



Woodlawn Museum's First 75 Years

by Joshua Campbell Torrance, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On August, 20th 1929, the Woodlawn estate was officially opened to the public as a historic house museum and public park. Since that day, Woodlawn has been preserved and cared for by a remarkable group of people, and its important story has reached a national audience. This column, which usually focuses on the history of Colonel John Black and his family, or on the wonderful artifacts in the museum, will review the history of Woodlawn Museum's first 75 years and the extraordinary volunteers who have participated in its preservation.

George Nixon Black Jr. set the stage for Woodlawn to emerge as a premiere historic house museum. Born in 1842, the grandson of Colonel John Black, George Nixon Black Jr. lived a long and well-traveled life. After the death of his father, Black inherited his grandfather's Ellsworth estate. An enthusiastic collector and participant in the Colonial Revival movement, which emerged after the 1876 Centennial celebrations, Black added an eclectic assortment of furniture and decorative items to the furnishings already in place from previous generations. He decided to preserve Woodlawn and its contents by bequeathing it to the public, and in his

1900 will, he left the estate to the City of Ellsworth. For reasons that are not entirely clear, Black changed his will in 1911 entrusting Woodlawn to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. Formed in 1901, the group was organized to "acquire, hold,



Richard W. Hale, first Chairperson of the Black House Committee

and maintain and improve for free public use, lands in Hancock County, which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest, sanitary advantage or for other reasons may be available for the purpose." For the most part, the Trustees had been acquiring parcels of coastal land, much of which

was on Mount Desert Island. These acquired lands were to become what we know now as Acadia National Park.

George Nixon Black Jr. died in October of 1928, at the age of 86. His will included gifts of furniture and decorative art objects to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and bequests to various friends, family and charitable institutions. But his beloved Woodlawn and its historic contents were left to the Trustees, who formally voted to accept the property. On August 20, 1929 Woodlawn opened to the public as a museum, with the first visitor being Governor William Tudor Gardner. And so the curtain rose.

The Trustees selected Mr. Richard W. Hale as the first Chairperson of the newly formed Black House Committee. Hale, a principle in the prestigious Boston law firm Hale and Dorr, led the early efforts to preserve Woodlawn and organize it as a public museum. Throughout the Great Depression of the 1930s, Hale's biggest problem was a shortage of funds. Although George Nixon Black Jr. had left an invested capital endowment of \$50,000, the yearly income from the investments was not

Continued on page 3...



Woodlawn Museum Board of Trustees

Stephen Shea, PRESIDENT

Douglas Endicott, VICE-PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Dow, TREASURER

Laurie Williams, SECRETARY

Nancy Payne Alexander

Sandra Hylander Collier

James M. Day

Karen Dickes

Linda Grindle

Elisabeth Heyward

Jerry Kaufman

Natalie Knox

Peter Lindquist

John Lynch

Emma Remick

Jane Shea

Herbert Silsby

Teresa Sargent Smith

Lowell Thomas, Jr.

Richard Will

Dale Worthen

Trustees, Emeriti

Margaret Cunningham

Kenneth Jordan

Richard Teele

Staff

Joshua Campbell Torrance,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keith Williams,
CARETAKER

Rosamond Rea,
COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Rick Honaker,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



P.O. Box 1478, Route 172

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-8671

E-mail: info@woodlawnmuseum.com

www.woodlawnmuseum.com



The Director's Desk

Joshua Campbell Torrance, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The "Stage" is Set at Woodlawn

The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations have launched the Preservation Campaign with an ambitious goal of \$1 million to both preserve Woodlawn and increase the size of the Museum's endowment. As of the publishing of this newsletter, we are pleased to announce that we are now 1/3 of the way to the goal. And we are particularly excited to report that staging has been erected and the much-needed repair is underway.

To date, fully 15% of all money raised has been contributed by donations and pledges from Woodlawn's Board of Trustees. The museum has also received a \$20,000 grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (New Century Grant Program), a \$5,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, and also a \$5,000 grant from the Fisher Fund in Portland, Maine.

