



# NEWS

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## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennypacker Mills' Civil War Event**

**Schwenksville, PA (May 26, 2015)** – Experience American heritage at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennypacker Mills' Civil War Event on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 31, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Delve into the history of this contentious time in America's past by walking through military encampments and exploring soldier life. In the Civilian Street area, see the many efforts made to support the soldiers, try old-fashioned laundry techniques, see the fashions of the day, and much more. This is a free event. Plan to bring family and friends, but no pets please.

For kids, nothing brings home the experience of the Civil War more than the "Be a Soldier" Kid Enlistment activity where boys and girls volunteer for the Union Army. Kids will have the chance to meet the enlistment officers of the Pennsylvania 71<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Infantry as they accept volunteers to serve in the war. They will sign the enlistment papers and take the Oath of Allegiance. Members of the Pennsylvania 69<sup>th</sup> Irish Volunteers will train kids in marching and drilling.

Each day, meet the Union Generals who will share their war experiences. The audience will have the opportunity to ask the generals pointed questions about battles, their decision making, and more. This is an outstanding chance to pick the brains of some of the most knowledgeable Civil War historians as they portray key Union generals. Beforehand, meet the Wives of the Generals in a special program where they'll share the challenges they faced as their husbands left for war and an uncertain future.

On Saturday, don't miss the outstanding artillery demonstration offered by A. P. Hill's III Corps as they talk about how high-tech cannons were used during battles. Find out how these behemoths shot cannonballs across fields and won battles. Stop by the Pennypacker Mills mansion porch throughout the day for Civil War era music and songs from musician Matthew Dodd. Hear the stories behind the

songs that soldiers sang in the camps on both sides. Discover how songs comforted grieving families and gave others hope that their loved ones would return.

On Sunday, come early and participate in a period church service on the mansion lawn. Hear a preacher offer a service that would have been heard in churches in the 1860's. Later, stop by the Classroom Building to hear historian Paula Gidjunis present "From the Homefront to the Battlefield: Civilians in the Civil War." This fascinating talk explains the functions that civilians performed during the Civil War, the impact the war had on their lives, and how they coped with the destruction of the war and its aftermath.

The Pennypacker Mills mansion will be open for tours throughout the weekend. Walk through the spacious former home of Samuel Pennypacker, who served at age 20 for six weeks in an Emergency Militia. Hear the stories of Pennypacker's experience as a volunteer and those of his family members, both military and civilian. Of special interest are military and personal items owned by Samuel's cousin, Brevetted Major General Galusha Pennypacker, who fought in major naval battles along the east coast, including the Battle of Fort Fisher, for which he received the Medal of Honor. Also on the mansion porch, enter to win a Madam Alexander doll in Civil War attire and a quilt made by a member of the Friends of Pennypacker Mills.

Each afternoon begins with the Confederate and Union Dress Parades and Inspections. Take the opportunity to see the troops line up, go through safety checks of their weapons, and hear encouraging words before they go into battle. Head to the battlefield to experience what it was like to fight during the Civil War as cannons blasted shot and smoke and soldiers gave their lives for the cause of freedom. Cheer on the armies as they march off the battlefield.

Visit the Sutler area (itinerant merchants) for souvenirs, books, period clothing, furniture, and dry goods. The Delaware Valley Civil War Roundtable will offer information on their programs and lectures and sell Civil War related books. An outstanding food vendor will be on site near the battlefield offering a wide variety of lunch and refreshment options throughout both days.

Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. The site is located at 5 Haldeman Road in Schwenksville, PA. The site offers handicapped parking and restroom facilities. Visit the event website for the schedule of events: [www.ppmcivilwar.org](http://www.ppmcivilwar.org). For additional information, please call 610-287-9349. Visit Pennypacker Mills online at [www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills](http://www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills).