

# The Graeme Park Gazette

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2017

## An Evening with the Graemes

Imagine yourself, dressed in your finest silk gown or brocade coat and breeches, wig powdered, horse and carriage at the ready\* to whisk you off to Graeme Park for an evening of entertainment with the Graeme family at their country estate in Horsham. There will be dancing, music, perhaps a masque or card and dice games, food and drink. Oh what fun!

Join us on Friday, September 15 for an evening of hands-on entertainment similar to what the Graeme family might have provided for their guests. The Tapestry Dancers will be on hand to demonstrate and teach you colonial-style dancing, you will play several rounds of card and dice

games, see (or maybe will be called to act in) a short skit, and perhaps even encounter one of the Graeme's German-speaking servants on your way to enjoying some 18th c. inspired refreshments and desserts.

The cost is \$12/person or \$6/members and reservations are requested. Children 13+ are welcome to attend. Tickets are limited, and may be purchased at [www.graemeparkevening.eventbrite.com](http://www.graemeparkevening.eventbrite.com).

*\* Gowns, breeches and powdered wigs optional. No stabling available for horses and carriages, please arrive in your gasoline/electric powered coach, SUV, or minivan.*



Befriend the Past  
The Friends of Graeme Park

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## Life in William Penn's Woods

Join us on Thursday, September 7 from 6—8 p.m. for a guided walk around the grounds of Graeme Park. You'll learn about the plants and trees that are on the property now, and those that would have been here in the Graeme's time and how they would have been used. Following your walk, sit down and enjoy light refreshments while learning about the animals that would have populated our woods. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to join us. A \$2 donation is suggested. Members are free.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 16 & AUG 20  
*Living History Sundays*

AUGUST 17  
*Happy Hour with the Historian*

SEPTEMBER 7  
*Life in Wm Penn's Woods*

SEPTEMBER 15  
*An Evening with the Graemes*

SEPTEMBER 29  
*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*

James M. Vaughan  
*Executive Director*

Nancy Moses  
*Chair*

### *From the President of the Friends*

As we head into summer here at Graeme Park, we have some new and awesome programs on our calendar to help you keep your cool.

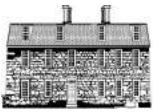
Our Living History Sundays are back on a once-a-month basis. Stop in for a regular tour and as an added bonus, catch the topic of the day presented by a costumed reenactor. See this newsletter for our presentations, dates and times. It's a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Our first "Happy Hour with the Historian" was held on a mild summer night in June and was a most enjoyable evening. It could have been the lecture — it could have been the libations! Come see for yourself at our next presentation in August. More details in the newsletter.

We are currently working on our "Evening with the Graemes" event to be held on Friday night, September 15. Find out what it would have been like to be invited for an evening's entertainment with the upper echelon of society. Enjoy the Tapestry Dancers and join in the dance. Become part of an improve production. Enjoy colonial desserts and more.

I'd like to shout out to our treasurer, Diane Horan, for being voted "Volunteer of the Year" for 2016. Diane's life is a busy one with her family, her dedication to the Blue Star Mothers, her "regular job," her volunteering at Hope Lodge and with the many hours she puts into Graeme Park. But I can say, in no uncertain terms, that Diane is one of the finest assets we have at the site. Our accounting is impeccable but that's only half of it. Every program or event finds Diane either giving of her time or running errands and picking up supplies to make the program complete. And if that isn't enough, she finds time to weed our gardens and spruce up the areas around the wedding tent. Many thanks go out to Diane for all she does for Graeme Park. We are very lucky to have her on board!

*- Beth MacCausland*



## Margaret Choate

Graeme Park is sad to note the passing of our friend, neighbor, and volunteer Margaret Choate.

Founder of the Horsham Preservation and Historical Association, Margaret lived at the Penrose-Strawbridge House, adjacent to Graeme Park, with her husband Pete. Over the years she served on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Grae-

me Park, was always willing to lend a hand with parking, admissions, or the museum shop during our special events, and even helped us catch some baby domestic-breed ducks that had been abandoned in our pond so that they could go to the local wildlife rehab. Margaret was always willing to jump in and help out a friend, a neighbor, or an animal in need, always with

a smile, a sense of humor, and an infectious laugh. Her cheerful greeting whenever she'd stop into the office was always "Hello, hello, hello!" So Margaret, we won't say "goodbye" but rather "you will be missed."



