



Woodlawn Museum Reaches Million-dollar Preservation Campaign Goal

At a special reception on May 4th, Mr. Lowell (Tim) Thomas, Jr., president of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, governing board of Woodlawn Museum, announced that the Museum had successfully reached its' million-dollar Preservation Campaign goal. The campaign included \$600,000 for preservation of the Museum's buildings and \$400,000 to establish a building conservation (maintenance) endowment.

"With the successful completion of this campaign, and the ongoing preservation effort it is funding, we have ensured that Woodlawn will be open to the public for generations to come," remarked Mr. Thomas.

The board of Trustees contributed over 20 percent of the million-dollar goal. 38 percent of the goal came from foundations including a \$200,000 anonymous donor directed grant from the Maine Community Foundation. Individuals contributed 26 percent of the campaign goal that included gifts in response to a \$50,000 challenge grant that the Trustees successfully met by raising over \$150,000. In all 240 donors (individuals, businesses, foundations, and the City of Ellsworth) made over 400 contributions to the campaign. "We are very appreciative of all the donors who helped us reach our goal," remarked Mr. Joshua Campbell Torrance, Woodlawn's Executive Director. "We can now focus on expanding the Museum's educational role and completing the preservation project."

At the reception, the Trustees also dedicated the columns and capitals in memory of Mr. Austin Goodyear, who with Ellsworth Builders Supply, Inc., underwrote their recent preservation. Mr. Stephen Shea, a close friend of Mr. Goodyear and immediate past president of the Trustees

commented, "The columns and capitals are an essential part of Woodlawn's architecture. It is fitting that Mr. Goodyear, who so highly valued Woodlawn's community role, gave the gift to ensure their preservation."



Mr. Stephen Shea, Trustee, Mr. Joshua Campbell Torrance, Executive Director, Mr. Nelson Emerton, preservation carpenter, and Mr. Lowell (Tim) Thomas, Jr. President, preside over the dedication of the newly restored Woodlawn columns in memory of Mr. Austin Goodyear who, with Ellsworth Builders Supply, donated the funds that made their restoration possible.





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The Director's Desk

Joshua Campbell Torrance, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Research at Woodlawn

Ensuring that the Woodlawn's historical resources are available for research is a core part of the Museum's purpose. In the last year, researchers from Missouri to Toronto and from Massachusetts to Maine have used the collection in their investigations. Aply assisted by our Collections Manager Rosamond Rea, researchers have studied topics ranging from the Bingham lands to John and Mary Black's original bed hangings. Some have also used the extensive Black Family archives to gain a better understanding of their ancestors. Here is a sampling of some current research at Woodlawn.

Mark Honey, whose article appears in this newsletter, has used the collections in his study of the historical development of the Union River and people instrumental to the 19th century development of this region. Mark lives in Ellsworth and has published many pieces on the region's history.

Julie Wang is a student at the Landscape Institute at Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. She has investigated the archives for information on the construction of John Black's tomb, part of her larger study of Woodlawn's early landscape. She uncovered reference to the materials used in the tomb's construction.

In December, we received a request from the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, in Kansas City, Missouri. They were seeking our assistance in the investigation of a sketch of a mill by Thomas Cole with the inscription "Ellsworth, Maine 1844." Cole used the sketch to paint "The Mill, Sunset" which is owned by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. We were able to provide them with information on mills in the Ellsworth area and connect them with other local sources.

Woodlawn's historical resources are an important source for understanding regional, state, and national history. The board and staff are committed to not only protecting and preserving them, but to making them accessible to the public. If you would like to use the collection for your research please do not hesitate to make an appointment with us by calling 207-667-8671 or by visiting our website at www.woodlawnmuseum.org. Your research helps us gain a better understanding of our shared past. 🍷



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Donald Ross Esq., the Shadow Behind John Black

Mark Honey, ELLSWORTH HISTORIAN

Mark Honey has been researching the history of Hancock County for over 25 years. Articles by Mr. Honey often appear in local newspapers. He is currently working on a definitive history of lumbering on the Union River.

