

# The Graeme Park Gazette

July - September 2019

## Homeschool Day

at Graeme Park



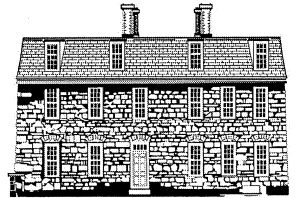
Join us for a day of hands-on learning just for homeschooling families. Play colonial games, participate in the chores children would have done in the 18th century, see a hearth cooking demonstration, write with a quill and ink, do a tin punching activity, learn archery (a.m.) or drill with the militia (p.m.) and tour the historic Keith House.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

## September 26

10:00 am—2:00 pm

\$6/person



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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4

*Independence Day*

July 21

*LHS: Lenape Traditions*

August 18

*LHS: Colonial Dress*

September 11

*Life in Penn's Woods*

September 15

*LHS: Children's Activities*

September 22

*Antiques Appraisals*

September 26

*Homeschool 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 Wolf  
*Governor*

Andrea Lowery  
*Executive Director*

Nancy Moses  
*Chair*

## *From the President of the Friends*

Hello everyone and welcome to summer!

I don't know about you, but I'm a fan of hot, humid weather. I'll take that any day over biting cold and snow. But I'll admit that air conditioning does help. What about the days in colonial America? How did they keep cool without air conditioning or for that matter, without electricity to power even a fan?

The answer is linen. No, it didn't exactly keep them cool in 90+ degree weather but it was the fabric of choice. It was lightweight, allowed air flow, absorbed moisture and helped keep a person a little cooler than wool. Cotton back then, as now, was also popular for summer wear.

There were a few other tricks such as building a house with two doors on opposite sides of the house. This allowed for a breezeway which became the area of choice on those hot, humid dog days of summer. If you've visited the Keith House, you'll notice that the front and back door are situated in such a way as to offer this breezeway.

But summer is summer and today, we are spoiled as compared to our colonial ancestors. We do many activities outside but always have the pool, lake, stream, ocean or an air conditioned car or building to take a break. So no excuses! Plan to come out to Graeme Park for some of our summer programs.

We are open on July 4. Bring a picnic lunch, see some living history, a display of colonial flags and listen to the reading of the Declaration of Independence. We have a Living History Sunday on July 21 and August 18.

And don't forget to just drop by some summer night to unwind. Take a stroll and watch the sunset from Graeme Park's peaceful landscape and surround yourself in nature. If it gets too hot, just head on back to your air conditioned car, take a drink from your icy water bottle and take a moment to think of the colonials and what they didn't have that we do now.

All the best,

*Beth MacCausland*





# Living History: Independence Day at Graeme Park

Bring the family and a picnic lunch and join us at Graeme Park for Independence Day. We'll have our flag collection on display, quill writing for the kids, and our costumed interpreters will be doing a live reading of the Declaration of Independence at 1 pm. 12 noon – 3 pm. Free demonstrations, plus discounted charge for general admission tour of the Keith House (\$5 / 12+, \$3/3-11).



*Thursday, July 4*



## Volunteer of the Year

Steve Griffith, new to Pennsylvania from Minnesota in 2015, came to Graeme Park one Sunday early in the year and offered his volunteer services. From that moment on, he has proven to be one of the most valuable and influential people that Graeme Park has had the pleasure to call their own.

From the first day, Steve buried himself in the history of the site and was up and running as a docent within weeks. He took that love of history and immediately began to build our volunteer base, specifically the reenactor element. Having his PhD in theater, Steve was wonderful in a reenactor role but more importantly, he aggressively recruited new volunteers and he passed along his ability to these willing new volun-

teers, outfitting them, placing them in speaking parts in Graeme Park programs and showing them how to play a part. He initiated our Living History Sunday program and coordinated volunteers and speakers to offer the public a very informative afternoon. This program saw our attendance rise on those days 200%.

He trained many new volunteers to be tour guides and filled the ranks in an area where Graeme Park was lacking. He spent countless hours with each person assuring their knowledge was up to par and that they worked well with the public. Steve was also instrumental in writing a guideline policy for volunteers which the board of directors readily adopted.

Steve was especially helpful with school tours. He updated the school tour website, added two new school tour guides, did a wonderful job on house tours, kitchen tours, quill writing, chores, and games.

Sadly for Graeme Park, Steve was transferred back to Minnesota in November but flew back to finish his work with volunteers at our Christmas in the Colonies program.

The Friends of Graeme Park are honored to have had Steve Griffith with us for the three short years he was able to give to us. We will miss him. He brought hard work and innovation to our group and it is with sincere gratitude that we have chosen him as Volunteer of the Year, 2018.

