

The regular meeting of the Cheltenham Township Historical Commission was held tonight. Members present were: Barbara Bartlett, Cynthia Breen, Ray Burg, David Harrower, Lois Hirsch, James McCann, Dorothy Spruill, Jack Washington, Joyce Werkman, Tom Wieckowski. Staff present was Brian Hinson, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation. (see attached attendance list).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Jack Washington called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.
2. ***Acceptance of Minutes*** – Mr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the June 13, 2013 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Harrower and unanimously approved.
3. **Review of Financial Report**

Mr. Hinson summarized the yearly financial report dated until the end of August. Total receipts show the amount of \$498. Expenses total to date are \$1,765.85. Mr. Washington stated that the Committee is in need of \$3,111.40 to help with finances.

#### 4. ***Committee Reports***

A. Education Committee There was no report.

B. Preservation Committee Report Mr. Harrower stated that there was no report. Mr. Washington asked Mr. Harrower to see if he can get someone to join the Preservation Committee to assist him.

C. Museum Committee Report Mrs. Spruill stated that no one has responded to her prior request for help to work on the third floor. Mrs. Spruill mentioned that she can't read the disk for the "Past Perfect File." She stated that Ms. Karuza told her she can't use the information available without the internet. Mr. Washington said she should be able to read from the disk of the "Past Perfect File," without the internet. Mr. Washington stated that he will have Mr. Wieckowski look into this matter. Mr. Washington said Mrs. Spruill's new exhibit (the handbag, picture, and wooden bowl) brought interest to visiting groups.

5. **Chairman's Report** – (see attached) Mr. Washington also mentioned that he deposited \$30 with the Township's Accounting Department for museum tours; and that the Township now has a new janitorial company cleaning the building.

6. **Staff Report** – Mr. Hinson stated there was no report on the Curtis Master Plan because the last meeting was cancelled. The new meeting is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a walking tour of the grounds identifying historic trees and site issues. Mr. Hinson asked if the Wall Park House phone was working and if people could now leave messages. Mr. Wieckowski stated that he will bring in a phone/answering machine. Mr. Hinson stressed that fund raising is needed to raise money by the Historical Commission to help the Township supplement operations of the Wall House. Mr. Hinson asked if anyone had any ideas for fund raising to please share. Mr. Washington stated in the past that the Township has funded \$4,000 a year to support the Historical Commission. This support may not be available in the future. Mr. Washington said fund raising suggestions will be discussed at a later date. Mr. Washington asked for a Committee member to step forward to work on ideas that will bring in revenue. Mrs. Spruill wanted to know why the Historical Commission was in debt. Mr. Washington stated that most of the \$4,000 from the Township and money received from tours during the year does not cover all expenses. There is the security system to be paid for each month along with the cost of contract services such as cleaning and repairs.

7. **Old Business**- None

8. **New Business** –Mrs. Washington said she went to a Cheltenham Township Twinning meeting on Wednesday night. She received CD's regarding the history of Cheltenham, England. One CD will be for the Wall House and one will be available at Arcadia University. Mr. Washington asked that the CD of the history of Cheltenham, England be passed on to Ms. Baumgarten. Mr. Washington thanked the Twinning Committee for doing the job with the CD. Mr. Washington

sent out information on long range planning with minutes from June. Mr. Washington suggested there be long range planning set up for the Historic Commission. It will help with the progress of the Richard Wall House. Mr. Washington also stated there should be a new mission and vision statement set up for the Historical Commission. The statement should be proactive. He would like to set up a meeting in October, perhaps a Thursday night with the various Committees to look at a number of mission and vision statements to help create one for the Richard Wall House.

**9. Moment in History-** Mrs. Washington gave a report (see attached).

**10. Announcements** – Ms. Werkman reported on the planning and preparations for Camp William Penn Day. She spent three hours with a reporter telling the story of La Mott. She shared genealogy thumbnail pictures and information she received. She was given 17 thumbnail size pictures of officers of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment who served at Camp William Penn. These are the most visual ever found for Camp William Penn. There will be a biography with pictures of many of the soldiers. Mr. Harrower said he would be available to assist on September 21st for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremonies at La Mott. Mr. Harrower and Mr. Wieckowski have put together many newspaper clippings and reports on history of Camp William Penn. There will be stories regarding the village of La Mott. Ms. Werkman had flyers for this event. Ms. Werkman is still looking for volunteers for Camp William Penn Day. She needs people who can direct traffic. The volunteers can't be under the age of 18 years old.