Donald Ross, Esquire today stands in the shadow of John Black, an unknown presence sadly ignored in our understanding of local history, and our knowledge of John Black's business empire. In the years before John Black established his home in Ellsworth and began his rise as a prominent businessman, Donald Ross played an instrumental role in setting the stage for Black's future success.

Donald Ross landed at the settlement of the Union River (now the area of Surry and Ellsworth) as a young man in the years following the American Revolution. He was a well-educated and cultured man born in Scotland. Rumor had it that he had served His Majesty the King in the Royal Navy during the Revolution, but those years were now behind him. (1) He was looking for a place to establish himself in business, and the growing settlement of Surry seemed to suit his personality and disposition.

Surry was a fairly old town, in years of settlement, having been in existence for 30 years. The establishment of Hancock County in 1789, and the building of a road connecting Bluehill and Surry (2) to Trenton, across the Union River, helped to create a growing trade between these communities. The site for his new home and business lay along this route, with the benefit of access to the increasing traffic entering into the settlement from Bluehill and Union River Bays.

When Ross arrived, there were already others established in trade serving the communities along the river. Col. Theodore Jones and Col. Melatiah Jordan, both of whom were well respected men of the community, were well established in the local economy. Col. John Green, operator of the ferry across the Union River Bay, was another competitor in trade, operating his establishment in Trenton near Oak Point. Thanks to a steady stream of settlers moving into the area, there was sufficient business for all.

Gradually the Union River waterfront began to develop. The west bank claimed Shepherd's Wharf as its principle,

with Ross' Wharf to the north, as a secondary center of commerce and trade. A third wharf may have been located at the foot of Bridge Hill. The early wharves on the east bank are not known, but there may have been one on the Tinker Farm, and perhaps a wharf owned by Col. Jones or Col. Jordan, halfway between Card Brook and Main Street. Col. Jones' sawmill was located on the first sawmill dam, east bank, along with a gristmill, and the Dutton & Murch mill on the west bank. Card's mill was located on Card Brook. Light industry, typical of that era, rounded out the list of industrial activities in the two communities. These industries included at least one blacksmith's shop, a cooper's shop, a cordwainer, carpenters, masons, and a shipwright. (3)

By the spring of 1793, Donald Ross had established a solid mercantile business selling such staples as coffee, tea, rum, cloth, molasses, rope, nails, corn meal, thread, Irish linen, Ravens or Russia Duck, raisins, chocolate, flour, salt pork, and the occasional bottle of gin. He had contact with merchants in Beverly, Massachusetts and the port of Boston, as well as the services of a number of captains who made regular trips to the Union River region. (4)

Business was brisk in the months between late April and the latter part of November, but there were at least four months during the winter when the river froze over, and all traffic and communication by water ceased. The fevered months from spring to fall were occupied by the manufacture of lumber at the mills of Joseph Card, Col. Nathan Jones, and others, and it was with the lumbering trade that Ross conducted his principle business. He purchased lumber at a wholesale price, often exchanging lumber for goods at his store. The lumber was then exported to the ports around Boston, and with the proceeds, Ross would purchase stock to replenish his store.

The steady cycle of logs floating down river to the mills, the processing and shipping of lumber to the port of Boston and beyond, and the return by vessel to Surry of common items for trade, increased his business as the 1790s waxed and waned. Donald Ross became a respected member of the community, trusted, and well liked by all who knew him. He was given the title of "Squire," the highest tribute a community could give, not only signifying his wealth,



culture, good manners, and trustworthiness as a merchant, but also placing him in the ranks of such gentlemen as Col. Theodore Jones and Col. Melatiah Jordan.

Donald Ross, Esquire eventually built a barn, storehouse, wood house, and other ancillary buildings on his property, all to complement his home and wharf on the river. His property, 45 acres between the river and the Surry Road, and an additional 110 acres above the Surry Road, he developed as a farm. The fields were expanded and cleared of stumps and rocks. Some of the best timber was harvested, milled, and sold, though a portion was retained to build the structures on his estate. Laborers were hired to do the work in the fields and to care for the livestock, and servants helped his wife in their home.

Ross was married to Abigail Lord of Union River, daughter of Abraham Lord and Phoebe Heard. A brother-in-law, Isaac Lord, married Abigail Milliken, daughter of Benjamin Milliken, one of the founders of the community of Surry and Union River. Another brother-in-law, Jacob Lord, was a prominent figure in Surry, and a sister-in-law, Dorcas Lord, married John Jordan, a prominent figure in the community of Union River. These families, and their myriad connections to others in the area, placed Donald Ross firmly within the established community. He was no longer seen as a stranger from Scotland, but a familiar face and leader in the region.

Ross's good fortune increased when he met General David Cobb in 1795 or early 1796. General Cobb had come to Gouldsboro to establish the headquarters from which he would develop William Bingham's recently purchased one million acres of virgin forest in Hancock and Washington counties. The news of this purchase, and the rumored plans for development, swept through the communities along the Union River like a warm spring breeze. Merchants and traders were hopeful that with a fresh infusion of energy and financial resources, and the potential for a flood of new settlers, business would be stimulated and bring added prosperity to all.

Ross was familiar with the men with whom he traded, not only with their habits, attitudes, and abilities, but also with their enterprise in cutting timber along the Union River. He knew where their operations were located, where they planned to cut next, and how much timber they could cut throughout the long winter months. He also knew that many of these men were cutting trees on land owned by William Bingham and his partners without compensating

the rightful landowners for the timber. General Cobb was aware of the timber poaching that was happening on the Union River and had many conversations with Ross about it. Cobb came to understand that Ross was in the perfect position to serve as his agent on the Union River and bring the situation under control.

In a letter to David Cobb dated December 6, 1796, Ross accepted the responsibilities of superintendent of lumber at Union River for William Bingham et al. In the acceptance letter he states, "I have no objections to accepting the trust you have been pleased to offer me. Am conscious it is rather an unpopular one at present, tho' I have little doubts from my knowledge of the people that with only common address, and a candid representation of the proprietor's intension, both with respect to indulgence to the compliant, and severity to those resolved to aggress, that they will in a little while be willing either to refrain from the depredatory mode they have hitherto followed, or give a reasonable compensation to the proprietor for his timber." He closed this letter by saying, "Any services I can render you or Mr. Bingham in this business I will cheerfully and faithfully perform without dread of the *fear or shame* annexed to it." (5)

As lumber superintendent Ross worked closely with Sheriff Richard Hunnewell of Castine, enforcing the rights of the proprietors. (6) He approached his responsibilities with respect, honor, and reasoned persuasion devising many incentives for the settlers to change their habits with respect to the illegal harvest of timber, making every effort to give benefit of doubt, and to encourage willing cooperation. Every indication is given that although his duties were uncomfortable at times, he managed to perform them admirably, keeping the respect of the community and his customers, as well as the trust of this employer. (7)

Donald Ross, Esq. also assumed the responsibility of postmaster for the community of Surry, guaranteeing a steady stream of patrons to his store. There news and gossip were exchanged, the weather thoroughly critiqued, and politics or religion supported with loud and passionate speech. His business was at the center of community life and enterprise, a much-welcomed oasis amidst a wild and untamed wilderness. Friends would come to call, to raise a glass, or share a pipe, further strengthening the bonds of friendship, business, and community. General Cobb, no doubt, was a frequent visitor, along with his young assistant, the Englishman John Black.



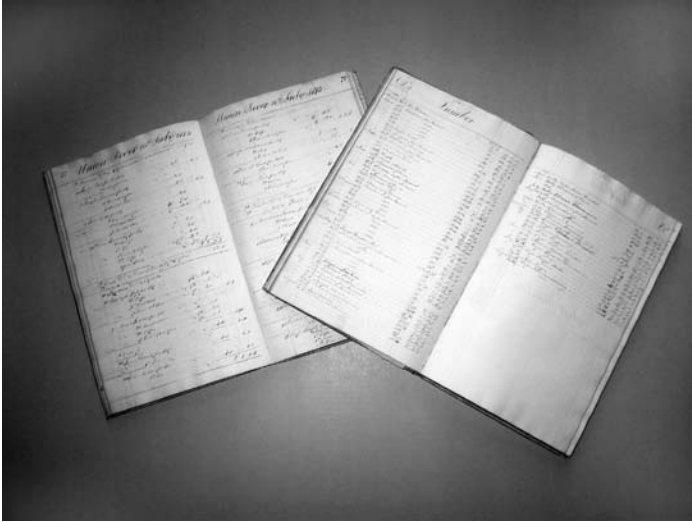
Current view of the Union River from Indian Point.

Less than six years after taking the position with David Cobb, illness and despair began to darken the bright future of Donald Ross, Esq. His wealth, social standing, and enterprise could not protect him from a fatal illness, an illness which was most likely the scourge of consumption. Bouts of fever, difficulty breathing, and the occasional coughing up of blood became more frequent, and he came to realize that his life would be cut short. (8) His will was written on October 27, 1802, and a codicil added on Jan 29, 1804. Ross died later that year on November 23.

Evidently, Ross had become quite close to David Cobb and his family in the final years of this life. Ross named Cobb the executor of this estate in 1802, and in the codicil to his will he bequeathed, "...to my worthy friend, the Hon. David Cobb, esquire of Gouldsborough, my Portable Writing Desk, as a last acknowledgement of the respect and esteem I bear him." The codicil continued, "Also, I do give and bequeath to my young friend George Cobb, son of the former, all and singular the pictures, prints etc. whereof I may be possessed at the time of my decease." (9)

Donald Ross did not live long enough to establish himself as a major player in the lumbering economy of the Union River. He did not purchase large tracts of timber, own a share in a sawmill, or own a share in a lumbering schooner. Given time he may well have expanded his modest business into these areas, and in the process, established an economic empire. As things stood at the time of his death, his estate, personal and real, was valued at \$2,208.86, not a bad sum for a man who had been in business for little more than ten years.

The man who followed Donald Ross and built upon his success was John Black. Black came to Gouldsboro in 1798, as a clerk working under John Richards and General David Cobb in the sale and administration of the Bingham Lands. The original intent of Bingham's land purchase and later partnership with the Baring Bank of London was to establish solid New England farming communities in the eastern portion of the District of Maine. John Black quickly realized that the future for the Bingham Lands was not in building agricultural communities, but in furthering the



Donald Ross account books, circa 1790.

lumber trade. Black was eager to advance himself, and to earn a level of wealth and respect not afforded to him in his native England. If he were to make a name for himself, it would have to be in Downeast Maine, carved from the rich timberlands that surrounded him.

To achieve his goals, Black needed to establish his independence from General Cobb, and he needed to be part of a community that held far more promise than Gouldsboro. He also needed to establish himself in trade, the perfect environment for a young man with great expectations. The opportunity to advance these dreams came with the death of Donald Ross, Esq. in 1804, and with the eventual purchase of Ross's former property from Ross's widow. Black purchased the Ross property in two transactions. The first transaction was in August 1809 for \$400, and the second in March 1810 for \$800, thus providing his family with their first home in Ellsworth. (10) In the fall of 1810, John Black moved his growing family to the homestead that had once belonged to Donald Ross. Black and his family continued to occupy that house for the next eighteen years. In the mid-1820s, John Black began to build a new home, an estate for a country gentleman. The new home, "Woodlawn", was built on the 110-acre plot, formally owned by Donald Ross, above the Surry Road

John Black followed in the steps of Donald Ross and eventually surpassed him as a merchant, as a lumber broker, and as agent for the Bingham Lands on the Union River. Black inherited many of Ross's old customers as well as the goodwill of his business. He established a working relationship with most of the families moving into northern Hancock County, earning their trust, respect, and trade.

Trading opportunities expanded into other opportunities, and in a few short years, Black had risen to the top of the game. The direction taken by Black's business empire in Ellsworth, the location of Woodlawn, and the development of Ellsworth's business district would have taken a different direction had Donald Ross, Esq. lived to a ripe old age.

Ross was more than just a Scottish merchant, respected citizen and trusted agent. He was the face and model for the future of lumbering on the Union River, and he was the pattern upon which Black designed his own business empire. Ross's death opened the way for John Black to make the transition from clerk to a man of property and trade.

By accident or design, Black acquired a portion of the business records of Donald Ross, and kept them throughout his life. These records were handed down through time to become part of the priceless legacy of Woodlawn. We often neglect the archives for the far more pleasing artifacts of home and hearth, and in the process fail to recognize the tribute Col. Black and his descendants paid to his associates and competitors by preserving their business records. It is by studying these archives that we begin to see the shadows behind the great man, perhaps the greatest among them being Donald Ross, Esquire. 🍷

1. Allis, Frederick, "The Bingham Papers", Volume 37 pp. 815, 820-1.
2. "Bluehill" is the traditional spelling of the current town of Blue Hill. Surry extended to the Union River settlement. Ellsworth was incorporated in 1800. The current Surry/Ellsworth line was established in 1827.
3. Honey, Mark, "King Pine, Queen Spruce, Jack Tar", Volume II, Chapter 1.
4. Donald Ross ledger books, Woodlawn Museum Archives.
5. Allis, Frederick. Ibid. Volume 37, p. 820.
6. Honey, Mark, Ibid. Chapter 9.
7. Allis, Frederick. Ibid. Volume 37, pp. 837-8 and 842-3
8. The speculation that Donald Ross may have died from consumption is based on the writing of his will in 1802 in the face of imminent death, a codicil added in 1804, and the mention of clothes ruined by his last illness listed in the final inventory of his estate. Hancock County Register of Probate, Docket 264.
9. Ibid.
10. Hancock County Registry of Deeds (HCRD), Book 25. p. 311-2 and Book 29 p. 21.



Woodlawn Museum 2006 Schedule of Events

June 24 & July 22 (11:30 AM): Kneisel @ Woodlawn Children's Concert

Enjoy a free concert by student performers from Blue Hill's Kneisel Hall.

June 27 (2 – 4:30 PM): Textile Conservation Workshop

Learn about the care and storage of your precious textiles. \$20 non-member, \$15 members. Reservations required.

July 12, 19, 26 & August 9, 16, 23 (3 PM): Afternoon Tea & Tour

Reservations required, space limited. Call 667-8671 for reservations.

August 2 – 5: Ellsworth Antiques Show at Woodlawn

August 2 (5-8 PM): Preview Party \$50 per person, reservations by July 20.

August 3 (11 AM – 7 PM): Admission \$8 for Show or \$10 for both Museum and Show

5-7 PM: Booth Chats (talks by dealers) with refreshments included in admission

August 4 (11 AM – 7 PM): Admission \$8 for Show or \$10 for both Museum and Show

10 AM: Special Subject Tour of Woodlawn's print collection with Donald Cresswell, an Antiques Roadshow personality and co-owner of Philadelphia Print Shop (\$20, includes admission to Show, space limited)

3 PM: Afternoon Tea and Lecture (\$35 per person, includes admission to Show) "Through the Eye of the Needle? George Nixon Black, Jr. Patron of the Arts" by guest speaker Jane Goodrich. (Reservations required, space limited.)

