

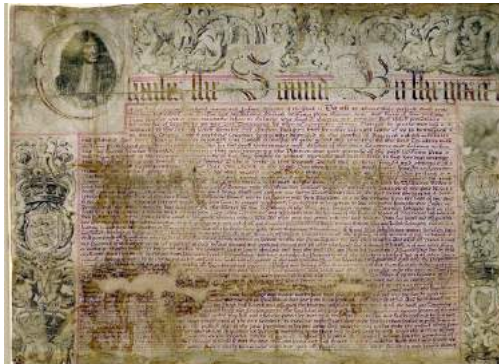
The Graeme Park Gazette

January - March 2019

The "Pensilvania" Charter

For 355 days of the year the original 1681 Charter, by which Charles II granted Pennsylvania to William Penn, is kept in darkness in a locked cabinet in a locked vault at the [Pennsylvania Archives](#). The cement block room has a chemical fire suppression system and is maintained at a temperature of 55-degrees and a humidity level of 35%. The document is so important to Pennsylvania's history that in 1997 when it was sent to the [Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts](#) in Philadelphia, it traveled under police escort.

Several days before Charter Day (March 10 this year) it is removed from the vault and placed on display at the [State Museum of Pennsylvania](#), where visitors have a ten day window to see it. The four page document was given to the Commonwealth by the Penn family in 1812, and was originally under the care of the State Department. From about 1830 the Charter was displayed at the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. About 5" was cut from the bottom of each page in order to frame it for display. Custody was transferred to the Archives when they were created in the early 1900s and it was put on permanent display at the State Museum from 1965 – 1984, when, to preserve it, it was decided to limit



its exposure to light and to changes in humidity and temperature.

The Charter is printed on sheepskin parchment, and is written in several different hands. It is believed to have taken 4-5 days to complete, therefore different clerks would have worked on it. The pages contain a header (page 1) featuring a portrait of Charles II encircled by the letter "C" and an intricate border of illustrations representing symbols of English sovereignty and important milestones in English history. These borders were pre-printed using carved blocks which were inked and stamped along the edges with a blank interior so that these decorated templates were always at the ready.

At the bottom of the pages are holes which would have been used to lace the pages together. It would have then been folded, tied up, and the Great Seal of England placed

(continued on page 3)



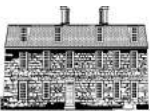
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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10
Charter Day

April 24
Lunch & Learn



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

Happy New Year!

As winter approaches, The Friends of Graeme Park are busy working on our 2019 Calendar of Events. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help us in the coming months to continue to offer a variety of interesting programs for all to enjoy.

We are bringing back such programs as Charter Day, Mothers' Day Breakfast, Lunch & Learn programs, Home School Day, Haunted Lantern Tours and Christmas in the Colonies. We also have our Living History Sundays on tap, which will offer colonial tradespeople showcasing what they do, as well as hands-on demonstrations. And we are hoping to pull together a seminar series where a talk on any number of topics will be offered on certain Sunday afternoons.

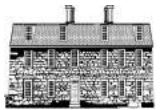
But you don't have to wait for a program to visit Graeme Park. We are open through the winter, as always, for regular tours of the Keith House. You need no appointment nor special event to receive your own personal, guided tour of this grand house. Open hours for tours are Fridays, 10-4, Saturdays, 10-4 and Sundays, noon-4. The last tour of the day is no later than 3 o'clock and admission is only \$6 for teens/adults (12-64), \$5 for seniors (65+), and \$3 for kids (3-11).

When you visit the site, take a look at our new bridge under construction over the stream down past the waterfall. Due to erosion, our old bridge, generously donated by County Line Fence many years ago, had become too short to cross the stream. Many thanks to Christian Allemang for choosing Graeme Park for his Eagle Scout project and deciding on a very worthwhile and much needed item. He, along with his engineer father and others, have purchased the material and, with many man-hours of labor, built the bridge from the ground up. We are most grateful and will post pictures in our next issue.

