

The Graeme Park Gazette

JANUARY - MARCH 2016

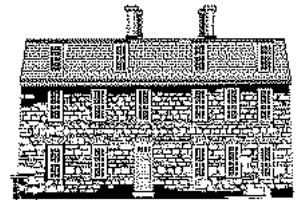
Charter Day Tours



The Birth of Pennsylvania, 1680, by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris. William Penn, holding paper, standing and facing King Charles II, in the King's breakfast chamber at Whitehall.

Join the Friends of Graeme Park on Sunday, March 13 from 12–3 for a free open house in honor of the granting of the Pennsylvania Charter to William Penn by Charles II. Graeme Park, along with most of the other historic sites along the [Pennsylvania Trails of History](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/museums) (www.phmc.pa.gov/museums), participates in this annual event as a way to introduce the architecture of the Keith House and the history of the Keiths and Graemes to a new audience, to promote our upcoming events and activities, and as a “thank you” for the ongoing support of our local community.

The tour that is offered on Charter Day is self-guided with a docent in each room to give a brief history and answer questions about the house and its former residents. Visitors are encouraged to return for a more detailed tour during our regular hours of Fridays-Saturdays 10-3 and Sundays 12-3 or to attend one of the many special events the Friends of Graeme Park host throughout the year (see page 3 for a listing of these events).



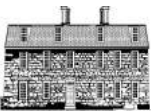
Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS	2
2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
NEWSBRIEFS	3
SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS	5
NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE FULL MOON	6

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 13
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 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 Corbett
Governor

James M. Vaughan
Executive Director

Andrew E. Masich
Chairman

From the President of the Friends

Let's raise our glass to the bleakest months ahead. The cold, the dark, the barren. What a lovely picture. And to make it even more grim, let's add an extra day to the mix. February 29, leap year, misery prolonged one extra day. We can thank Julius Caesar for our extra day in February. The early Romans had a 355-day calendar and in order to keep festivals occurring around the same season, Caesar had his astronomer, Sosigenes, (not off the top of my head...I googled it) calculate how many days per month should be added to keep things simple and on schedule. Thus the modern 365-day year was born. However, since the length of a year has actually 365.242 days (googled again), Sosigenes added one day every four years in February. Fast forward to Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. He further refined the calendar by having the 29th of February placed in a year divisible by four.

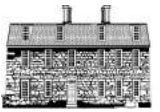
So our winter is longer, at least by calendar standards. When we want to turn the calendar to March, which isn't all that much better but, regardless, is a small beacon on the horizon toward spring, we must wait an extra day. Oh the agony.

Here at Graeme Park, we are mostly hibernating but we are open for regular tours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Come out and take a tour and hear about the site and how the colonials might have spent their winter months as they, like us, waited for spring.

If you would like to just drop in for our Charter Day free open house, come by on Sunday, March 13 from noon until 3:00. See the house and its original architecture and hear the history of one of Horsham's first families.

In the next couple of months, keep warm and cozy or go out and enjoy cold weather sports if that is your pleasure and while you do whatever you do, go ahead and raise that glass to winter for without it, how could we appreciate the coming of spring? And ask yourself why Sosigenes did not drop that extra day in July.

- Beth MacCausland



2016 Events Calendar

March 13

Charter Day – The Commonwealth’s annual open house celebrates the granting of the Pennsylvania Charter to William Penn with free access to most of the historic sites on the [Trails of History](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/museums) (<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/museums>).

April 13

Lunch & Learn – Continental breakfast, talk on an historical topic (to be announced) and a lunch buffet. \$20/person. Advance reservations requested.

April 30 – May 1

World War II Weekend – Encampment, living history displays, battle reenactment, swing band concert and dance, Abbott & Costello tribute show, and more. \$30/carload; \$12/adult; \$5/13-17; free 12 and under, veterans/active military.

June 18

Evening at Graeme Park – Take an evening tour of the historic Keith House and learn what the Keith and Graeme families would have been up to after the sun went down. \$2/person donation requested.

October 5

Lunch & Learn – Continental breakfast, talk on an historical topic (to be announced) and a lunch buffet. \$20/person. Reservations requested.

November 26

Soldiers’ Christmas – Living history displays featuring soldiers from the Revolution, Civil War, World Wars I and II. Craft vendors, musical entertainment, visit with Santa, and more. Free. Donations appreciated.

NEWSBRIEFS

Youth Writing Camp

Visual Arts Storytellers: Mystery at the Old Mansion:

There is a mystery waiting to be written at Graeme Park. Do you like puzzles...uncovering clues and solving mysteries? Are you a questioner, investigator, problem solver? Become a sleuth at Graeme Park from July 11-15, 2016 and create a mystery to solve and find out who is Fidele???

Register online at www.pawlp.org or call 610-436-3089. For students completing grades 3-6. Discount for early registration.

