



NEWS

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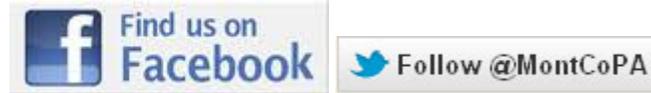
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RELEASE: January 2, 2015

**New Exhibit and Gallery Talk at Pennypacker Mills:
“*The Making of a Hero: The Life of Major General Galusha Pennypacker*”**

Schwenksville, PA (January 2, 2015) – A new exhibit opening Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at historic Pennypacker Mills reveals the story of Galusha Pennypacker, Brevetted Major General and Medal of Honor recipient for valor at the Battle of Fort Fisher, Cape Fear, North Carolina. This exhibit recognizes the 150th anniversary of the battle.

On Sunday, January 25, 2015 from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, come hear a free in-depth talk on this exhibit in the galleries, which are located on the second floor. Using the exhibit itself, curator Carl Klase will elaborate in great detail about Galusha’s life, both personal and professional.

The story of Galusha Pennypacker began in a small house in Valley Forge, PA. From humble beginnings, this cousin of Pennsylvania Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker volunteered at age seventeen to serve in the 9th Pennsylvania Volunteers. His career would see him reach the heights of military leadership, but always maintain personal warmth for his men. Through engagements at Swift Creek and Fort Gilmore, Galusha rose through the ranks until the fateful assault at Fort Fisher.

His regiment was part of a huge Federal assault on Fort Fisher, an earthen fortification near Wilmington, North Carolina. During the assault, Pennypacker commanded the second brigade, consisting of the 97th and four other regiments. Through some of the worst fighting in the Civil War, Galusha led his troops toward the traverses of the fort. Enemy fire was described as a “*driving, gale-force hailstorm.*” “*The shrieks and groans, mingling with the fiendish rattling around us, together with the whistling bullets and the bursting shells over us were enough to cause one to feel he was in hell,*” recalled Acting Master’s Mate Joseph Simms. One soldier said, “*He was always in the forefront of his troops. His command was always, “Come,” never “Go.”*” The battle raged for hours and when the 97th’s color bearer went down, Galusha personally hoisted the flag onto the rebel parapet. After planting the

flag, he was immediately wounded in the hip, an injury that would affect him for the rest of his life. For his service, Galusha was made brigadier general. In 1891, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Fort Fisher.

Despite being severely wounded four times, Galusha and the 97th were involved in twenty major engagements throughout the Civil War. From 1861 to 1864, the 97th participated in numerous battles along the southern Atlantic coast as part of the Anaconda Plan, which was designed to blockade and capture southern ports in order to deprive Confederate states' trade and supplies.

The exhibit will trace Galusha's life from his early years through his military life with photographs, military and personal accoutrements, newspaper articles, booklets written about the Battle of Fort Fisher, retirement items, and much more. This exhibit is an opportunity to explore the life of a decorated soldier who was known throughout the country for his bravery, leadership, and compassion for his men. The exhibit is included on all guided tours of the Pennypacker mansion, which are free. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The site is closed on Mondays and major holidays.

Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites and is located at 5 Haldeman Road in Schwenksville, PA. For more information, please call 610-287-9349 or visit the website at www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills.