

Ambling Around Brookhaven Hamlet

***Self-Guided Tours
of Our Historic Hamlet
and Its Hospitable Habitat***

Second Edition

Edited and designed

by

Anita Cohen

**This publication updates its predecessor
and adds two original sections**

by ***Martin Van Lith***

**to the previous edition, which largely
contained material previously published**

by ***John Deitz***

and two Brookhaven hamlet organizations:

***The Fire Place History Club
and The Post-Morrow Foundation***

Acknowledgements

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- Supporters of the Fire Place History Club and the Post-Morrow Foundation.
- Brookhaven hamlet residents who, in 1985, teamed up to have the community designated the Fireplace Historic District, and who continue to generously support the Brookhaven Village Association's Hamlet Historic Fund, which paid for the printing of this second edition.
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- John Deitz, for creating and maintaining the comprehensive website of all things Brookhaven hamlet – <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org> – which is frequently updated to document new historical information as it comes to his attention.
- The Post-Morrow Foundation, for its Heritage Collection, source of most of the historic pictures in this book.
- Ellen Williams, whose 1982 surveys of many of the historic structures in Brookhaven Hamlet serve as a continuing resource.

Thank you!

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Dedication

This edition of *Ambling Around Brookhaven Hamlet*
is dedicated to

Faith McCutcheon, 1925–2017.

A lifelong resident of our hamlet,
Faith epitomized all that is good in Brookhaven
and inspired many to study
and share its remarkable history.

Thank you, Faith.

Our Historic Hamlet

One of the favorite pastimes of Brookhaven hamlet residents is walking around our lovely community. Over the years, the Fire Place History Club and the Post-Morrow Foundation have focused on adding historical and environmental context to these walks. This book combines their efforts as of 2017.

The hamlet of Brookhaven has a long history that stretches back to the very earliest years of European settlement. Originally known as the Fire Place or Fireplace, the land was purchased from the Unkechaug Indians in 1664 by a group of 39 buyers. Among the buyers of the “Old Purchase at South” were Richard Woodhull, forefather of Revolutionary War hero Nathaniel Woodhull, as well as Richard Floyd, grandfather of William Floyd, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The young community’s name, it was said, came from the idea that Indians had built fires here to signal their people when out on the Bay. Thinking of this as the “place of fire” would make *Fire Place* the logical spelling, but some associate the name with the warmth of the hearth at home, so spell it *Fire-place*. That’s the name the town used in designating the Fireplace Historic District, but the Fire Place History Club believes its spelling is more fitting.

Whichever spelling was in use, in 1871, the name was the same as another Long Island village – and causing problems for postal delivery. Our community was asked to come up with a new name, and the residents chose Brookhaven because that’s what this area was and remains to this day – a haven by a brook. With this choice, Brookhaven joined all other townships on Long Island, except Shelter Island, in having a village that shares its name. But this very fact also caused confusion. To differentiate the township and our community, people refer to our area as Brookhaven hamlet, which identifies us as a small town, as opposed to an incorporated village with its own government. Since hamlet is not part of our Brookhaven’s official name, we do not capitalize it in this book.

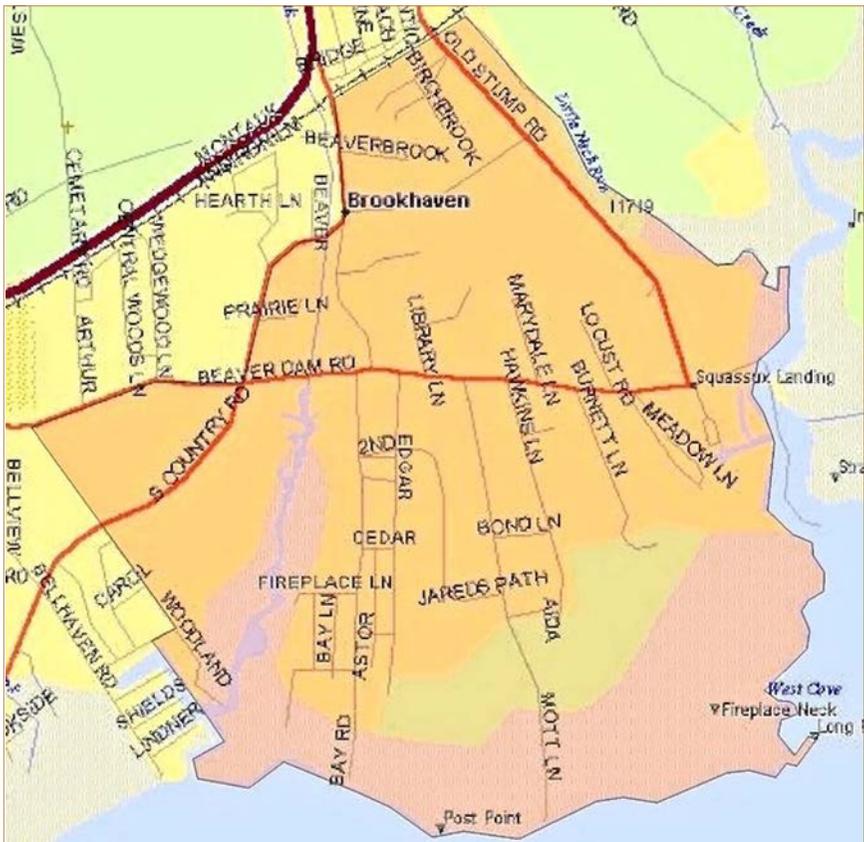
In 1984, to retain the distinct character that Brookhaven hamlet had managed to preserve during its first 319 years, a committee of residents submitted a petition to the Town of Brookhaven asking that *the area of Brookhaven hamlet bound by the Great South Bay, up Carmans River and Little Neck Run, west along the Long Island Rail Road tracks to South Country Road, heading southwest past Beaver Dam Road, then behind Woodland Avenue, down to the mouth of Beaver Dam Creek* be considered for historic designation. The Fireplace Historic District was established in 1985, the largest such district in the Town of Brookhaven. Included with the petition was this essay, “Brookhaven Hamlet as Historic District,” by hamlet resident Arthur Danto (1924-2013), a renowned art critic and philosopher:

The exact geographical boundaries of Brookhaven hamlet remain a matter of legal uncertainty, but difficult as it may be to draw its limits with precision, they include

an area with so unmistakable a character, that when one has entered it, there is an immediate awareness of being in a place different in feeling from what surrounds it. Externally, this area is a blunt wedge of land bounded on one side by the Great South Bay and on the other by the Carmans River, with the picturesque Squassux Landing as its apex. The wedge is roughly bisected by Beaver Dam Road, and, if one follows its gently meandering course west from Squassux Landing, one comes to South Country Road, where, after having crossed the bridge over Beaver Dam Creek, one arrives with the definite sense of having reached a limit.

Internally, it is marked by woods and waters, marshes and open fields, grand trees, barns, modest churches, and houses that express the spirit of an older, pre-suburban form of life: The houses are too widely spaced to be a village, yet not so distant from one another as to form a rural network. It is, precisely, a hamlet, and as such it retains a quality of existence vanished, or rapidly vanishing from the Long Island of which it once was typical. It is what remains of the sort of world Walt Whitman knew.

By a combination of miracle and community awareness, Brookhaven hamlet has maintained against the forces of development – the tract housing, the shopping mall,



Established in 1985, the Fireplace Historic District is the largest such district in the Town of Brookhaven, on Long Island, New York.

the gentrified resort – an authentic air of tranquil residence our fathers and grandfathers took for granted, but which we today cannot. It is because it is one of the few surviving instances of an endangered species of social reality that its members are requesting it be recognized as meriting the protective status of an historic district.

It is just because it is not historical by the usual criteria that Brookhaven hamlet requires a special and innovative way of being seen for what it uniquely is. Thus it contains a number of old and even architecturally distinguished buildings. But these contribute to without constituting the aggregate architectural qualities of the area, which includes some quite modest houses as well as some quite fine ones, some very old houses and some quite contemporary ones, some very conventional homes and some very eccentric ones. It is the harmonious mixture of dwellings built in different times and expressing quite different values that comprises the authentic hamlet tone and feeling, and the special grace of something that evolved naturally and over a long period, where those who entered recognized a certain defining scale and proportion. It is these that have to be kept.

Again, farms and open fields contribute to without constituting the feeling of the hamlet. The community is an intersection of distinct but harmonizing cultures: It is agricultural without being a farming community; there is life on the bay without its being a fishing village; there is a population of scientists from Brookhaven National Laboratory without its being an intellectual enclave; there are artists and writers without its being an artists' colony. Nor is it a dormitory town or a resort. It is a unified society precious for its variousness.

Beaver Dam Road has a claim to historical preservation as an historic road, there when the first maps were drawn. It epitomizes the quality of the hamlet in that it is, in one sense, a country road, without sidewalks or streetlights, while at the same time it is a genuine working thoroughfare, with a steady flow of cars and trucks and school buses and boat trailers. Finally it has the air of a parkway, with heavy trees and gracious vistas – a road for tourists who are struck by the indefinable beauty of its short length. And Squassux Landing, too, has an historic identity. But it is an active place and a center for the community, a docking area for clambers and fishermen, a shelter for pleasure boats, its canals serving skaters when frozen over, and a place to watch the marsh life. Just beside it is a boat works that conveys the sense of another century, while from its rickety docks one sees out across water and grass as it must have looked to Indians.

It would require no imagination at all to see Brookhaven Hamlet as in need of this classification if one were to visit it, and see its open and natural fragility in the consciousness of that harshness which has overtaken so much of this county and township. The luck that has enabled it to survive cannot be counted on to last, and the community must take some responsibility for its maintenance. It is not the desire of Brookhaven Hamlet to stop time or to turn the clock back, but only to have some measure of control over a future in which it hopes the natural sort of growth and change which have brought about its cherished atmosphere may continue. It may, as an historical district, be a model for a new concept of preservation: the preservation of whole forms of life, allowed to continue as they have been without having to battle with forces they are imperiled by, and yet to be part of the world in which they exist.

Ours is an authentic American hamlet, where nature and human comfort exist side by side, where the realities of time and change are accommodated without shock, and where the beauties of ordinary life can be enjoyed without artifice or fear. As a hamlet, it has as much right to its continued identity as an historical building or place of natural beauty: as much as an historical shrine or a threatened species. It is like a memory which is not merely of the past, but part of the experience of the present that deserves to be saved for the future.

John Deitz, who created and continually maintains the website www.BrookhavenSouthHaven.org, and Martin Van Lith, Historian for the Brookhaven Village Association since 1998, co-founded the Fire Place History Club in 2005, to preserve and share the rich history of the Fireplace Historic District.

John created three walking tours focusing on the Historic District, drawing many enthusiastic amblers. The first, in 2007, centered on Beaver Dam Road. For the second and third tours, in 2009 and 2010, John led walkers beyond Beaver Dam, to such local landmarks as Memorial Triangle and Fire Place Park. The third tour was one of several events within the Town of Brookhaven commemorating the 350th anniversary of its founding on April 14, 1655.

