



Friends of Woodlawn Newsletter December, 2025

Greetings to our friends of Woodlawn! Please take time to read this newsletter about activities and events as we close out a very successful year at this historic memorial park. Feel free to share with your friends. We hope you can attend our December 6th open house (details in this letter).

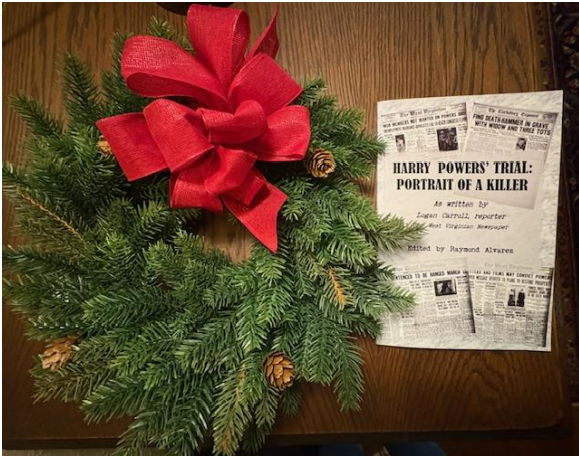
The historic walking trail dedicated in August now has **an 8 additional story boards** featuring more information about significant burials. Ensign James Maddox (Marion County's first casualty of WWII) died after 77 days on a raft with four other men at sea following a torpedo attack on the Navy transport vessel. Learn about his heroic story as it is not well-known. A marble bench now honors him as you enter the walking trail (to the left and by the flagpole). Other stories that are told include Harriet Wilson Whitely (born into slavery here in 1850. At the time of her death in the early 1940s, she was the last living person who was born into slavery in Fairmont and Marion County. Another addition is more information about all the coal barons, including where they are buried at Woodlawn. There were over 20! The founding of Fairmont Normal and it's early progressive years is another story that highlights the roles of Francis Pierpont, J. Walter Barnes, and several progressive educational leaders who led the development of free schools in West Virginia after 1863. Another tells the story of the restoration efforts of the Superintendent's House and Chapel, which was saved from ruination in 2016. You will also find the story of Fairmont Times editor C. E. Smith, who wrote about local history in his newspaper column over a 40-year span. We also had seven donors who sponsored key signs.

This project is a great example of our community partnerships and support. The walking (or driving) trail was funded by the City of Fairmont with a \$2000 grant from the Cultivate WV grant program. These funds were used for graphic art student who designed the original 17 signs. We secured private funding of \$1000 matched by Woodlawn. Many volunteer hours went into this project and it is a permanent collection that will be there for many years. Here are some photos:



Woodlawn is celebrating the wrap up of our 150th anniversary with "Winter at Woodlawn" on Saturday December 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Superintendent's house. We will have tours with docent in each room to tell you about the heritage of Woodlawn, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEN HOUSE AND TOUR:



- Book signing by Raymond Alvarez with all proceeds going to Woodlawn
- Limited supply of 12" grave wreaths to place or take home for sale
- Other books published by Woodlawn ("Good Morning" and "Ladies of Woodlawn")
- Tea and refreshments served
- Guide to GPS locations of historic burials
- Overview of new walking trail (then explore on your own)
- Meet our volunteers and board members

No admission fee with purchase of book or wreaths; house tour only is \$5 donation.

Plan to join us for our annual holiday tea and open house at 335 Maple Avenue, Fairmont!

"Winter at Woodlawn"
Saturday December 6, 2025
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery

- * **Tour the Chapel/Superintendent's house**
(Docents will tell you about history represented by each room)
- * **Information on burials** (search for your family on the database)
- * **Visit the Historic Walking Trail** (drive or walk all day)
- * **Book signing by Raymond Alvarez: "The Harry Powers Trial" (new) and other Woodlawn local history publications with all proceeds going to Woodlawn's preservation efforts.**

Purchase a 12" Christmas Wreath for \$15 to keep or place on a grave (limited supply)!
Woodlawn Cemetery is a non-profit organization and on the National Registry of Historic Places

We have additional projects underway. Patching some rough spots in the roadways was completed along with painting and cleaning at the Superintendent's House. In early spring, we are planning to restore water near the Abbey so it can be cleaned, and the third-floor room in the house will be also be ready for expanding our historical displays). Watch for our fund-raising letter in the spring but consider a charitable donation by the year's end. You can always use this QR code to donate through PayPal or send it in the mail. We appreciate your support!

***Happy holidays from the Board of Directors
of Woodlawn Cemetery!***

