

# The Graeme Park Gazette

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

## Charter Day



On Sunday, March 8 Graeme Park, along with many other historic sites owned and/or operated by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, will be open for free tours in honor of the March 4, 1681 granting of the Pennsylvania charter by King Charles II to William Penn.

This annual event is the Commonwealth's way of giving back to the residents of Pennsylvania by offering a free look into the history of the state.

Other sites participating in Charter Day include:

[Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum](#), Scranton

[Brandywine Battlefield Park](#), Chadds Ford

[Conrad Weiser Homestead](#), Womelsdorf

[Cornwall Iron Furnace](#), Cornwall

[Daniel Boone Homestead](#), Birdsboro

[Drake Well Museum](#), Titusville

[Eckley Miners' Village](#), Weatherly

[Ephrata Cloister](#), Ephrata

[Erie Maritime Museum & Flagship Niagara](#), Erie

[Fort Pitt Museum](#), Pittsburgh

[Graeme Park](#), Horsham

[Hope Lodge](#), Ft. Washington

[Joseph Priestley House](#), Northumberland

[Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum](#), Lancaster

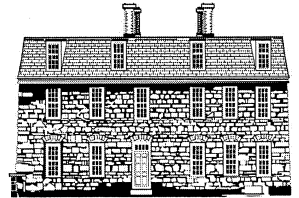
[Old Economy Village](#), Ambridge

[Pennsylvania Military Museum](#), Boalsburg

[Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania](#), Strasburg

[Washington Crossing Historic Park](#), Washington Crossing

Please call ahead to verify times and participation.



Befriend the Past  
The Friends of Graeme Park

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 21  
*Volunteer Breakfast*

MARCH 8  
*Charter Day*

APRIL 8  
*Lunch & Learn Lecture*



## 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 Corbett  
*Governor*

James M. Vaughan  
*Executive Director*

Andrew E. Masich  
*Chairman*

## *From the President of the Friends*

The Friends of Graeme Park welcome you to 2015! Here's hoping that you enjoyed your holiday season and that all good things come to you in the New Year.

Graeme Park is open for regular tours in the winter. So, if you are not too busy snowboarding, skiing, sledding, ice skating or any other cold weather activity, come visit us.

However, in keeping true to history, before 1772, Graeme Park would not have been occupied in the winter months. It was a summer residence, meant to be a safe haven from the heat and diseases of colonial Philadelphia. The Graeme family would have spent the long, cold winter at their residence in Philadelphia, which records indicate could have been the Shippen mansion on Second Street.

Unlike me, the Graemes did not hibernate during those winters. Philadelphia was alive with many things to do to pass the time in below freezing temperatures. Since most wealthy Philadelphians went to the country in the spring, summer and fall, they used the wintertime to host a number of events that would be widely attended. Those of the social elite would be in their winter residence, all within a few blocks of each other, and that made for some of the most lavish balls, receptions, dances and get-togethers. City taverns would be filled to capacity, dancing assemblies would overflow with the most beautiful people of the day and various families would host parties and balls which would carry on for days at a time.

This was Elizabeth Graeme's life as a young woman and when financial circumstances did not permit her to continue to keep her Philadelphia residence and her Philadelphia society life after Dr. Graeme's death in 1772, is it any wonder why she became bitter having to live year-round in this desolate hamlet of Horsham?

So plan to come out and "visit" Elizabeth this winter.. Hear her story and when you are stuck in 5 o'clock traffic in the Horsham area, try to imagine what it must have been like back then. I try but, honestly, it escapes me!

Look forward to spring and check our calendar of events. There are many events coming up and we hope to see you soon.

*- Beth MacCausland*



# 2015 Events at Graeme Park

**February 21 - Volunteer Recruitment Breakfast** - Join us for an introduction to Graeme Park and how you can get involved as a volunteer. We can use all talents and time commitments. Our current volunteers will also be on hand to give you their perspective on what they do here and why. Pastries, fruit, and freshly made Belgian waffles will be served. 10 am.

**March 8 - Charter Day** - The State's annual free open house in honor of the granting of the Pennsylvania Charter to William Penn. Self-guided tours of the Keith House will be offered from 12 noon - 3 pm with docents in each room to give a bit of information and answer any questions.

**April 8 - Lunch & Learn** - Join us for a continental breakfast, lecture on an historical topic (to be determined) and a hot and cold buffet lunch. \$20/person. Preregistration required.

