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**RAYNHAM HALL MUSEUM AWARDED A
ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER FOUNDATION GRANT**

OYSTER BAY, NY –The Friends of Raynham Hall, Inc., in Oyster Bay, NY, announced today the receipt of a grant of over \$400,000 from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for the completion of its multi-year building restoration project for Raynham Hall Museum, and for the adaptive re-use of the building next door as the museum’s Education Annex. The Museum was the home of Robert Townsend, a spy for George Washington, and welcomes nearly 10,000 visitors annually, including some 5,000 fourth-graders who come on field trips as part of their studies of the Revolutionary War.

“This magnificent and crucial grant will push us over the finish line and allow us to complete our project, which has been many years in the making,” said Raynham Hall Executive Director Harriet Gerard Clark. “We truly appreciate the Gardiner’s vote of confidence and we look forward to working with them to celebrate Long Island’s history.”

The plan to open the entire house to the public has been envisioned as long ago as 1974. The back of the house that was once living quarters for Irish servants in the 19th century currently is used as offices and collections storage. The project was catalyzed by a 2011 acquisition of the neighboring building, purchased by the Town of Oyster Bay for the Museum's use on condition that the Friends of Raynham Hall, Inc., which operates the property as a museum on behalf of the Town, be responsible for raising any funds necessary for the adaptive re-use of the new building.

“We are delighted to support the Friends of Raynham Hall restore, re-interpret and expand this important historic site. We are especially pleased with the creative use of the Lincoln Market building as a staff head-quarters and educational facility.” Said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

Other grantors for the project notably have included the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, the Gerry Charitable Trust, the Barker Welfare Foundation, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (through the intercession of Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Charles Lavine), as well as a lead grant from an anonymous foundation.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, supports the study of New York State history. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, NY. The Foundation is inspired by his personal passion for New York history, and encourages the preservation, collection, restoration and exhibition of documents and artifacts of this history, as well as educational programs focused on this history.

John Collins, president of the board of the Friends of Raynham Hall, Inc., and a designer specializing in historic preservation, has donated many hours to preparing detailed specifications for the work on both buildings, and the oversight of the construction and physical work.

"This project is extremely rewarding given that I am able to work in three time periods: Colonial and Victorian architecture for Raynham Hall, and the early 20th century for the Lincoln Market building --which sits on land that was once part of Raynham Hall's property. This restoration would not be possible without generous donations from organizations such as the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation which understand the importance of historic preservation and re-use of historic buildings for the ultimate betterment of the community," noted Mr. Collins.

For more information on this project and to learn how you can make a contribution, please contact the Museum at (516) 922-6808 or online at www.raynhamhallmuseum.org.