## NEWSBRIEFS

### Reed Tech, Inc.

On June 16 we had two volunteers with us from Reed Tech, Inc. Bill Abey and Nicole Willoughby helped The Friends of Graeme Park president Beth MacCausland, and Graeme Park maintenance employee Mike MacCausland haul and spread crushed red stone on the path between the barn and the event tent. The original path was laid out in 2012 and was due for a refresh. Reed Tech allows employees to take time from their work day to do volunteer work in the community. Thank you Bill, Nicole, and Reed!



### Thank You Neudecker Family!

Our thanks to the Neudecker family for helping us with our gardening last month. Their son Kyle is getting married at Graeme Park this fall and they answered the call to join our Garden Party to help create a garden bed by the parking lot and plant some plants and seeds.

### Join Our Mailing List

If you're not receiving event notices by email, and would like to, please make sure you sign up for our mailing list by visiting [www.eepurl.com/VY\\_IT](http://www.eepurl.com/VY_IT) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham](http://www.facebook.com/GraemeParkHorsham) and look for the link to "sign up for GP news" on the left-hand side. In general we send 1-3 emails per month, we don't share our list, and you can easily unsubscribe if you change your mind (we'll only cry a little if you do).

### Homeschool Day

Homeschoolers are invited to join us on September 29 from 10 am – 2 pm to discover Graeme Park and life in 18th century America. Demonstrations and hands-on activities will include open hearth cooking, militia drills, colonial games and toys, colonial chores, and quill writing. \$6/person; members free.

**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—  
October 11  
Mary Lincoln:  
Her Life with  
Lincoln**

Mary Lincoln was the most talked about, and the most misunderstood, of all First Ladies. Was she a help, a partner, or a devil? Speaker Hugh Boyle will look at the sometimes stormy relationship with Mrs. Lincoln.

Mr. Boyle is the President and Executive Director of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library, co-founder of the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table, and wrote an essay for the book *The Lincoln Assassination Riddle*.



Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on Mrs. Lincoln, and a hot and cold lunch buffet. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be available after lunch. Reserved event. \$25/person; \$20/members.

**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**

# Living History Sundays

By Steve Griffith

## What is Living History?

At its most basic, living history is using trained individuals to help guests understand a historical site. The two most common methods of living history interpretation are First-Person (when the interpreter dresses in costume, takes on a character, and *becomes* a person from the past) and Third-Person (when the interpreter, sometimes in costume, describes the time period and site, but doesn't pretend to be a person from the past.) Both styles of interpretation have their strengths and challenges.

The strength of First-Person Interpretation is that it can transport guests to the time period of the site, presenting guests with the sights, sounds, and even the smells of the period or place being interpreted. In First-Person Interpretation, interpreters stay "in character" no matter what happens. Its weakness is that it is sometimes difficult for the interpreter to fully answer questions in a way most helpful for the guest. Sometimes First-Person Interpretation makes the guest feel awkward as their questions are evaded or rephrased by the interpreter to be answered within the historical time period being represented.

The strength of Third-Person Interpretation is that there is no barrier to asking questions and the interpreter can use current examples to help the guest understand the lives of people at the time being presented. The downside of Third-Person Interpretation is that it doesn't al-

ways fully engage the visitor.

This summer at Graeme Park we are using a combination of these methods. It is called, *Modified First-Person*, or "*My Time/Your Time*."

## My Time/Your Time

Our living history interpreters have been asked to create a character (either real or imagined) from the long history of Graeme Park. They are costumed in clothing that is similar to the clothing of the individuals she or he is representing. Our interpreters will generally remain in character during conversations with guests, but will be happy to answer questions outside of their character's time period when it is appropriate. This will most likely happen by using the phrase, "In my time...but in your time..." For example, if a guest asks, "How long did it take Elizabeth Graeme to travel from her home in Philadelphia to Graeme Park?" the interpreter might reply, "Well, in *my time* it takes about six hours by coach, I am sure you can do it much more quickly in *your time*." Using *My Time, Your Time* allows the interpreter the flexibility to choose the best way to provide the most complete answer for the guest. This fits with our goal to do all that we can to help our guests understand Graeme Park and the people who lived here.

