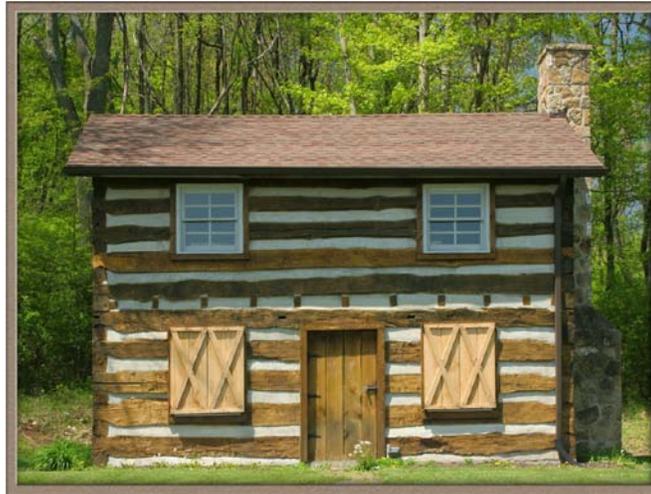


Welcome to the Jones-Neely Log House Blueberry Hill Park, Borough of Franklin Park



William and Catharine Jones Builders of the Log House

Following the American Revolution, land north of the Ohio River was surveyed, divided into large tracts, and opened to settlers who were pushing westward in ever-increasing numbers. By 1800, when the first settlers began arriving in what is now Franklin Park, most Native Americans who once hunted in these hills had already moved farther west.

This was a wilderness crossed by a Native American path that connected the Forks of the Ohio with the Delaware village of Kuskusky near present New Castle, PA. Warriors, militias, traders, and diplomats traveled the path during the 18th century French and Indian War, passing over what is now a portion of West Ingomar Road and most of Brandt School Road in Franklin Park. Early settlers followed the path northward from the village of Pittsburgh and it was along this well-worn path that some, including William Jones, an American Revolutionary War veteran, chose to build their homes.

The Joneses did not move here alone. With them came the family of Thomas and Susan Jones Holeman who were William's sister and Catharine's brother. The Holemans built a home on the western side of Nicholson Road, opposite Pollar Drive. Jones and Holeman descendants continue to reside in Franklin Park, more than 200 years after their ancestors followed the old Native American path into the wilderness.



Emma Jones Neely

Jones-Neely Log House

The Jones-Neely Log House was built circa 1800 and measures 15' x 20', typical for a log house. Originally, there was a room on each of the two floors with a fireplace on the first floor and a basement accessed from under the stairs.

As years went by, the house was enlarged and modernized. For the first 150 years, it was home to generations of Jones and Neely families. By 1999, new owners did not have use for the old house and graciously donated it to the community. With financial support from Paul and Betty Neely, the original log section of the house was carefully dismantled by the borough's

public works employees and rebuilt on its present location within Blueberry Hill Park. Opened to the public on September 1, 2002, the house honors all of the early families who created this community.

The Jones-Neely Log House is owned and operated by the Borough of Franklin Park with financial support from Thomas Jones, M.D. and the Jones Family Foundation.

Emma Jones Neely

The person most closely associated with the log house was Emma Jones Neely (1866-1950), a granddaughter of William and Catharine Jones. She was born in the log house and lived in it her entire life. It was here that she and her husband Milton Neely raised their six children and where the extended family gathered every year for a Fourth of July picnic.

"Orchards, hay fields, and truck gardens covered all of the property beyond the yard. Across the road, where the [Orchard Hill Church] now stands, there were truck gardens where Grandmother grew vegetables for market. The orchards consisted of sour cherries, many varieties of apples, peaches, and pears. There were also strawberries, blackberries, and grapes, which were harvested and taken to market. She sold milk to the neighbors and what was left was churned into butter and sold along with cottage cheese." Evalyn Seifert

Franklin Park was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin and will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2023.