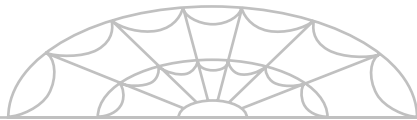
2004 marks Woodlawn Museum's 75th anniversary of being open to the public as a historic house museum. It opened to the public on August 20, 1929 with the Governor William Tudor Gardner being the first visitor to the Museum. This event will be observed exactly 75 years to the date, on Friday, August 20, 2004 with a Gala Dinner-Dance. As well as the regularly scheduled events, the Museum is holding a special lecture series. Yet, the main focus of the 75th Anniversary year is the successful completion of the Preservation Campaign. This

campaign is not a matter of can we do it but, rather, that we have to do it as detailed in this newsletter.

With the assistance of Turk, Tracey and Larry Architects in Portland, one of Maine's leading Preservation Architectural firms, and under the watchful eye of the Museum's Buildings and Grounds Committee, the restoration has begun. However, it cannot be completed without our raising the rest of the campaign goal funds. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution. Be part of the effort to not only preserve Woodlawn for now, but for future generations as well. To make a donation to the Preservation Campaign, please use the pledge form provided on page 8 of this newsletter.



Executive Director Joshua Campbell Torrance and Collection Manager Rosamond Rea consult with Scott Archer and Ernie Butler of Bond Builders Inc. whom will be completing the first phase of the restoration that concentrates on the bathroom and sun porch blocks of the mansion.



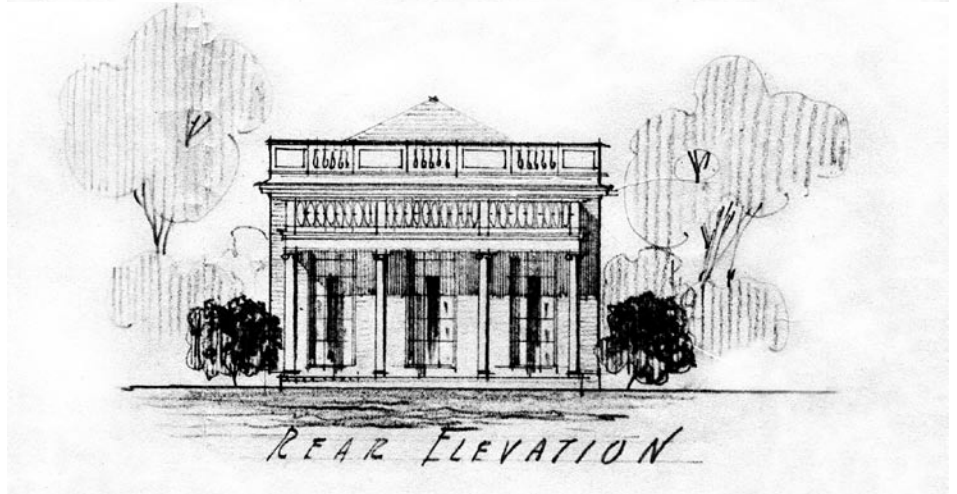
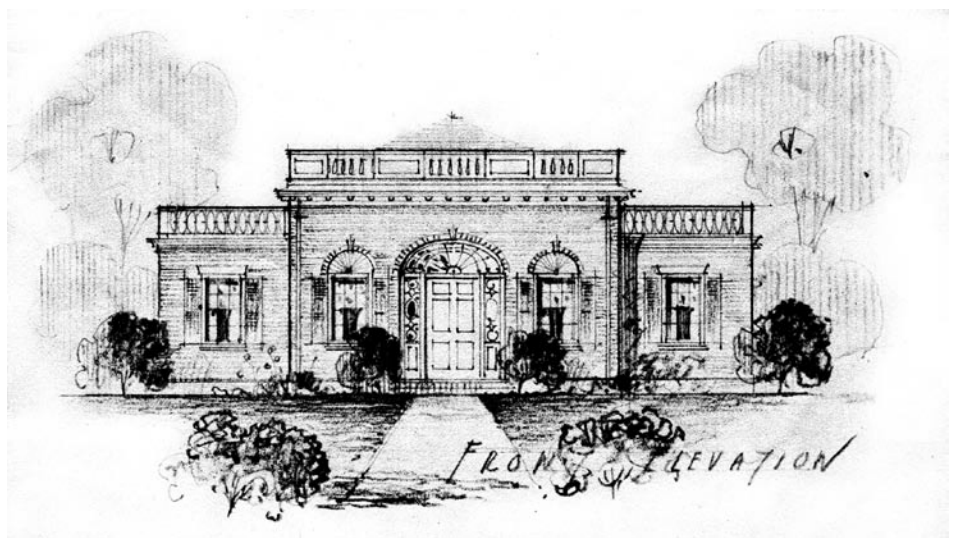
First 75 years (cont'd from page 1)...

enough to cover annual expenses. It was decided at that time, that although the estate was being kept for public use, an admission fee had to be charged to help pay the salaries of the caretakers, and to help defray some of the never-ending costs of maintaining the historic house and outbuildings.