The Friends of Graeme Park wish you good health and much happiness in 2019 and hope to see you at the park.

All the best,

Beth MacCausland



(continued from page 1)
upon it. The seal was applied on March 4, 1681, thus marking the day it became a legal document; it was presented to William Penn on this day and in this form.

The first recording of the then colony's name is documented on page 2, where it says "...we do so call it Pensilvania [sic]." I think most Pennsylvanians (at least those interested in history and historical sites) know that Pennsylvania was named after William Penn's father and was done so at the behest of Charles II. What you might not know is that the name was decided on in the final week before the Charter was legalized. The Archives are also in possession of the final draft of the Charter, dated February 25, 1681, which was the copy Charles II would have reviewed and ap-

proved before it was handed over to the scribes to copy – when the writer of the draft got to the previously quoted line, he left a blank space for the name, which was filled in later in different handwriting. Pennsylvania's Charter is unique in that it is the only one in the western hemisphere to have been granted to an individual.

For an excellent 28-minute video detailing more information on the Charter, see "[Behind the Scenes – The 1681 Charter to William Penn](#)" on the PHMC's YouTube Channel. And of course plan to visit Graeme Park or other PHMC historic sites on Charter Day – details in the box to the right.



Charter Day – March 10

Join us for a FREE walk-through of the Keith House at Graeme Park on Sunday, March 10 from 12 noon to 4 pm (last entrance to the house approximately 3 pm). Docents will be on hand in each room to explain the history and key features of the room.

Charter Day is Pennsylvania's annual celebration of the founding of Pennsylvania and free tours are offered at most of the PHMC administered historic sites. Check www.phmc.pa.gov for other sites, and confirm hours with the sites you're interested in going to see.

NEWSBRIEFS

Call for Volunteers

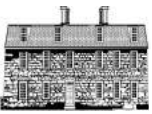
If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get more involved in volunteer work, and you like history, why not consider Graeme Park? We have opportunities for tour guides, school tours, living history demonstrators, event planning, groundskeeping and more. Contact Beth MacCausland at 215-915-9453 or beth.maccausland@gmail.com to set up an appointment to come see us.

Join Our Email List

Keep up to date with all that is happening at Graeme Park via our e-mail list. We send a few communications a month and do not sell or rent our list. Go to our Mail Chimp form at http://eepurl.com/VY_IT to subscribe. You may unsubscribe any time. You can also find out about events on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham.

Farewell to Steve

One of our newer, but very involved, volunteers Steve Griffith, moved back to his home state of Minnesota at the end of 2018. Steve, a retired college professor and dean, joined us about 3 years ago when he moved here with his wife. He quickly became involved in presenting school and regular tours, took on building up our volunteer program and reintroducing living history to the site, worked on updating the content for the volunteer and school tour sections of our website, solicited feedback from the teachers on the school tour program, and helped develop the Christmas in the Colonies program, including decorating the house and creating faux food arrangements. While we wish Steve and his wife Danette well and are glad they're back near family and old friends, we'll miss Steve's talents and contributions.



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
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Programs/Events	Beth MacCausland
Volunteers	Beth MacCausland
Website	Carla Loughlin

THE GRAEME PARK GAZETTE

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Editor: Carla A. Loughlin



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

Free Access to Pennsylvania Records on Ancestry

Perhaps you received a DNA kit for Christmas and are curious to learn more about your ancestors, but not yet ready to commit to an Ancestry.com membership. Did you know that the Pennsylvania Archives partnered with the popular genealogy research website to allow them to digitize records held by the Archives in exchange for Ancestry providing free access to those documents to Pennsylvania residents? If you Google "PHMC Ancestry" you should find the page on the PHMC's website that details how to get access, or you can go to: <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>. You will need to verify your zip code and create a free Pennsylvania account (no credit card required). With your free Pennsylvania account, you will have access to all of the Ancestry records that were obtained from the Pennsylvania Archives collection.

