

# The Graeme Park Gazette

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018

## Lost Objects:

## Elizabeth's Family Tree Pin

By Carla A. Loughlin

The Graeme family was very well-to-do, and therefore had many fine things in the way of furnishings, tableware, decorative objects, and clothing, jewelry and accessories. Some of these things are listed in the various inventories that were taken of the house and its contents and some are described in *The History of Montgomery County*, by Theodore Bean. At the time the *History* was published (1884) some of these items were owned by descendants of Elizabeth's niece Anny and shown to the author.

One object described in detail was:

*"...a family tree composed of hair within a glass, surrounded with rubies, all set in a case of gold, which was worn by Mrs. Ferguson [sic] as a breastpin. Its form was oval, one by one and a half inches in size. On its back was engraved: "the hair of Lady Ann Keith, Ann Graeme, Ann Stedman, and Jane Young. For E. Graeme 1766.""*

Elizabeth would have been about 29 years old when she received this sentimental remembrance of her grandmother, mother, and two older sisters, all of whom had likely passed on (Ann who died March 3, 1766 was the last of the four women to pass).

Mourning jewelry is often associated with the Victorian-era, as Queen Victoria helped to popularize it when she began wearing it after the death of Prince Albert, but it was not uncommon from the Middle Ages through the early 20th century. It often consisted of a locket or glass fronted frame with the hair woven into a background pattern, braided, or arranged in an intricate pattern – often hair from multiple loved ones was included, as it was in Elizabeth's pin. The other style commonly seen involved weaving individual strands into



Hair jewelry, while popularized in the 19th century, was worn in Elizabeth's time, and she in fact had a pin containing the hair of her grandmother, mother, and two sisters. The above pins may be similar to Elizabeth's pin, for which we only have a description.

mesh-like beads and baubles or into a rope-like "chain" which could be worn as a necklace, bracelet or to attach a pocket watch. Men also wore hair jewelry in the form of these watch fobs or as cuff links.

As in any era, there were dishonest persons who would substitute the hair of your loved one with horse hair or other "generic" hair that was easier to work with, so you needed to make sure you worked with a reputable artisan!

So what became of Elizabeth's pin? It first  
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Befriend the Past  
The Friends of Graeme Park

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4  
*Independence Day at Graeme Park*

July 15, Aug. 19, Sept 16  
*Living History Sundays*

Aug. 2, Aug. 30, Sept. 20  
*Happy Hours with the Historian*

September 12  
*Life in Penn's Woods*

September 28  
*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

There are many sources of power and energy — solar, wind, geothermal, hydrogen, hydroelectric, and more, which keep things running and moving. But the one source of energy on which Graeme Park relies most heavily is VOLUNTEER!

Without the power of our volunteers, we would not be in existence. We could not keep the doors open. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Graeme Park.

It's impossible in this small space to list all of the wonderful folks who give of their time and energy to make this site what it is. Everyone has a talent or six and we see that so often. There aren't enough ways to say, "Thank You," to everyone but please know that you are appreciated in so many ways.

One small way to show our gratitude is to choose a Volunteer of the Year. This program is state-wide and each site in the PHMC submits the name of a volunteer who deserves to be recognized for the work they do. For 2017, the Board of Directors at Graeme Park chose Phyllis Visco for her decade of service to The Friends. Phyllis is "THE" food person and you can always count on her to serve up the goodies to keep the masses fed and happy at programs and events. She is also quick to lend a hand in any other position where needed. There is so much more to Phyllis and her volunteer service but space doesn't permit the laundry list of her attributes.

Every one of our volunteers deserves to be Volunteer of the Year every year. You give so much. You are all truly appreciated.

I'd like to end with a quote from Phyllis Visco. "I got an award for having fun!" We couldn't have said it better. Thank you, Phyllis.

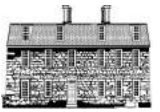
All the best,

*Beth MacCausland*



Graeme Park volunteers at our recent Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.