**May 2-3 - WWII Weekend** - A weekend long encampment with battle reenactments, swing dance music, 40s-era cars and military vehicles, and much more. Admission charged.

**May 29 - Annual Meeting of the Friends of Graeme Park** - Members, volunteers, and the general public are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Graeme Park. Brief business meeting, board elections (only members in good standing are eligible to vote) and awarding of the Volunteer of the Year award, followed by refreshments, fellowship, and a presentation.

**August 23 - Living History Theater: Elizabeth Graeme's Loves & Losses** - Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson was engaged to William Franklin and later married Loyalist Henry Hugh Fergusson in a ceremony kept secret from her father, Dr. Thomas Graeme. These romantic choices greatly impacted her life. Our living history theater program takes visitors through the historic Keith House where scenes from Elizabeth's life are played out in a living history theater format. Admission charged.

**September 12 - Volunteer Recruitment Breakfast** - Join us for an introduction to Graeme Park and how you can get involved as a volunteer. We can use all talents and time commitments. Our current volunteers will also be on hand to give you their perspective on what they do here and why. Pastries, fruit, and freshly made Belgian waffles will be served. 10 am.

**September 23 - Homeschool Day** - Homeschoolers and their families are invited for a day of fun and learning on the grounds of historic Graeme Park. Interactive stations allow hands-on participation and observation of various period activities, including games, toys, hearth cooking, quill writing and more. Tours of the historic Keith House will also be given. Admission charged.

**October 7 - Lunch & Learn** - Join us for a continental breakfast, lecture on an historical topic (to be determined) and a hot and cold buffet lunch. \$20/person. Preregistration required.

**October 25 - Mini-Moonlight** - Early elementary aged kids with their families are invited to a program featuring spooky, but not to terrifying, tales in the parlor of the Keith House followed by a sundae bar and other snacks and a kid-friendly craft. Admission charged. 2 pm.

**October 30 - Moonlight Tales** - An evening of urban lore and legend featuring spooky stories of local hauntings and eerie happenings. Includes snacks and a bonfire (weather permitting). Admission charged. 7 and 8 pm.

**November 28 - A Soldier's Christmas** - Free open house on the grounds of Graeme Park featuring reenactors portraying soldiers from the Revolution through WWII encamped on the grounds, along with soldiers and vets from modern-day wars, all demonstrating how Christmas would have been celebrated on the battlefield during their era. Crafts and refreshments available to purchase. Seasonal music.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Pirates at Graeme Park

Sail away, sail away searching for a chest brimming with writing treasures. Join the crew as we explore pirate lore...Blackbeard, Long John Silver, Captain Hook and more. Design a ship to carry you in search of writing adventures. Yo-ho-ho matey, let's meet at Graeme Park in Horsham PA, July 13-17 and write some pirate tales. Grades 3-6; Program time 9AM-12PM.

For more information visit [www.pawlp.org](http://www.pawlp.org) and click on young writers camps or call us at 610-436-2297.



### Visual Arts/Historical Fiction Storytellers

Through writing, drawing, water color, diorama, and collage, students grades 3-6 will create their own historical fictions. Using Graeme Park, the only surviving home of one of Pennsylvania's colonial-era governors, as the backdrop, writers will have the opportunity to enliven their writing through the arts in an authentic setting. Writers will explore the elements of story in a fun and imaginative way. (One week/July 6-10th). For more information visit [www.pawlp.org](http://www.pawlp.org) and click on young writers camps or call us at 610-436-2297.

### Economic Impact of Graeme Park on the Community

According to the latest Executive Summary Report, prepared by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Graeme Park's total economic impact on the local community for fiscal year 2013-14 was \$317,314. This figure includes expenditures by the state and the Friends of Graeme Park in the amount of \$178,000 and off-site expenditures by our ticketed visitors of \$139,314. Unaccounted for in this report is the money that the weddings hosted at Graeme Park put back into the community. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 we saw 7,300 visitors, including 1,416 school children. An estimated 90% of these visitors were local, with 10% traveling from out of the area to see us.

### Eagle Scout Projects

This fall and early winter we had two Eagle Scouts working on community service projects here at Graeme Park. Brandon Gomez gathered a team of volunteers to whitewash the tapered pillars in front of the barn and Matt Flynn's team worked on sprucing up the nature trail and creating a series of orienteering courses for visitors to enjoy. Thank you, gentlemen.





