering, and pomades, much as a barber would dress a person’s natural hair. Wigs could be somewhat restyled or recolored to suit new fashions or as a client aged, but new wigs were needed every four or five years anyway. The peruke shop might also sell soaps, perfumes, powders, pomades and cures for lice.

Look for other unusual trades and occupations in upcoming issues.