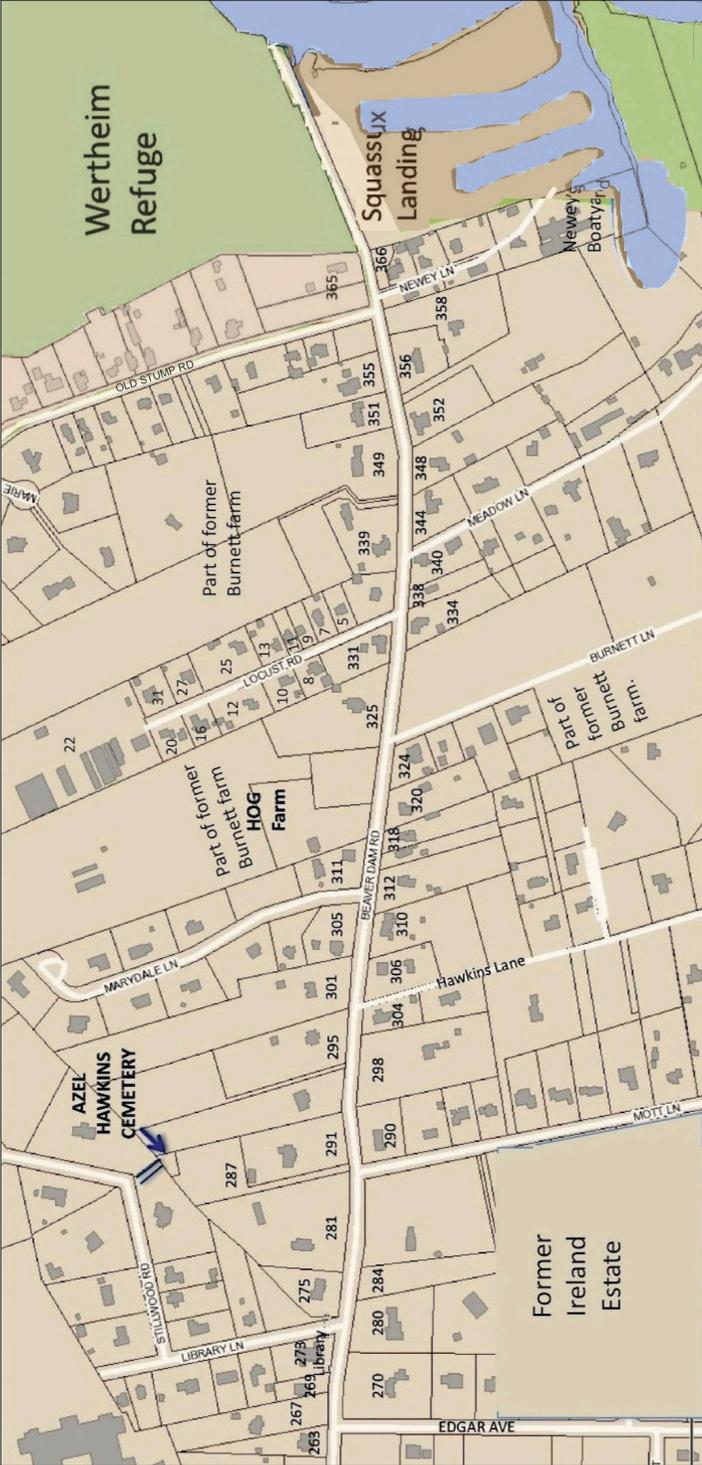
For the first edition of this book, those last two tours were combined to avoid redundancy and make it easier for those who wish to follow John's routes on their own. The original copyrighted tours are on line at <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/TourGuides/WalkingTours.htm> along with guides to the burying grounds of two prominent Brookhaven families, the Millers and the Roses.

In this second edition, which covers Brookhaven Hamlet history through the early years of the 20th Century, two new tours have been added: Exploring Old Stump Road, which can be walked as a separate tour or as a continuation of Tour 1, and Visiting the Burying Grounds, which focuses on historic family cemeteries in Brookhaven hamlet.

The Post-Morrow Foundation – conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969 – is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside and historic character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and the surrounding area. In fulfilling its mission, the foundation has purchased a number of properties and made their wonders available to all through the Brookhaven Tour Guide and its companion Cell Phone Tour. (see p. 91). Much of the guide is reproduced in Tour 5 of this book, but complete guides are free and available at the Foundation's office at 16 Bay Road.

*In this edition, "trail numbers" like this one – **1** – identify stops along the Cell Phone Tour. To access the tour while using this book, call 631-866-7049. Also, the Post-Morrow Trail System now includes information about the Ken Budny Memorial Boardwalk, the first phases of which opened in 2016.*

As well as good hiking, these five tours make good reading. So start now – ideally sitting by a warm fireplace to read about the Fire Place. And when you're ready to ramble – *happy trails!*



Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 1

Starting at the Brookhaven Free Library and walking east.

Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 1
Discovering Beaver Dam Road
from the
Brookhaven Free Library
to
Squassux Landing

Distance: 0.6 mile



Beaver Dam Road, about 1880, looking east from area of modern Locust Road.

Beaver Dam Road

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The first Europeans to settle in what was to become the Town of Brookhaven arrived about 1655 and established a settlement in what is now known as Setauket. They immediately set about purchasing from the indigenous people their rights to large tracts of land, first mostly on the north shore. A main interest was land that could enhance their farming enterprises – including the large meadows of “salt hay” that grew along the shoreline of Long Island. Soon the north shore community’s needs exceeded the nearby resources.

In 1664, they purchased from Tobaccus, the Indian Chief of the Unkechaug in Mastic, a large tract of land that stretched from the south shore to the center of the island and included modern-day Bellport, Brookhaven hamlet (then known as the Fire Place or Fire Place Neck), South Haven and Yaphank. A Town road, originally called Fireplace Road was constructed, likely following an established native trail, from Setauket to the south shore. Much of this road still exists as Old Town Road. In Fire Place, the road split into three, with a spur crossing Beaver Dam Creek toward Bellport, another going east toward

South Haven and the Mastics, and the main spur continuing along the east side of Beaver Dam Creek – more or less the present Fire Place Neck and Bay Roads – to the meadows by the Great South Bay. The meadow land was auctioned off into roughly equal sized “shares.” An east-west road off the Old



1905 postcard of the “Roadway at Beaver Dam Creek, Brookhaven, L.I.”

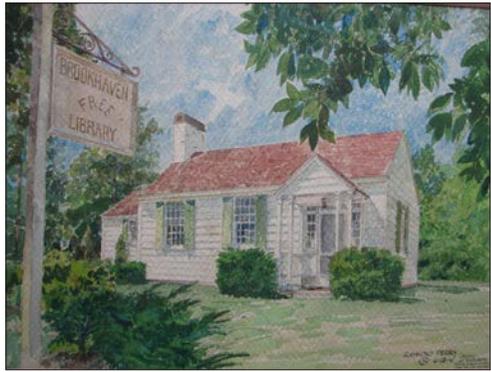
Town Road ran along the head of the shares, as the principal interest was the harvesting of the hay and returning it to their homesteads in Setauket.

In 1676, these meadow shares were extended north by 15 acres to include the upland and came to be known as the Long Lots. These lots gradually were consolidated, and permanent farms established. It is evident, however, that access to the farms was inconvenient, as the owners had to travel down nearly to the bay before they could travel east to their homesteads. In 1735, the land-owners petitioned the Town of Brookhaven to establish a new road along the north head of their properties – the modern Beaver Dam Road. The road was completed in 1737. It is from this petition that we learn the names of the early residents of Beaver Dam Road: Nathaniel Bayles, Eleazer Hawkins, William Helme, John Hulse, John Hulse Jr., Richard Hulse, Thomas Hulse, Daniel Rose, Nathan Rose, Thomas Rose, James Tuthill and John Wood.

Brookhaven Free Library 17

Many Brookhaven residents consider this tour's starting point, the Brookhaven Free Library, to be the center of community life in our hamlet. The library's story began on May 18, 1912, when 27 women from Brookhaven and South Haven formed the Fireplace Library Club, evoking the original name of Brookhaven hamlet. The club was incorporated on Oct. 14, 1912, as the Fireplace Literary Club; its mission: to establish a library in Brookhaven hamlet. The members began collecting books, using the two-story schoolhouse on Fireplace Neck Road as the Brookhaven Library. The first paid librarian earned 15 cents an afternoon.

In 1914, the library moved to the home of Freeman and Hannah Rohde at 255 Beaver Dam Road. The librarian was their daughter Florence Gwynne, whose husband had died on Apr. 15, 1912, in the sinking of the *Titanic*. In 1919, the library moved into its last temporary home – the former studio of artist Malcolm Fraser, at 249 Beaver Dam Road.



The Brookhaven Free Library, painted by local artist Raymond Perry in 1941 (see p. 50).

In 1926, Louisa and James Post gave the Brookhaven Library a very generous gift – a new building on land at **273 Beaver Dam Road**. On Jun. 19, 1930, the Board of Regents and the State of New York, granted the library a Provisional Charter, designating it the Brookhaven Free Library. On Nov. 30, 1951, the charter was upgraded to an Absolute Charter.

As the library reached its 45th year, the 31-year-old building was no longer big enough so, in 1957, a children's room was added, in large part through a generous donation from another Brookhaven hamlet benefactor, C. Oliver Wellington. The next 58 years saw three more additions: a room added in 1970 provided more space for programs; the 1989 addition to the north end of the building nearly doubled the library's size and became a mecca for children; in 2005, a cozy community room was appended to the west side of the 1989 addition; and, in 2015, an extensive renovation to the building included adding about 300 square feet of office space and a new cedar shake roof.

As the Brookhaven Free Library celebrated its Centennial in 2012, the little library had grown from a private club of 63 members with 242 books on the shelves to an active, modern, public library with over 30,000 volumes and almost 5,000 registered cardholders.

Frank Wilson Barteau House

Before the tour heads east on Beaver Dam Road, take a quick walk west to **269 Beaver Dam Road**. This simple “bungalow-cottage” is set on a large lot with many flowering shrubs. One is drawn into its invitingly cool-looking front porch and welcoming front door. It was probably built by Frank Wilson Barteau (1895-1991) about 1924.



In the history of the American house form, the term “cottage” covered much of what was built in the 19th Century, and the term “bungalow” covered a good deal of what was built in the first half of the 20th. In time, designers generated a building that combined attributes of both styles.

The integration of both styles can be seen in this house. The façade – with the exception of the central dormer – has bungalow traits. On most buildings of the combined styles, the main roof covers the porch (as it does here), which is wide and uses wide bungalow style piers (although the porch arch and narrow piers on either side of the central stairs are somewhat unusual). The roof line, the porch, and the first-floor wall are close to the ground. Overall, this bungalow-cottage enhances the fluidity of horizontal movement in the layered gables of the bungalow with a compact form of simple and direct geometry. The form is lively, owing to the mix of motifs, yet the structure is solid, even reserved. Built in the early 20th Century by a chauffeur and automobile mechanic, it is one of the most historically and architecturally interesting houses in the Hamlet.

Rose Farm, Ireland Estate

Thomas Rose was likely the first permanent resident of Fire Place Neck, and appears to have had a homestead here before 1700. By trade he was a weaver. During the 18th Century, the family accumulated large tracts of land in the hamlet, both north and south of Beaver Dam Road. There were two Rose family cemeteries in the hamlet, one at the library (the graves and headstones have been moved to Oaklawn Cemetery, see p. 88), and the Rose family cemetery off Jared’s Path (see p. 84). Thomas’s son Nathan owned a large farm **south of Beaver Dam Road, across from the Library**. Thomas’s grandsons Nathan and Thomas were Patriots and are buried in the Jared Path cemetery.



By 1840, much of the Rose property had been sold to John L. Ireland (1796-1879), a wealthy financier and land speculator from New York City (shown at left). His wife was Mary Floyd, granddaughter of William Floyd, signer of the Declaration of Independence. He improved the farm and became active in the affairs of the community. In addition to serving as President of the South Haven Presbyterian Church Trustees, he donated the land on which the St. James Episcopal Church is located.

At that time, the South Haven Church was situated at Carmans River. Not every church member came on Sundays behind a prancing team. The poorer people rode in a cart drawn by oxen. A story handed down through the years tells of the race that occurred after church one Sunday morning between John Ireland and his team of flashy grays and Harmon Hawkins with his yoke of oxen. Along the South Country Road they raced, toward their homes in Fire Place. Fast as were Ireland's horses, they were no match for Hawkins's black and white oxen, which he spurred on with properly applied cracks of his whip and loudly shouted words only they could understand. As Ireland turned into the drive of his estate, ahead he could see the dust left by the galloping oxen of Hawkins. (Harmon or Herman Hawkins lived in the house at 311 Beaver Dam Road.) Fellow church members were shocked that they should thus profane the Sabbath, but for the driver of the victorious oxen, the misdeed was amply justified by the fact he had removed from his team the traditional stigma of slowness.*

**As told by George Borthwick, Minister of the South Haven Church, 1935-1940, in his book, The Church at the South.*



Ireland Home, built 1836, razed about 1925.

Tiger Nursery

While the Ireland property remained with the heirs for a time after John L. Ireland's death, it was mostly farmed by tenant farmers until it was purchased in about 1925 by Vernon L. Tiger (b. about 1890) and his partner Walter E. Corrigan (b. about 1884). The old Ireland house was razed, and two family residences were built: the Tiger House at **270 Beaver Dam Road** and the Corrigan house at **286 Beaver Dam Road**. The farm was developed as the Tiger Nursery. Tiger's father, Moses, had operated a large nursery in Patchogue. Cor-



(left) Tiger House, built about 1925.

(below) Corrigan House, built about 1925.

rigan was principally a contractor and real estate investor.

Builders are said to have used foundation bricks from the old Ireland house in constructing the Corrigan House.

Movie Director Elia Kazan and American playwright William

Inge spent the summer of 1960 filming scenes from *Splendor in the Grass* on the farm's back lot, converted to evoke 1920s rural Kansas. (The house itself was not used in the film.)



After the Tiger Nursery was sold, the farm property was owned by several speculators. The potential loss of this farm to development was one of the galvanizing activities leading to the establishment of the Open Space Council and the Fireplace Historic District. The farm itself was lost to development about 1990 – except for about nine acres that the Post-Morrow Foundation saved as the Edgar Avenue Preserve (see p. 95).

The Oaks & The Morrow House

Around 1903, Thomas J. Morrow Sr. (1855-1919) built two houses on Beaver Dam Road.

He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and immigrated to the United States in 1872. He worked for the John W. Masury Varnish Co., where he developed Cosmolac, a clear varnish that was popular among boaters. The family also had a residence in Brooklyn.

His son, Thomas J. Morrow Jr. (1894-1965), married Elisabeth Post (1896-1992). Together, they were the founders of the Post-Morrow Foundation.



Thomas J. Morrow Sr.



The Oaks at **281 Beaver Dam Road** is reminiscent of some houses on Shelter Island, but is the only one of its type in Brookhaven hamlet.

The picture at left is from a post-card labeled “The Oaks” and dated

1912, the text of which suggests that it may have been used as a guest house.

The Morrow House stands at **285 Beaver Dam Road**. The 2-1/2 stories and wide veranda of this shingle-style house are contained under a gambrel roof. This is the only house of this style in the Hamlet.



Morrow House, built about 1903.

Deacon Daniel Hawkins House

The house now at **298 Beaver Dam Road** was likely built by Azel Hawkins (1786-1851) in the early 19th Century. It was originally sited across the road on what was to become the Morrow property. (Azel Hawkins is buried in the Hawkins cemetery just to the north of the Morrow house.)

The house became identified with Daniel Hawkins (1809-1896), Azel's son. It is believed that Daniel's son George (1839-1890) acquired the property late in Daniel's life, and sold the homestead to a Mr. Lohman, who built a large living room on the east side. It was then sold to a Mr. Thompson, who moved the house across the road to the east corner of Mott Lane and raised the second floor to full headroom.

Frederick W. Kost (1861-1923) purchased the property on which the house is presently sited in May 1906, from George Barteau. At about the same time, he acquired the house structure itself. In October 1906, Kost moved it to its present location and remodeled the interior. Before moving full time to Brookhaven in 1920, Kost also maintained a residence in Manhattan. Though he lived in the community only part-time for 14 years, Kost, a National Academy artist, soon became active in hamlet affairs. In 1907, in the first election of

the Brookhaven Village Association (formed in 1906), Kost became its 2nd vice president.



Both photos at left show the Deacon Daniel Hawkins House, built early 19th Century.

(top) The house as it appeared about 1900, on the north side of the road, before the roof was raised. The original house is said to be the wing in the foreground.



(bottom) As the house appeared about 1959, after the move to its current location.

Note that the barn attachment at the rear has been rotated 90°.

Morse House

The house at **295 Beaver Dam Road**, known to many as the Morse house, was designed by Norman Fairlie Nelson Jr. and built around 1928-30 for an uncle, Horatio Ogden Nelson (1866-1945), upon his retirement.

It was occupied for many years by George Perley Morse, local antique dealer, community leader and historian.

In the 19th Century, this property was the site of a house occupied by Samuel Hawkins (1815-1873), then by George



Buel Barteau (1852-1944). It was torn down probably some time after 1906. Samuel Hawkins was Daniel Hawkins's brother. They had adjacent lots. Daniel and Samuel were nephews of Selah Hawkins.

