



Rocky Point Historical Society

Celebrating our 18th Anniversary

**Noah Hallock Homestead Purchased and Being Preserved
by the Rocky Point Historical Society**



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at

Noah Hallock Homestead

By Jim Higgins, Vice President

On Saturday, September 7th, we had a grand celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Noah Hallock Homestead. About 75 local residents and dignitaries joined together to open the homestead for public viewing. Those attending included the Board of Directors and members of the RPHS; from the Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine, Town Councilwoman

Jane Bonner, Supt. of Highways Dan Losquadro, and Tax Receiver Louis Marcoccia; a large contingent from the Rocky Point VFW Post #6249 and Kevin Molloy of the 3rd NY-LI Revolutionary War Re-enactors. Thanks to Mike Poveromo of Family Time Rentals for the free use of the large tent and to Jeff Davis of Rocky Point Funeral Home for the donation of chairs. After the ceremonies all those touring were very impressed with the wonderful condition of the house and the number and quality of furniture and artifacts on display.

The background story to all this celebration began over a year ago with efforts by the Rocky Point Historical Society to purchase the Noah Hallock Homestead/House (NHH). The house had been in the Hallock Family from 1721 to the 1964, when it was purchased by the Via Cava family. After Louise Via Cava passed away, the Historical Society formed a NHH committee, headed by Jeff Davis, to explore acquisition of the house and to raise needed funds. Many members participated in the fund-raising. After months of much hard work, we raised about \$20K, but that was not nearly enough for the \$282,000. asking price. We approached many local elected officials for assistance and received support and assistance from a number of them, including, State Senator Ken LaValle, Suffolk County representative Sarah Anker, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner and Town Historian Barbara Russell. The final key to the house was the generosity from the heirs of Louise Via Cava, namely Gloria Devereaux and her brother Louis Via Cava; the imaginative and generous Real Estate expertise of developer Mark Baisch; and the pro-bono legal assistance of Rich Johannesen.

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Gloria and Louis donated \$82K of the sale price back to RPHS in order to preserve the house which their sister and mother lived in and loved for so many years. Mark Baisch agreed to provide the RPHS with an interest-free mortgage; plus he crafted a mechanism to raise \$200K. The RPHS agreed to divide the 1.2 acres of the NHH property into: 0.94 acres containing the house, which the Historical Society would keep; and 0.26 acres, on which Mark will construct a new house to be sold, with the profits also donated to the RPHS and used to pay-off the mortgage.

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