5-7 PM: Booth Chats (talks by dealers) with refreshments included in admission

August 5 (11 AM - 5 PM): Admission \$8 for Show or \$10 for both Museum and Show

10 AM: Special Subject Tour of Woodlawn's glass and ceramics collection with Arlene Palmer, author and former Winterthur Museum curator; co-owner of W.M. Schwind, Jr. Antiques (\$20, includes admission to Show, space limited.)

August 12 (10 AM-3 PM): Living History Day

Historic reenactment day featuring craft demonstrations, games, sheep shearing, and much more.

September 30 (10 AM-3PM): Autumn Festival

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

November 4 (8 AM): Fall Clean Up Day

Help prepare Woodlawn for the long winter season and enjoy a free picnic lunch with other volunteers.

November 30 (5-8 PM): Holiday Open House Details TBA

December 10: Holiday Festival with Downtown Business Association Details TBA

December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 23 (1, 2, and 3 PM): Holiday Tours of Woodlawn

View Woodlawn fully decorated for the holiday season by area florists and decorators.



Ellsworth Antiques Show Returns to Ellsworth this August

America's longest running summer antiques show is returning to its roots this summer. Established in 1938, the Ellsworth Antiques Show was held in City Hall until its relocation to the George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill, Maine, in 1997. This popular event is now returning to Ellsworth, Maine from August 2-5, where it will once again be a highlight of the summer season for Downeast and Midcoast residents and tourists. The Ellsworth Antiques Show will be held under a tent on the grounds of the Woodlawn Museum, widely regarded as Maine's premier historic estate with significant original furnishings.

With a reputation as one of the finest summer antiques shows in the country, the Ellsworth Antiques Show at Woodlawn will feature twenty-six dealers of national as well as regional renown. Bill Schwind of Schwind Antiques in Yarmouth, Maine, has been the show chairman for thirty years. "All the dealers are excited to return to Ellsworth where we have staged many successful shows in the past. A great plus will be the beautiful setting of the Woodlawn estate," says Mr. Schwind.

The Show, a benefit for Woodlawn, is a "perfect match" for the museum, according to Mr. Lowell (Tim) Thomas, Jr., president of the Board of Trustees. "We are thrilled that the dealers haven chosen Woodlawn as a site for this most outstanding antiques show and hope many patrons will come to enjoy it."

With an anticipated attendance of 1200-1500 people Joshua Campbell Torrance, Woodlawn's Executive Director, believes the Show will bring people not only to the estate, but also to Ellsworth's restaurants and shops. "The Show, from its days at City Hall, is warmly remembered and we are especially pleased to welcome it home," remarked Torrance. "It will be a wonderful event for the community."

Besides Schwind, eight exhibitors have their businesses in Maine; the rest will travel to Ellsworth from Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Missouri. Several of the dealers are long-time exhibitors at such prestigious antiques events as the Philadelphia Antiques Show, the Ellis Antiques Show in Boston, the Washington Antiques Show, and the Winter Antiques Show in New York City. Donald Cresswell of the Philadelphia Print Shop is frequently seen on the *Antiques Roadshow*.

The antiques dealers will present an array of quality antiques and art. Fine examples of American and English furniture and accessories, American paintings and watercolors, quilts, prints, rare books, ceramics, folk art, silver, jewelry, and oriental rugs will be among the items for sale.

An elegant gala preview party will launch the show on Wednesday, August 2 from 5-8 p.m. The show will then be open Thursday through Saturday, August 3-5. Show hours are 11a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to tour the Woodlawn Museum and participate in special programs and lectures. The Union River Lobster Pot will cater a luncheon Café and wine bar during the Show.

For more information, call the Museum at 667-8671 or visit www.woodlawnmuseum.org.





Annual Appeal

Please help us ensure that Woodlawn's vital role in the community continues in 2006 by donating to the Annual Appeal, which has fallen short of our \$30,000 goal for this year's operating budget. We manage our expenses carefully to maximize your investment. Your gift will help pay for operational expenses, help maintain the buildings and grounds, and help fund the educational programs that have been so well received by school children as well as adults.

