



NEWS

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Pennypacker Mills' Civil War Event **Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5, 2016**

Schwenksville, PA (May 25, 2016) – The sights and sounds of a Civil War battle will resound through the Perkiomen Valley on Saturday June 4, 2016 from 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Sunday, June 5, 2016 from 10:00am to 4:00pm as Pennypacker Mills hosts its free Civil War Event. Visitors can experience the Civil War through artillery demonstrations, a daily battle, living history demonstrations, music and songs of the Civil War Era, meeting the Union Generals, and a special program for children. Don't miss a moment of this fascinating weekend of history.

According to Linda Callegari, Educator at Pennypacker Mills, "While the artillery demonstrations and battles attract the big crowds, one of the most attended activities is the 'Be a Soldier Kid Enlistment program.' Members of the Pennsylvania 69th and 71st Volunteer Infantry hold an enlistment activity where kids can sign up to serve in the Union Army, take the Oath of Allegiance, and learn to march and drill with wooden guns. This is definitely a photo op for every family!" The program is offered each day.

Artillery and rifles play a huge part in every battle and nowhere is it better seen than on the battlefield at the Mills. Reenactors of Union and Confederate troops will engage each other on the sprawling field as some units crouch behind zigzag fencing and others march in rows toward the enemy. Cannons will blast from behind the lines affording their troops time to gain ground. Bring a camera to capture all the excitement of the battle.

On Saturday, musicians Joe Becton and Antoine Watts will sing and perform spirituals, Underground Railroad songs, minstrel songs, and camp songs on guitar, flute, and harmonica. Each song will be accompanied by a story which frames the song in its historic context. On Sunday, Charlie Zahm on guitar and vocals and Tad Marks on fiddle will present the great music of the Civil War, both from the

North and South, in a program sure to entertain visitors. Both performers encourage the audience to join in!

Visitors will have the opportunity to “Meet the Union Generals” in a special program each day. The audience will get to listen as each General tells of his accomplishments and will then have the opportunity to ask questions. These well-versed living historians will provide the audience with a sense of the real people who fought the Confederacy for national unity.

On the Civilian Street, guests will learn about the Temperance Movement and sign Temperance Pledges, see basket making, chair caning, knitting and needlework, hair fashions, clothing styles for men and women, clocks, and cooking over an open fire.

Participants will have the opportunity to stop by the Union Field Surgeon’s tent and learn what surgical procedures were used, the tools available, and how anesthesia and medication were key to helping soldiers survive both the wounds and the surgery. Kids can volunteer to be patients and find out how wounds were treated.

Guests may visit the Pennypacker mansion for a tour of Pennsylvania Governor and Civil War veteran Samuel W. Pennypacker’s home. Inside, they will see displays showing how members of Pennypacker’s family served both in military and civilian roles. Of special interest, guests will find out about Galusha Pennypacker, Samuel’s cousin and one of the youngest Generals in the Civil War. They will discover how Galusha’s leadership and bravery at the Battle of Fort Fisher led him to receive the Medal of Honor.

On Sunday, participants can attend a Civil War era church service on the lawn of the mansion led by a Confederate preacher. All visitors are welcome to attend.

Handicapped parking and restrooms are available. Please display handicapped tags to park in special handicapped parking. Pets are not permitted at this event. A food vendor will be on-site providing breakfasts, lunches, and snacks, as well as sutlers selling wares any soldier or civilian might need.

Please note that the Route 73 Bridge over the Perkiomen Creek near the site entrance is closed. There is a short detour onto Plank Road to Route 73 to reach the site; follow the signs.

Pennypacker Mills is open year-round for guided tours, seasonal events, educational programs, and changing exhibits. The site 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 Pennypacker Mills online at www.montcopa.org/pennypackermills. Like Pennypacker Mills on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pennypackermills. Visitors can go to the site's event website at www.ppmcivilwar.org for a complete schedule for this event.