

The Miller Place-Mount Sinai Historical Society has been approved for a \$4,750 grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to upgrade and enhance the format and capabilities of its current website and social media platforms.

The Miller Place Historical Society was founded in 1979. In 1982 the name was changed to Miller Place-Mount Sinai Historical Society to reflect the membership of the Society and the close ties that the two communities have had since the 1600s. The mission of the Society is to collect, preserve and disseminate the history of New York State with emphasis on Miller Place, Mount Sinai, and nearby environs.

The Society owns two properties with several buildings. Its main property is the 1720 William Miller (namesake of the town of Miller Place) House, the oldest house in Miller Place. The original owner of the land on which the 1720 William Miller House was built was William's grandfather Andrew Miller Sr. The Miller House was acquired by the Society in 1979 from the estate of Harry Millard, the last lineal descendant of William Miller. The House is significant as very little of the interior has been changed in the two hundred eighty plus years of its existence. The Society restored the house in the early 1980s. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places enabled the eventual preservation and restoration of the structure. The Society maintains the 1720 William Miller House as a museum and the center for its many historically educational activities.

In 1998 a separate structure, the Hawkins House, was donated to the Society. The Hawkins House is located on North Country Road, just east of the 1720 William Miller House. The Society has undertaken a major fund drive to finance the restoration of this historic gem. The Hawkins House will be used as an archival library and exhibition space, allowing the Society to use the William Miller house as a living museum.

The Society works closely with the Miller Place School District, integrating local historical tours into the District's fourth grade history curriculum. The Society also hosts seasonal events, including the Country Fair and Spooky Walk in the Fall, and Postman Pete in the Winter.

An upgraded website and social media outlets will allow the Society to continue its efforts to raise awareness of the historical significance of its buildings and the towns of Miller Place and Mount Sinai. Community outreach, connecting with younger generations, and activism for local efforts will all be greatly improved by the generous grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of New York State history, with an emphasis on Suffolk County. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16<sup>th</sup> Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island. The Gardiner family and its descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.