Jesse Rose/Selah Hawkins Farm

Throughout the 19th Century, in the vicinity of Hawkins Lane, on both sides of Beaver Dam Road, were a series of farmsteads belonging to the Hawkins family. They were originally Rose family lands; in 1818, Selah Hawkins (1775-1851) acquired the farm of his father-in-law, Jesse Rose (1738-1821), on the promise to care for Jesse and his wife Mary Greene (1747-1819). Some money was also said to have been paid. Selah's wife was Rachael Rose (1781-1825), Jesse's daughter. Jesse and Mary's gravestones are in the Rose family cemetery off Jared's Path (see p. 84). Jesse Rose was the grandson of Thomas Rose – the original settler of Fire Place Neck. Jesse is said to have bought the farm from Thomas Helme in 1780. Selah was the brother of Azel Hawkins – Daniel and Samuel's father. On Selah's death the property was inherited by his sons Lewis and Harmon. The house was split in half, and Harmon's half moved to what is now **311 Beaver Dam Road**. Lewis's share eventually burned. Succeeding generations built additional homes, so that today there is a cluster of homes in the region directly attributable to the Hawkins family (not all of which are still extant).

Nelson House



Nelson House, built 1931.

The house at **304 Beaver Dam Road**, on the northwest corner of Hawkins Lane, was designed by Norman Fairlie Nelson Jr. for his father, Norman Fairlie Nelson Sr. (1862-1954), and is typical of summer houses built on the road before WWII. All are based on traditional Long Island designs,

the main section of this house being an interpretation of typical Georgian architecture. The east extension, which was originally a one-story, gable-roofed kitchen, had a second story added in the 1960s with a gambrel roof line (see Morse House, 295 Beaver Dam Road, p. 17). The bricks came from the brickyard in Greenport. The garage is original.

Norman Fairlie Nelson Jr. (b. about 1904) died at age 90 while sailing in a race on the Peconic Bay with his nephew Norman. His last words were “Norman, take the helm.”

Selah/Chauncey Lewis Hawkins House

This house at **306 Beaver Dam Road** and its neighbor to the east were built by the younger Hawkins brothers, grandchildren of Selah Hawkins, who lived across the road. It was owned by C. Hawkins in 1902 (probably Chauncey Lewis



Hawkins, 1844-1909), and by S. Hawkins in 1897 (probably Selah Hawkins, 1838-1919) – both sons of Lewis Hawkins, and brothers to Henry Egbert Hawkins next door. Note the similarity in design to Henry Egbert Hawkins’s home to the east.

S. & C. Hawkins House, built between 1872 & 1897.

Henry Egbert Hawkins House

The house at 310 Beaver Dam Road was likely built in 1873-1880 by Henry Egbert Hawkins (1835-1923) shortly after his marriage to Henrietta Louise Barteau (1852-1930) in 1871. He was a son to Lewis Hawkins, who lived across the street. The main section is almost identical to the adjacent house to the west. The wing on the east is a later addition. The wing on the west was formerly part of the Brookhaven Public School, built in 1855 and sold in 1873 for \$88. The artist who painted the picture of the house is unknown. He just stopped by the front door one day and said he was moving south and the owners should have the picture.



*H. Hawkins House, built 1873-1880.
Picture used by permission
of Richard and Joan Watson.
Photographed by Marty Van Lith.*

Selah/Harmon Hawkins House

The house at 311 Beaver Dam Road includes the remaining half of the original Selah Hawkins house (see p. 17). It seems probable that the original house dates to Jesse Rose and may have been constructed in the late 18th Century.

In 1851, Selah died, and the house was split in two. Inherited by Selah's son Harmon, this half was moved to the present site. Harmon added back the missing half. About 1913, a gable roof section of another house was added at the rear, probably to be used as a summer guest house. For a time, the house was also used for lodgers. The two-story barn dates to about 1850, and is typical of barns of the time. The corn crib has been dated to about 1790.



*Selah/Harmon Hawkins House built late
18th Century, shown before north
addition and east porch were added.*

The next property east of this house contains the Hamlet Organic Garden (see p.95).

Burnett House

George Hubert Burnett (1824-1893) was born in Southampton. About 1848, he sailed on the *Sabrina* to the gold fields of California with a group of east end whaling captains. He is reported to have “amassed a fortune selling provisions.” On his return, he and his wife Frances Mary Jagger (1826-1924) left Southampton, bought 107 acres in Fire Place in 1854, and built the house at **325 Beaver Dam Road**.



Burnett House, built 1854.

Apparently, the farm was not a financial success, and bits and pieces were sold off in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Only one of the children married (Francis Hand, long-time Brookhaven postmistress, was a granddaughter). Eventually, C. Oliver Wellington purchased the farm and allowed the remaining Burnett family members to maintain residence until their deaths in the late 1940s. About 1948, Wellington improved the house and provided electricity and running water; the milk shed was pushed closer to the back door and attached to the house by a breezeway.

Richard Corwin Farm

The land immediately east of the Burnett farm had been owned by Zephaniah Conklin (1740-1832). In 1828, Richard Corwin purchased 10 acres located behind a five-acre lot along the road, which became his homestead. The two properties encompassed the modern lots on both sides of today's Locust Road, from Beaver Dam road north to the Burnett farm cross lot.

Richard, a veteran of the War of 1812, was the son of Richard Corwin Sr. (1751-1848), a Patriot. The Corwin family's principal holdings were large farm lots north of Chapel Avenue, between South Country and Old Stump Roads. Both son and father are buried in the Corwin family cemetery off Beaverbrook Drive, as are their wives and Richard Jr.'s young son, also Richard.

After Richard Jr. died, this farm became associated with his son, William Corwin (1822-1908). By the late 19th Century, the farm had been sold to Chauncey Swezey (1862-1948). Early in the 20th Century, Chauncey cut Locust Road down the center of the farm and began to sell off lots. By 1926, there were several homes, principally on the east side of the road.

Corwin/Swezey House

The house and barns at **12 Locust Road** were built probably about 1860/1861. The original road to the house went from Beaver Dam Road along the property line between the Burnett and Corwin farms.

