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Family Recipes from Pennsylvania's Former First Lady

Schwenksville, PA (February 20, 2014) – The spattered pages of former Pennsylvania first lady Virginia Pennypacker's handwritten recipes reveal a woman who was familiar with the details of cooking. On Sunday, March 2, 2014 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm visit the Classroom Building at Pennypacker Mills where volunteer cook, Sheila Walter, will be firing up the cast iron stove and cooking some of Virginia's recipes. As she cooks, Sheila will share how cast iron stoves and ovens worked. Using a variety of manual flues, a cook could control the heat in the oven and stove without a thermostat. In Virginia Pennypacker's day, the fuel, which would have been either wood or coal, was a key cooking component. The cook had to know which fuel was the most desirable for the type of food she was preparing. Inside the "modern" 1900s kitchen guests will also learn about how the stove was used for more than just cooking.

After seeing the cooking demonstration, why not take a tour of the Pennypacker mansion and see the newly restored servant area. Find out about the life and times of this fascinating Pennsylvania family and the servants who made life at the Mills enjoyable for them and their guests.

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, 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.