

The Graeme Park Gazette

October - December 2018

Halloween at Graeme Park

Graeme Park has long been rumored to be “the most haunted house in Horsham” with legends of Elizabeth’s ghost circulating back to shortly after her death in 1801.

Your Lantern Tour guide will take you through the Keith House and will tell you some of the early stories, more recent experiences of our staff and volunteers, and evidence collected over numerous paranormal investigations. Tours run every 15 minutes and you must reserve your time and buy your ticket in advance. \$5/person +processing fee.

The mini-paranormal investigation will give you an hour long “taste” of the techniques and equipment used during a paranormal investigation. Due to smaller room sizes, we will be rotating three groups throughout the house, but all groups will see and investigate all areas. Please reserve your ticket in advance. You will need to stay with your selected group, so if there are others in your party, please make sure they buy a ticket for the same group. \$10/person + processing fee.

Tours and investigation are recommended for ages 13 and up. Please note that in addition to the ticket cost, there is a processing fee that goes to Eventbrite.

See page 5 for our *Halloween Happy Hour on 18th century Body Snatchers!*



Friday, October 26

Haunted Lantern Tours

7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:00,
8:15, 8:30, 8:45 p.m. – \$5/pp

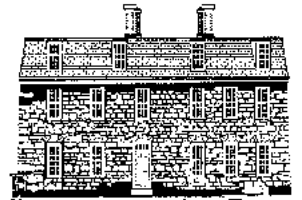
Mini Paranormal

Investigation

9:30-10:30 p.m. – \$10/pp

Tickets must be purchased in advance – we do sell out!

See our website at www.graemepark.org or search “Graeme Park” in the Philadelphia market on www.eventbrite.com



Befriend the Past
The Friends of Graeme Park

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2
Wedding Open House

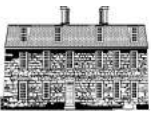
October 10
Lunch & Learn

October 18
Happy Hour with the Historian

Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16
Living History Sundays

October 26
Halloween Tours

November 24
Christmas in the Colonies



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

As fall approaches, I can't help but wonder where summer has gone. Seems as if all the rain kept summer at bay but yet, there were some scorches these past few months. It's funny, but as spring arrives, I never wonder where winter has gone. I never feel as if we didn't have enough of that!

School tours being again in the fall with many children visiting the site to learn about our colonial American way of life and the people who lived at Graeme Park. Our school tour team is fantastic, giving so much of their time to make each and every tour a memorable event. Graeme Park can't thank them enough!

I would like to mention one of our on-going, seasonal events--Happy Hour with the Historian. Once a month, from April through October, usually on the third Thursday of the month, we have a guest speaker who presents a condensed, one-half hour lecture. Topics are varied and interesting and adult libations help to make the evening fun! Doors open at 6:00 pm and lecture begins at 7:00. On October 18, in keeping with Halloween right around the corner, we'll have Julie Thibeau speaking about 18th century body snatchers!

And staying in the Halloween mode, how about a tour of the Keith House in the dark? Do some members of the families of the past still linger in the present? Listen to our guides tell you what paranormal investigators have discovered with their high-tech equipment. But then, there are those stories of bump-in-the-night that need no help to be heard, seen or felt. Come on out and enjoy the park in the dark on Friday night, October 26.

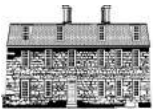
October 21 is our last Living History Sunday of the year. Head on over to Graeme Park, meet Governor William Keith and attend a free lecture at 2:00 pm to learn a little more about the man who built the Keith House at Graeme Park.

Our Christmas in the Colonies is a beautiful program, sure to take you back in time and put you in the mood for the Holidays. Take a break from shopping on Thanksgiving weekend and stop by on Saturday, November 24.

For more information, these events are listed in the newsletter. Do think about visiting Graeme Park. Your support helps The Friends of Graeme Park continue to offer programs for the education and enjoyment of the community and for that, we thank you.

