



# NEWS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
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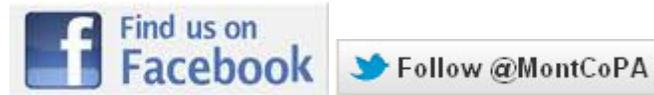
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**RELEASE: December 1, 2014**

**Victorian Christmas Open House at Pennypacker Mills**  
**Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Schwenksville, PA (December 1, 2014)** – Warm, inviting rooms, elaborate Victorian decorations, gifts large and small, and a warm welcome beckon visitors to Pennypacker Mills’ Victorian Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. In the early 1900s, when the Pennypacker family resided at the Mills, the Christmas holidays were a time of celebration and generous spirits. The same is true today, as this Montgomery County historic site offers a glimpse of Christmas past at this free open house!

On the mansion porch, listen as a wonderful bell choir plays holiday music throughout the day to entertain everyone. A Victorian Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will greet youngsters and listen to their Christmas wishes too. Make memories with a cherished photo of the children with Santa!

The first indication that this will be a special experience is when a butler greets guests at the front door and welcomes them into the home of Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Pennypacker and his family. The Formal Parlor is where guests will find living historians decorating and admiring the Christmas tree. Young musicians will entertain everyone with holiday music as resident historians toast the special occasion. The décor this year is decidedly natural with greens and flowers throughout the mansion. In other rooms, see how birds are used to symbolize peace, joy, and good tidings. The Dining Room is festooned with birds, candelabras, and a bountiful meal befitting of the Pennypacker family. Servants will be preparing the table for a Christmas dinner and hurrying throughout the mansion to serve holiday guests.

On the second floor, see the guest area where family and friends stayed during the holidays. The Christmas putz, a nativity landscape scene, will be on display. In the kitchen, see a clear toy candy

demonstration and find out how these fascinating Christmas candies were made and enjoyed by children long ago.

As visitors move throughout the mansion they will discover what Christmas was like in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of today's traditions, such as Christmas cards, decorations, a Christmas tree, and Santa Claus, all began during this time.

Looking for special ornaments and gift items? Stop at the Museum Shop for mercury glass ornaments, handmade felt ornaments, icicle frieze garland, feather trees, period style toys, books, Victorian scrap images, and special Christmas candies including clear toy candy and Wilbur buds.

Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. Located at 5 Haldeman Road in Schwenksville, PA, just off Skippack Pike (Route 73), the site is open year-round for guided tours, winter workshops, educational programs, seasonal events, and changing exhibits in the gallery. Call 610-287-9349 or visit the website at:

[www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills](http://www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills) for more information. Like Pennypacker Mills on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pennypackermills>.