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## **Mementos of the Neill Log House**

February 2024

*Tony Indovina, FONLH President and SHHS Board Member*

In our November 2023 and January SHHS Newsletters, we featured articles from interviews with the two principal individuals we worked with on the recently completed work on the Neill Log House by Village Restorations, Inc.—site supervisor Roland Cadle and the president of VRI, Pam Roub. Our experiences with them have been much more than simply a business relationship. We have added two more friends of the Neill Log House for life. Both have continued their connection with us to offer whatever they can to our project needs beyond the obligations of their completed contract and at no expense to us.



Roland recently visited the site to pick up more pieces of the old logs that were removed in the restoration process to continue making more distinctive turned wooden Neill Log House memento bowls (right). Our funding committee will continue to gift these hand-crafted treasures. Roland also delivered all the reclaimed cedar shakes removed from the log house, with an idea for recycling them as fundraising items in the future (“Robert Neill 1795” signs). A sample is shown below right.



The most remarkable item Roland produced is the Robert Neill powder horn he created (*above left*) and presented to us, to go along with a hand-made deerskin pouch. Both will eventually be put on display along with the replica Pennsylvania long rifle that was included with other contents originally on display at the NLH in the 1970s. Roland’s involvement in The Honourable Company of Horners, a guild he founded, is described in our November 2023 newsletter. We can also depend on Roland advising us on the most authentic way to display these items in the house for future programming.

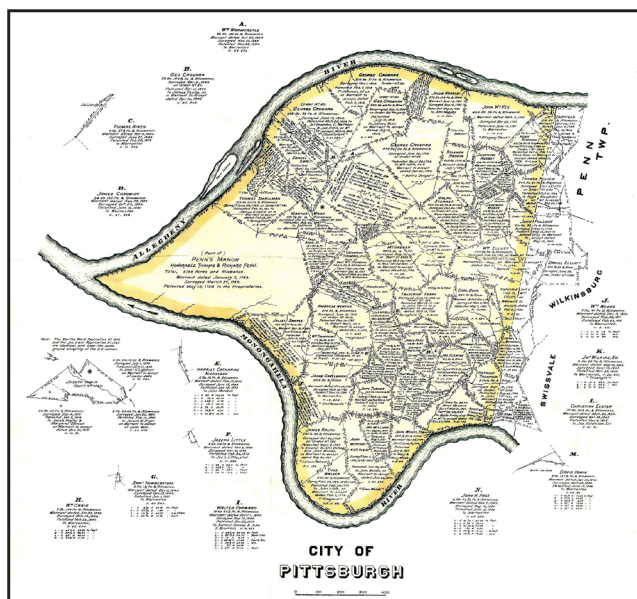


## **The Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County**

*Helen Wilson*

In the January SHHS Newsletter, I wrote about some of the mysteries we are uncovering about Schenley Park as we delve into the history of the Neill Log House. A seminal research tool for us is the *Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County*, so I thought I’d take a minute to explain what it is and why it is so important.

The *Warrantee Atlas* “contains 49 plates that depict the original land grants settlers of present-day Allegheny County received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after William Penn and his descendants vested the land to the legislature. It includes the name of the individual who received the grant, the date the land was warranted and surveyed, property dimensions, patent information, and sometimes the name the property was given by the title owner. It was constructed from the records on file in the Department of Internal Affairs, and surveys made on the ground during 1909, 1910, 1912 under the direction of Henry Houck.” (*Quotation from the description of the Warrantee Map on the Historic Pittsburgh website, [historicpittsburgh.org](http://historicpittsburgh.org).*)



The illustration shows the map of the City of Pittsburgh in the atlas. (To see details, go to the *Historic Pittsburgh* website, [historicpittsburgh.org](http://historicpittsburgh.org), and click on the upper left picture, “Collections.” When the next window opens, click