A visit to Woodlawn offers guests the opportunity to have a unique experience, far from the busy streets and distractions of everyday living. Whether exploring the trails and grounds, contemplating the beauty of our gardens, enjoying the community garden, or learning about the past while touring through original 19th century interiors, guests have memorable and inspired visits. With your help, we can ensure that these kinds of experiences are available for public enjoyment for many years to come.

Please help us ensure that Woodlawn's vital role in the community continues in 2006 by contributing to the Annual Appeal. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. ♡



Woodlawn 2006 Annual Appeal - Every Gift is a Welcome Gift!

Yes, I am happy to support Woodlawn Museum's efforts to enhance the cultural life of our community!

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Please charge this gift to my Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In addition to my gift, I would also like to become a Member at the \$35 (Individual) _____, \$50 (Household) _____, or \$125 (Supporter) _____ Level.

My main interest is: Black House _____ Public Park _____

I would like to volunteer my time and talents to the Museum _____

If your company has a matching gift program, your contribution to the Annual Appeal may be doubled or even tripled with no further cost to you. Many employers also match contributions made by retirees, directors, and employees' spouses. Ask your company's personnel office for a matching gift form. Complete and send it along with your gift.



Please mail completed form to:

**Woodlawn Museum
Annual Appeal
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!



Preservation Project Update

The preservation of the middle kitchen and office wings, including work on the trim, gutters, and windows, is nearing completion. The powder post beetle infestation over the middle kitchen wing, discovered in late fall 2004, has been mitigated and the damage repaired. The distinctive balustrades and the shutters on both the middle kitchen and office wings were carefully removed and preserved and will

be reinstalled upon the completion of the restoration of the main block.

On the front portico, replacement columns (exact copies of the originals) were reinstalled. The team of Jon Brandon at East Point Conservation Studio and Caleb Hemphill, an independent preservation carpenter, carefully restored the capitals, including removing nearly six pounds of paint from each capital. And our own Jane Shea, Trustee, painstakingly applied three coats of paint to each. With help from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, we are recreating the porch decking and steps.

The restoration of the windows has also begun. Todd Devenish from Wooden Window Restoration in Stonington has carefully preserved the double hung window in the front dining room. He is scheduled to work on the four distinctive triple sash windows this summer.

Finally, a crew from Eastern Painting has carefully prepared the ell and office wing trim for painting. They have also painted the columns and decorative balustrades.

Including work from the previous year, over half the main house is now preserved. We invite you to visit Woodlawn and see the work in progress. 🍷



New columns and retored capitals now grace Woodlawn's front porch.

A Special Message from Lowell (Tim) Thomas, President

It's with pleasure that I can report to Woodlawn's members the completion of the \$1,000,000 Preservation Campaign. Visitors will see that restoration of John Black's house is very much in progress--carefully and with attention to detail and historic accuracy. The restoration insures that Woodlawn Museum will be an historic resource for years to come.

The Campaign started quietly three years ago under the guidance of Steering Committee members Emma Remick (co-chair with me), Laurie Williams, Natalie Knox, Mark Remick, Jerry Kaufman, Jim Day, Sandra Collier, Stephen Shea, Dale Worthen, Gail Kelly, Mike Marino and Ken Schweikert. Many individuals and businesses contributed to the Campaign as did several foundations. Significant gifts included those of Woodlawn's Trustees who collectively contributed

more than 20 percent of the goal. Other major gifts came from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the 1772 Foundation, the Putnam Funds, the Union Trust Company, Mr. and Mrs. F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., Ellsworth Builder's Supply, the Davis Family Foundation, the Maine Community Foundation, the Ellsworth Rotary Club, and New Land Nursery and Landscaping. On behalf of Woodlawn's Trustees, I wish to thank these special donors and all others who contributed to the success of the Campaign.

