

## Press Release

Over 250 years ago, a member of the Rose Family was the first to be laid to rest in a new cemetery in the Fire Place, known today as Brookhaven hamlet. On Saturday, August 16, a large group of folks from Brookhaven hamlet and environs gathered to celebrate the "new" Rose Cemetery, newly and lovingly restored by members of the recently formed Fire Place History Club, with support from the Post Morrow Foundation, Brookhaven Village Association, and dozens of individual contributors. Club members John Deitz, Helen Geraghty, Ron Kinsella, Eben Ludlow, Diane Martens, Ben Savage and Marty Van Lith spent several months excavating and documenting the headstones, and working with a stonemason to repair the badly damaged cemetery. The total cost of the restoration was \$3,000.

Project leader Marty Van Lith said, "This cemetery is more than just a cemetery: It is a monument to those who were founding members not only of this community, but also of this nation. Virtually all of the men buried here who were of age during the American Revolution signed a document called the Association, committing themselves to the Revolution knowing full well that doing so was punishable by death. Many fought in the war and others lived in exile for eight years for having done so. We owe these people a great gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy. Let these monuments be our reminder."



