



NEWS

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Civil War Reunion

Soldiers, Artillerists, Living Historians Bring the 1860s to Life at Pennypacker Mills

Schwenksville, PA (May 13, 2014) – Pennypacker Mills celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with a special weekend full of battles, artillery demonstrations, living history, music, children’s activities, and much more at the Civil War Reunion on Saturday, May 31, 2014 from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, June 1, 2014 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Arrive early and stay the entire day to see, hear, and experience the Civil War! Admission and parking are free. This event is sponsored in part by Ambler Savings Bank, Landis Supermarkets, Phototiles, and Hoover Steel.

Daily Battle

The highlight of this Civil War weekend is the demonstration of military might, on and off the battlefield. Visit Union and Confederate military encampments and meet soldiers as they prepare for inspection and the march to battle. Be an observer as the Confederate Artillery demonstrates the power of their cannons and find out how these iron behemoths changed the course of many battles. Join the troops as they march onto the battlefield. As drumbeats get louder, see the massing of troops as they position themselves to fight.

Ongoing Demonstrations

Throughout the weekend, attend ongoing programs and demonstrations. Visit the U.S. Sanitation Commission (USSC) tent to find out how women volunteers helped to promote clean and healthy conditions for the Union Army. Meet Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a physician who was instrumental in establishing the USSC. “Be a Soldier” in the Kid Enlistment activity, which offers children the opportunity to enlist in the Union Army by taking the Oath of Allegiance, followed by a medical checkup, and then marching and drilling. Afterwards, walk the Civilian Street to see fashions of the 1860s, try old-fashioned laundry techniques, meet the cooks preparing the day’s meal, and much more! The Sutler area will be open for guests to purchase Civil War era clothing, books, and toys, and

the food caterer will have grilled foods, cold drinks, and sweet treats available for purchase. Guests will be able to purchase raffle tickets to win a beautiful hand-made quilt from The Friends of Pennypacker Mills, which will be on display on the mansion porch. Proceeds of the raffle help this organization support the many educational and special projects at Pennypacker Mills.

Special Speakers

Each day, guest speakers will provide new insights into the Civil War. On Saturday, meet General John Hartranft (Mark Grim, Jr.) the outstanding Montgomery County native who fought in both the Eastern and Western Theaters of the War and led an illustrious career which included commanding the Old Military Prison, where the Lincoln conspirators were hung. On Sunday, join author Bruce Mowry, whose recent book, "Pickett's Charge: The Untold Story," will explore what the Union soldiers endured during the charge by Southern forces during the Battle at Gettysburg. Stay afterward to purchase this engaging book and have it signed by the author.

Musical Performers

Outstanding musical performers will move guests to clap their hands and stomp their feet! On Saturday, Matthew Dodd will take guests back in time to feel what it was like to be a soldier or loved one during the War. Through storytelling, songs, and anecdotes, Dodd evokes the feelings of this pivotal era. On Sunday, be entertained by Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Band as their 20 musicians appear in authentic uniforms and perform the same military and social music that was played to entertain the troops, console loved ones who lost family members, or welcome home weary soldiers during the Civil War. Join the Living Historians as they dance to this memorable music.

Tour the Pennypacker Mansion where former Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Pennypacker (1903-1907) resided with his family. A veteran of the Civil War, Pennypacker and over 140 members of his family served on both sides of the War. The tour will highlight the Civil War Era and small exhibits will focus on various members of this famous Pennsylvania family. The Museum Shop will be fully stocked with new Pennypacker Mills t-shirts, books, gift items, and children's toys.

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, visit the event website at www.civilwarreunion.org or the Pennypacker Mills website at www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills. Like Pennypacker Mills on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pennypackermills?ref=ts&fref=ts>.