

# The Graeme Park Gazette

January - March 2020

## *Pennsylvania: A Holy Experiment*



William Penn, a Quaker, was looking for a haven in the New World where he and other Quakers could practice their religion freely and without persecution. He asked King Charles II to grant him land in the territory between Lord Baltimore's province of Maryland and the Duke of York's province of New York in order to satisfy a debt owed to his father's estate. With the Duke's support, Penn's petition was granted. Charles signed the Charter of Pennsylvania on March 4, 1681, and it was officially proclaimed on April 2. With this act, the King not only paid his debt to the Penn family, but rid England of troublesome Quakers who often challenged the policies of the Anglican church.

Penn was granted 45,000 acres and, at Charles' insistence, named the new colony Pennsylvania (meaning Penn's Woods) in honor of his father, Admiral William Penn. Penn intended to establish Pennsylvania as a Holy Experiment built on the Quaker ideals of religious tolerance, belief in the goodness of human nature, participatory government, and brotherly love. His desire was to create a society where people of different faiths could worship as they chose and actively participate in a government that guaranteed that right. However, while all groups enjoyed religious freedom, the right to participate in the government was actually only extended to Protestant Christians—Catholics and Jews were excluded

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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8  
*Charter Day*

March 29  
*Tea with  
Louisa May Alcott*

April 22  
*Lunch & Learn*

### Charter Day Open House—Free Tours

**March 8—12 noon - 4:00 p.m.**

Join Graeme Park on Sunday, March 8 from 12 to 4 (last admission to house at 3:15) in celebrating the 339th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania. This annual statewide open house is held in honor of the granting of the Pennsylvania Charter to William Penn by King Charles II in 1681, and many of Pennsylvania's historic sites are open for free tours and special activities. (See back page for list of other participating sites.)



## 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*

Winter is here, along with the snow, ice, cold and bleak, short days. But it's at this time, when we at Graeme Park are thinking of the days ahead and are busy with our planning sessions for upcoming programs and events. We try not to dwell on the need for massive outerwear and instead, focus on the many varied presentations on our new 2020 calendar when warmth, flora and fauna will overtake the austere landscape of today.

In this issue, you'll see our proposed 2020 calendar of events. Yes, we have many different opportunities for you to enjoy Graeme Park and the programs we have in store. Educational programs such as School Tours, Living History Sundays and Lunch & Learn, family programs such as our Mother's Day Breakfast and Christmas in the Colonies and fun programs such as our Haunted Halloween Tours, to name a few.

However, we cannot do these programs without our treasured volunteers. They do so much to keep the site up and running from the everyday site operations to the special events, planned and executed down to every detail. We are beyond grateful for all they do for The Friends of Graeme Park and we could not continue to operate without them.

This is why we are always looking for willing and enthusiastic people to become part of our team of dedicated volunteers who understand how important it is to preserve our past. We have many opportunities available. Whether you are an historian or a person who has a little time to give doing something fun, we need you. Learn to give Keith House tours if history is your thing. But if lending a hand now and again suits your lifestyle a little better, how about helping to sell or collect tickets at a special event. Maybe helping in the gift shop during one of these programs. Maybe you would like to help plan the events or perhaps you have some great ideas for new events. Do you have some time during the week in spring and fall? The School Tour Committee is always looking for a few good people who are eager to help bring history to life for the school kids.

There is so much more and you, your family and friends are invited to hear about all of the opportunities and take a free tour of the Keith House on Sunday, April 19. Check the newsletter for full details and mark your calendar. We would love to have you on board to help to continue our work of keeping history alive. And in the coldest, darkest days of the winter, it is our volunteers and all they do, who keep the sun shining with a promise of tomorrow at Graeme Park.

All the best,

*Beth MacCausland*



## A New Book about Elizabeth Graeme

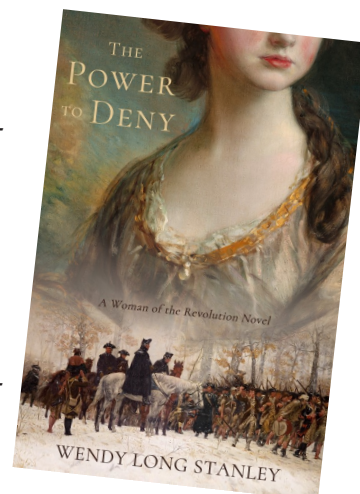
It is not uncommon for people to live in Horsham or some place very near Horsham for years and years before they somehow happen to discover Graeme Park. But when Wendy Stanley moved here from Canada a decade ago it took her only a few weeks to find it and only minutes to become excited about it. She learned a bit about Elizabeth Graeme's life as a privileged but restricted woman of the eighteenth century and started to write a novel about her. Wendy describes her book, *The Power to Deny*, just published last December, as historical fiction. But it is hardly fiction at all. There is very little in it that is not documented or did not actually happen.

