



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2013

New Exhibit Opens at Historic Pennypacker Mills: Who's Who Among Governors from Montgomery County

Schwenksville, PA (May 13, 2013) – Spanning three centuries, there have been seven men who served as Governors of Pennsylvania and who, at one time, lived in Montgomery County. A new exhibit, opening on May 15, 2013 at Pennypacker Mills, will focus on the lives and contributions of Governors David Porter (1839-1845), Francis Shunk (1845-1848), John Hartranft (1873-1879), Samuel Pennypacker (1903-1907), George Earle III (1935-1939), John Bell, Jr. (1947), and Milton Shapp (1971-1977). Except for Philadelphia, no other county has had more men serve as state governors than Montgomery County.

These seven men encompass a group of firsts for Pennsylvania: the first governor to resign, the first governor to divorce, the first governor to remarry, the first Lieutenant Governor to become Governor, the governor serving the shortest term, and the first governor of the Jewish faith. Each one of these men worked to update transportation and to reduce Pennsylvania's debt.

Come explore this new exhibit to learn more about these men and their accomplishments.

Photographs, paintings, and items relating to their terms of office will be on display. The exhibit galleries are located on the second floor of the mansion and are included with free guided tours of the mansion. The exhibit runs from May 15, 2013 until January 15, 2014.

Pennypacker Mills Historic Site is operated by the Montgomery County Department of Assets and Infrastructure, Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. Located at 5 Haldeman Road in Schwenksville, Montgomery County, PA, Pennypacker Mills offers year-round guided tours, changing exhibits, seasonal events, and educational programs. For more information, please call 610-287-9349 or visit the website at www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills.

Images provided by Pennypacker Mills



Born in Norristown in 1788 and elected governor in 1838, Governor David Porter's term in office was torn by political strife in 1834. The Free Education Act passed and citizens were concerned about religion in schools, using only English in classrooms, and taxing to pay for public education.



Born in New Hanover Township, John Hartranft took office in 1872 after an illustrious career in the military during the Civil War. During Hartranft's term, the Financial Panic of 1873, labor disputes with the Molly Maguires, and the Railroad Strikes of 1877 were the top issues.

(Image from cigar advertisement)