



SAGTIKOS MANOR

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

The Sagtikos Manor Historical Society has been awarded a \$23,625 grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for the conservation of historically significant artwork and furniture at the Suffolk County Parks historic house in West Bay Shore, NY.

“We are particularly grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for this grant that will support our continuing preservation efforts to ensure Sagtikos Manor for future generations,” said Christine Gottsch, president of the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society.

“The important art and artifact collections of Sagtikos Manor represent centuries of a living house museum. These objects speak to the history of this region and bring the stories of the families who owned them to life,” said Kathryn Curran, Executive Director Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

Sagtikos Manor is the oldest standing house in Islip Township dating from 1697. The property was continually in the Thompson-Gardiner family from 1758 until its purchase in 2002 by Suffolk County. The manor, at its height in 1902, consisted of 1,206 acres with a 42-room Main house, a dairy farm, race track and gardens. Last owned by Robert David Lion Gardiner, the manor house is completely furnished with artifacts and documentation dating back to the 17th century. As custodian, Sagtikos Manor Historical Society researches and conserves the thousands of documents and artifacts that are primary sources for family and Long Island history.

The grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation will provide for conservation of the 1834 William Sidney Mount portrait of Mrs. Mary Howard Greene Thompson (1794-1868). Mary was the wife of Benjamin Franklin Thompson of Setauket and the daughter of Rev. Zachariah Greene, a Revolutionary War hero of Hempstead. William Sidney Mount painted portraits of Benjamin Thompson, which is in the holdings of the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook, Rev. Zachariah Greene and his great-grandchildren, entitled “Great-Grandfather’s Tales of the Revolution” and presently owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Also to be conserved with the award will be the painting’s gilded frame, two gilt wood convex mirrors, two inlaid tables, and a mahogany exterior dining room door. The painting is being conserved by Alexander Katlan Conservation, Inc., of Flushing, NY. The frame, mirrors and tables are being conserved by I. Joseph Chiarello & Natasha Kuzmanovic of Huntington, NY. The door is being conserved by Scott Brown of “Antique Carpenters”, Bay Shore, NY.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of New York State history, with emphasis on Suffolk County. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner’s Island. The Gardiner family and their 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’s history.