All the best,

Beth MacCausland



Graeme Park Open House

Tuesday October 2nd, 2018
5:30 - 7:30 PM



Bucks Mont Party Rental
215-345-4556

NEWSBRIEFS

Foulkeways Hiking Group

There is group of hikers at Foulkeways, a retirement community in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, a few miles from Graeme Park, who go out for an excursion every Monday morning. On one of the hottest Mondays of the summer, with their usual ranks diminished by the heat, a stalwart few came to enjoy a leisurely walk around the grounds of Graeme Park and the Penrose-Strawbridge house. The trails were in pretty good shape, thanks to the grounds-keeping attention of Mike MacCausland, but some additional pruning of overhanging branches and protruding thorn bushes is always welcome. Each one carried a pair of clippers or pruners and seemed to enjoy doing a bit of public service on their morning stroll. We thank them for their work and welcome any other groups or individuals to come and walk the grounds and the nature trail. Printed guides to the nature trail are available at the Visitors' Center.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Friends of Graeme Park will be held on Friday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m. Members are invited to join us for pizza and soda and to learn about what's going on at Graeme Park. Please RSVP to Beth.MacCausland@gmail.com so we know how much pizza to order.

Graeme Park to be Featured on the Cover of YellowBook

Back in June we were invited to submit pictures of Graeme Park to be considered for the cover of the 2018 Eastern Montgomery County Edition of YellowBook. The editors chose one of our submissions, photographed by Carla Loughlin, and Graeme Park will be featured on the cover, which goes out to about 68,000 homes in Eastern Montgomery County. Look for yours sometime in October or it can also be ordered online.

**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**

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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	Steve Griffith
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
The Friends of Graeme Park

Lunch & Learn – October 10

**Duel at Dawn: The Feud between
Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr**

Early in the morning on July 11, 1804 two men met on the dueling grounds of Weehawken, New Jersey. When the duel was over one man was dead, the other a fugitive. As school children we all learned about that fatal duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, but do we really know what went on? This lecture will go beyond the dueling grounds to the story behind the feud that led to the duel.



Speaker Hugh 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*. He also spoke on Mary Todd Lincoln at a previous Lunch & Learn at Graeme Park.

Enjoy a continental breakfast, lecture on the duel between Hamilton and Burr, 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, 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: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

*** \$25/ Members**



Living History Sundays



Sir William Keith: Savvy Politician or Scoundrel? – October 21

In 1717, William Keith became governor of Penn's Woods. By 1721 he had acquired 1200 acres of land in Horsham and was building a malt house, brewery, and distillery on the estate he called Fountain Low. Join us today and meet Sir William, a man who Ben Franklin called "an ingenious sensible man, a pretty good writer, and a good governor," even after Keith had broken a promise to fund Ben's new

printing business. Presentation on Keith at 2:00 p.m. Tours of the Keith House scheduled throughout the day at regular admission price.

Colonial Beer Brewing Demonstrations – November 18 & December 16

Join our brewer in the summer kitchen as he follows the traditional practices to brew a 2 gallon batch of house beer. Ingredients, types of beer and the process of brewing will all be covered, along with history of beer making in the 18th century and a discussion on why people drank (the reasons are varied and not all the same as today!). Ongoing from 12-2 p.m. House tours available at regular admission price.

Check our website at

www.graemepark.org

for details on upcoming topics.

12-4 with tours at approx. 12, 12:30, 1 & following the presentation (approx. 2:30-3)

Regular house tour admission charged – \$6;
\$5/seniors (65+); \$3/kids (3-11)



Happy Hour with the Historian

October 18
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Join us on the haunted grounds of Graeme Park for an evening happy hour and spooky talk

The "Body Snatchers" of the 18th Century

In the 18th century, being a dead person really did not mean your body got to rest in peace. Under the cover of darkness and armed with shovels, tarps, and tools, teams of men snuck into cemeteries to extract human bodies from their not so final resting places. These were not the actions of common criminals, however. Instead perpetrators who took to the darkness were some of the brightest and most promising citizens of the new republic. \$5/person includes light snacks. Cash bar. No cover charge for members of the Friends of Graeme Park.