Hale's larger vision was for Woodlawn to become the center of education and research for the history of Downeast Maine. He understood that to achieve this goal a significant endowment to keep the estate in good repair and strong annual support from the region's population was needed. Interestingly, Hale's vision included the construction of a building capable of housing the collection's significant archives and providing exhibition space. Under the direction of Beatrix Farrand, Mr. Arthur McFarland drew plans for such a building (at right).

That dream was delayed, however, as Woodlawn needed immediate repairs. The so-called "paper roof", put on to replace the original wood shingles, was now in advanced decay as were the balustrades and porch railings. Eventually, funds were gathered to pay for a new roof made of black slate from Monson, Maine. Under direction of E.L. Shea, the roof was installed. As Executive Committee member Clarence C. Stetson remarked in 1934, Black Monson slate was the best choice because, "Maine needs the business, and there is no better roof for this climate."

Another original member of the House Committee, Professor William Otis Sawtelle, became the expert at telling the story of the Black family and of Woodlawn. After exploring the house and purportedly finding documents hidden in the attic,

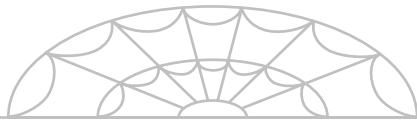


Sawtelle delivered a series of lectures titled "The Historic Background of Eastern Maine," and "What the Old Highboy Could Tell." According to articles in the Bangor Daily News and other area newspapers, these talks were given to Lions' Clubs, women's groups and Chambers of Commerce all along the coast of Maine, as well as being broadcast on WLBZ.

"We have a history," said he, "which ought to be better known. What are we doing to call attention to it not only for the benefit of our summer visitors but of our own people as well?... Where will you find a place in which the visitor sees spread before him furniture and belongings which exhibit what may be termed a review of decorative art undisturbed for three

successive generations? One has the feeling while roaming about the place, that one is in reality a visitor just waiting for the family to return and consummate the cordial welcome of which the old place so well intimates."

In the 1940's, Ernest T. Paine assumed leadership of the committee. Although the number of visitors was very low, the House Committee managed to make necessary repairs and improvements, partially paid for by wood cut from the Black estate. In 1948, much to Chairman Paine's regret, it was decided to tear down the old stables that used to extend behind the current carriage barns. "It would be splendid if we could maintain the whole estate in its original condition. One would love to see the barn filled



Afternoon teas have long been a tradition at Woodlawn.

with hay; fine horses munching oats in their stall; sheep grazing in the fields; peacocks displaying their plumage as of old on the garden trellis.” Paine cited a lack of funds to repair the structures as the main reason for their removal. Defending the principle of change, he went on to say, “We trustees have in charge the house that Colonel Black built 125 years ago. It is the same house and yet it is not the same. Alterations were made. Furnishings were added, withdrawn and rearranged by three generations of occupants. ...What a pity that the good Colonel could not have seen Woodlawn as we see it today, with its noble elms, which presumably he planted, grown to full stature.” The “noble elms” went the way of the stables a few decades later, as Dutch Elm disease ravaged most of the mature trees in North America. Three years after the stables were demolished, Woodlawn received a monetary gift

from the estate of Harold Pitman that was added to the endowment, more than doubling its size. Harold Pitman, a beneficiary of Black’s will in 1928, and his brother, Charles, had been close friends of George Nixon Black Jr.

Successive years brought additional improvements and changes. In 1953, the Ellsworth American reported on the installation of a new water main and hydrant at the Black House. According to Ellsworth Fire Chief E. Robert Jordan, the water pressure was exceeding expectations. Also noted was the new Black House fire call number, #18. New sills were constructed under the office and a fire suppression system was installed inside the house to safeguard the collection.