Data Includes:

- Pennsylvania, Veterans Burial Cards, 1777-2012
- Pennsylvania, Births, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952
- Pennsylvania, Oyer and Terminer Court Papers, 1757-1787
- Pennsylvania, Spanish War Compensation, 1898-1934
- Pennsylvania, Naturalization Records from Supreme and District Courts, 1794-1908
- Pennsylvania, War of 1812 Pensions, 1866-1879
- Pennsylvania, Land Warrants, 1733-1987
- Pennsylvania, Civil War Border Claims, 1868-1879
- Pennsylvania, Marriages, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Deaths, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Marriage Registers, 1885-1889
- Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801
- Pennsylvania, Septennial Census, 1779-1863
- Pennsylvania, WPA Church Archives, 1937-1940
- Pennsylvania, Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966
- Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1966
- Pennsylvania, Civil War Muster Rolls, 1860-1869
- Pennsylvania, Birth Certificates, 1906-1910
- Pennsylvania, WWI Veterans Service and Compensation Files, 1917-1919, 1934-1948
- Pennsylvania, Prison, Reformatory, and Workhouse Records, 1829-1971
- Pennsylvania, County Marriage Records, 1845-1963

You can also view some Census data for free – which is often a great place to start – on FamilySearch.org, a site maintained by the



2018 Weddings

Graeme Park would like to congratulate all of our 2018 wedding couples and wish them a very happy 2019 as they begin their first new year together. For pictures of each couple's unique event and ideas for your own wedding, see our blog at www.graemepark.org!

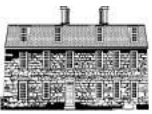
Nicole & Connor, April 21	Kristy & Tom, August 31
Alex & Alex, April 27	Kristin & Andrew, September 8
Lisa & Scott, April 28	Amanda & Kris, September 14
Lillian & Tyler, May 6	Brandy & Bruce, September 15
Sara & Eric, May 12	Sharon & Dylan, September 22
Tara & Tom, May 19	Maggie & Ryan, September 29
Shannon & Richard, May 26	Talia & Max, September 30
Kate & Chris, June 2	Danielle & Adam, October 5
Mary Kate & Steve, June 23	Sarah & Nick, October 6
Dani & Kyler, July 7	Valerie & Adam, October 7
Stefanie & Dan, July 14	Lauren & Justin, October 13
Megan & Kjetil, July 21	Jennifer & Stephen, October 20
Jennifer & Bob, July 28	Erin & Doug, October 27
Hannah & Scott, August 4	Karen & Bob, November 3
Anna & Nathaniel, August 11	Kaelin & Craig, November 10
Bobbi & Tom, August 25	

2019 Events

Mark your calendars and check our [website](http://www.graemepark.org) or future issues of the *Graeme Park Gazette* for updates as we finalize the details.

- March 10** – Charter Day
- April 24** – Lunch & Learn
- May 12** – Mother's Day Breakfast
- May 19** – Living History Sunday
- June 16** – Living History Sunday
- July 4** – Independence Day at Graeme Park
- July 21** – Living History Sunday
- August 18** – Living History Sunday
- September 11** – Life in William Penn's Woods
- September 15** – Living History Sunday
- September 26** – Homeschool Day
- October 9** – Lunch & Learn
- October 20** – Living History Sunday
- October 25** – Haunted Lantern Tour
- November 23** – Christmas in the Colonies





Baby It's Cold Outside!

By Beth MacCausland

January, February, March. Turn up the heat! In our homes today, that means to go to our thermostat and turn a dial or punch in a number. And, of course, our phones can do the job as well. The temperature will rise and we go about our business in comfort. But what about our colonial American ancestors? How did families cope with the coldest, darkest days of winter when our modern furnaces were centuries in the future?

