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in receiving roofing shakes from their suppliers, they were well within the schedule originally agreed to.

Here is the first very brief report we received of their final work:

- Add and cinch the rosehead nails in the door (remove the screws that were used when building it)
- Add the replacement hand-forged thumb-latch
- Replace the pine shutter in the front with a new oak shutter and add the stops on the window
- Install the shelf above the fireplace and the peg boards on the wall
- Do a final cleanup to the site, including stockpiling old logs, timbers replaced, and other miscellaneous material inside the fence

All work completed was reflected in Village Restorations' final invoice to FONLH and reported to the City for its final inspection, which is briefly summarized below. All of this was done after earlier work, including shoring up and re-chinking the log house, was completed and previously paid for.

- Clearing foundation stone to cabin grade and repointing all exposed stone, replacing missing stones; holes in chimney filled and repointed inside and outside.
- Carpentry work, including replacing and hanging new oak front door and shutter, and repairing and stabilizing other shutters and windows. Other carpentry repairs outside and inside included work to gables, replacing sills and inside ceiling repairs (floor repairs had been done earlier).
- Shingles were completely replaced with one-inch cedar shakes after all rafters were inspected and repaired.
- Both fireplaces, cooking and heating, were "parged" to historical standards and appearance (*right*).

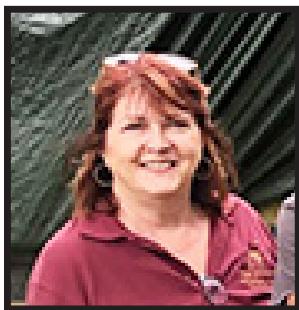


Most of the above work was done under the original contract, with a minimal amount of change orders. Additional work that was done, at no expense, included installing a shelving board above the fireplace, providing and hanging peg boards where they would have been, and installing a period panel near the fireplace to reflect the wall that would have run along the back of the main room.

The new year promises many exciting site enhancements to compliment the beautiful work we were fortunate to have received from our friends and partners from Village Restorations. Stay tuned for further updates in our newsletters about site enhancements and educational programming in the future.

An Interview with Pam Roub, President and Owner of Village Restorations, Inc.

Tony Indovina, SHHS Board Member and FONLH President



The November SHHS Newsletter featured an interview with Roland Cadle, site foreman and vice-president of Village Restorations, Inc. (VRC). I now present an interview with Roland's partner, Pam Roub, president and owner of VRC. Both interviews tell a wonderful story of these hard-working and dedicated individuals who applied their different talents to make this recent restoration of the Neill Log House a success, and of how two individuals with diverse backgrounds came together in friendship and a shared passion for historic restoration.

I first asked Pam about her early life, and what experiences brought her to her present role as owner and president of VRC. She related that she was the oldest of four in a family that was not wealthy. Pam said her mother passed away in her teens and her father worked all the time. She also reveals growing up as a consummate tomboy, building tree houses and dams in local creeks, all perhaps in preparation for building and restoring, and being her own "boss." Her early jobs included a series of "unintentional" experiences, all focused on business, sales and marketing. After seasonal work with Sears, where she met her husband, Pam was invited by the cousin of the owner of Blue & White Bus Lines, Altoona, to be interviewed and was first hired as a reservationist for the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans, for which she ran a hundred motor coaches a month. Pam describes the "crazy" responsibilities she later took on while under the wing of the owner's cousin, and moved up the ladder with this company to become the sales and marketing director, supervising all staff and planning all tours from Altoona to Arizona and Florida. As Pam describes everything back then, "when you're in

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your twenties and hungry, you don't know what you don't know." Then, in the late '90s, Pam and her husband sold their home for her to pursue an opportunity to become vice-president of a tourism and motor coach company in Flushing, N.Y., with a promise of future ownership. Though her husband flourished in their new surroundings and she said "these were fun and exciting times for them," Pam described her job there as manic and hectic. So, when both their parents became ill, they made the decision to move back to the hills of Pennsylvania she missed, both without jobs. Her husband was subsequently able to return to his Sears management job. Pam related a lesson learned from that experience, "that money does not always make you happy, and as long as you're doing something you enjoy, it never feels like work."

This was all perhaps a turning point in Pam's experiences that brought her to where she is today. With her motor coach experiences, Pam applied for and was hired for a group sales job at Old Bedford Village, her introduction to the world of living history and re-enactors. When the person who was then the Director of the Village became ill, Pam was asked to assume his job and, after giving herself a trial period as assistant for a year, she felt she wanted to assume that role in the non-profit world she knew little about. Her jobs included official responsibilities from building relationships and writing grants to delivering firewood and cooking for events.

I told Pam that Roland stated his partnership with her began 23 years ago, but he believes she would say it was longer. The question I posed to her was "when and how exactly did you and Roland get together?" Pam explained that she first met Roland in her capacity as Executive Director of Old Bedford Village, working with him for a year before becoming business partners, then being in business for a year before VRC was incorporated in 2001. She explained exactly how they got together and how their relationship and business began. Pam said it all started when she realized that she had 45 log structures, most of them needing help. She was given Roland's name as a person who was "the best of the best" in log structure restoration. He and his wife were in the process of returning to the Hollidaysburg area from Greene County, and Roland recalls that his wife made him return Pam's calls. Pam describes their first meeting when Roland, in his rather blunt way, proceeded to tell her everything that was done wrong historically with each log building in Old Bedford Village and that the best option was to "call Hollywood and they could burn everything down."

Pam stated that she was probably prepared for his sarcasm by having been insulted by some of the best while living in New York. This, some might say, was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Roland agreed to volunteer at the Village for a time while his family was in transition with their move. He accepted an unofficial non-paid position as Historic Structures Advisor. Pam believes it was a win-win situation for both of them as he could keep doing things he loved in making suggestions for the site, and the site was better for it. She said that they became good friends through these experiences and she learned that their personalities and management styles had much in common. Though things were improving overall at Old Bedford Village, Pam made a decision to leave her position there because of some other changes occurring within that organization. When she told Roland she was leaving, he basically said, "Then I am, too!" She broached the subject of starting a company that did period restoration work as well as buying and selling historical materials and asked if that was something he might be interested in doing with her. He spoke to his wife, told Pam that they prayed about it, and as they say, the rest is history.

One of the first jobs of Village Restorations was to fabricate cabins, historic displays, and props for a museum design company in Alton, IL., that Roland introduced Pam to while she was still with Old Bedford Village. Much has followed,



including props for several movies, restoring or reproducing museum structures, and ongoing work for the Army Heritage Center in Carlisle, PA. Not to mention countless restoration jobs over the years for historical sites and individuals. Pam admits that their similar personalities has proven challenging at times, but they are both individuals of faith who believe they were put in each other's path for a purpose, and that has enabled them to work through anything. Pam expresses hope that, with some younger workers like Roland's grandson coming onboard, Village Restorations will continue to thrive, and their shared dream of keeping history alive will continue.