Mr. Washington announced a "Senior Citizens Day" coming up at Graeme Park in October. The registration deadline is September 20<sup>th</sup>. (see attached).

**11. Good and Welfare-** Mr. Washington won't be available to do tours in October. He is asking for volunteers to cover the weekend tours in October. He also asked that volunteers please e-mail Mrs. Cohen.

September 12, 2013 7:30 p.m.  
Carriage House

12. *Adjournment* - There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Jack Washington and seconded by Mr. Harrower and approved by the Historical Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.



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Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Linda Vann

9-12-2013

PRESENT FOR A NUMBER OF MAINTANCE ISSUES, MOST IN COORDINATION WITH MR. DUNLEAVY. THESE INCLUDED MEETING WITH THE NEW GENTLEMAN FROM THE CLEANING SERVICE, THE PLUMBING CREW (RE: THE BACK FLUSH VALVE, RE-ATTACHED PANELS OF CHICKEN COOP IN THE SPRINGHOUSE, INFILLED LETTERS ON MILE MARKER, REPLACE SOME LIGHT BULBS IN THE WINDOW CANDLES, SAW MUSEUM SIGN REPAIRED/REPLACED (INSTALLED BY MR. DUNLEAVY), EXTINGUISHED LIGHTS LEFT ON AFTER HOURS BY UNKNOWN PERSONS.

COVERED VISITATION AS SCHEDULED, SUBSTITUTED FOR AN ILLNESS AND ONE SUNDAY FOUND NO COVERAGE (OR POSTING), OPENED WITH WAITING VISITORS AT 1<sup>40</sup>PM. TOURED WITH PHMC REPRESENTATIVE AND A QUESTER GROUP.

CONSIDERED DAVID HARROWER'S REQUEST FOR INTERNET BUYING OF WALL HOUSE RELATED ITEMS. THANK YOU TO DAVID HARROWER, PAST CHAIR, FOR HANDLING THE STUDENT DOCENT AWARDS AND PRESENTATION AND TO NANCY GIBSON FOR CREATING VERY RESPECTFUL CERTIFICATES.

PROVIDED SOME BOXES FOR DIS-MANTLING AND PACKING CURRENT EXHIBIT.

THERE WERE FOUR INCIDENTS OF UNSECURED PROPERTY IN WHICH THE POLICE WERE CALLED.

RESPECTFULLY,

Jack Washington

Public Spirit Saturday September 21, 1895

Ogontz

Joseph Boster has erected an iron fence along the top of the stone wall recently built along the York pike near his mill; also has placed this week a concrete walk along the side of the fence.

Times Chronicle Saturday morning September 1 1923

Ashbourne School To Be Dedicated

Exercises at New Building to Take Place Saturday  
September 8

Dedication exercises of the Benjamin S Myers School at 2pm. This school is located in the village of Ashbourne at the head of Union Avenue just below the old Ashbourne School Building.

# Senior Day at graeme park Educational, Fun, Social

*In the spirit of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson's famed Attic Evenings, where people gathered to discuss various topics and learn from one another, senior citizens and early retirees are invited to historic Graeme Park, in Horsham, for a full day of classes and discussions on a wide range of topics.*

*Registration Deadline:  
September 20*

*Belriend the Past  
The Friends of Graeme Park  
859 County Line Rd.  
Horsham, PA 19044  
(215) 343-0965  
www.graemepark.org*



Address Service Requested

# Wednesday, October 2

## Session 1- 9:30-10:30 AM

### **Prairie Women**

*Presenter: Ellen Matter, retired educator and collector*

Meet an 1850 prairie woman from the Great Plains. Learn about the hard lives our brave ancestors faced just to survive in the new frontier. Tools and materials of that time period will be exhibited.

### **Spirited Graeme Park**

*Presenters: Laurie Hull, author and paranormal investigator*

Hear the history of Graeme Park and the tragic story of its 18<sup>th</sup> c. mistress. Does her restless spirit still roam these halls? Personal experiences, lore, investigation techniques, and actual evidence from Keith House investigators will be shared.

### **The Spice Rack, the Corner Drug Store, and the Home Depot: Everything in the Colonial Herb Garden**

*Presenter: Jim Miller, retired biology professor*

This will be an interactive (touchy, feely, sniffy) look at the multiple uses of herbs and garden plants in the colonial home. Garden design and maintenance practices will be addressed. A brief garden tour will be included if weather permits.