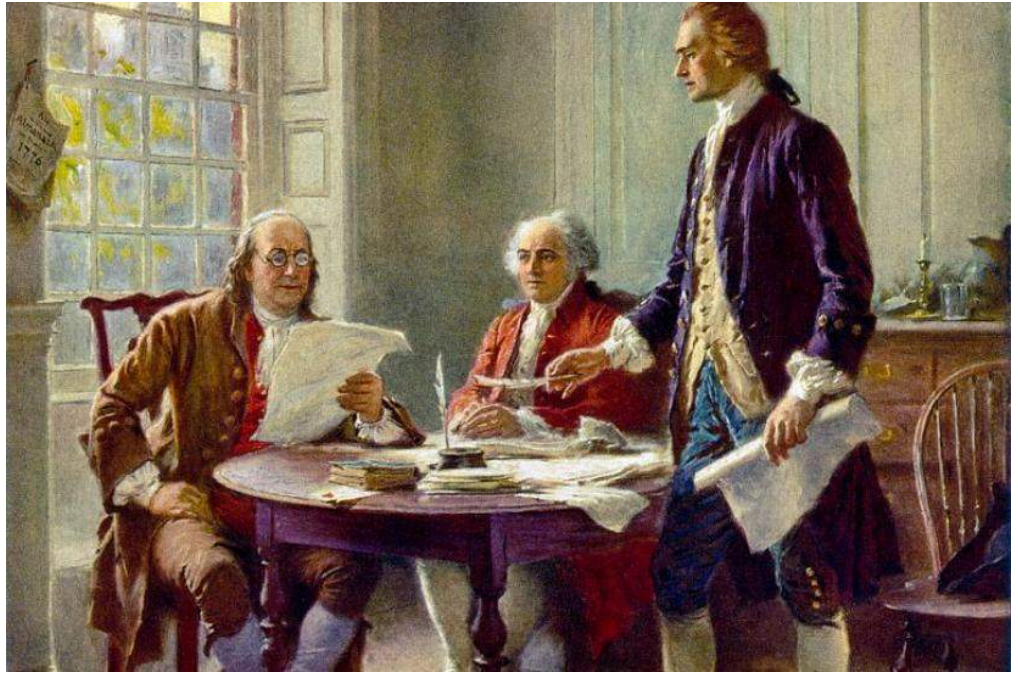




# Independence Day at Graeme Park

*Bring a picnic lunch and celebrate Independence Day at Graeme Park!*

The Graeme family knew many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and also those who fought against independence. Several of the "Graemes" and their friends will be on hand at Graeme Park to share their thoughts about the Continental Congress' decision to break from



England. A **reading of the Declaration of Independence** will be held at 1 p.m. followed at 1:45 by a **discussion about the merits of Independence** between Dr. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration and friend of the Graeme family, and John Dickinson, Graeme's lawyer who opposed independence. At 2:30 there will be a **musket firing demonstration**, followed by the last tour of the day. Our flag collection and reproduction copies of some of the "documents of democracy" will be on display throughout the day. Tours of the Keith House will also be available throughout the day beginning at 12 noon. \$6/general; \$5/senior (65+); \$3/kids (3-11).

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Landscaping Update

Due to all of the heavy rain we had this spring and the resulting mud, the Friends of Graeme Park contracted with Wagner Contractors, Warrington to create a stone driveway leading to the back of the wedding tent, and a small parking pad behind the catering tent. Bert Gottbrecht of Hatboro Beverages and Rich Zuvich of Catering by Rich contributed to the cost of the work, for which we thank them.

### Library & Kitchen Donations

The Friends of Graeme Park would like to thank Paula Gidjunis for donating a collection of books relating to historic preservation and decorative arts; and Sue

& John Gwilliam for donating a collection of hearth cooking tools and implements, including a tin oven, copper pot, toaster, and waffle iron.

