

# The Graeme Park Gazette

JANUARY - MARCH 2017

## Charter Day 2017



Befriend the Past  
The Friends of Graeme Park

On Sunday, March 12 Pennsylvania will be celebrating the 336th anniversary of the granting of the founding charter to William Penn by King Charles II. The original charter was granted on March 4, 1681 in fulfillment of a debt of about 16,000 English pounds (over 2 million of today's money) which the crown owed to Penn's father – the Admiral William Penn.



secuted minorities as well, including Huguenots, Mennonites, Amish, Catholics, Lutherans, and Jews from England, France, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, and Wales.

Charter Day is your opportunity to tour

Graeme Park, as well as many other state operated historic sites (see page 6 for a list) free of charge. There will be volunteers in each room so you may tour at your own pace and a few living history demonstrations and activities around the grounds (weather permitting).

Penn founded Pennsylvania, which Charles insisted on naming Pennsylvania in honor of the Admiral, as a "Holy Experiment" where Quakers could practice their religion without fear of persecution. To attract settlers in large numbers, he wrote a glowing prospectus, promising religious freedom as well as material advantages, which he marketed throughout Europe in various languages. Within six months he had parceled out 300,000 acres to over 250 prospective settlers, mostly rich London Quakers. Eventually he attracted other per-

Tours begin at 12 noon, and the last visitors will be allowed in the house at 3-3:30 to ensure everyone has a chance to go through the house before we close at 4 pm. Light refreshments will be for sale. More detailed, guided tours of the house are offered Fridays – Saturdays 10-3 and Sundays 12-3.

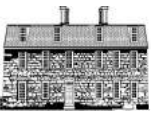
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 12  
*Charter Day*

APRIL 12  
*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 Corbett  
*Governor*

James M. Vaughan  
*Executive Director*

Nancy Moses  
*Chair*

## *From the President of the Friends*

Happy 2017 to everyone! There is nothing like a fresh calendar to help us imagine the possibilities.

At Graeme Park, we closed 2016 with the last program of the year, "A Continental Christmas". Many thanks to our vice-president, Jack Washington, for organizing the military reenactors and as many thanks to our volunteers who gave of their time to transport our visitors back to the Christmas season of 1777 and New Year of 1778. It was not a pleasant time for Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson or for the nearly 2,000 soldiers encamped right here at Graeme Park. With barely enough heat and food, it was a bleak outlook for the New Year for them.

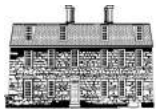
But the new year of 2017 at today's Graeme Park has a much nicer outlook. We are revamping our calendar of events to include such programs as a Mothers' Day Brunch, which includes a tour of the Keith House, and "A Night with the Graemes", where you are invited to join an evening's entertainment fit for the "upper class".

Horsham residents already know that the year 2017 is our township's tricentennial. Each month, there is an event sponsored by the township to honor this milestone. Saturday, May 13, will be the family-friendly Dance Party at Graeme Park, which will feature a DJ and dancing in the tent with a light supper, as well as activities for the kids. The Keith House will be open for tours and colonial craftsmen will be on hand to showcase the trades of the era that was the beginning of Horsham and Graeme Park.

We will continue with our school tours, our "Lunch & Learn" series and other historical lectures, as well as a guided nature walk, which will highlight how people in the mid-1700s would have used some of the trees and plants which grow on Graeme Park's property today. Check the proposed calendar of events listed in this newsletter and our website for up-to-date information. Our weddings will see their most successful year to date. The property, in its natural, rustic state, brings many couples who love the beauty and tranquility that is Graeme Park.

So with our new calendar, we are imagining the possibilities that 2017 can bring to Graeme Park and we hope your calendar will do the same for you. Maybe the dates in your book will include a visit to one of our events. We would love to see you here!

*- Beth MacCausland*



## 2017 Events Calendar

### Charter Day – March 12

A self-paced tour of the Keith House with volunteers on hand to answer questions on the history and architecture. This is a great event for members wishing to get involved as volunteers. *FREE*

### Lunch & Learn – April 12 & October

Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on a historical topic, and a hot and cold lunch buffet. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be available after lunch. Reserved Event. \$25/pp – \$20/for members.

### Mother's Day Brunch – May 14

A professionally catered hot and cold brunch buffet in the tent followed by a tour of the historic Keith House. Reserved Event. Pricing to follow. Special members-only price.

