

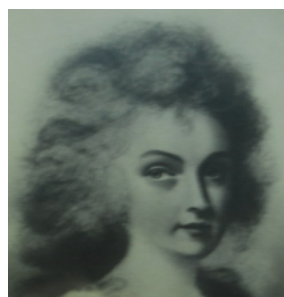
# The Graeme Park Gazette

APRIL - JUNE 2018

## The “Other” Women of Graeme Park

By Carla Loughlin

We spend a lot of time at Graeme Park on the history of Elizabeth Graeme, but with Mother’s Day coming up, it might be nice to delve into the history of some of the less-discussed women of Graeme Park.



Ann Newberry Diggs Keith, or Lady Ann, was born in 1675 near London. Nothing is known of her parents or childhood, but she was

first married to a Robert Diggs and the two were living in St. Albans England in 1700 when their daughter Ann Diggs (later Graeme) was born. By 1705 Ann was widowed from Robert and remarried to Sir William Keith, with whom she had six sons and a daughter: William (b. 1705), John (b. 1707), Jane (b. 1708), George (b. 1710), Alexander (b. 1711), Robert (b. 1714), and James, born in 1717 while the couple was mid-voyage to Pennsylvania. In 1727 Sir William returned to England, leaving his wife and children in Pennsylvania. They were never to be reunited, but letters indicate that they maintained cordial relations. After Keith’s departure Lady Ann lived at Graeme Park and in Philadelphia, sometimes with the Graemes, sometimes alone (or with whatever children remained at home). She died on July 31, 1740 at the age of 65 and is buried at Christ Church next to the Graeme family.



\* \* \*

Ann Diggs, daughter of Lady Ann Keith and her first husband Robert Diggs, was the second mistress of Graeme Park. She was born in England

and traveled to Pennsylvania in 1717 along with her mother, step-father Sir William Keith, and her future husband, Dr. Thomas Graeme. Ann and Thomas were married at Christ Church in Philadelphia on November 12, 1719.

Ann and Thomas had between 9-12 children and she took an active role in their social training and education. The nine for which there are records include, Thomas, William, Ann, Mary Jane (Jane), two sets of twins – Rebecca and Rachel, and Patrick and Elizabeth – all four of whom died in infancy, and the Elizabeth who would grow up to become a writer and heir to Graeme Park. Elizabeth may have also had a non-surviving twin named Sarah. Dr. Rush described Ann Graeme as having a “masculine mind, with all the female charms and accomplishments which render a woman agreeable to both sexes.” Ann was noted for her fine needlework, spinning, and weaving – skills she passed down to her daughters. Reference is made to an embroidered crocodile which hung in

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**Befriend the Past**  
The Friends of Graeme Park

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 19, May 17, June 21

*Happy Hours with  
the Historian*

May 20, June 17

*Living History Sundays*

April 25

*Lunch & Learn*

May 13

*Mother's Day Breakfast*

June 9

*Volunteer Appreciation  
Luncheon*



## 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*

Andrea Lowery  
*Executive Director*

Nancy Moses  
*Chair*

## *From the President of the Friends*

Spring, 2018 is here! No wait. It's not. Wait. It is. Oops, not.

As we plug along enduring winter to the fullest, remember that nicer weather is just around the corner. That corner may be miles down the road, but it's there. And as the warmer weather tries to eek its way toward us, Graeme Park is gearing up for awesome events coming your way.

Every month we are offering Happy Hour with the Historian. Enjoy a sip, snacks and a half hour talk on anything and everything. Our lectures are fun and informative and it's a great way to spend a warm spring evening at Graeme Park.

Check this newsletter for our Living History Sunday presentations. Relive a colonial afternoon with some of our most talented volunteers as they take you back to our roots. Admission is no more than a regular house tour.

Our spring Lunch & Learn is filling up fast! Grab your spot now for a fun-filled day with Doug Miller, Site Administrator of Pennsbury Manor, as he explains the injustice that was the "Walking Purchase". Continental breakfast and lunch are also included in the price.

Don't forget our Mother's Day breakfast and house tour. Our beautiful wedding tent is the scene for your breakfast buffet and everyone is welcome to take a tour of the Keith House after you are finished eating. A hearty meal and an historical tour is a great way to treat all the special women in your life.

All of the above programs have a special discounted price for members of The Friends of Graeme Park. If you are not already a member, why not consider joining. The perks are great and your membership helps us to continue our mission at Graeme Park; having the history of those who came before us and forged the path we take today available to all.

We can only hope that by the time you are reading this, it is, indeed, spring. If not, button up those coats and make the best of it. We hope to see you at Graeme Park!

