



# NEWS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311**

**Frank X. Custer, Communications Director**

**Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant**

**PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX 278-5943**

**COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair***

**LESLIE S. RICHARDS, *Vice Chair*, BRUCE L. CASTOR, JR., *Commissioner***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 28, 2013**

## **The Civil War Comes to Montgomery County at Historic Pennypacker Mills' Civil War Reunion**

**Schwenksville, PA (May 28, 2013)** – Discover American history and celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War at Pennypacker Mills' Civil War Reunion on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2, 2013. With two days of military battles, artillery demonstrations, camp life, living history presenters, talented musicians, and a special play about a meeting between President Lincoln and abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, there is sure to be something for everyone in the family enjoy! Admission and parking are free. Refreshments will be available. No pets, please. A full event schedule and more details are available online at: [www.civilwarreunion.org](http://www.civilwarreunion.org).

### **Family Programs:**

- **Be a Soldier Kid Enlistment Program:** Recite the Oath of Allegiance, sign official papers with pen and ink, and take part in a marching drill. Look for the enlistment program on the mansion porch.
- **Spies in the Hoops:** Meet Rose O'Neal and her assistant, Bettie, who are spies in hoops. Hear about the amazing ways these women smuggled messages for the Confederates and read some of the correspondences. Learn how to use a cipher wheel to decode messages. Look for Rose and Bettie on the back porch of the mansion.
- **This is the Way We Wash the Clothes:** Experience laundry in the 1860's with a hands-on activity. Look for this fun activity on the Civilian Street.

### **Daily Activities for Everyone to Enjoy:**

- **Battle Enactment:** Witness an act of patriotism and duty as two enactment armies meet on the battlefield where cannons blast their firepower and men fight for the cause of freedom.
- **Artillery Demonstration:** See the technology used on the battlefield and the skills needed to become a member of a cannon crew.

- **Civil War Medicine:** Learn what type of schooling was required for battlefield surgery. Watch a demonstration of surgical techniques. Try rolling medicine pills using an antique pill making device.
- **Living History on the Civilian Street:** See clothing, hairstyles, and hair jewelry of the 1860's. Find out what's cooking for dinner over the fire pit. Stop by the blacksmith's tent to see how he forges tools and parts for the military. Visit the Phrenologist and learn how personality traits are related to the surface shape of the skull. Visit the watch maker.
- **Pennypacker Mansion Tours and Exhibits:** Step into the mansion and learn about Samuel Pennypacker, future Governor of Pennsylvania and a Private in an Emergency Militia, and the many members of his family who served in the Civil War. Each room tells a different part of this fascinating story. See exhibits throughout the mansion.
- **Quilt Raffle:** Stop by the Friends of Pennypacker Mills' table and buy a raffle ticket for a hand-made quilt. Donations support restoration projects and educational programs at Pennypacker Mills.
- **Sutlers:** Visit the merchants who traveled wherever the soldiers went to sell supplies, and get the chance to try these supplies.

#### **Performances:**

- **Saturday, June 1:** Watch the play "Mr. President, I'm Frederick Douglass" at 12:30 pm. Be a silent witness to a private conversation between President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, leader of the abolitionist movement. These men had a unique and challenging friendship. Douglass was a former slave and Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States. See how their friendship began and visit the White House as Douglass challenges Lincoln on the treatment of colored troops in the Union Army. Cornelia, a White House servant, is eavesdropping and gives the audience her point of view of the historic meeting.
- **Saturday, June 1:** Meet Matthew Dodd, musician, storyteller, and historian. Join in the singing and do a dance as Dodd makes tells the story of how soldiers and their loved ones from the North and South used music and song to live through the War. This performance is ongoing throughout the day.
- **Sunday, June 2:** Meet Octavius V. Catto, as portrayed by actor Robert Branch, at 12:30 pm. This first-person, riveting performance will introduce guests to the black Civil War activist known as a staunch supporter of the Union and President Lincoln, who worked tirelessly to assist in the war effort, and who raised black troops to fight for their own emancipation.
- **Sunday, June 2:** Watch a musical performance of "Paddy Has Gone for a Soldier: Songs and Stories of Soldiers of the Irish Brigade" with musician Michael Plunkett at 3:00 pm, after the battle reenactment. The experience of the Irish immigrants who became American patriots

during the Civil War is legendary. Plunkett's music is engaging, with old Irish ballads and Civil War era songs of both the North and South. He reveals the personal experiences of a typical soldier fighting for freedom in America.

**Saturday Night Time Program:**

On Saturday evening return to Pennypacker Mills for an unforgettable Evening Lantern Tour. Walk through the encampments to see and participate in vignettes of both military and civilian life. This unique program provides an intimate glimpse of soldiers and families who lived through the War. Preregistration and payment are required for this program. Please call 610-287-9349 to preregister. The fee is \$5.00 per person.

**Sunday Church Service:** At 10:00 am, attend an authentic Civil War era church service led by Confederate Chaplain Williams on the lawn next to the mansion.

**Sponsors:** Pennypacker Mills would like to acknowledge the following local business sponsors of the Civil War Reunion: Arbour Square and The Birches at Arbour Square, Asher's Chocolates, Automation Resources, Halteman's Cleaning Service, Hoover Steel, Lark Interiors, Landis Supermarket, and Phottiles.

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](http://www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills).

**Images provided by Pennypacker Mills:**



Scholar, teacher, Civil War recruiter, activist and baseball player, Octavius Catto committed his life to end segregation to achieve full and equal rights for African Americans and all Americans.



The reenactment battle rages between Union and Confederate forces at Pennypacker Mills.



Enlist as a private in the Union Army! Take the Oath of Allegiance, get a medical exam, sign with a pen and ink, and march off to drill!



Witness the meeting between President Lincoln and Frederick Douglass as they discuss the treatment of black soldiers through the eyes of Cornelia, a White House maid.