



For Immediate Release  
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New Amsterdam History Center  
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## **New Amsterdam History Center’s Project, Mapping Early New York, Receives Grant from the Robert David Lion Foundation**

***Funds will support research, exploration and documentation of the early Dutch period in Long Island.***

New York – The New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) has been awarded a \$142,237 grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation to support its [Mapping Early New York](https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/) project <https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/>. The funds will be used to expand the reach of the current web application which displays New York City in the Dutch Colonial Period, so that it includes all of Long Island. The grant will help to increase awareness of the project and its potential value for the public, tourists, students, educators, and researchers.

“We are extremely grateful for this gift from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. It allows the NAHC to support research, exploration and documentation of the early Dutch period in an entirely new way. Presenting Long Island in an encyclopedia linked to historic maps and a time slider will give users a greater understanding of the origins of the New York area’s unique and diverse perspective,” says Toya Dubin, Project Manager and NAHC Trustee.

Kathryn Curran of the Robert David Lion Foundation noted, “The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is delighted that the New Amsterdam History Center is moving forward with the inclusion of Long Island in this exciting offering. These early maps and historic documents are invaluable in understanding the evolution of our area, not only historically but also offering insights into New York’s early environmental, societal and cultural changes over time.”

The [Mapping Early New York](https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/) project provides dynamic historic context to the geography of New York State. Accessible graphic representations layer multiple maps, and original documents that relate people and places. The Timeline feature reveals the evolution of a specific place over time, and the history of an individual mined from original Dutch documents at the New York State Archives, the NYC Municipal Archives and other sources. For the first time, this period is available to us in its fully diverse and realistic context. In fact, it was a somewhat chaotic society with as many as 18 languages being spoken in this tiny colony. The courts were busy with accusations of slander, food insecurity, civic duty and individual rights. Even the weather played a key role in the challenges that faced a community struggling to create a new society.

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation grant will fund NAHC’s [Mapping Early New York/Long Island](https://nahc-mapping.org/mappingNY/) project for a two-year period and will help NAHC to add online interactive maps using 17th, 18th, and 19th century maps of Long Island with verified document collections and entries to inform users about specific places and the people who lived and worked in Long Island in the Dutch Colonial Period. Presentations on Long Island in collaboration with local organizations will raise awareness of the Mapping Early NY Project, and encourage the public, educators and students to participate.

Established in 1987, The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation primarily supports the study of New York State History. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16<sup>th</sup> Lord of the Manor of Gardiner’s Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner’s Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from

Kind Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York History. For more information, please visit [rdlgfoundation.org](http://rdlgfoundation.org).

Founded in 2005, the New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) encourages exploration of the Dutch history of New Amsterdam as it laid the foundational character for today's New York City, with special reference to its ethnic, racial, and religious diversity, urban landscapes, economic vitality, and global legacy. NAHC links the past to the present through public lectures and panel discussions, a biannual newsletter, tours, *the Mapping Early New York* encyclopedia, maps, and online research tools. For more information, visit NAHC's website, [www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org](http://www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org).

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