Evening Lecture – June Lecture on a historic topic with light refreshments. Free for members.

### Historic Nature Walk – September

Take a guided walk through our woods and learn about some of our landscape history, as well as how residents of the 18th century would have used the property and plants. Free for members.

### Homeschool Day – September 29

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

### Continental Christmas – November

25 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. Free for members.

### Ladies Night Out: Gingerbread Houses – December

Decorate a homemade, pre-constructed gingerbread house while enjoying light refreshments. Reserved Event. Pricing to follow. Special members-only price.

*\* Details and pricing to follow. All proposed events subject to change or cancellation.*

## 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 band 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.

### **Barn Repairs & Upcoming Maintenance**

The state has recently completed a project in the upstairs storage area of the barn/visitors' center. Last year during a windy, heavy snow storm we had large amounts of snow blow in through the vents and soak the insulation on the unfloored, inaccessible side of the threshing floor. The insulation was removed right away to stop the leaking down into the office area and to allow the wood to dry. This November crews reinstalled the insulation, covered it with floor boards (which we did not have before) and added a

door to the partition wall so we now can access and use the space for additional storage.

Other additional projects on the 2017 "To Do" list include additional tree removal, reconstructing one segment of the barnyard wall that wasn't included in the earlier work that was done, and getting the lighting on the driveway up and working again.

### **2017 Wedding Season**

Even while we were finishing out the 2016 wedding season, Beth MacCausland, president of the Friends of Graeme Park and rental coordinator, was hard at work meeting with couples, showing them around, reviewing the details and preparing contracts for those considering Graeme Park for their 2017 and 2018 weddings. The results so far are that we have 30 bookings scheduled for 2017 and a few already booked for 2018. These rentals add greatly to our bottom line and allow us to continue to offer educational, mission related programs to the public at reasonable to no cost as well as make small improvements to the property.

**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**

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, to 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

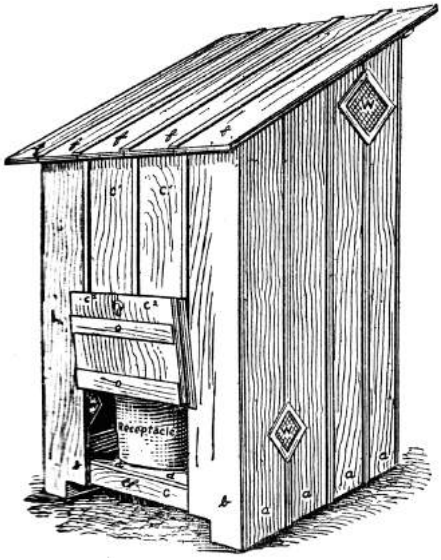
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* \$20/ Members**



# The Necessary



The necessary, necessary house, bog, boghouse, bog-gard, bog-shop, temple, convenience, temple of convenience, little house, house of office, close stool, privy, garderobe – all euphemistic terms for what we would call an outhouse. The privy at Graeme Park is a reconstruction located just off the south side of the house. Given the proximity to the door, the carriage turn-around and the known approach to the house, it is not believed to be the location of the original privy, as it would be the first thing visitors would see (and smell) as they entered or exited the house. The reproduction was placed here based on an early painting which shows that some sort of small shed or structure existed here, but the archaeology that was done back in the 1960s failed to locate a privy.

\*

Given the nature of the structure, and even the origins of the word “privy” (private, apart, not publically known), the placement was usually somewhere physically away from the dwelling, at the side or back of the home and/or near other “unsightly” buildings used by servants or slaves such as kitchens, dairies, or smokehouses. Exceptions were sometimes made in the case of grand colonial estates where the privy was often a decorative building at the back of the formal garden – partially hidden by the landscape with fragrant flowers chosen to obscure the smell. Lambs ear was often planted along the path because it was reflective at night and helped guide the user to their destination.

In grander homes the architecture of the necessary often mimicked that of the main house. Some were raised up to aid in removal of the waste (*see back cover for more on this*) and some examples had domed, plaster ceilings in order to avoid corners where insects and dirt could collect.

More commonly, however, privies were simple wooden structures which would make transporting them to a new pit, when one was needed, easier. These pits could be anywhere from 18” to 6’ deep and often served as trash dumps as well, making them great archaeological finds.