Special thanks also to the Steering Committee members and to Executive Director Joshua C. Torrance who encouraged donors to join the Campaign with his special enthusiasm and energy.

Come see the restoration in progress! 🍷



Collections Corner

The Woodlawn Museum collection includes several superior textiles the most famous of which are the original bed hangings in John and Mary Black's bedroom. This June, Camille Myers Breeze, principle partner of Museum Textile Services in Andover, Massachusetts, will visit Woodlawn to conduct a general conservation survey of the textile collection. Ms. Breeze will be assessing the environmental conditions in the Museum and their effects on the exhibition and storage of the many and varied textiles including a tapestry, 19th century draperies, silk embroideries, samplers, upholstery, bed clothes, and personal clothing.

This survey is part of continuing efforts by Museum staff to have all objects in the Museum assessed by conservation specialists. A Conservation Assessment Program study conducted for Woodlawn Museum in 2001 recommended that the paper and textile collections be the first surveyed as those materials tend to be the most fragile. Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Small Museums awarded to Woodlawn

Museum this January, Carolyn Frisa of the Northeast Document and Conservation Center spent three days here in March surveying the works of art on paper.

Reports prepared by both Ms. Frisa and Ms. Breeze will provide the framework for future care of the unique objects that may be seen at Woodlawn Museum. Conservation of individual objects will be undertaken once the needs are prioritized and funding is allocated. Sponsors and friends of the museum will fund Ms. Breeze's visit. If you would like to contribute to these efforts please contact Joshua Torrance, Executive Director, for details on how you can help.

In conjunction with Ms. Breeze's visit, a workshop on the proper care and storage of textiles will be offered on the afternoon of June 27. Learn how conservators can extend the life of fragile items, as well as how to properly pack textiles for storage. Objects from the Woodlawn collection will be used as examples, and there will be time allowed to ask specific questions. Please see page 7 of this newsletter for more details, or call the Museum at 667-8671. 🐞

Preserve Maine's Premier Historic Estate - Become a Member Today!

Yearly basic membership benefits include: Free admission per member per year, a subscription to the award-winning Woodlawn newsletter, a 10% discount in the Museum Store for purchases over \$10.00, notification of the annual members reception, a Woodlawn Museum window decal, and notification of special events as designated by the Museum. Additional benefits are specified below:

Basic Membership Levels

Student \$5: All basic membership benefits for a student in grades K-12.

Individual \$35: All basic membership benefits for one person.

Household \$50: Individual membership benefits for two adults and household members under 18, a 25% discount on designated events for which there is a fee, and 4 free tickets for Black House tours during the season.

Supporter \$125: Household level membership benefits plus 8 free tickets for Black House tours during the season.

Sustaining Membership Levels

Sponsor \$250: Supporter level membership benefits plus 10 free tickets for Black House tours during the season and a 20% discount in the Museum Store.

Patron \$500: All Sponsor level membership benefits plus a behind-the-scenes tour with curatorial staff arranged by appointment.

Benefactor \$1,000: Patron level membership benefits plus a special tour and reception with the Executive Director for 4 adults arranged by appointment.

President's Club \$2,500: Benefactor level membership benefits plus an invitation to the President's Dinner with the Executive Director and members of the Board of Trustees. The President's Dinner will occur in the autumn of each year and will be served at the Museum.

I enclose \$ _____ for Membership Dues at the _____ Level

Dr. _____ Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Miss _____

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I would like to charge my membership on _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____

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In addition, I would also like to make donation to the Museum's Annual Fund in the amount of \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Membership dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.



Please mail completed form with your dues to:

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

Please make checks payable to Woodlawn Museum

Save the Date!

Please join us for the



Ellsworth Antiques Show
— at Woodlawn —

Preview Party

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Call 667-8671 for reservations.

Sponsored by Eaton Peabody, Attorneys at Law

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