By the late 19th Century, the farm was owned by Chauncey Swezey (1862-1948). When lots were sold off the farm after 1900, a new road was placed to the east of the house, which explains why the house appears to have no front entrance.

The exteriors of the house and barns have changed little in appearance – the porch has been enclosed and the shed on the right is used as a kitchen. The larger barn is now a guest cottage. The small barn has had a small garage addition added to the front.



Corwin/Swezey House, built mid-19th Century, shown early in the 20th Century when owned by Chauncey Swezey. Picture courtesy of Don and Genie David.

William Egbert Swezey House



The house at **5 Locust Road** was originally situated near to Beaver Dam Road. It is said to have been built in 1740, which would make it one of the first houses built on the newly con-
(continued on p. 22)

Swezey House, built about 1740. Drawing by Ann Wiswall, (1922-2014.)

structed road (some sources say about 1790). It was moved to its present site about 1927/1928, when the house at 335 Beaver Dam Road was built.

By the mid-19th Century, the house had become identified with William Egbert Swezey (1831-1897). He owned this property at least from the early 1850s, as he reportedly sold the lot to the west to his brother, John Warren Swezey, who built a dwelling there. The cottage itself would seem to have been too small to raise a family of six children, but apparently they did, as he and his wife Hanna Hulse (1834-1893) were still living there in 1880.

William Egbert Swezey was the father of Chauncey Swezey. Chauncey gave the house to his son Everett as a wedding gift. Everett's wife Lila Jayne (1896-1972) thought the house too small and old, which led to its being moved and a new house built.

John Warren Swezey House

About 1851, William Egbert Swezey sold the lot to the west at **331 Beaver Dam Road** to his brother John Warren Swezey (1824-1887), who then, with his new bride Phebe Hawkins (1815-1903), built a modest house. Phebe was a daughter of Selah Hawkins and Rachael Rose. John Warren died in 1887, but Phebe lived in the house until she died in 1903.

It was soon after sold to Emilie A. Wagner (b. about 1875) and Ellen (Nellie) E. Learned (b. 1866), who enlarged the house to its present size, shown below. They were musicians and teachers, but it appears that they were unable to maintain the mortgage, and so the house was foreclosed. They then moved to a more modest cottage "in the woods" on Hawkins Lane. Emilie, "one of those formidable women with short hair and long vision who spread the settlement idea across the country at the turn of the century" (New York Times, Nov. 14, 1969), was founder of the Third Street Music Settlement School in Manhattan and served as its director until 1907. Nellie was said to have had an "operatic" voice and regularly performed in concerts in New York and elsewhere. She served as director of the St. James Church choir.



*(above) John Warren Swezey House, built about 1851, as it appeared in the 19th Century.
(right) The house today.*



Albin Store

Built between 1858 and 1873, the house at **340 Beaver Dam Road**, corner of Meadow Lane, has had various additions over the years. From about 1873 to about 1910, this was Robert (Skip) Albin's (1859-1912) grocery store and residence. After that, Charles Leonard Newey (b. about 1857-d. about 1925) and his wife Minnie Etta Petty (b. about 1866) ran the store. It was known as the Downstreet Store and Rose's Store, and also carried some fishing and boating supplies. While there is some ambiguity in the census record, Charles Leonard



Albin Store, built 1858-73.

was likely the son of Charles and Mary Newey of Newey Lane and uncle to Irma Newey of diary fame.* Charles Leonard first had a house on Newey Lane and was also a bayman.

In 1944, Alfred and Alice Nelson bought the house, and it remained in the Nelson family until 2013.

**Irma D. Newey (1888-1949) was 16 when she wrote this diary in 1904. It reveals much about the life of a teenager in a small Long Island hamlet at the turn of the Century. Read it at <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/Newey/IrmaDNeweyDiary.htm>*

William Brewster Rose House

William Brewster Rose (1812-1890) was the second great-grandson of Thomas Rose, the first settler of Fire Place Neck. He occupied the farm next east of Sylvester and the house at **339 Beaver Dam Road**. To the east of his property was that of his brother John Smith Rose (1816-1882). William Brewster



Brewster Rose House, built 18th-early 19th Century.

was known as "Brewster Rose" and John Smith as "Smith Rose." Both likely inherited their properties from their father, Joseph Rose (1776-1841). Both farms stretched from Beaver Dam Road to the Burnett cross-field. Brewster's wife was Parnal Reeve (1813-1892).

It is uncertain when the
(continued on p. 24)

house was built, but part of it likely dates to the early 19th Century, and may even have elements from the 18th Century. The house differs little from its 19th Century appearance. The barn is also 19th Century. The property is known for its landmark white picket fence along the road, which, the photo shows, stretched to be in front of Smith Rose's homestead. (See also the photo on p. 10, showing Beaver Dam Road in front of the Rose homesteads.)



Brewster Rose house during the Fords' residency.



Destruction after the 1938 hurricane.

For several years, this was the home of writer and critic James L. Ford (1854-1928), and his sister Mary (1856-1934). It later was the home of Captain John (1894-1972) and Dorothy (1892-1992) Tuthill; John was the publisher of the *Patchogue Advance*.

John Smith Rose Farm *Edgewater Inn*

The lot next east of the Brewster Rose farm was that of John Smith Rose (1816-1882). The house (approximately at **349 Beaver Dam Road**) was built about 1820. Sometime after Smith Rose's death, it became the Edgewater Inn, "an old and noted hostelry" with guest wings added. It was an example of the small resort hotels that could be found in many south shore communities in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The Edgewater inn was run by Mrs. Rachel Purdy D'Arcas (1844-1925). Among her more famous guests were singer Mme. Maeterlinck, publisher Conde Nast, and *Vogue* editor Edna Woolman Chase. After being sold by D'Arcas, the inn burned in May 1928.