Let's take the time of the Graeme family - winters of the mid-1700s in Pennsylvania. The colonial hearth was the heart of the home and for good reason. It provided light after dark, heat for cooking and in the winter, lifesaving heat for the people in the room. In our idyllic image of colonial America, we see a family gathered around the hearth with a blazing fire in the background. Perhaps the mother is sewing or mending, the father is reading or sharpening his farming tools and the children are sprawled on the floor reading or playing. All is cozy and warm. Our image is not necessarily reality, however, since this family togetherness by the fireplace was more necessary for survival than a jolly good time.

Preparing for winter's cold was an all-year, full-time job. Wood had to be chopped and ready. Without an ample supply of wood for cooking and warmth, there was little else for heat and it could mean the difference between life and death. Some families had small heating elements called braziers, which

would use coal for heat, but these were supplementary heaters and the warmth generated by these units was not enough to fend off a chill.

Once winter set in, staying warm was a constant struggle. Houses could go as low as 20 degrees. Remember, insulation as we know it today was not invented yet. A good roaring fire might bring a room up to only 40-50 degrees, depending on the outside temperature. It was said that if a person stood with his back to the fire, he or she could burn their backside while their fingers froze in front. This was because the heat from the fireplace would mostly go right up the chimney and out into the cold. It was not uncommon to have a fire going strong but a mere ten feet from the fire, to have eggs, milk and even ink freeze.

Families would gather in the smallest room of the home since heating larger rooms was almost impossible. Even the wealthy with mansions of many rooms had to huddle into the littlest area to feel any essential heat. And leaving the room for any reason was difficult as the cold from the other parts of the house would rush in when the door was opened. There is a story of Thomas Jefferson bringing his new bride to his Virginia home in January, 1772. After hours of shivering in the cold during the ride from her parents' home, he arrived to find that the servants had banked the fires and gone to bed. The house was freezing! So they went to a small cottage on the property and tried to warm that up



with a fire in the hearth. There was no possible way for them to bring heat to the big house in a decent amount of time. The smaller the square footage, the more possible to feel the heat. Also, colonists would dress in many layers of thick, woolen garments to help hold in what body heat they had to supplement the meager warmth in the room.

Most often, when it was time for bed, the fires were left to die out as keeping an unattended fire during the night could be dangerous with a possible errant flying ember eventually causing the house to burn. Only residual heat was in the bed chamber and by morning, the temperatures could be quite below freezing before a new fire was blazing again.

It was a cruel and constant struggle and though Currier and Ives paint a charming picture of a horse-drawn sleigh coming up the snowy drive to a lovely home with beckoning light in the windows where we believe warmth awaits the travelers once they enter, that was not necessarily the case on the coldest, darkest days of a colonial Pennsylvania winter. As I write this, I hear my heater kicking in and whisper a word of thanks for this modern convenience.



Christmas in the Colonies

On Saturday, November 24 the Keith House came alive with music, candlelight, faux food, costumed interpreters, and the Tapestry Dancers who demonstrated period dances in the parlor. This annual event is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving and is a nice way to get into the holiday spirit and take a break from all the shopping madness the weekend brings.





Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

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

Address Service Requested

Charter Day – March 10 | Lunch & Learn – April 24



The Writing on the Wall

As you tour Graeme Park, you may notice graffiti on our walls! Throughout the Keith House there are initials and names carved in the paneling, doors, and trim, some with dates in the late 1800s and early 1900s. “How could this have happened?” you might wonder. The owners of Graeme Park during the 19th and early 20th centuries were the Penrose family, who built the Penrose-Strawbridge House on the township-owned side of the property c. 1810. We believe the Keith House was occupied through about the mid-1800s, by the first generation of Penroses (Samuel & Sarah) and possibly by tenant farmers during William & Hannah’s ownership of the property. By the time Abel and Sarah inherited the property in 1865 it is thought that all the activity revolved around the Penrose-Strawbridge House and the Keith House stood empty. Add to that the legends of Elizabeth’s ghost, and the property was a prime spot for locals to come and investigate – legend has it that the local teens even dared one another to spend the night locked in the old house.