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

215-343-0965

## Session 2- 10:45-11:45 AM

### **American Musical Icons**

*Presenter: Marvin Feld, retired music educator*

This country has a rich musical heritage. From Berlin to Bernstein, from Sousa to Gershwin, you will be introduced to these musical giants. Their contribution to the fabric of America will be discussed with representative music.

### **Reenacting the Past**

*Presenters: Jack and Mary Washington, Revolutionary War reenactors and Jim Cherry, WWII reenactor*

Learn about the outfitting and equipment of a camp follower/indentured servant of the Revolutionary War period. A reenactor who regularly takes on the role of either a civilian or ensign in the military during the Revolutionary War shares how he got involved in reenacting and his experiences. One of the organizers of our WWII event at Graeme Park tells why he got involved in reenacting the war that his grandfather fought in and shares his experiences.

### **Exploring the Rights & Roles of Women of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries**

*Presenter: Andree Mey Miller, Project Coordinator for the Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories, a project surveying archival collections in small organizations in the greater Philadelphia area, for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*

When Elizabeth Graeme married Henry Hugh Fergusson in 1772 she gained a husband and lost the ability to control her land, assets, and income. The legal status of women changed upon marriage; they relinquished their autonomy and became in the eyes of the law one with their husband. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, women were expected to be wives and mothers; by marrying Hugh, Elizabeth was conforming to society's expectations. This lecture will explore how societal expectations and legal rights defined the roles of single and married women in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Session 3 - 1:00-2:00 PM

#### **Victorian Mourning Customs**

*Presenters: Bob Reese, collector of Victorian funeral artifacts, with assistance from Ginny Benner*  
This will be a discussion of mourning customs such as draping windows in black and turning mirrors backwards. You will also learn about the mourning dress for different stages of mourning. See how the extravagance of funerals depended on social class and financial means.

#### **"Excuse Me, Where's my Family?"**

##### **An Archivist's Tale**

*Presenter: Kellee Green Blake, Director, National Archives Mid-Atlantic (retired)*

Join retired Federal Archives Director Kellee Blake for a look at some of the zany, poignant, funny, surprising, and heartbreaking stories from her thirty year national career. Folks ask some crazy questions and records tell some hard truths but again and again she has been reminded that truth is stranger than fiction. Best of all, you'll learn about Federal records and family stories you didn't know existed.

#### **Pearl S. Buck: The Lady and Her Legacy- Writer, Mother, Advocate, Humanitarian**

*Presenter: Cindy Loudon, Chair of Pearl S. Buck Writing Center*

Perhaps you know about Pearl S. Buck the author or Pearl S. Buck the humanitarian. But as important as those two things are, her legacy is so much more. Learn about this amazing woman who spent part of her life raising an international family in Bucks County, PA.

### Session 4- 2:15-3:15 PM

#### **Graeme Park Goes to War!**

*Presenter: John Brunner, retired educator & co-director of Graeme Park's school programs*  
Visit with a member of the PA Militia to learn about the dramatic events in the fall and winter of 1777-78 at Graeme Park. This was the scene of two military encampments during the American Revolution. The Revolution touched the lives of Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson and her family in powerful and fateful ways. As part of your visit, you will be given a demonstration on the handling and firing of a flintlock musket.

#### **American Cemeteries: Stories They Tell of Times past**

*Presenter: Steve Heck, retired history educator*  
This program will examine the development of cemeteries and the amount of information they contain about our country and our families. Imagine the excitement of finding a relative's grave site and what it might be able to tell us about your family's history.

#### **What Can I Feed My Gluten Free Guest?**

*Presenter: Holly Niemeyer-Schorpp, educator*  
More and more people are eating gluten free- some by choice and some due to medical necessity. If you have a friend or family member with celiac disease, they cannot eat foods containing gluten. So, what can you serve them? Diagnosed with celiac disease over 8 years ago, Holly will share ideas for snacks and meals. She'll also direct you to local restaurants and markets that have gluten free foods.

*www.graemepark.org*

*215-343-0965*



MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

Historical Commission Regular Meeting @ 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Carriage House

One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

Print Name	Mailing Address (only if different)	Telephone Number (only if different)	E-mail Address (only if different)
Jack Washington			
John Kwan			
D. Grull			
Mary Washington			
David Amos			
Lois Hirsch			
Barbara Bartlett			
Tom Wachob			
			
April Green			