In the late 1960’s a small cape, called the “White House” and originally intended as a residence for a caretaker, was built. The large nautical stern plate that had hung outside over one of the doors to the barn was

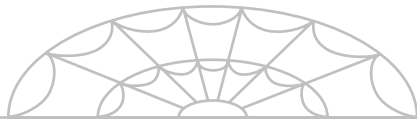
restored during this period, and placed inside the carriage house protected from the weather. The decade ended with Woodlawn entered on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The 1970s issued in other changes. Modern toilets for public use were installed behind the barn. When a severe snow load one winter caused major water leakage inside the main house, and caretakers were compelled to move furnishings to drier parts of the house. The kitchen ell was found to be resting on rotten sills, and a great campaign to “Save the Ell” ensued. A great outpouring of generosity allowed the repair and repainting of the ell in 1978, under the leadership of President Ruth Foster.

In the 1980’s, there was an effort to expand the research into the collections and to bring in experts from the Museum field. The most notable visit was from Mr. Robert Mussey, formerly Chief Conservator with the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. He wrote a detailed report on the condition of the furniture in the collection that is still referenced by the Museum’s staff.

In the 1990’s, the long postponed task of rewriting the Trustees’ by-laws was accomplished. More materially, the front porch was repaired and restorations were made to the famous Dutch Bed Chair. Over 150 area students cleared, raked and smoothed the first part of the horse track, as part of the Serve America Project. Later in the decade, the Museum created its first Long Range and Strategic Plan, based largely on an extensive survey of public opinion and a thorough internal review of the Museum’s need.

Research has always played a major role at Woodlawn. Noted



historians Wallace Nutting, Dr. Richard G. Wood, Dr. David Smith, and Mr. Earle Shettleworth, have used the rich collections and objects at Woodlawn to tell the broader history of the State of Maine. In the early 1970s, the Woodlawn archives were microfilmed by the Maine State Archives thus enabling more scholars to access the information contained in these unique records. Even after 75 years, research at Woodlawn continues to expose important new information for the interpretation and understanding of Maine history. George Nixon Black's gift to the people of Ellsworth was a curiosity in 1928; today it is recognized as a major tool for the teaching of Maine history.

While the Trustees, Executive Committee, and Black House Committee, have been busy attending to short term emergencies and long range goals, the museum visitor is more likely to be impacted by meeting the caretakers, or one of the seasonal tour guides. The most legendary caretakers were Axel and Irma Eliason. While Axel took extraordinary care of the grounds and buildings, Irma was famous for her immaculate housekeeping, her warm hospitality and her wonderful baking. It was Mrs. Eliason who began the public teas that have become such a beloved Woodlawn tradition. While some visitors remembered the Eliason's merely as polite hosts at the Black House, others recall what wonderful neighbors the Eliasons were for over 40 years. Hope McNally, who grew up on nearby Court Street, nostalgically remembered Axel Eliason calling his cows in his strong Swedish accent. John Raymond, who served as President of the Trustees in the 1960s, recalled

first visiting Woodlawn to skate on the pond and then being treated to Mrs. Eliason's cookies and a mug of hot cocoa at the door of the Black House ell. Other caretakers, custodians and maintenance supervisors have carried on the tradition of service and care modeled by the Eliasons.

The work of the caretakers has



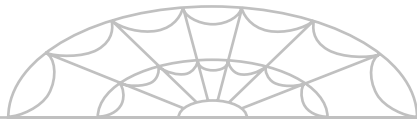
Axel and Irma Eliason, long-time caretakers at Woodlawn.

been augmented by an army of volunteers who have generously donated countless thousands of hours in service to Woodlawn. Many of these local people involved themselves primarily with the care of the grounds including the gardens, trails and forests that together form Ellsworth's largest public park. Of early concern was the prevention of fire, and the cleaning up and thinning of the woodlands, which was carried out in part by CCC workers from the Eagle Lake Camp. In 1933, Beatrix Farrand, a landscape architect from Bar Harbor and Solon D. Conner, Superintendent of the Eagle Lake CCC Camp, made a survey of the estate to determine a course of action. Firs and

spruce were to be cut out. Many of the large pines were infected with Pine Rust. Hundreds of gooseberry bushes, which act as vectors for the disease, had to be grubbed out. Where trees were cut out, young spruce and pine trees were planted. Farrand recommended replanting horse chestnuts by the family tomb to replace those that had been lost, and she warned that the seedling pines growing up in the half-mile horse track would soon obscure the view unless cut out at that time. The track clearing was deemed to be of secondary importance, and Farrand's prediction about the pines proved to be true. Today the area inside the first horse-track loop is shaded by towering 80 year-old trees.

The formal garden, first laid out in 1903, was in need of attention by 1940 and Richard W. Hale attempted to entice the Ellsworth Garden Club to adopt it as a special project. The club declined the offer. Instead, individuals stepped forward to refresh the beauty of the garden beds of Woodlawn. In 1946, Ernst T. Paine noted the especially generous gift from Mrs. Cornelis and the Misses Wing writing, "These ladies did much more than underwrite the garden. They made sundry trips from Camden and Bangor with gardeners, tools, roots and seedlings and personally transformed the jungle of tiger-lilies, golden glow and magenta phlox into a tasteful and colorful array of blooms."

Other ideas that became reality included immortalizing the house in art, and bringing music to the estate. While many photographers have captured views of the house on film, Carroll Thayer Berry's famous print of it was produced in the 1930's. Copies may still be had at the Museum Store.



In 1974, noted conductor, musician and teacher Pierre Monteux, founder of the Domaine School of Music in Hancock, Maine offered to bring a group of musicians to play at Woodlawn. The performance was held Tuesday afternoon, July 30th. Classical music at Woodlawn continues into the present with performances of chamber music by young musicians from Kneisel Hall.

In the year 2000, President Stephen C. Shea and a dedicated board of Trustees skillfully guided Woodlawn during the transition from volunteer management to fulltime professional management. This included the hiring of the Museum's first Executive Director and a part-time Collections Manager. Since then new educational programs, a cataloging of the collection, clear management policies, the pursuit and acquisition of grants, and the creation of special public events have stimulated

a renewed sense of excitement and enthusiasm for Woodlawn.

The Trustee's have also instigated a comprehensive Preservation Campaign aimed at correcting the continual need for ad hoc maintenance and hurried repairs to the Museum's buildings. To implement this project, the Trustees have launched a \$1 million fundraising campaign (the details of which are included in this newsletter). The successful completion of this campaign will ensure Woodlawn's existence well into the future.

On August 20th, 2004, we invite all friends of Woodlawn, old and new, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the museum. Governor and First Lady Baldacci will lead the ceremonies and recreate the opening day 75 years ago when on August 20th, 1929, Governor William Tudor Gardner was the first visitor to cross the threshold at

Woodlawn. With this celebration, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations honor the Black family who created Woodlawn and all those who have dedicated themselves to the preservation of the estate ever since its opening.

In many ways, the 75th Anniversary Gala and the Preservation Campaign is a rekindling of Richard W. Hale's passionate vision for Woodlawn, to be more than a quiet house on a hill. The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations are committed to expanding the role that Woodlawn Museum plays in broadening our understanding of Maine history and to seeing that this vital educational resource is always accessible to scholars and visitors from near and far.

Special thanks to Stephen C. Shea, Rosamond Rea, and Helen York for their help in preparing this article. ♡

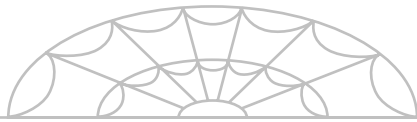
Historic Game Library at Woodlawn Museum



With funding from the Maine Community Foundation's Hancock County Fund, the Woodlawn Museum is pleased to announce the development of its Historic Game Library, a family oriented hands-on history space. The game library is located in the Museum's former potting shed. In the shed are reproductions of classic children's games, such as hoops, graces, marbles, and jump rope, that families can use, playing and learning together. Each game is in a handsome wooden box that includes instructions on how to play the game and a description of the game's history.

Ms. Betsy Arntzen was hired by the Museum to develop the Historic Game Library. Since the summer of 2003, Ms. Arntzen has researched the history of families, games, and children's entertainment in Downeast Maine. All of the games picked for Woodlawn's Historic Game Library were actually played in Downeast Maine in the 19th century, as based on her research.

For more information on the Museum's new Historic Game Library, please call 667-8671. ♡



Woodlawn Museum Preservation Campaign

Case Statement

“Woodlawn, including the land, buildings, furniture, and pictures therein shall be kept as a public park”

—George Nixon Black, Jr.