That is because Wendy did such extensive, detailed research about her subject. She visited Elizabeth-related sites in Philadelphia – her burial site

at Christ Church, the graveyard at Old Swedes Church where she and Henry Fergusson were married, the house where her sister Jane lived, as well as lots of libraries and, of course, Graeme Park. While poring through an original journal at the Pennsylvania Historical Society library, written in solitude with a quill pen by Elizabeth's own hand, a pressed flower fell out of the pages. It had been there nearly three centuries!

Elizabeth's life story seems a natural for a novel, considering her struggles in romance, as a writer, as a property owner during the Revolutionary War, and generally as a female during that turbulent era. Wendy put it all together in this book, which took her eight years of working in solitude at her computer, when time away from juggling all of

the obligations of life as a 21<sup>st</sup> century wife, mother, and employee would allow, to write.



She will be at Graeme Park on Pennsylvania's Charter Day on Sunday, March 8 to sign her books, which we'll have available to purchase. Admission to the park is free that day, as it is at all Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Association sites.

– Jim Miller

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Join Our Mailing 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](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](http://www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham).

### CRMP Pilot Program at Graeme Park

During the first half of 2020 The Friends of Graeme Park will be working with staff members of the State Historic Preservation Office as they use Graeme Park to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) that will then be expanded

to other state-owned properties. The project will undertake an inventory of the historic and archaeological resources on the property and develop a plan for their ongoing maintenance and use. Stay tuned for updates.

### Museums for All

The PHMC has joined other museums across the country in Museums for All. This program enables low-income families to explore Pennsylvania's rich history and culture by visiting participating state-owned museums for a minimal fee of \$2 per person with the presentation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and identification. This offer is for general admission only and excludes special programs or events.



## 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	Mary Gemmill
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**  
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## Lunch & Learn – April 22

# Forgotten Heroes: Women & the Fight for the Right to Vote

*Forgotten Heroes* takes the audience on the long 72-year fight for women's suffrage, beginning at the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York and culminating with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The program will highlight some of the determined and skillful women who courageously fought to change not only the laws, but cultural and social norms. Pennsylvania's suffrage campaign to amend the state constitution, named the "Pittsburgh Plan" will also be covered.



The program was developed as part of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County's celebration in 2020 of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters. The speaker is Sandra Kerr, a member of the LWVBC's Speakers' Bureau, who has done extensive research to inform her presentation. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization, whose purpose is to promote active and informed participation of citizens in government. Its members reach out to the public with information and assistance on registering to vote, candidate information and forums to help voters make informed choices, and studied and developed positions on important issues.

Enjoy a morning waffle station & other breakfast items, lecture on the women's suffrage movement, and a lunch buffet. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be available after lunch. Reserved event. \$30/person; \$25/members.

### Lunch will include:

- Choice of hot entrées with side dishes
- Vegetarian option
- Salad, dessert, beverages

### Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. - Check-in & breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. - Lecture
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- After Lunch - House Tour

**\$30/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 \$30/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: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* \$25 / Members** Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_



## Pennsylvania – continued from page 1

from voting or holding office. This religious tolerance attracted Catholics, Jews, Anglicans, Baptists, Scots-Irish Presbyterians, and several sects of Germans, who all lived harmoniously.

Pennsylvania's government was organized into three parts: the Proprietor, who was William Penn, acted as the governor of the colony (or in Penn's absence a deputy (our William Keith) fulfilled the duties of executive); a seventy-two member Provincial Council, or upper house; and a unicameral Provincial Assembly, or lower house. The

right to vote was extended to virtually all free Christian (non-Catholic) men, regardless of whether or not they owned land.

In the 1682 Frame of Government, the first document which formed the foundation of the new colony's government, Penn wrote:

*Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined, too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men than men upon governments. Let men be good, and*

*the government cannot be bad; if it be ill, they will cure it. But, if men be bad, let the government be ever so good, they will endeavor to warp and spoil it to their turn.*

Succeeding Frames of Government were produced in 1683, 1696 and 1701. The fourth Frame was also known as the *Charter of Privileges* and remained in effect until the Revolution.

(Source: Kashatus, William; "William Penn's Legacy, Religious & Spiritual Diversity," *Pennsylvania Heritage Magazine*, Volume XXXVII, No. 2 - Spring 2011)



## Seasonal Planters

The Friends of Graeme Park would like to thank Carol Brunner for always keeping the barrel planters outside our Visitors' Center fresh and seasonally appropriate. They're a welcoming greeting to our visitors, and her summer plantings never fail to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



## Tea with Louisa May Alcott

You know Louisa May Alcott as the author of the beloved Young Adult novel, *Little Women*. Although she immortalized her family's life in Massachusetts in her writing, she was born in Pennsylvania, just miles from Graeme Park. Join her in 1868 as she visits her birth state on an author's speaking tour, on the heels of the surprise success of part one of her most successful work to date, *Little Women: or, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy*.