Weddings in Colonial Philadelphia

Beth MacCausland

Graeme Park in the fall has its share of crisp autumn air and fall foliage. And looking at our calendar, it certainly has its share of weddings, too. The more moderate months of September, October and November are very popular. Couples find the backdrop of the Keith House and barn the perfect setting for a harvest-themed wedding, complete with hay bales, pumpkins and mums. Or not. Graeme Park is a blank canvas for a couple's imagination. And weddings today are just that. They can be themed, eclectic or traditional.

In the Graeme's time in colonial Philadelphia, weddings could be lavish affairs for the upper class. But unlike today where anything goes, all followed the same basic pattern.

Though fall is undoubtedly a favored time of year in modern day, in the 1750s, late December, January and early February were considered the most suitable months to wed. This was due mainly because the upper echelon all lived close to one another in the city during the winter. During warmer months, they escaped into the country which caused family and friends to be scattered farther apart. A winter wedding made it convenient for all to attend as, geographically, they

were near.

A bride wearing white is a newer tradition dating to Victorian times. In colonial America, a bride would wear any color. Sometimes, the best dress she already owned would be worn. Others might have a ball gown made of beautiful, imported silk. But it would, most likely, be used again and again for social occasions throughout the years.

Today, any and all places can be considered a venue. But colonial American weddings traditionally took place in the home of the bride's parents. Sometimes the ceremony would be performed in a church but not often.

After the vows were taken and the couple was now husband and wife, the party began. Sometimes wedding celebrations could last for days, depending on the wealth of the family. And like today, sharing a meal with the guests was in order. However, in the mid-1700s, the table spread was fantastic and on-going. On a typical upper-class wedding menu there would be soups and chowders, cheeses, oysters, pig, venison, goose and duck. These would be served with such side



dishes as potatoes, bread, Indian cornbread, turnips, carrots, parsnips and cucumbers. And it would all be washed down with tankards of spiced hard cider or punch.

Of course, a wedding celebration needs a wedding cake. Unlike the flavors of today's tiered cakes, colonial wedding cakes were a layered spice cake which included alcohol, dried fruits and nuts, something similar to a modern fruitcake. But like today's wedding cake, where the top tier is frozen until the first anniversary, some of the colonial wedding cake was preserved in tin with alcohol to be eaten for many anniversaries to come.

So no matter if it's a wedding from long ago, today or in the future, some things change but some things will always remain the same. A wedding is an event to celebrate, whatever the century.



Christmas in the Colonies



Saturday, November 24

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

House tours at approximately 4:00,
4:20, 4:40, 5:00, 5:20, 5:40, 6:00,
6:20, 6:40 p.m.

\$5/person; Free for members
No reservations needed.

Join us as we celebrate Christmas in the Colonies with dancing, music, decorations and candlelit tours of the historic Keith House. As you tour through the house, the Tapestry Dancers will enter-

tain you in the parlor and costumed interpreters will be stationed throughout the house in vignettes depicting various ways Christmas and other winter holidays were celebrated in households such as the Graemes.



Before or after your tour, adult libations, food, and hot chocolate will be for sale, the campfire will be roaring, and our gift shop will be stocked with Christmas ornaments and small gifts and stocking stuffers to browse.





Address Service Requested

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

Wedding Open House – October 2 | Lunch & Learn – October 10
Happy Hour with the Historian – October 18
Living History Sunday – October 21 | Brewing Demos – Nov 18 & Dec 16
Christmas in the Colonies – November 24



Shutter Dogs

Shutter dogs, also called tie backs, are an example of a functional and utilitarian piece of hardware that also added ornamentation to the home. Unlike modern house shutters, which are often fixed open and only used decoratively, colonial shutters were opened and closed daily to help protect from heat and sunlight and to offer security. They could be locked from the inside, and when open, needed to be held back to keep them in place.

Shutter dogs differ regionally in style, material, and mounting method. The style on the summer kitchen at Graeme Park are known as “rat tail,” a style which was first forged from steel in Williamsburg, VA. Philadelphia shutter dogs often had decorative motifs such as stars, shells, and grapes.

The abundance of iron in the Valley Forge area resulted in cast iron shutter dogs being the most common material and method from Maryland up to New York. While the shutter dogs on the summer kitchen at Graeme Park are mounted into the stone, the usual method on stone houses was to have the mounting arm attached to the sill.