

Gardiner Foundation Donates to Community College

June 30, 2014 - 2:23pm | By Lucia Akard

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, which supports the study of New York and Suffolk County history, has donated \$30,000 to Suffolk County Community College for a Town of Islip history scholarship.

Every year until 2018, three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to students who live in the town and study history at the college. The foundation was established in 1986 by Robert David Lion Gardiner, who lived in East Hampton and owned Gardiner's Island jointly with his sister, Alexandra Gardiner Creel, until his death in 2004.

Mr. Gardiner's family connection with Islip goes back to 1758, when Jonathan Thompson purchased a house and land there for 1,200 pounds and gave it to his son, Isaac, who married Mary Gardiner of East Hampton in 1772. The couple expanded the house, adding nine rooms. George Washington is believed to have spent a night there while touring Long Island in 1790.

Mr. Gardiner became the owner of the property, known as Sagtikos Manor, in 1935, by which time it had become a 42-room mansion. He was the last member of the family to live there, and he deeded it to the foundation in 1985. It is now owned in conjunction with Suffolk County and run as a museum by the Suffolk County Historical Society.



Robert David Lion Gardiner

Courtesy of the East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection

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