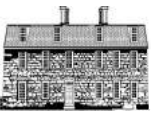
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project at West Chester University. These camps are for students who love to write and read. The programs teach writing as a process in a relaxed, camp environment. All classes are small, averaging 13-15 students. All instructors are experienced teachers and Fellows of the National Writing Project.

2016 Wedding Season

As we’re eagerly awaiting the installation of the new wedding tent, president Beth MacCausland has been working diligently since the fall to sell Graeme Park wedding packages to many of the brides and grooms she’s met with. As of this printing, she’s shown the property hundreds of times and has 13 contracted bookings with a lot of interest still in 2016 and inquiries beginning for 2017.

Access to Graeme Park via Keith Valley Road

If you follow the local news, you may already be aware that the 1907 stone arch bridge on Keith Valley Road was damaged in a car accident right before Christmas, and is currently closed until further notice. Graeme Park is still accessible via County Line Road, but those who relied on Keith Valley to access County Line will need to make alternate arrangements. According to an article in the *Intelligencer*, the county is prioritizing repairs, but work cannot begin until mid-March due to weather concerns, and the county anticipates that the road will be closed until at least June.



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
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Co-Treasurer	Diane Horan
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Member at Large	Deedie Gustavson
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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



Bridge on Keith Valley Road damaged by one-car, non-fatal accident on December 21, 2015. (photo courtesy of Horsham Twp.)

Membership has its Privileges



All membership levels receive:
Free House Tours,
Free Admission to All Non-Reserved Events,
Quarterly Newsletter,
10% Shop Discount

See our website at www.graemepark.org for additional member benefits.

Household _____ \$40 Individual _____ \$25

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

My check payable to the Friends of Graeme Park is enclosed

Please bill my Visa/MC/Discover Card # _____

Security Code _____

Exp. Date _____

Billing Zip Code _____

Mail to: Graeme Park, 859 County Line Rd, Horsham, PA 19044

A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

On Saturday, November 28 the Friends of Graeme Park held its annual Christmas open house program featuring reenactors portraying soldiers from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World Wars I and II with encampments set up to represent how soldiers would have celebrated Christmas on the battlefield during their war. In addition to the living history displays, the nearly 500 visitors had the opportunity to enjoy seasonal music provided by Hatboro-Horsham High School and St. Catherine's of Siena, visit with Santa Claus and shop with several craft vendors or grab a snack in the Visitors' Center.



Photo by Stephanie Jackson



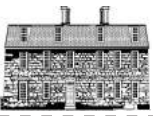
Photo by Jan Goltz



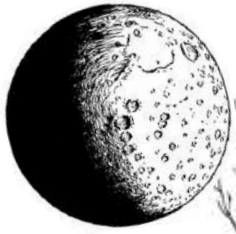
Photo by Jan Goltz



Photo by Stephanie Jackson



Native Americans & the Moon



Clipart courtesy FCIT

You most likely have heard of the Harvest Moon or used the phrase “once in a Blue Moon” but did you know that the Native Americans had names for every full moon throughout the year and that these names helped them to mark time and keep track of the seasons? The names varied by tribe but in general were relevant to a particular activity or event that occurred in their region at that time. Colonial Americans also adopted some of these moon names and assigned them to the months of the Gregorian calendar we use today.

The most commonly used names today are from the Algonquin tribes, of which the Lenape of this region were a part. The January full moon was called the **Wolf Moon** because it was the time the wolves howled in hunger outside the Native villages. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon or, by the Colonists, the Moon after Yule.

The full moon of February was usually dubbed the **Snow Moon** because it was the time of the

heaviest snow. Hunting was difficult and food scarce, so some tribes also called it the Hunger Moon.

In March the Native Americans marked the **Worm Moon**, when the earth began to soften and worms began to appear. Some tribes also called this the Sap Moon because it was when the sap began to flow again and Maple trees could be tapped. Northern tribes called it the Crow Moon because it was the time migrating crows could be heard cawing, signaling that the end of winter was near. Europeans called it the Lenten Moon and it was considered the last full moon of the winter season.

April was the **Pink Moon**, when the wild ground phlox, which has a pink blossom, started to bloom. Other tribes called it the Sprouting Grass, Egg or Fish Moon.

May saw the flowers begin to come into full bloom, thus it was the **Flower Moon**; some tribes also called



it the Corn Planting or the Milk Moon.

June, when the short window to harvest wild strawberries arrived, heralded in the **Strawberry Moon**, a name which was universal to all of the Algonquin tribes. Europeans also called it the Rose Moon.

July saw the deer with budding antlers and was thus the **Buck Moon** to most, although some tribes marked the frequency of thunderstorms with the Thunder Moon.

Native tribes near the Great Lakes called the August full moon the **Sturgeon Moon**, as it was the easiest time to catch this fish, while farming tribes knew it as the Green Corn Moon or the Grain Moon.