The program, on Sunday, March 29 at 1:00 pm, will include a reading of selections of her works leading up to *Little Women*, discussion of her life and artistic influences, and an opportunity for esteemed audience members to provide feedback on what should happen in part two of Alcott's most successful novel to date, which she is begrudgingly writing by popular (and her editor's) demand. After the presentation, enjoy a light tea of sweets, hot and iced tea, and informal chat with Louisa. \$5 suggested donation.





# 2020 Calendar of Events

March 8 – Charter Day

March 29 – Tea with Louisa May Alcott

April 19 – Volunteer Recruitment Program

April 22 – Lunch & Learn: Forgotten Heroes, Women & the Fight for the Right to Vote

May 10 – Mother's Day Breakfast & Tour

May 17 – Living History – Keeping a Colonial Household

June 14 – Living History – High Society

June 21 – Annual Meeting & Volunteer Lunch

June 21 – Antiques Appraisal with Locati

July 4 – Living History – Independence Day

August 16 – Living History – Yellow Fever & Colonial Medicine

September 13 – Living History – Lenni Lenape & Native American Traditions

September 17 – Homeschool Day

September 27 – Songs & Stories of the Civil War  
(Presented by Matthew Dodd)

October 14 – Lunch & Learn

October 18 – Living History – Pirates in Colonial America

October 23 & 30 – Halloween Lantern Tours

November 28 – Christmas in the Colonies

December 31 – A Toast to the Ghost

Dates & topics subject to change. Please keep an eye on our website ([www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham](https://www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham)), or sign up for our email list (see page 3 – Newsbriefs) for more details.

*Graeme Park wishes all the best to our 2019 couples as they begin their first New Year together.*



Morgan & Ryan – April 27

Lauren & George – May 10

Sarah & Alex – May 18

Rose & Keegan – May 25

Jayne & Robert – June 8

Yong & Kevin – June 15

Kristen & Tim – June 21

Erin & Mike – June 22

Bridget & Alan – July 6

Lori & Doug – July 20

Anne & Chris – August 3

Stefanie & Ed – August 16

Jennifer & Briar – August 17

Lynnette & Kermit – August 24

Hannah & Jordan – August 30

Kasie & Ed – August 31

Emily & Chris – September 7

Brooke & Matt – September 14

Bridey & Jack – September 21

Lacie & Duncan – September 28

Caroline & Adam – October 5

Christi & Jay – October 11

Brittany & Brennon – October 12

Jennifer & Tim – October 13

Bree-Anna & Cody – October 19

Laura & Michael – October 20

Jennifer & Sean – October 26

Corey & Derik – November 2

Kyle-Day & Alex – November 9

Kayleigh & Alex – November 10





**Living History at Graeme Park** – In 2019 we cooked on the hearth, played kids' and tavern games, walked the plank with the pirates, did household chores, staged a reading of the Declaration of Independence, wrote with quill pens, did needlework, and more. We're working on topics for our 2020 Living History Sundays – some repeats of last year, and some new things too. Please keep an eye on our website ([www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham](https://www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham)), or subscribe to our emails (see page 3) to hear more about them as they approach.







Address Service Requested

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

**Charter Day – March 8 | Tea with Louisa May Alcott – March 29**  
**Lunch & Learn: Women & the Fight for the Right to Vote – April 22**

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## Other Historic Sites Open for Free Tours & Special Programs on Charter Day

### **Military History:**

Erie Maritime Museum and U.S. Brig *Niagara*  
Fort Pitt Museum  
Bushy Run Battlefield  
Pennsylvania Military Museum  
Brandywine Battlefield Park  
Washington Crossing Historic Park

### **Historic Homes:**

Joseph Priestley House  
Conrad Weiser Homestead  
Daniel Boone Homestead  
Graeme Park  
Hope Lodge  
Pennsbury Manor

### **Industrial Heritage:**

Drake Well Museum  
Pennsylvania Lumber Museum  
Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum  
Scranton Iron Furnaces

Eckley Miners' Village  
Cornwall Iron Furnace  
Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

### **Rural Farm and Village History:**

Old Economy Village  
Somerset Historical Center  
Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum  
Ephrata Cloister

### **History Hubs:**

The State Museum of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania State Archives

See <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Museums> for links to specific sites you are interested in. Please contact the sites directly for specifics and confirmation of their hours.