## 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



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## Lunch & Learn – October 9

# The Bryn Athyn Train Wreck

December 5, 1921. Two trains. One track. 27 dead. 70 injured. The crash in Bryn Athyn of two opposing trains of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway was one of the most catastrophic of its time, yet largely unknown today. Many factors contributed to the disaster that unfolded between Woodmont and Paper Mill Stations in Upper Moreland Township, including the wooden passenger cars, which were equipped with gas tanks for heating, the terrain, and the weather.



Speaker Jim Rose is a licensed architect currently working for Drexel University. He's been a member of the Friends of the Railroad Museum since 1986, was Volunteer of the Year in 2003, and currently serves as the President of the organization. His work at the Railroad Museum includes conducting tours and interpreting the equipment, volunteering with the summer day camp, and building and exhibit design.

Speaker Mark Liss is a licensed landscape architect working for municipal government in central New Jersey. He is a member of numerous railroad historical societies and currently serves as President and newsletter editor for the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. His interest in railroad history and toy and model train collecting began during childhood with the ubiquitous train set beneath the Christmas tree.

Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on the Bryn Athyn train wreck, 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

- 10:30 a.m. - Check-in & breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. - Lecture
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- After Lunch - House Tour

**\$30/person\*** *Includes lecture, continental breakfast,*

☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_





## Life in Penn's Woods

Join us on Wednesday, September 11 at 6 pm for a guided nature walk around the grounds and through the woods at Graeme Park. We'll be learning about the natural resources and plants found here and how they would have been used by our colonial forebearers, as well as discuss the ways in which Dr. Graeme shaped the landscape he found when he arrived at Graeme Park to be more in line with his vision of a country gentleman's retreat. At one time Graeme Park's landscape included a formal garden, kitchen gardens, orchards, fields of crops, a deer park for hunting and an unusual structure with the funny name of a "ha ha" - the remains of which are still visible today (examples pictured at right).

Our woods are often wet and overgrown, please wear sturdy protective footwear and clothing, bring insect spray, and check for ticks upon leaving. Well behaved, leashed dogs are also welcome to join us.



## Treasures from the Attic:

### *Antiques Appraisal with Locati*

Join us for a fun and informative antiques appraisal event with Locati, LLC of Maple Glen. An expert appraiser will give a brief talk on the current antiques market - what's hot and what's not, then appraise items brought in by the community.

All items brought in for appraisal will be placed on a table with an index card with your information and appraised in a group format. We ask that you bring only one item for appraisal so that everyone's item can be addressed. The nominal fee of \$5 (plus processing fee) supports the Friends of Graeme Park, the 501(c)3 non-profit hosting the event.

Please bring your printed Eventbrite ticket for a complimentary glass of wine - one glass/ticket.



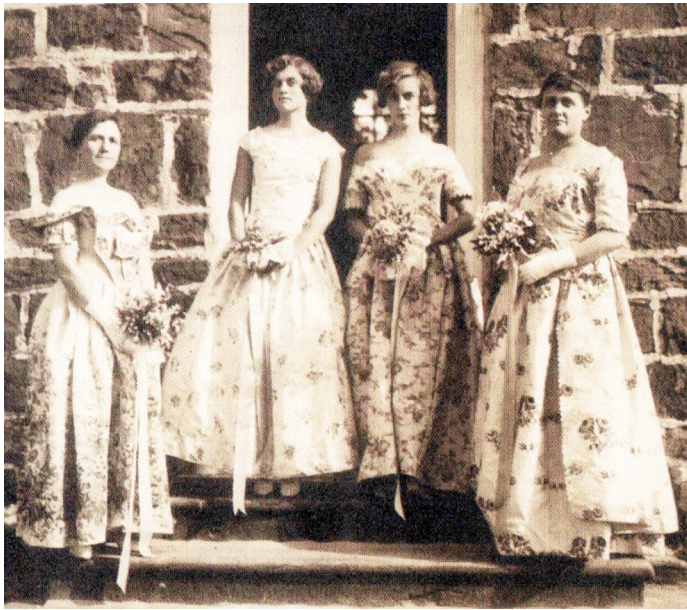
*L*  
LOCATI

**September 22 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

Please preregister at <https://locatiappraisals2.eventbrite.com>



# The Coming Out Party of 1929



*Written by Margaret Marshall Strawbridge,  
September 25, 1929 (far left in above photo)*

I am basking in the sunshine, gray squirrels are skipping along the fences, a proud hen is cackling from the barn yard, the starlings and blackbirds are whistling to each other from the branches above me and the woods near by.