## 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	Jim Miller
Co-Treasurer	Diane Horan
Co-Treasurer	Bruce Rader
Member at Large	Marie Cherry
Member at Large	Margaret Choate
Member at Large	Deedie Gustavson
Member at Large	Toni Kistner
Member at Large	Donna Mitchell
Member at Large	Gary Oswald

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Education	Carol Brunner
	John Brunner
Finance	Bruce Rader
Fundraising	Marie Cherry
Governance	Jack Washington
Grants	Vacant
Hospitality	Vacant
Insurance	Vacant
Legal	Vacant
Membership	Donna Mitchell
Museum Shop	Carol Brunner
	Carla Loughlin
Newsletter/Publicity	Carla Loughlin
Programs/Events	Beth MacCausland
Volunteers	Beth MacCausland
Website	Joan Stelmach

### 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

## Volunteer Recruitment Breakfast

Join The Friends of Graeme Park on Saturday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m. for an introduction to Graeme Park and how you can get involved as a volunteer. We can use all talents and time commitments. Our current volunteers will also be on hand to give you their perspective on what they do here and why. Pastries, fruit, and freshly made Belgian waffles will be served and a tour of the house will be given. Please RSVP to Beth at 215-915-9453 or BethGP-FriendsVP@aol.com.



## Lunch & Learn Lecture – April 8

Join us on Wednesday, April 8 for the first of our Lunch & Learn series featuring Kimberly Boice's talk on women's clothing of the 1770s. The discussion will show the many layers of women's clothing typical for the 1770s and include fabrics, style options, and accessories, with the opportunity for attendees to try on a reproduction garment or two at the end of the discussion. Boice is the Museum Edu-

cator at the Peter Wentz Farmstead and has devoted her career to museum studies and history.

A continental breakfast will be served before the talk and a hot and cold lunch buffet will follow. The cost is \$20/person and preregistration is requested. Please email us at ra-graemepark@state.pa.us or call Program Chair, Beth at 215-915-9453 for a registration form.

# A Tale of Two Williams

*By Carla A. Loughlin*

With Charter Day approaching (details on page 1), we should take a look at William Penn's relationship with Sir William Keith of Graeme Park. There is often confusion as to whether Keith served as the Governor of Pennsylvania or as the Deputy Governor. The answer is that while his title was Deputy Governor, there actually was no office of Governor, so Keith was effectively the head official under the Proprietor, who reported only to the King.

Penn's concept of government was extremely liberal and democratic and he gave much more administrative authority to his Deputies than any other colonial Governor. This style seems to have suited Keith, who returned to America on May 31, 1717 after receiving his appointment to the position of Deputy under William Penn.

Both Penn and Keith worked to secure friendly relations with the Native Americans — Penn established the Great Treaty in 1683 in order to secure the land granted to him by Charles II by purchasing it from the Natives, and Keith continued in this vein, working to keep peace and negotiate treaties with the Iroquois and to strengthen laws prohibiting the sale of rum to the Native Americans.

This tradition of fair treatment practiced by Penn and Keith was not upheld by Penn's sons John and Thomas, who cheated the Lenape out of land in the 1737 Walking Purchase — the Lenapes agreed they would sell as much land as a man could walk in a day and a half; the Penns hired professional runners and prepared the trail in advance, thus ending up with 1.2 million acres.

Keith's political relationship with Penn was short-lived and after Penn's death on July 30, 1718 the Proprietorship was split equally between Penn's three sons, John, Thomas and Richard. As they were underage, the real power lay with their mother, Hannah Callowhill Penn with whom Keith clashed on what his role and authority as Deputy Governor were to be for the remaining

eight years of his time in office.

Hannah, and later Penn's sons, objected to Keith acting independently of their commands on how to run the colony. Keith challenged their authority and saw the Governor's role as being more than just an enforcer of the Proprietor's orders; he believed he should be able to judge what was best for the colony and for the people. This position gained him popularity with the ordinary citizens of Pennsylvania, but not those attached to the Proprietary and certainly not of the Proprietors themselves, particularly Hannah, who actively sought to have him replaced in office, a campaign in which she ultimately succeeded, when Keith was replaced in 1726 by Patrick Gordon.