All the best,

*Beth MacCausland*



*Continued from page 1*

the Keith House and which Elizabeth kept with her to the end. Like her daughter Elizabeth, Ann kept commonplace books — the one she presented to Betsy Steedman largely consisted of transcriptions of the sermons of Reverend Jacob Duche, which she felt contained “many excellent rules, good instructions and sublime reflections.” Ann’s strong faith would comfort her through her final illness and allow her to pass on to the next world in peace on May 29, 1765. More than ten years before her death she had woven her own burial shroud and planned her own funeral. She begged her family not to mourn, as she was willingly giving up “everything in this Life for a Better one.”

The last “mistress” of Graeme Park was Margaret Marshall Strawbridge. She was born in Philadelphia in 1898 and was a

descendant of John Marshall, one of the first Justices of the Supreme Court. Her

family was a member of Philadelphia’s high society. She was educated at the Agnes Irwin School, and Lake Erie College for Women. Before their marriage, her future husband, Welsh Strawbridge asked her if she would prefer to live in the Horsham farmhouse he’d recently purchased or a castle in Spain — she chose the former and, following their marriage in 1922 and a 3 month honeymoon tour of Europe, they moved into what is currently known as the Penrose-Strawbridge House on the grounds of Graeme Park. Mrs. Strawbridge was involved in many cultural, historical and philanthropic endeavors, lending her support to the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the Colonial Dames of



America, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Union League, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. In an oral history interview she recalled marching with the suffragettes for women’s right to vote.

She and Welsh respected the history and significance of Graeme Park, choosing to preserve it, rather than add to, update or modernize it. They used the house for entertaining and tours and in 1957 donated it to the state to ensure its long term preservation, a move Welsh was hesitant about but Margaret persisted in. After Welsh’s death, Margaret continued to live at the property for nearly 30 more years, passing away here in 1996 at the age of 98. Her will transferred several artifacts to the PHMC, including one of Elizabeth’s commonplace books, original tiles, and the ledger books currently on display in the Visitors’ Center.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Office Refresh

As spring rolls around it is always nice to do a little spring cleaning, organizing, and purging of the old and outdated to get ready for a carefree summer of busy activities and entertaining. Graeme Park is no exception and we’ve been doing just that so we can be more productive and organized as we start into our busiest season of school tours, happy hours, living history Sundays and weddings. We’ve moved filing cabinets and display cases, made a dedicated space for our costumes so as to more easily outfit some of our newer volunteers as they learn about reenacting and living history, and cleared space in the back storage area for the vacuums, step ladders and other things we frequently need to keep the wedding tent clean and ready for each weekend’s receptions.

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Friends of Graeme Park relies heavily on the efforts of our dedicated and passionate volunteers to make things happen around here. From giving tours, organizing and presenting to school groups, living history interpretation, planning events, sitting on the board of directors, serving food and parking cars during events, gardening, bookkeeping, and a million other things that are needed to make our events successful and show our visitors a good time, it is the volunteers who get it done. So in honor of all their hard work, we’re having a volunteer appreciation lunch on June 9 from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. We’ll be honoring the Volunteer of the Year for 2017 and volunteers are welcome to bring a guest or guests. Please RSVP to Beth at 215-915-9453 or BethMacCausland@gmail.com so we know how much food to order.



## 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	Steve Griffith
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 25 The Walking Purchase

In 1737 four Delaware Chiefs agreed to carry out an old deed which would allow the sons of William Penn to purchase as much land as a man could walk in a day and a half. The Chiefs assumed this would be about 40 miles. Instead James Logan, provincial secretary, hired runners to run on a path that had been prepared for them ahead of time, and the one runner to finish the course traveled 70 miles. The resulting loss to the Native Americans was over 1.2 million acres.

Speaker Doug Miller has worked for the PHMC for over 20 years, including time at Graeme Park. He is currently the Site Administrator at Pennsbury Manor.

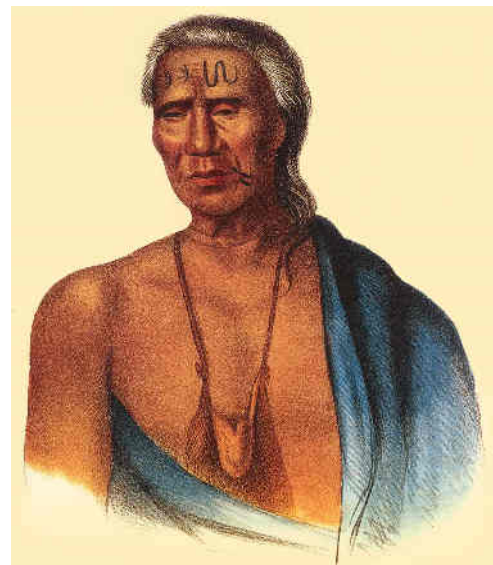
Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on the walking purchase, and a hot and cold lunch buffet. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be available after lunch. Reserved event. \$25/person; \$20/members.