As I read this issue of our newsletter, I am reminded that Woodlawn is indeed a unique asset of immeasurable historic and social value to the residents of Eastern Maine. I feel confident you will be inspired, too. We, as friends of Woodlawn, know of the many opportunities the architecture, collections, archives and grounds provide for cultural and educational enrichment. There are many reasons that I am passionate about the value of Woodlawn to our community, but most importantly I believe Woodlawn helps young people develop a sense of community and stewardship. This, in turn, encourages them to make this area their home.

The newsletter also reminds us that since 1929, this incredible treasure has been preserved by the tireless efforts of hundreds of dedicated volunteers. It is to these people that we owe an immense debt of gratitude as we prepare to celebrate Woodlawn’s 75th anniversary as a public museum and park. However, it is for our children that we have the responsibility to take actions now that will guarantee that Woodlawn will be here for them and future generations. With these things in mind I am asking two favors of you:

First, come to Woodlawn this summer for the celebration of our

diamond anniversary. The Anniversary Committee has organized a number of wonderful events such as the Lecture and Tour Series. There is something of interest for everyone. The highlight event will be Governor Baldacci’s visit on August 20, a reenactment of the first visit of the Governor of Maine, August 20, 1929. Please attend one or more of these events and bring someone with you who has never been to Woodlawn. Expanding public awareness is one of the simplest and most effective ways you can contribute to our future success.

Second, actively participate in the Woodlawn Preservation Campaign. One year ago, the Board of Trustees embarked on this campaign, the purpose of which is to raise one million dollars for the restoration of the exterior of the mansion and carriage house, and further, to establish an endowment, the income of which will fund future maintenance. I am happy to report to you the progress the campaign has made to date. We have reached one-third of the goal. All members of the Board of Trustees have made financial contributions. In addition, the Campaign has been awarded several grants; others are now pending. The first phase of the restoration work is well underway. The summer porch and north ell are currently being restored.

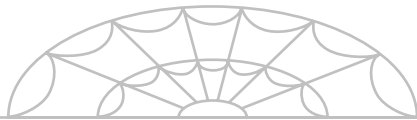
The entire brick façade is being cleaned and repointed. As this work has progressed, serious unexpected problems have been uncovered. It is now obvious that further delay is not an option. This work must be done now or Woodlawn could soon become irreparable.

Later this summer, the public phase of the Woodlawn Preservation Campaign will begin. At this time we need help from all the members and friends of Woodlawn Museum. Please take the time to read about the Campaign in this newsletter. You may also want to go to our website, <http://www.woodlawnmuseum.com/> to review the full Project Case statement. I think you will find it to be surprisingly interesting and informative. The Board of Trustees and I will continue to take an active role in this effort to preserve our remarkable treasure. We ask you to partner with us in this important endeavor.

I look forward to seeing you at Woodlawn this summer.

Best regards,

Stephen C. Shea, PRESIDENT



Campaign Goals

Woodlawn Museum is at a critical junction between past and present. A recent Conservation Assessment Report makes clear that the main house and carriage barn are succumbing to the ravages of moisture, accentuated by many years of deferred maintenance. This is destroying the original fabric of the buildings and placing their original collections in grave danger. If preventative actions are not taken, the buildings could reach a point of deterioration where it would be financially impossible for the Museum to correct them. Public and scholarly access would be severely limited and possibly denied. The collections would have to be removed, and future expansion of educational services would be unthinkable.

To avoid this possibility, the Woodlawn Museum is undertaking a Preservation Campaign to raise at least \$1 million with the following goals:

- *Raise \$600,000 to fund a comprehensive preservation project and improve handicap accessibility*
- *Raise \$400,000 to increase the size of the endowment to fund a proactive maintenance plan for the historic structures*

Woodlawn Museum must work to raise these funds to preserve the estate as it is now. Once this is accomplished, we can begin to execute the long-term educational goals that the Trustees have planned to enhance the public's enjoyment and use of the museum in the future. If we do not address



these most pressing preservation needs, we will not be able to expand our educational programs, build new spaces for community and educational use or develop advanced storage space needed for the collection.

Every Gift is a Welcome Gift!

