



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
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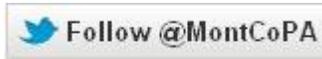
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Pennypacker Mills Celebrates Christmas with Holiday Tours, Victorian Christmas Open House
November 24, 2015 through January 10, 2016

Schwenksville, PA (November 17, 2015) – The beauty, spirit, and joy of a Victorian Christmas is at the heart of Holiday Tours at Pennypacker Mills as this Montgomery County historic site offers visions of old-fashioned Christmas traditions, decorations, and much more. Starting Tuesday, November 24, 2015 through Sunday, January 10, 2016, free Holiday Tours will be offered during regular site hours.

A winter wonderland will appear with snowflakes and icicles amid the sparkle of silver throughout the house as a white Christmas unfolds. Look for holiday wreaths on windowsills, swags of shiny strands of beads across mantles, and beautiful ribbons woven through greens to bring shine and luster to the holidays. Visit the parlors and see the Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments and glass icicles, shiny gold and silver Dresden ornaments, and small candles on branch tips reminiscent of holiday décor of the early 1900s when electricity was not available in every home. Although the presents under the tree are wrapped in plain papers, they are lovingly decorated with scrap, ribbons, and tinsel.

Elsewhere, light shines through the clear toy candy on a cake tier, and vintage greeting cards from friends and family wait to be opened on the desk. The dining room is resplendent in red wallpaper with snowy white and sparkling silver decor on a table set for a holiday feast. Climb the fully decorated staircase to the guest quarters where the sitting room is always a site to behold where children's toys and a Noah's Ark await someone to play with them. Even the guest bedrooms are decorated with small reminders of Christmas traditions – red and green quilts, candy canes, and a Christmas village. Visit the servants' area where house staff scurried about wrapping presents and preparing holiday foods. Hear how today's Christmas traditions began while learning about the combination of the English and German heritage of the Pennypacker family.

The sights and sounds of Christmas come alive at the Victorian Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. This free event brings the added holiday touch of a bell choir performing seasonal music as guests enter the mansion and a jolly laugh from the Pennypacker Mills' Victorian Santa Claus who will greet children and adults to share their Christmas wishes. Kerosene lamps and candles are placed throughout the mansion to bring the magical glow of the holiday season to light, while living historians celebrate the season. In the kitchen, see how clear toy candy is made with molten sugar in red, green, and yellow poured into molds of animals and toys. Bring the whole family for a Victorian Christmas experience that will capture the spirit of the holidays.

Visit the Museum Shop and bring a bit of Victorian style home with vintage inspired decorations, unique toys, old-fashioned candies (Wilbur Buds and clear toy candy), and much more. Located on the second floor of the mansion, the shop is open throughout the holiday season.

Holiday tours are offered during regular site hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The last tour of the day begins at 3:00pm. The site is closed Mondays and holidays (November 26th, December 24th, 25th, and 31st, 2015, and January 1, 2016). For more information, or to arrange for a free group tour for 10 or more people, please call 610-287-9349.

Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. The site is open year-round for tours, educational programs, changing exhibits, and seasonal events. Pennypacker Mills is located at 5 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473. Visit Pennypacker Mills online at www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills. Like Pennypacker Mills on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pennypackermills.