In addition to our designated living history interpreters, during your visit you may also encounter volunteers in costume who are available to answer any question you may have about Graeme Park



and its inhabitants. Generally, they will not be in character. Feel free to engage them in conversation.

Please mark your calendar and plan to visit us for one of the following remaining Living History Sundays:

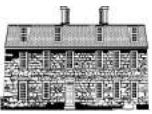
**July 16 – Reflections on Independence.** "Dr. Benjamin Rush," close friend of Elizabeth Graeme Ferguson, and signer of the Declaration, will reflect on Independence.

**August 20 – The Revolutionary War & Its Impact on the Locals.** Meet one of "Anthony Wayne's men" and learn about the encampment that occurred at Graeme Park and the impact on the locals.

**September 17 – Slavery & Indentured Servitude.** Both the Keiths and Graemes were slave holders, as were many of their Pennsylvania contemporaries. Today's topic will focus on slavery in Colonial Pennsylvania and at Graeme Park.

**October 22 – 18th Century Medicine.** Meet "Dr. Benjamin Rush" throughout the day and learn about Colonial medical practices.

Living History interpretation is included in the cost of your house tour (\$6/12-64; \$5/65+; \$3/3-11).



## *Happy Hour with the Historian: 18th Century Medicine*



Join us on Thursday, August 17 for an evening happy hour on the lovely summer grounds of Graeme Park, and a lecture on 18th century medical practices.

Any assessment of 18<sup>th</sup> c. health care, when life expectancy on both sides of the Atlantic averaged 43 years, must include people ranging from educated physicians through barbers and midwives to neighborhood quacks. Diseases were attributed to superstitions, bad behavior, or 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; and a focus on two events in the last decade of the 18th c. – 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.

\$5 admission (free admission for members). Cash bar and food. We start pouring at 6 p.m. and the lecture starts at 7 p.m.

## Volunteer of the Year

Diane Horan has been a volunteer in the PHMC for many years, both at Hope Lodge and Graeme Park. She has worked many Graeme Park programs and continues to do so. We can count on Diane to help in any way she is needed either before, during or after a program for whatever job is thrown her way. Adding to her assets to the site, Diane has the kind of personality that always lets our visitors feel welcome.

In June 2013, when Graeme Park was in need of a treasurer, Diane’s accounting degree and background made her the perfect choice. After being voted onto the Board of Directors as Treasurer, she began the arduous chore of cleaning up a bookkeeping system desperately in need of revamping. What she had to work with was chaotic and challenging but after many hours of learning the new accounting system, she dug in, methodically plugged away and brought our accounting system up to a standard in which Graeme Park takes much pride. We are now able to finally meet all accounting deadlines, knowing our figures and balances are correct and our bookkeeping records are up to date.

Though Diane works another job, she always finds time every week to come to the site to keep the accounting on track. It’s the many things she does that exhibit a level of dedication we are fortunate to have at Graeme Park. Diane is continuously working hand-in-hand with our accounting firm to keep them apprised of all things related to our books. It’s her seeing that every federal, state or local form or report is completed in a timely manner. It’s her keeping every aspect of our insurance current and assuring that all invoices are paid within their time limit. It’s her personally driving all deposits to the bank or running numerous errands to the accountant to see that an important paper or form is not lost but placed right in their hands.

It’s all of the above that many may take for granted but for The Friends of Graeme Park, we know what she has done and continues to do for the site and in our combined opinions, it not only makes her Volunteer of the Year, but makes her our shining star. Thank you, Diane.



# Those Marvelous Mints!

By Jim  
Miller



Of all the plants commonly found in the colonial herb garden probably none are as prolific as those in

the mint family. Most gardeners know that, once established, mints can take over the garden in two growing seasons if not controlled. They are easily identified by their opposite leaves which, when scrunched under the nose, reveal strong fragrance, and by their stems, which feel square-ish when rolled between a finger and thumb. Flowers are generally in subdued tones of blue or purple.

We are all familiar with contemporary uses of mints as garnishes for iced tea and lamb dishes, or for mint juleps, but a few of their uses during colonial days have become less familiar.

Lemon mint, or lemon balm, is a good example. In colonial times people who came from England and Scotland, like the Keiths, the Graemes, and many other families, enjoyed putting lemon in their tea. But lemons do not grow in Pennsylvania. The cost

of lemons shipped from warmer climates was expensive; hence they turned to the more convenient lemon balm for flavoring their tea.

A less obvious use of lemon balm was related to their personal habits and hygiene, for most individuals possessed very few articles of clothing. A typical manservant owned a single shirt and a single pair of breeches. He wore that shirt every day working in the fields, in the barns, or in the stables and wore the same shirt to bed at night. In the morning he went to work wearing that same shirt. This continued sometimes for several years before the garment became threadbare and had to be replaced. We can imagine what their clothing must have smelled like after 24/7 usage by the time laundry day finally arrived --- about four times a year! It seems quite natural to us that they turned to more pleasant odors from the garden and rubbed the fresh scent of lemon balm leaves (or lavender or rosemary) on their clothing.

Catmint, not to be confused with its near relative catnip, is now grown primarily for its flowers and silvery foliage. Earlier uses, however, were widespread, for decoctions of catmint leaves and flowers were thought to promote sweating, thereby reducing fevers, and for all manner of diges-

tive tract issues as well as for problems as ill-defined as nervousness, headache, and insomnia. While not a panacea for everything it certainly fit into the category of "good for what ails you."

A lesser-known, but probably more powerful member of the mint family is hyssop (rhymes with 'bishop.') This one will not take over your garden as some of the other mints do because it would be happier in a warm Mediterranean climate than in a Pennsylvania garden with its cold winters, but with some winter protection it does okay. Crush a handful of leaves under your nose and it will remind you of something familiar that you cannot quite identify: Cleaning solution? Chemistry lab? Cough syrup? Some kind of liqueur? Camphor? Or perhaps a mixture of all of the above, for the fragrance is very strong because of the high concentrations of agents in their leaves. These include phenols similar to those found in Pine-Sol and an anti-spasmodic ingredient useful for controlling coughs as well as menthol, another ingredient found in many brands of cough drops.

It is a good thing that mints were easy to grow; they certainly were useful to have in the garden, mint juleps or not.

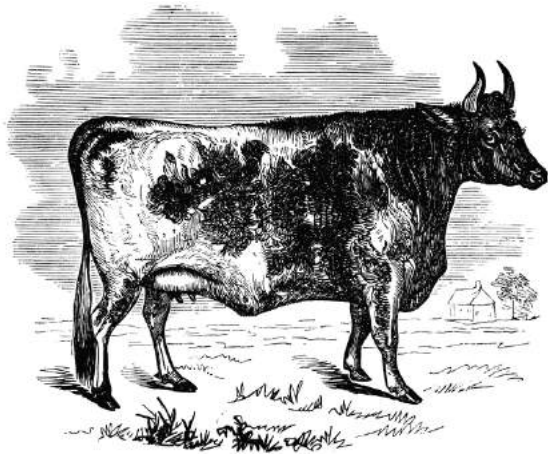


Address Service Requested

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(215) 343-0965  
www.graemepark.org

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### *18th Century Occupations:*

## *The Poundmaster*

A poundmaster or poundkeeper was a local government official responsible for the feeding and care of stray livestock such as hogs, cattle, horses, sheep, and geese. This was common in colonial America and continued into the 19th century. Unlike today, the control of stray companion animals (cats and dogs) was not the duty of the poundmaster.

The poundmaster was tasked with impounding livestock that got loose in a city, town, or village. Wayward animals were brought to the pound by the poundmaster, constables, or private citizens. The

poundmaster would attempt to notify the owner, who could pay a fine and any associated fees, and claim the animal(s). Fees included the fee for the poundmaster plus daily feeding costs, and any property damages the animal(s) might have done while on the loose.

If unclaimed, the animals would be sold at auction. More valuable livestock could require longer periods of public notification before an auction.

In the 18th century, the pound was typically a centrally located stone fenced enclosure. One such partially surviving structure, the Pownal Cattle Pound in Vermont, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the need to deal with stray livestock today is rare, the function has evolved into the modern dog-catcher or animal control officer. While not commonly used, the term poundmaster is often found in local government charters referring to the person in charge of a (companion animal) pound.

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