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon / VolY

On June 9 the Friends of Graeme Park held a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, which was attended by 20 of our volunteers and prospective volunteers. We enjoyed a baked ravioli lasagna, salad, hoagie platter and ice cream as well as honored our 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Phyllis Visco. See the President's Message opposite for a group photograph.

## 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

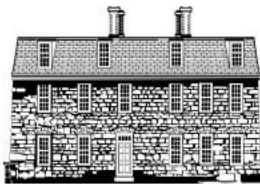
### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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	Steve Griffith
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 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



## Friends & Foes: Loyalists & Revolutionaries – July 15

Like many in 1776, Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson had to make a choice. Should she throw in with some of her friends and side with the high ideals of individual liberty by supporting the revolution, or should she protect her property, position and husband, Henry Hugh Fergusson, and remain loyal to King George III? Was it possible that she could remain neutral, even with war swirling all around Graeme Park?

Visitors to Graeme Park today will be immersed in her difficult choice and the consequences that choosing a side would bring. Presentation at 2:00 p.m. by Loyalists and Revolutionaries who try to sway Elizabeth's decision.

## Upcoming Living History Topics

**Wednesday, July 4-Independence Day at Graeme Park (See Page 3)**

**Sunday, July 15-Friends and Foes: Loyalists and Revolutionaries**

**Sunday, August 19-War Comes to Graeme Park**

**Sunday, September 16-The Civil War and Graeme Park**

**Sunday, October 21-Sir William Keith: Savvy Politician or Scoundrel?**

## War Comes to Graeme Park – August 19

In August of 1777 hundreds of men camped and drilled on the grounds of Graeme Park in preparation for the coming Battle of Brandywine. The troops were under the overall command of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Join us today at Graeme Park as we meet one or two of Wayne's men, and hear their stories about the war and the upcoming confrontation with the British. Presentation at 2:00 p.m.



## The Civil War & Graeme Park – September 16

Although Graeme Park is most known as a historic colonial site, the Penrose family, owners of Graeme Park from 1801 to 1920, couldn't help but be drawn into the Civil War. Family patriarch, Samuel Penrose, was a Quaker as were many of his descendants, but that didn't stop tragedy from touching the family during the war. Join us today as we explore the struggle Pennsylvania's Quaker families faced during the Civil War and the impact the war had on farms like Graeme Park. Along the way, meet those who lived and worked at Graeme Park during the Civil War. Presentation at 2:00 p.m.

*Check our website at*

**[www.graemepark.org](http://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)*



Join us on the lovely summer grounds of Graeme Park for an evening happy hour and talk on an historical topic

**August 2 – The Quaker Response to the Civil War**

Four generations of the Penrose family lived at Graeme Park from 1801 – 1920. As Quakers they were morally opposed to slavery and to war. How did they and other local Quakers react when the Civil War broke out? On one hand it was a morally justifiable cause, on the other it was a war that would tear families apart.

**August 30 – The “Philadelphia White House”**

The Deshler-Morris House in Germantown, also known as the Philadelphia White House, was President Washington’s retreat during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. The house was restored beautifully in 2009 and

then closed due to lack of funds. Take a rare inside look into the beautifully furnished rooms and hear about the process for re-searching and interpreting modern museums with local historian, Roddy Davis.

**September 20 – Theater in Colonial Philadelphia**

Although Philadelphia was the largest city of the time and relatively cosmopolitan, not all of its residents (including some of the nation’s most famous founders) were admirers of the theater. Evidence suggests theatrical productions were staged by the British in Philadelphia and by Washington’s troops at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778, even though theater productions were proscribed by the

authorities. Join us tonight to hear more about the plays and players of Philadelphia’s colonial past.