Woodlawn holds a special place in our shared past and we must plan for its continuing place in our future. No matter how large or small, every gift, which can be made as a five-year pledge, is welcome in this community-wide effort to preserve and protect Woodlawn for generations to come.

I/We pledge to give \$ _____ over the next _____ year(s) to the Woodlawn Museum Preservation Campaign. The final payment will be paid on or before _____. Payment schedule as follows:

\$ _____ on _____ (date) \$ _____ on _____ (date)
 \$ _____ on _____ (date) \$ _____ on _____ (date)
 \$ _____ on _____ (date)

Name (individual, foundation, corporation) _____

Corporate or Foundation Contact _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

It is the Museum's intent to recognize all donors in a manner appropriate to the ambiance of Woodlawn.

I/We grant permission for my/our name to be listed in various campaign reports and acknowledgment publications and wish to be listed officially as: _____

For information on donations of stocks, bonds, real-estate or other assets, call the Museum at 667-8671.

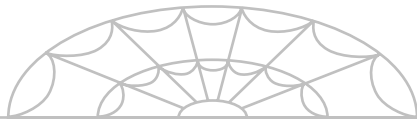


Please mail completed form to:

**Woodlawn Museum
P.O. Box 1478
Ellsworth, Maine 04605**

Please make checks payable to the Woodlawn Museum.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you!



Project Description

Woodlawn Museum, which has not undergone a large-scale preservation project since the 1930s, is in serious condition. Moisture is penetrating the windows, doors, roof and gutters of the main house and the siding of the carriage barn. This moisture is rotting structural and decorative details and causing paint flaking on the exterior. It is also causing isolated damage to the interior walls. Additionally, the site has poor water drainage that is elevating humidity levels in the main house and causing the foundation of the carriage barn to crumble. The present condition of the house puts it at a point



where doing or not doing this project means the difference between major replacement of building elements, both decorative and structural, and merely being able to implement a more normal routine maintenance program.

To correct these problems we have developed a major preservation project consisting of 5 areas:

Stop moisture from penetrating buildings and causing damage

- I. Roof Drainage Systems

Correct existing damage

- II. Exterior Architectural and Structural Elements
- III. Interior Paint and Plaster

Correct the site drainage

- IV. Site Drainage

Improve handicap accessibility

- V. Handicap Accessibility

Long Range Plan

The Trustees seek to use Woodlawn Museum, its grounds and collections, as well as the Black family archives, to teach the history of the development of Ellsworth and Eastern Maine. Our objectives in emphasizing the importance of this history are to:

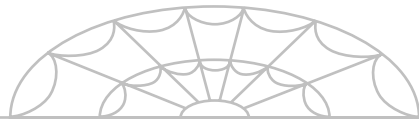
1. Increase public knowledge of Maine history, especially the settlement and commercial development of Eastern Maine and its relevance to our national history.
2. Inspire a deeper sense of place and pride in the community.
3. Promote, in the tradition of the Black family, balanced economic development for Ellsworth, partnered with responsible stewardship of the area's natural and cultural resources.



To achieve this vision Woodlawn Museum must undertake to:

1. Ensure continuing and effective preservation, interpretation and presentation of the house and grounds of the Woodlawn estate and the Black family archives.
2. Establish a place of scholarship and research on the primary sources within the Woodlawn collection and Black family archives.

3. Build an education/event center to protect, present, and enhance the assets of the estate.
4. Develop co-operative relationships with related historic, cultural and civic organizations.
5. Develop sustaining sources of income and a more substantial endowment to allow Woodlawn Museum to carry out its mission.



Professional Advisory Committee

Woodlawn’s Professional Advisory Committee will advise the Board of Trustees and staff during the project.

