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Pennypacker Mills presents
The Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War
~A Civil War Reunion~

Schwenksville, PA (May 30, 2012) – The countryside will resound with the thunder of cannons on Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 3rd when historic Pennypacker Mills commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War at the largest Civil War event in Montgomery County. Witness an exciting battle enactment each day, explore military encampments, and see fascinating artillery and infantry demonstrations. See Living History demonstrations throughout each day. Special speakers, live musical entertainment, and special kids programs highlight this fascinating period in American history! Take this opportunity to learn more about the nation’s past and mark the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Admission and parking are FREE. Visit the event website at www.civilwarreunion.org for a schedule of events, directions, helpful hints, and much more!

Saturday, June 2nd Highlights

- Attend a fascinating presentation by author Scott Mingus, Sr. who will give an account of the early movements of the Confederates into Pennsylvania and the response by the Union volunteer militias, prior to the battle at Gettysburg.
- On the mansion porch, enjoy Songs and Stories of the Civil War by Matthew Dodd, singer, minstrel, and storyteller, throughout the day.
- Visit the battlefield for a rousing artillery demonstration that will look at how cannon fire was one of the most effective tools during a battle. Hear about the various cannons, learn how these
behemoths were loaded and fired, and meet both Union and Confederate artillerists. It’s a
BLAST!

- After the battle, attend an Irish Band Concert on the mansion porch with the members of the
  69th Pennsylvania Irish Band. Hear Civil War era Irish music and songs as this well-known
group of musicians entertains one and all.

Sunday, June 3rd Highlights:

- Start the day by attending a Civil War era Sunday Service offered by the Chaplain. Sing hymns
  and hear a rousing sermon.
- A must-see speaker is John Marx who will present “The General and the Private,” an in-depth
  look at Brevet Major General Galusha Pennypacker, the youngest General in the Civil War,
  North or South. Of particular focus will be the horrific Battle of Fort Fisher, NC for which
  Galusha received the Medal of Honor. Marx will also discuss the Civil War experience of
  Samuel W. Pennypacker, who fought as a private and member of the militia. These men were
  cousins and shared their military experiences in personal letters and a lifetime of friendship.
- “Fiddlesticks,” an entertaining musical duo will be on hand to perform Civil War era songs on a
  variety of instruments. Kids will especially enjoy seeing limber jack puppets dance to the
  music.

Throughout the Weekend:

- Each morning, the ever-popular “Be a Soldier” Enlistment Program will take kids and “enlist”
  them into the Union Army. This is a great opportunity for kids to “live the moment” and
  experience the life of a soldier during the Civil War. Sign the enlistment papers, raise your
  hand and take the official oath, take a medical exam, and then march off to drill. A great
  opportunity for photos!
- Each afternoon, visit the Union and Confederate encampment areas for their Dress Parade and
  Inspection.
• Arrive early to the event to get the best location along the sidelines for the daily battle. See how battles were fought during the Civil War with artillery blasting, infantry marching onto the battlefield, signal corps members using their flags to communicate with the troops, and the sound of the drummer boy as he kept the troops in marching symmetry.

• Visit both the Union and Confederate encampments where the daily life of a grunt soldier is demonstrated. Look inside tents, talk with soldiers, see what is cooking in the mess area, and ask any of these well-versed reenactors questions!

• On the Civilian Street, meet military engineers as they draw battle plans using Civil War era surveying equipment, smell the bread baking and food simmering on the open fire, see hair and clothing fashions and reproduction Civil War Era dolls dressed in the clothing styles of 1865. Of particular interest is the science of phrenology, which was the first attempt to measure the skull scientifically and to document its supposed relationship to human character.

• Step inside the Pennypacker mansion for a tour of this completely furnished, twentieth century home of future Pennsylvania Governor, Samuel W. Pennypacker and his family. Learn how this family contributed to the war effort both in military and civilian service.

• Visit the Galleries for the new Civil War exhibit, “Call to Arms! Emergency Militia in Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg Campaign.” Learn how Pennsylvania volunteers thwarted the Confederate Army as it attempted to take Harrisburg in the days prior to the Battle of Gettysburg.

• Buy a ticket (buy two or more!) for a chance to own a hand-made, Queen-size quilt being raffled by the Friends of Pennypacker Mills. Tickets may be purchased on the Mansion porch. Proceeds will go to furthering preservation projects at the site.

• Enjoy a variety of delicious foods and beverages from the Concessioner who will be open for breakfast and lunch each day.

• Nearby, visit the Sutler area, where merchants sell wooden toys and furniture, military and civilian clothing, supplies and reproduction fabrics, and sewing notions. Browse this area for kid-friendly items for school projects too!
- Visit the Museum Shop on the Mansion porch for unique books, children’s toys, gift items, and Civil War trinkets.

Pennypacker Mills Historic Site, operated by the Montgomery County Department of Parks & Heritage Services, is located at 5 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA. Pennypacker Mills offers guided tours, changing exhibits, seasonal events, and educational programs. For information call 610-287-9349.

For more information, contact Linda Callegari, Assistant Administrator, at 610-287-9349 or email her at lcallega@montcopa.org.

All photographs, courtesy of Pennypacker Mills:

Union troops fire the first volley during the battle at Pennypacker Mills.
Confederate artillery blasts their cannons in unison against Union troops at Pennypacker Mills.

Hear the songs and music of the Irish soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Join members of the Pennsylvania 69th Irish Volunteer Infantry as they perform a FREE concert on Saturday, June 2nd at Pennypacker Mills.
This youngster is on his way to “Be a Soldier” at Pennypacker Mill’s Civil War Reunion event.