**October 18 – 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.





# Homeschool Day

Homeschooling families are invited to join us on **Friday, September 28 from 10-2** for a day of hands-on activities, demonstrations and a tour of the Keith House. Stations will be set up for kids to play colonial games, try on colonial style clothing,

participate in the chores 18th century children would have been expected to be responsible for, write with a quill pen, and view a hearth cooking demonstration. Tours will be available of the historic Keith House throughout the day. **\$6/person.**



## School Tours



Thank you to our dedicated crew of 2017-2018 school tour volunteers. Carol and John Brunner, Steve Griffith, Jim Miller, Bill Sparke, Jack and Mary Washington, Ellen Idelson, Star Mangiaruga, Julie Thiebeau, and Pam Hawthorne, are here sometimes as often as 4 days per week during the peak of school tour season to share their knowledge of Graeme Park and various colonial-era



crafts and skills with the nearly 1,000 children who tour Graeme Park each year. Their enthusiasm for dressing in costume and working with the kids provides an engaging experience that the children not only enjoy, but learn from as well. Often a few will come back over a weekend with their parents and family and take a tour,

and they are able to answer all of the guide's questions because they remember what they learned on their fieldtrip! Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication!



Address Service Requested

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

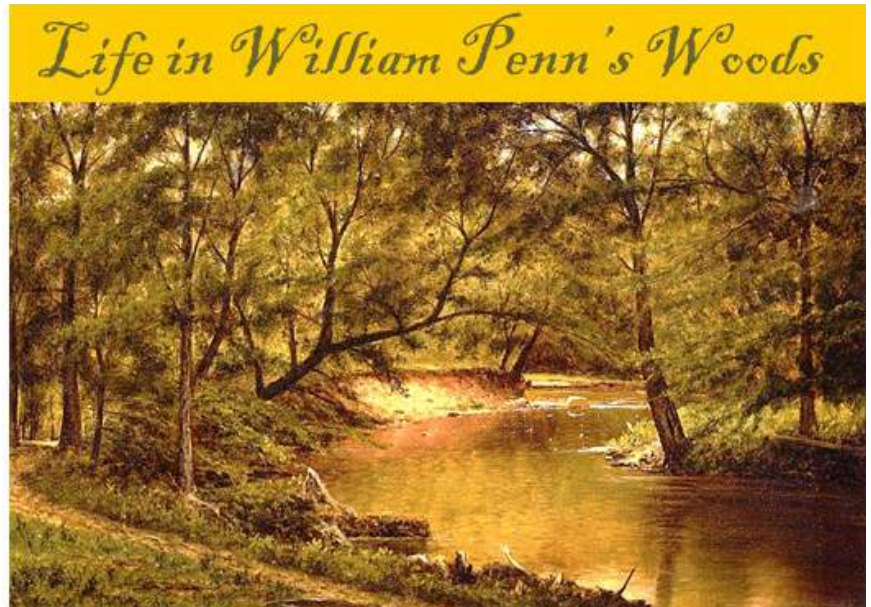
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*(continued from front page)*

passed to her niece, Anny Young Smith (the daughter of her sister Jane Young) and from Anny to her son Samuel F. Smith. It was inherited by the Smith's daughter, Mrs. Henry Chrystie Turnbull and was in her possession when it was shown to Theodore Bean, along with the family Bible, portraits, and other items in 1856. If Bean's dates are correct, these items fortunately all survived the 1847 fire at Mrs. Turnbull's mansion. Research needs to be done or contact reestablished with descendants to see if the pin and other items were also passed down to them and where they may have gone after. In 1985, when photographic reproductions of the portraits were made for the Keith House, it was still the descendants of Anny Young Smith who owned the originals and the commonplace book containing Elizabeth's and Anny Young's poetry, which was donated to Dickinson College, also sometime in the 1980s.

*Look for other "Lost Objects" in future issues.*



Join is on September 12 at 6 pm for a guided walk of the woods around Graeme Park where we will learn about how our colonial forefathers would have used the land and the resources found here. Leashed dogs welcome to join in the fun. \$2 donation.