

## PRESS RELEASE

The Caroline Church of Brookhaven (Episcopal) has been awarded a matching grant of \$23,700 by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation ([www.rdlgfoundation.org](http://www.rdlgfoundation.org)) for stabilization of their 1887 Carriage Shed.

The congregation was organized in 1723, and the church building constructed in 1729. It is the oldest Episcopal church structure on Long Island. The Church, Parish House, Barn and Carriage Shed were placed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Structures in 1991. The 7-bay carriage shed was built by seven parishioners, with approval by the Church Vestry in 1887. It housed their horses and carriages while they attended church, and sits on its original site. This simple, but now unique structure includes sliding openings, that allowed the horses to see their surroundings, while they waited. Each family had a nameplate above the opening, and several still exist. The Carriage Shed made the transition easily from horse drawn vehicles to motorized ones, and was used by parishioners until its condition became unsafe.

The Reverend Canon Richard Dennis Visconti, D. Min., Rector commented, "What a blessing we have received from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. Through their generous grant we will be able to restore much of an historical structure that was constructed in 1887, the Carriage Shed. This horse and buggy enclosure played a significant part in Setauket's settlement and has been an ongoing landmark for visitors to our 1729 Caroline Church."

"The Vestry and Congregation of Caroline Church recognize the historical significance of their church and cemetery, and have worked diligently to maintain them. This stabilization and restoration project would have been very difficult without the support of the Gardiner Foundation" said Barbara M. Russell, Jr. Warden and Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. "We are deeply grateful for their assistance to make this structure, which overlooks the Setauket Village Green, usable again for both church and community activities."

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 Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.