- Arlene Palmer Schwind, *Portland*
- Laura F. Sprague, *Portland*
- Thomas B. Johnson, *York*
- Sally W. Rand, *Pownal*
- Christopher P. Monkhouse, *Minneapolis/East Machias*
- Jared I. Edwards, *Hartford/Mount Desert*
- Herbert Silsby, *Ellsworth*
- Martha McNamara, *Orono*
- Eleanor G. Ames, *Portland*
- Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., *Augusta*
- Carl Little, *Ellsworth*
- William J. Murtagh, *Penobscot/Sarasota*

“Woodlawn relates to people on many levels. To the historian and scholarly community it is an unparalleled treasure house of superb historical objects and decorative arts as well as being an architectural masterpiece and touchstone to Maine’s “eastern lands” frontier history. To the casual visitor, it illuminates the sophistication available to its upper classes in the relative far reaches of Maine in the early 19th century. As a public reservation, its woods and landscaped grounds offer contemplative and recreational opportunities. Although it exists as such already, further care and work in behalf of its staff, board and volunteers will ensure its role as a cultural magnet to the Ellsworth/Mount Desert area.” - *Thomas B. Johnson*

“Woodlawn is a rare historic resource of the highest quality which survives in relatively good condition with many irreplaceable historic artifacts and features still in place. It deserves our greatest care to preserve and protect it from unwarranted changes.” - *Jared I. Edwards*

A Spot of Tea: Woodlawn Develops It’s Own Tea Blends

Ever since Woodlawn’s caretaker, Irma Eliason, served a hot cup to a group of this local museum’s visitors, tea has been a tradition at the Black House. Entries in the guest books praised Irma’s baking skills, and many is the visitor who recalls a warm teapot resting on the cast iron kitchen stove, or a refreshment taken in the beautiful flower-lined gardens outside.

In celebration of this tradition, and in honor of Woodlawn’s first 75 years as a historic house, the museum has collaborated with Harney & Sons Tea Company to produce a group of teas that are Woodlawn’s own.

As one of the largest and most respected firms in the tea blending and importing business, Harney & Sons is still a family-owned New England company and has an impressive client

list including the renowned Waldorf Astoria Hotel and the restaurants Daniel and Chez Panisse.

For Woodlawn, Harney & Sons has provided four exquisite teas. The house blend, know as the Woodlawn blend, is a mellow Orange Pekoe variety. Marianne’s blend, named after John Black’s granddaughter is a decaffeinated version of the same blend. The patriarch, John Black, lends his name to a sumptuous Earl Grey enlivened with the rare silver tips of the tea plant, while his grandson George Nixon Black, who left Woodlawn to the public, is represented by a luscious fruit-favored tea.

The blends are packed in four stunning, rich-colored tins, designed by Jane Goodrich, an award winning product designer from Saturn Press



who conceived and executed the project. Each is labeled with color portraits of the family members, as well as a history of the Woodlawn estate, and tea brewing instructions. They make fabulous gifts for friends or family.

Tins of Woodlawn tea can be purchased at the Museum Store.



Woodlawn Museum 2004 Schedule of Events

August 16 (5:30-7 PM) - Garden Lecture: Defining Flower Garden Spaces in the Larger Landscape *Dr. Lois Stack*

Free lecture presented in conjunction with the Hancock County Extension Office.

August 20 - 75th Anniversary Gala Event

Celebrate Woodlawn's 75th Anniversary on the actual anniversary date of August 20 with a reenactment of opening ceremonies and a dinner and dance on the lawn. Please join us for this very special evening!

September 9 (4 PM & 7 PM) - 75th Anniversary Lecture and Tour Series: The Tables are Set: Tablewares & Entertaining in Federal Maine

Laura Fecych Sprague, INDEPENDENT MUSEUM CURATOR, PORTLAND

4 PM Free Lecture open to the Public

7 PM Private tour of Woodlawn led by Ms. Sprague with a small reception to follow. \$25 per person (\$20 per member). Reservations required, space limited.

September 11 - Family Game Day at Woodlawn

Historic games, special tours of the Black House for families, and a lot of fun. Details to come!

September 11 - Appraisal Day (details TBA)

October 9 (10 AM- 4 PM)- Autumn Festival

Celebrate Autumn with fun activities for all ages. Some activities ticketed, many are free.

November 6 (8 AM)- Fall Clean Up Day

Help prepare Woodlawn for the long winter season and enjoy a free picnic lunch!

December 11 (4-7 PM)- 5th Annual Candlelight Evening

Horse-drawn wagon rides, a bon fire, and lots of holiday cheer add to this free holiday event that features the lighting of the Ellsworth Community Christmas Tree and 500 luminaries!



*George Nixon Black, Jr., 1842-1928
Woodlawn Museum benefactor.*



P.O. Box 1478 ROUTE 172
ELLSWORTH, ME 04605

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Ellsworth, ME 04605
Permit No. 300