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**January Update on the Friends of Neill Log House (FONLH):**  
**A New Year for FONLH**

January 2026

*Tony Indovina, FONLH President and SHHS Board Member*



**Mission Statement for the Friends of the Neill Log House (FONLH Inc.)**

Adopted February 2022

"We secure funds to restore and maintain the Neill Log House, foster knowledge of its historic significance, and work with interested parties to ensure the continued educational use of the structure and its site for future generations."

Individual support for the FONLH restoration effort will always be needed. To make online donations by credit card or PayPal, go to the SHUC website, shuc.org, and click on the "Projects" link in the black menu bar at the top of the page. A pull-down menu will appear. Select "Friends of the Neill Log House." Alternatively, checks can be sent to SHUC (put FONLH in the memo line) at the following address: SHUC, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15217.



As we turn the page on another year, it's hard to believe that our organization was formed more than four years ago on behalf of the Neill Log House—more than five, if you count our very first efforts! This promises to be a year of historic change for us. At our last quarterly FONLH meeting in December, our board took a major step in stating its resolve about the future of The Neill Log House. We hope to share details about this soon.

In the meantime, enjoy the postcard perfect photo accompanying this update, taken during a recent snowshoe walk around the log house during the pre-Christmas snowfall. Though not intended, the perspective of the house as shown turned out to be exactly the same as the logo created for us several years ago by Natalie Stewart, daughter of Charlie Stewart, and fifth great-granddaughter of Robert Neill.

While the house itself slumbers in the snow awaiting our second year's opening this spring, we continue to be active on many fronts. We met onsite recently with our restoration specialists to consult on a wooden gutter to be installed across the front of the house because of some drain issues at its base. Other plans include the funding and installation of period fencing around the house and its garden. And enhancements to the "narrative" contained in the history on our website will be featured through contributions by several of Charlie Stewart's cousins. This will include some timelines and other information on descendants of Robert Neill and some genealogy to be contained in a new Appendix that we will preview over the next few months.



**Friends of  
Neill Log House**



**The Neal Family**

*Preface by Tony Indovina*

*The article below is a contribution by Stephen Neal, a sixth-great-grandson of William Neal, oldest brother of Robert Neill, who built our Log House. Stephen grew up on the 200-acre historic farm featured in this article that is now operated by his brother's family. As Stephen relates, the Neals, who all began as farmers, would eventually also become academics and physicians, and he is both. We are indebted to Stephen for all the research he has provided to us on Neal/Neill family history throughout our project. His brother Brian, Brian's wife Stacey, and their children may be the only ones yet engaged in the Neal family's very long tradition of growing grain and raising livestock.*

*William was one of three (of four brothers serving in the Revolutionary War) who came to Western Pennsylvania after the Indian Treaties encouraged settlement here. William and his brother John first traveled together to Mt. Pleasant around 1780. John later acquired his land and stayed in Mt. Pleasant after the war. William settled in Armstrong Township, Westmoreland County, and eventually acquired over 3,000 acres for his farming in both Indiana and Westmoreland Counties. It is believed*