I am living in memory our party at Graeme Park last Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. In the old house we have grown to love so much just as it is, that we feel to live in it, in these days of bath rooms, gas stoves, and electric lights would be sacrilege. For over a century Graeme Park has kept the memories and historic events of its first hundred years treasured in a charmed atmosphere which still lingers mysteriously real and even more beautiful with the mellowness of time.

I can't begin to describe our pleasure in being able to bring to the old house the happiness I know it felt, last Saturday, when two beautiful young girls, our nieces Priscilla and Elizabeth Sailer, had their coming out party in its lovely old paneled drawing room. That was where we stood to receive the guests, who numbered nearly 1,000. We wore dresses that had once been

worn in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the three times great grandmother, Elizabeth Twells, for whom Betty Sailer was named, and who was Welsh and Anne's great, great grand mother. The day was cool, so that a fire was blazing on the hearth, beneath the fine old mantel, sending lovely lights and shadows across the wide polished boards of the floor and the hand carved paneling of the walls. Myriads of flowers lent fragrance everywhere, and the whole house was gay with color and beauty. As the evening shadows fell candles were lighted. In a corner of the drawing room Mrs. Baseler and a girl, in old time dresses, played the harp and the violin – soft chords and melodies of the olden days –

*"Sing me the songs, that to me were so dear  
Long, long ago, long ago.  
Tell me the tales, I delighted to hear  
Long, long ago, long ago."*

Afterwards there was a dinner dance for the young people – more open fires, more lighted candles and a colored quartette to sing during the dinner, which we had served at little tables scattered about the three downstairs rooms. These were taken out afterwards to make room for the dancing and orchestra. Now it is all in memory and I shall treasure it always.



*(Excerpted from Now It Is All in Memory and I Shall Treasure It Always: The Recollections of Margaret Marshall Strawbridge. Graeme Park library.)*





# Living History at Graeme Park

We're once again planning a monthly Living History Sunday, where costumed interpreters will be on-hand to demonstrate various crafts and skills to help visitors get a better feel for what a working plantation such as Graeme Park would have been like in the 18th century.

Our plans are still evolving, so keep an eye on our website ([www.graemepark.org](http://www.graemepark.org)) or Facebook page for details.

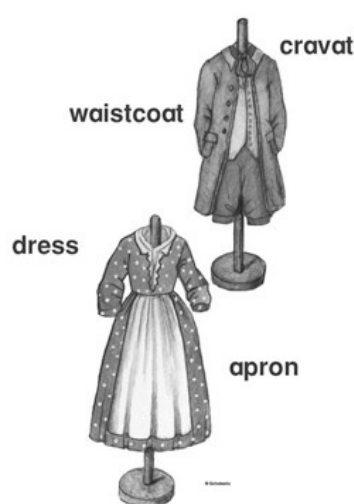
*Currently the schedule is as follows:*

## July 4 – Independence Day

See our collection of flags and learn about their interesting histories and meanings and we'll do a live reading of the Declaration of Independence at 1 pm. Quill writing, militia drilling and musket demonstration. Please note, we will divert from our Sunday schedule for this program – it will be Thursday, July 4.

## July 21 – Lenape Indian Traditions

Early Pennsylvanians shared territory with the Lenni Lenape tribe and our Governor Keith was instrumental in negotiating treaties with them. We'll learn about some of their crafts and games and make corn husk dolls.



## August 18 – Colonial Dress

*(please note topic change)*

Meet various volunteers dressed in a variety of reproduction colonial costumes and learn about what they are wearing and why it was appropriate for their role in colonial society.

## September 15 – Children's Activity Day

Kids can participate in a colonial school where they will learn to write with a quill pen, play some active games like Hoop & Stick and Graces and help with chores.

## October 13 – Dress Like a Pirate Day

Governor William Keith, the first owner of Graeme Park, helped to rid the port of Philadelphia from the scourge of Blackbeard the Pirate. Learn about piracy in the colonies and beyond.



Children and visitors are invited to dress in their best Pirate costume and partake in a hunt for hidden treasure.

All Living History demonstrations on the grounds are free, and if you would like to tour the Keith House, there is a nominal charge of \$5/12+ and \$3/3-11. The general admission reflects a discount off our normal \$6 house tour rate.



Address Service Requested

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

**Independence Day at Graeme Park – July 4**  
**Living History Sundays – July 21, August 18, September 15**  
**Life in Penn's Woods – September 11 | Antiques Appraisal – September 22**  
**Homeschool Day – September 26**

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