Pennsbury Manor, in Morrisville, is a recreation of what William Penn's home in Pennsylvania may have been like. It, along with Graeme Park and other state owned historic sites, is open free of charge on Sunday, March 8 for Charter Day. For more information, see page 1.





# A Busy Fall at Graeme Park

This fall was a busy one at Graeme Park with weddings, programs, school tours and ghost hunts filling our calendar.

The **Lunch & Learn Lecture Series** took place over three consecutive Wednesdays in October and featured talks on Benjamin Rush, WWII, and women in the Civil War. 35 guests attended to hear the talks, and enjoy a continental breakfast, delicious hot and cold lunch buffet and fellowship. We'll be doing it again on April 8 and October 7, 2015. See page 4 for details on the April topic.

We had weddings every weekend in October, which you can read more about on the back page, and introduced two new Halloween programs. In place of our annual Moonlight Tours, we invited author and paranormal investigator Laurie Hull to present **Moonlight Tales** in the parlor of the Keith House. Laurie has investigated many old houses and has written about her experiences, as well as the lore and legend associated with the sites, in books such

as *Supernatural Pennsylvania* and *Brandywine Valley Ghosts*.

For children we also presented a **Mini Moonlight** program, which featured Graeme Park volunteer Beth MacCausland telling the kids a few interactive, spooky stories in the Keith House,



The Saturday after Thanksgiving we held our **Soldiers' Christmas** program, which was attended by nearly 480 guests and an estimated 70 volunteers. In addition to the reenactment stations, representing the Revolutionary War, Civil War and WWI and II, we had crafters in the barn, a performance by



followed by an ice cream sundae bar and a pumpkin craft in the event tent. Thank you to Kohler Farms on Limekiln Pike for donating the ice

cream and giving us a discount on the pumpkins.



the Hatboro Horsham High School Choir, took up a collection of items for the military, and raffled off some great prizes, including a WWII poster, won by Katie; a huge poinsettia plant, won by Dorothy; a chocolate house won by Gary; an ornament wreath, won by James; and a basket of gift cards and lottery tickets, worth \$165, won by Karen. Thank you to our board members, the [HPHA](#), Deedie, Joan and Beth for contributing the prizes and also to Pete and





Margaret of the HPHA for donating and delivering three pizzas to our hungry volunteers.

Fall is always a busy season for school tours as well, with our volunteers hosting over 500 students, teachers, and parent chaperones through October and November. Most came from the local area, but we also saw students from California who came as part of a program offered by the [Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge](#).

In addition to the regular school tours, our volunteers also presented a **Homeschool Festival**



with lots of interactive learning, like Colonial chores, drilling with the militia, Colonial games and toys,

and writing with quill pens.

Things quiet down around here through the winter, but we're still working behind the scenes to plan for 2015. See our **Events Calendar** on page 3 and start making plans of your own to get



out to Graeme Park to see all that we have to offer. We're also here every Friday and Saturday from 10–4 and Sunday from 12–4 to stop in a look around or take a house tour up until 3 pm. See ya soon!



## Grants and Awards

The Friends of Graeme Park was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from Verizon to support educational and community programs. The picture at left shows Frank Buzydlowski of Verizon presenting the check to Marie Cherry, Board Member, and Beth MacCausland, President, along with Pennsylvania State Representative Tom Murt of the 152nd Legislative District, who facilitated the grant.



The Friends of Graeme Park was also recognized by the 111th Attack Wing for the collection that was taken up at A Soldier's Christmas to send to active duty military serving in Afghanistan. Anna Richar, Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager, presented Marie Cherry, Program Chair and Beth MacCausland, President, with Certificates of Appreciation for organizing the collection. Howard "Chip" Eissler, Col. PAANG Commander, and Paul Frisco, Chief, of the 111th Attack Wing were also on hand to express their gratitude. We will be doing another collection as part of our WWII Weekend on May 2-3.





Address Service Requested

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

Volunteer Recruitment Breakfast—February 21  
Charter Day—March 8 | Lunch & Learn Lecture—April 8

## *2014 Weddings at Graeme Park*

October saw us wrapping up the 2014 wedding season with a busy month of weddings every weekend. All in all we had 14 couples say their "I Dos" here in 2014 and we've already booked the same for 2015. For more pictures, see our blog at [www.graemepark.blogspot.com](http://www.graemepark.blogspot.com), or contact [Open Aire Affairs](#) at 215-860-1859 for rental information.

