Pennypacker Mills Presents Victorian Christmas Open House

Schwenksville, PA (November 23, 2012) – Bring the family to Pennypacker Mills’ Victorian Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 8, 2012 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm and create wonderful memories that will last far into the new year. Capture the magical moments of Christmas. This free event will be one that the entire family will remember!

A Visit with Santa

It wouldn’t be Christmas without a visit with Santa Claus! He’ll listen intently to everyone’s wishes and send them off with a candy cane afterward. Bring a camera for a one-of-a-kind picture that will make a great Christmas card!

The Sounds of Music

Experience the music of the Christmas season with the ringing of bells! Enjoy the Christmas music of the Limerick Chapel’s “Ring of Praise” bell choir on the mansion porch as they capture the spirit of the season for all to enjoy. At 5:00pm, hear the Montgomery County Community College Chamber Choir as they sing Christmas songs to entertain everyone as they approach the mansion.

A Home Dressed in Victorian Splendor

Delight in walking through a beautifully decorated home, resplendent in shimmering gold and silver ornaments, ribbon flowing through garlands, striking centerpieces that mix the colors of nature with...
the striking embellishments that only the Victorians could imagine, all enveloped in the glow of oil lamps! Stop at each room as interpretive guides share fascinating details about Christmas one-hundred years ago, before there was electricity in many homes. See how the Pennypacker family used the shine of Dresden ornaments, the shimmer of cut glass and swirling glass icicles, and the richness of holiday colors throughout their welcoming home.

Discover the simple cedar Christmas tree, which has been cut from the property. Beautifully decorated with imported, hand-painted glass ornaments, gleaming glass icicles, shiny beaded garland, and memorable homemade ornaments, this tree, like so many of yesteryear, reflects a family who treasured traditions and the wonder of the holiday.

**Family & Friends**

Living historians await guests at the front door and inside the rooms at the Pennypacker mansion, providing visitors with a glimpse of the social history of the holidays. Wrapping presents, toasting the holidays, singing along with the music box, and performing servant duties add a meaningful element to the atmosphere of this special night.

**A Yuletide Dinner**

See how the Pennypackers dined on turkey and all the trimmings. At thirty-two cents per pound, turkey was considered an expensive holiday treat for most families. The holiday décor reflects the opulent decorations of the Victorian Era with shiny ribbon, bowls of fruit, and candelabras that added a luminescent glow to the room.

**A Child’s Wishes**

The second floor guest area hosts a “putz,” a Middle Eastern landscape with a nativity scene and the three wise men is on display. In many homes, the wise men would be placed on the opposite side of
the room from the putz and each week children would move them closer to the manger scene until they “arrived” on Christmas Eve. In one bedroom, find what children wished for in the 1900s: a porcelain doll, dollhouse, rocking horse, teddy bear, tin toys, and a child’s tea service. Long stockings are filled with small presents for children to discover. Christmas candy in many forms including clear toy candy, ribbon and rock candy, candy canes, and marzipan are some of the traditional treats that families shared during the holidays.

Pennypacker Mills is located at 5 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473. For information and directions, please call 610-287-9349 or visit the Pennypackers Mills page at http://www.historicsites.montcopa.org/. Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Department of Assets and Infrastructure, Parks and Heritage Services Division. The site offers year-round guided tours, education programs, changing exhibits, seasonal events, and craft workshops.

All images provided by Pennypacker Mills:

A child’s wonderland of toys and holiday sweets awaits visitors to Pennypacker Mills’ Victorian Christmas Open House.
Every child has the opportunity to sit on Santa’s lap and share their Christmas wishes!

Butlers prepare for Christmas Eve dinner at the Pennypacker home.