### 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



Lappawinsoe, one of the Lenape Chiefs who signed the Walking Purchase Treaty, is also documented as being the first Native American portrayed in an oil painting. *Painting attributed to Gustavus Hesselius*

**\$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**



### Hearth Cooking and Herbs for Food and Health – *Sunday, May 20*

Join us for a day of colonial cooking and conversation about the use of herbs and plants as food, medicine, and fixes around the colonial home! Cooking demonstrations throughout the day in Graeme Park's reproduction kitchen. Presentation at 2:00 p.m. on the surprisingly various uses of common colonial herbs and garden plants. Tours of the Keith House scheduled at 12, 12:30, 1 and following the talk (2:30-3).

#### Upcoming Living History Topics

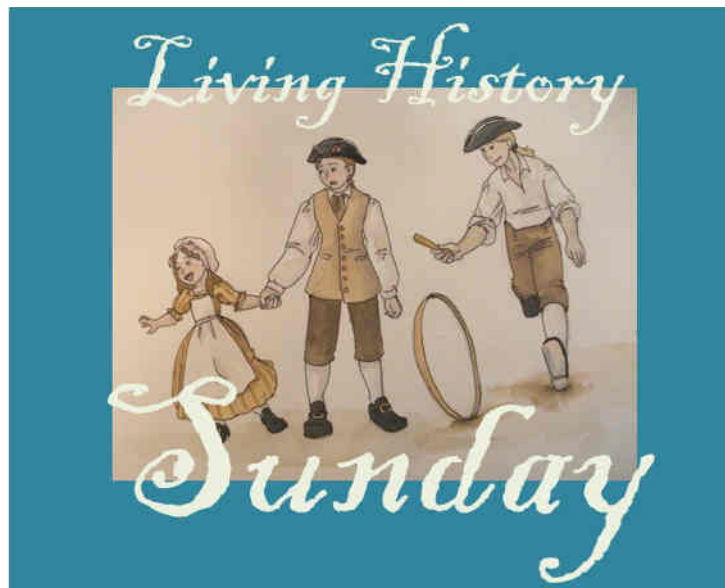
Wednesday, July 4-Independence Day at Graeme Park

Sunday, July 15-Friends and Foes: Loyalists and Revolutionaries

Sunday, August 19-War Comes to Graeme Park

Sunday, September 16-The Civil War and Graeme Park

Sunday, October 21-Sir William Keith: Savvy Politician or Scoundrel?



### Childhood at Graeme Park and in the Colonies – *Sunday, June 17*

Dr. Thomas Graeme and his wife Anne had at least nine children. Spend Father's Day learning about the life and times of the children of Graeme Park. Visitors will participate in colonial childhood games that the Graeme children might have played during their summers at Graeme Park, as well as learn about the skills that all proper children needed to know as young ladies and gentlemen. But life for children wasn't all fun and games, especially among the servants or slaves of Graeme Park. There were chores to be done and work in the fields. Presentation at 2:00 p.m. on growing up at Graeme Park. Tours of the Keith House scheduled at 12, 12:30, 1 and following the talk (2:30-3).

Check our website at  
**[www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)**  
 for details on upcoming topics.



## *Happy Hour with the Historian*

Don't forget to join us for our monthly Happy Hour with the Historian series. Enjoy a beer or a glass of wine, some snacks and listen to a brief presentation on a topic of historical interest. There is a \$5 cover charge (waived for members) with cash bar and food. Bar opens at 6 pm and the talk starts at 7 pm.

**April 19 – History of Brewing**—Speaker Bill Moore of Lancaster Brewing Co. will speak about the upsurge in craft brewing and toss in some fun facts about beer over the years. Some of LBC's products will be available for tasting, such as Strawberry Wheat, Milk Stout, Double Chocolate Milk Stout, and Blue Trail Shandy.

Keep your eye on our website, [www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org), follow us on Facebook, or sign up for our email list to find out about upcoming topics as we schedule them.

## *Mother's Day Breakfast*

Celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13 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 10:30, 11:00 and 11:30 a.m.**

**Reservations & prepayment are required**

\$25/person; \$20/members; \$12.50/kids 6-12  
plus a small processing fee / ticket

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

Please go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://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  
Mimosa Cocktails & Mocktails  
Orange Juice & Coffee





March Snow





Address Service Requested

859 County Line Rd.  
Horsham, PA 19044  
(215) 343-0965  
[www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)

**Happy Hour with the Historian** – *April 19, May 17, June 21*  
**Living History Sunday** – *May 20, June 17*  
**Lunch & Learn** – *April 25* | **Mother's Day Breakfast** – *May 13*  
**Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** – *June 9*

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# Hope

We were hit with not one, not two, not three, but *four* “nor’easters” this March, one of which left us without power for several days, and as we go to press they’re predicting another 1-3” the week *after* Easter – talk about Mother Nature playing an April Fool’s joke! Our little Robin friend, photographed two days after the vernal equinox, brings us hope that the snow will someday end and it will be spring not just on our calendars but on our thermometers. Somewhere under all that snow there are daffodils waiting to bloom.



*Photograph by Carla A. Loughlin*