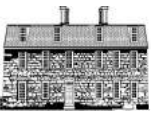
One of the interesting characteristics of the reconstructed privy at Graeme Park is that it is a “three seater” with two adult seats and one at child height. Was this common? Did everyone go at once? Or were there separate seats for men, women, and children?

As it turns out, it was common to share accommodations and three seats is even on the low side. There are monasteries in France with privies that seat 30-40! This seems at odds with the desire to keep the structure itself hidden and private and very much in opposition to our 21st century sensibilities.

(Sources: *Kitchens, Smokehouses and Privies* by Michael Olmert. “Seen but Dismissed, Designed but Disguised” by Kate Reggev.)



This painting on the interior of the privy at Von Echstedt Farm in Sweden shows it as a shared space.

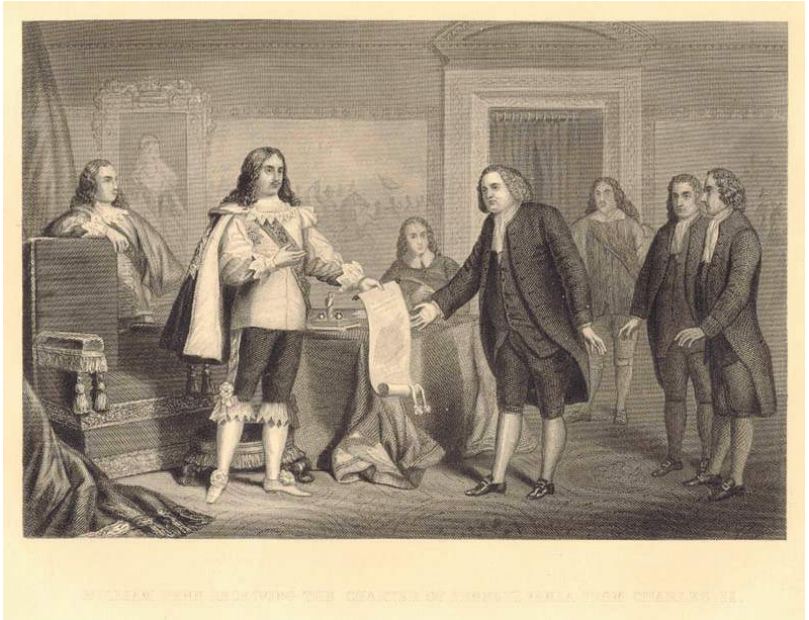


*Graeme Park would like to wish all of our 2016 brides and grooms a very happy 2017 as they begin their first new year together as husband and wife.*

- Larissa & Josh, May 21*
- Denise & Jim, June 25*
- Hana & Jerome, July 23*
- Jackie & Ken, August 20*
- Kelly & Kurt, August 27*
- Yenessa & Nelson, September 3*
- Lindsay & Derek, September 10*
- Stacy & Gerry, September 16*
- Diana & Michael, September 17*
- Haley & Justin, September 23*
- Sarah & Joe, September 24*
- Michelle & Bill, October 1*
- Katie & Lee, October 7*
- Sarah & Anthony, October 8*
- Patti & Lucas, October 9*
- Jeanette & Jonathan, October 14*
- Misty & Shawn, October 15*
- Shannon & Andrew, October 16*
- Kim & Keith, October 22*
- Melody & Sam, November 12*



## State Historic Sites Open for Charter Day



- [Anthracite Heritage Museum](#), Scranton
  - [Brandywine Battlefield Park](#), Chadds Ford
  - [Conrad Weiser Homestead](#), Womelsdorf
  - [Cornwall Iron Furnace](#), Cornwall
  - [Daniel Boone Homestead](#), Birdsboro
  - [Drake Well Museum](#), Titusville
  - [Eckley Miners' Village](#), Weatherly
  - [Ephrata Cloister](#), Ephrata
  - [Erie Maritime Museum & Flagship Niagara](#), Erie
  - [Fort Pitt Museum](#), Pittsburgh
  - [Graeme Park](#), Horsham
  - [Hope Lodge](#), Ft. Washington
  - [Joseph Priestley House](#), Northumberland
  - [Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum](#), Lancaster
  - [Old Economy Village](#), Ambridge
  - [Pennsbury Manor](#), Morrisville
  - [Pennsylvania Military Museum](#), Boalsburg
  - [Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#), Strasburg
  - [The State Museum of Pennsylvania](#), Harrisburg
  - [Washington Crossing Historic Park](#), Washington Crossing
- (Please check with individual sites for hours)*





# The Scottish New Year Celebration

By Beth MacCausland

Happy New Year! As the holidays wind down and we nurse those hangovers from our New Year festivities, it's comforting to know we're in good company as we reach for the bottle of aspirin. People worldwide, no matter what race or religion, celebrate the new year in some form. There are many customs and traditions practiced today whose roots stretch back centuries. And yes, most nursed a hangover after the celebrations back then as we do today.

