



NEWS

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Vintage Base Ball at Pennypacker Mills

Schwenksville, PA (June 16, 2014) – Baseball has come a long way from its humble beginnings in the fields of nineteenth century America. Called, “America’s pastime” since 1856, there is no place better than at historic Pennypacker Mills to witness a nineteenth century game of Base Ball with the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia versus the Harrisburg Keystones on Saturday, June 21, 2014 between 1:00pm and 4:00pm at a free event.

There is a growing group of Base Ball enthusiasts who prefer to play with 1860s Base Ball rules and on rough fields just as the early players did. Part historical re-enactment and part sport, there are currently over 400 teams and 4,000 players in North America who participate in this old-fashioned game. Pennsylvania has five teams, including the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia. Teams follow historically accurate playing rules and interpretations, styles of play and presentation of events for the public. According to Scott Alberts, President of the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia, team players wore wool uniforms, had handlebar mustaches, and used thick handled bats and no gloves.

“Pitching had to be underhanded. The pitch is in a box 45 feet away from the plate. And that’s where the modern expression, ‘We knocked the guy out of the box,’ comes from. There’s no infield fly rule. If a ball is hit into the infield and bounces foul, that’s a fair ball,” Alberts explained.

Bring the entire family to experience a slice of American history. Members of the Athletics will also show children how to play “Town Ball,” the precursor to modern-day baseball. Bring a chair or blanket on which to sit. Feel free to dress in 1860s attire to further get immersed in the time period! What a perfect way to celebrate an American pastime!

The Pennypacker mansion will be open for free tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm so plan to stop by before the game!

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.