September and October get a little more complicated – the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox is the famed **Harvest Moon**, which occurs in either late September or

early October. Most of the time the moon rises about 50 minutes later each night, but around the harvest moon moonrise times only vary 25-30 minutes in the US and 10-20 minutes in much of Canada and Europe, thus providing a window of time in which to complete the harvest into the well-lit nighttime hours. Corn, pumpkins, beans, squash and wild rice were all ready for harvesting coinciding with the Harvest Moon. In years when the Harvest Moon falls in October, the September full moon is the **Corn Moon** or the Barley Moon. In years when the Harvest Moon is in September, October's full moon is known as the **Hunter's Moon** because it is the time to begin laying in game for the winter. Once the fields were cleared of their crops, the game was also easier to spot.

November was the **Beaver Moon** because it was time to harvest fur

to keep warm in the winter, or the Frost Moon because it was when the first frost generally occurred.

Finally, December was the **Cold Moon** or the Long Nights Moon, for the obvious reasons that we have long, cold nights at this time.

What we know as a Blue Moon is alternately defined as the second full moon in a calendar month or the third full moon in a season with four full moons (most seasons have three full moons). The Native American's would not have defined a Blue Moon however, because they did not correlate the full moons to our months. They simply made adjustments every few years as needed to keep the moons in synch with the seasons.

*Source: Farmers' Almanac
(www.farmersalmanac.com)*

WWII WEEKEND

Battle Reenactment • Period Vehicles • Vendors • Abbott & Costello Tribute Show
Rosie the Riveter • American, German & Other Camps & Living History Displays
Swing Dance Lessons • Musical Entertainment • Veterans & Veterans' Resources

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2016
GRAEME PARK • HORSHAM PA
215-343-0965 • WWW.GRAEMEPARK.ORG
WWW.WW2WEEKEND.ORG



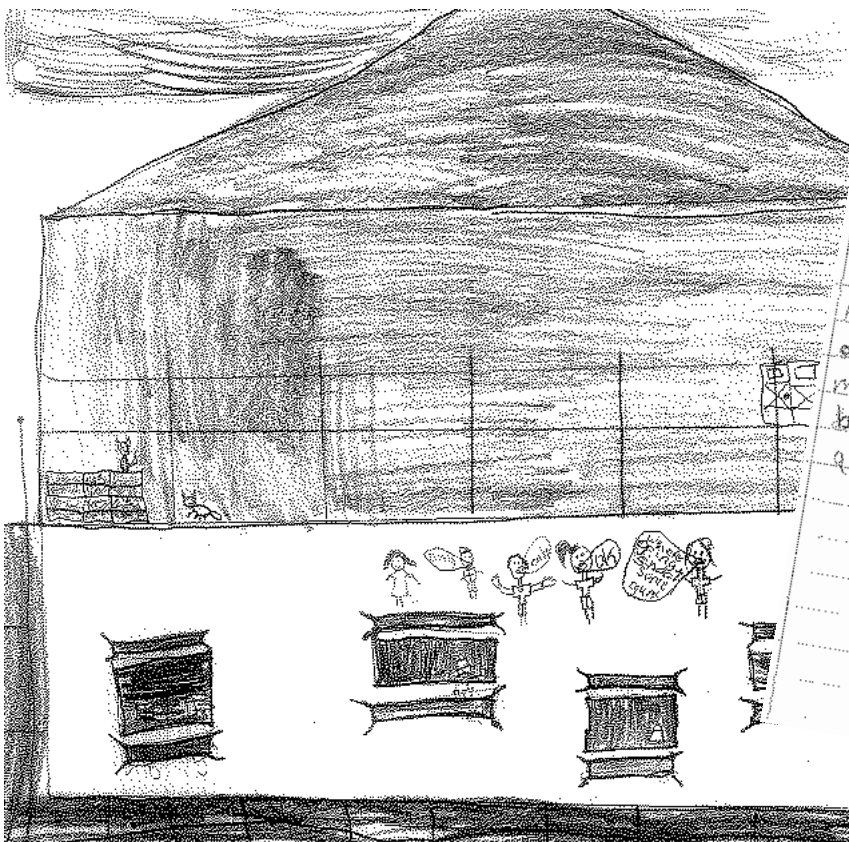
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859 County Line Rd.
Horsham, PA 19044
(215) 343-0965
www.graemepark.org

Charter Day – March 13

School Fieldtrips



VI

Dear Graeme Park Guides Upper Merion
Int. School

I thank you v. so much for letting us
visiting Graeme Park. It was an
I learned that we maybe were sitting on
the same floors that Governor Keith was on.
Also that had to use lamb ears for band-
aids. Then I learned that you had to rub
mint leaf on your self because they smelled
bad. Last, I liked when we wrote with
quill pens.

Yours truly,
Olivia