Since the Keiths and Graemes were Scottish, let's take a look at the traditions in Scotland that followed those fast-talking, hard-drinking Scotsmen from their homeland to America.

The New Year, or "Hogmanay" in Scotland, is a festive, boisterous three-day extravaganza that is hundreds of years old. It was, and still is, the biggest celebration of the year, beginning on New Year's Eve and ending on January 2. Even bigger than Christmas? Yes! It wasn't until 1958 that Christmas became a public holiday in Scotland. So it was the New Year celebration, not Christmas, which became the best reason to imbibe that all-popular scotch whiskey and get the party going.

Hogmanay has its origins in Viking culture. The Vikings had a large celebration for the winter solstice and when they invaded countries, Scotland being one of them, they brought the party with them. Scots thought that a grand reason

to break out the scotch and join in the merriment. Eventually, the celebration moved to mark the new year instead of the solstice.

The Scottish New Year gala began on December 31 with a cleaning of the house before Hogmanay arrived. As night fell, children would go from house to house begging. The sad part is that in



those days, there were no Hershey Bars, Skittles or Cheetos available so they had to be content asking for bread and cheese. This, by the way, is one version of how the word "Hogmanay" came to be. The offering from the neighbors was called "nog money," and etymological evolution and the Scottish brogue eventually labeled the New Year celebration "Hogmanay."

"First Footing" was a highlight of Hogmanay. The first person to enter a house after midnight brought gifts such as food or coal. Ideally, it would be a tall, dark and handsome man, who was said to bring good luck (I'll answer the door, thank you!). However, if a small, blonde woman entered first, the household's luck and fortune were doomed (Someone else get the door, please!).

As friends and family swelled a Scottish home to the bursting point, all joined in singing Robert Burns' "Auld Lang Syne" while linking arms. Of course, by this time, with the scotch flowing, maybe the practice of linking arms was to hold your friend in an upright position. Who am I to judge? Hogmanay is still a fantastic celebration in Scotland. In Edinburgh, it begins with a torchlight parade, followed by fireworks and many performances by numerous musicians, similar to how we party here in the States on New Year's Eve. Other cities have their traditions as well, ranging from entertainment to (unsurprisingly) drinking enormous amounts of scotch, followed by a dip in an icy sea to raise money for charity. Or to sober up. It's anyone's guess.

So let's raise our glass of scotch whiskey and wish one and all a Happy New Year with all the best to you in 2017. Or, as Governor Keith or Dr. Graeme would have said in the old Gaelic, Scottish brogue, "Bliadhna Mhath Ur."



Address Service Requested

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(215) 343-0965  
www.graemepark.org

## Charter Day – March 12 Lunch & Learn – April 12



there were laws that they had to do their work after a certain time. They came in after dark and cleaned out “the necessary.” In the 1840s Henry Mayhew described the process as involving a team of three or four men with a cart. The “holeman” went into the cesspit and filled the tub either by immersing it or with a shovel, then scraped or washed off the outside of the tub. The “ropeman” would pull the tub out, and the two “tubmen” would carry the tub, suspended on a pole, to the cart. The waste was then taken to the nightman’s yard where it was mixed with, among other things, ashes and rotting vegetables that had been collected, and then it was sold to farmers as manure for their fields. Often chimney sweeps and rubbish collectors also worked as nightmen.

*Look for other unusual trades and occupations in upcoming issues.*

*18th Century Occupations:*

### *The Nightman*

Trade cards were the 18th century’s equivalent to today’s business cards and they provide interesting insight into some of the now obsolete jobs people once held.

John Hunt, of Goswell Street in London, for instance, advertised his services as a “Nightman and Rubbish Carter.” What exactly did a nightman do? As the name indicates, they worked at night – in fact



LONDON NIGHTMEN.