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Gardiner Foundation supports Bay House Documentary

Long Island Traditions is proud to announce that it has received funding from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for its upcoming documentary “Bay Houses” produced by filmmakers Barbara Weber and Greg Blank. The feature film will explore how south shore bay houses in the Town of Hempstead have survived storms and hurricanes, dating back to the 1800s when bay houses were first constructed by baymen. The documentary will be based on LI Traditions’ ethnographic research. The \$23,500 grant will support development of the documentary.

“Bay Houses” will explore the history of five bay houses owned by local families, and the history behind the historic structures. Themes will include baymen, market gunners, rum runners, recreational and commercial fishermen, and storms and hurricanes. Families to be included are the Mullers of Freeport, whose family bay house survived Superstorm Sandy, the Warasila bay house, declared eligible for listing on the national register of historic places, the McNeece family, and others. The completed film will entered into area film festivals, and also showcased at the Patchogue Media Center alongside other films on similar topics.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of New York State history, with an emphasis on Suffolk County. Gardiner was the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, which the family has owned since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England.