The house now on this site was built in the 1950s by Blair Munhofen, when he married Joan Tuthill, daughter of publisher John Tuthill (see above).



Edgewater Inn, built 1820, burned 1928.

Fire Place Farm

In 1903, the land known as Fire Place Farm became the property of Hugh and Nancy Harrison, who then owned all the land between Newey and Meadow Lanes, from Beaver Dam Road to the Great South Bay. He built the house at 352 Beaver Dam Road.



Fire Place Farm, built mid-19th Century onward. View is from the back looking north.

Later owned by Alan Griffin Baker Sr. (b. about 1900), the house has a façade divided into four asymmetrical sections, each with its own gable. Its high stuccoed wall, close to the street with a mounting block, is a hamlet landmark. This property was once a small horse farm with a riding academy, which may explain some of its English hunting-print spirit. The Bakers also owned the lot to the west. In 1930, Alan Baker recorded his occupation as a dairy farmer.

The dining room of this house was originally part of a three-room cottage owned by an Ezra King on the same site, built 1860-70. One section of the present building, at the east end, was removed and sited a few hundred feet east and converted to a house.



Newey Lane

34

Newey Lane was late in arriving in Brookhaven hamlet. During the 18th and early 19th Centuries, census records indicate that Beaver Dam Road was mostly occupied by farmers. But in the last quarter of the 19th Century, most of the households in the lower reaches of Beaver Dam Road recorded “bayman,” “fishing,” or “life guard service” as their occupations. Compare the 1873 and 1888 maps on pages 102-103. In the 15-year interval, new homes on relatively small lots appear on Newey Lane. No doubt the railroad’s arrival in the hamlet in the 1880s made it easy to ship their products to market. Given that the station did not open until 1884, there was a building boom.

At first, Newey Lane was no doubt a private road to the Charles Shepard Newey (1823-1896) house at its south end (later, he or a son may have lived in a house at 314 Beaver Dam Road). He was a fisherman/bayman. His son, Charles Leonard Newey (1857-1925) occupied the adjacent residence to the north. He was a bayman and later the proprietor of the store at Meadow Lane. Charles Shepard’s daughter, Mary Augusta Newey (1852-1916), married William Murdock (1848-1918), also a bayman, and they built the house next north (Stanley Grodeski later lived in this house). Another son, William Shepard Newey (1854-1914) was known to have lived on Newey Lane. In addition to being a bayman, he was also a government lifesaver and the father of Irma Newey (see footnote on p. 23).



Stanley Grodeski, Brookhaven hamlet's boat builder circa 1940s.

Photo courtesy Bruce Tooker

Newey/Tooker Boat Yard 12

Perhaps the best known of the Charles Shepard Newey family was Captain Samuel Wallace Newey (1865-1949), who operated the Newey Boat Yard at the south end of Newey Lane, just south of the Charles Newey house at **22 Newey Lane**. His wife was Lillian May (Lillie) Lamb (1872-1949). They had five children, all daughters.

The following is excerpted from *Bellport and Brookhaven, A Saga of the Sibling Hamlets at Old Purchase South* by Stephanie Bigelow:

“... He started to build boats in 1900. Having sold to the Vacuum Oil Company a 65-foot freighter he had built for himself, he subsequently built them fourteen tankers which went to India and to Africa. He built sloops, yachts, yawls; boats for ferrymen, boats for the oil trade, commercial draggers equipped with heavy booms and hoisting gear, and little sailboats for the younger generation who wanted to race.

“In 1924 alone, 54 boats were built in Captain Newey’s yard, many of these being of the Shore Bird class for the Westhampton Beach Yacht Squadron. He built the 87-foot Ocean Beach ferry in the 1920s and, the same year, the 70-foot *Howard E. Harrin*, a party fishing boat. He drew no plans, nor made half models in scale ... but just went ahead and built; he always was of the opinion that, ‘anyway, no one could see both sides of the boat at once.’

“For the larger boats, when it came launching time, he used housemoving equipment, sliding the boats on rails, turning the corner of his lane into Beaver Dam Road, thence into Carmans River, and launching them sideways.”

When Sam Newey retired in 1948, he sold the yard to Richard Tooker (1909-1998). Stanley Grodeski (shown at left), a ship’s carpenter with Sam Newey, continued to build boats for a while. In 1980, the boatyard was sold to William Starke. In 1999, the Post-Morrow Foundation purchased the site with an eye toward preserving a traditional local maritime facility and the skills that are associated with it. With the Carmans River Maritime Center becoming an independent entity in 2002, the Newey boat shop has been totally renovated and upgraded to serve as the central venue of the center’s facilities.



Sam Newey also made eel pots. It is said that so many eel pots were stored along Newey Lane that it was once known as Eel Pot Alley.

Squassux Landing

14

Since the early 18th Century, fishermen, sailors and haulers have used Squassux Landing. It was said to have been named after a nearby native resident who was supposedly a potter, but there is no reliable documentation of this legend. Squassux Landing is first mentioned in the records of the Town of Brookhaven in 1675.



Joseph Carman House, built 19th Century

public road did not extend to the river, a situation corrected in Jan. 1872.

Squassux Landing was not always as accessible as it is now. When Beaver Dam Road was constructed in 1737, the

A 1858 Town of Brookhaven survey of the road recorded its eastern terminus as the property of Samuel Carman Jr. (1789-1869). This property later belonged to his son, Joseph Carman (1812-1894), who had a house at the river. This house (built circa 1843) and property, including the landing and the dock area, was bought by the sportsman Carman Lush* in 1907 from Joseph Carman's

**During World War I, songwriter Irving Berlin, then a soldier stationed at Camp Upton, is said to have been visiting Carman Lush when he sat down at the piano and wrote "Yip, Yip, Yaphank."*





heirs. Apparently, however, baymen and pleasure boaters largely ignored property rights and maintained their traditional use of the area by building docks and mooring their boats pretty much at will.

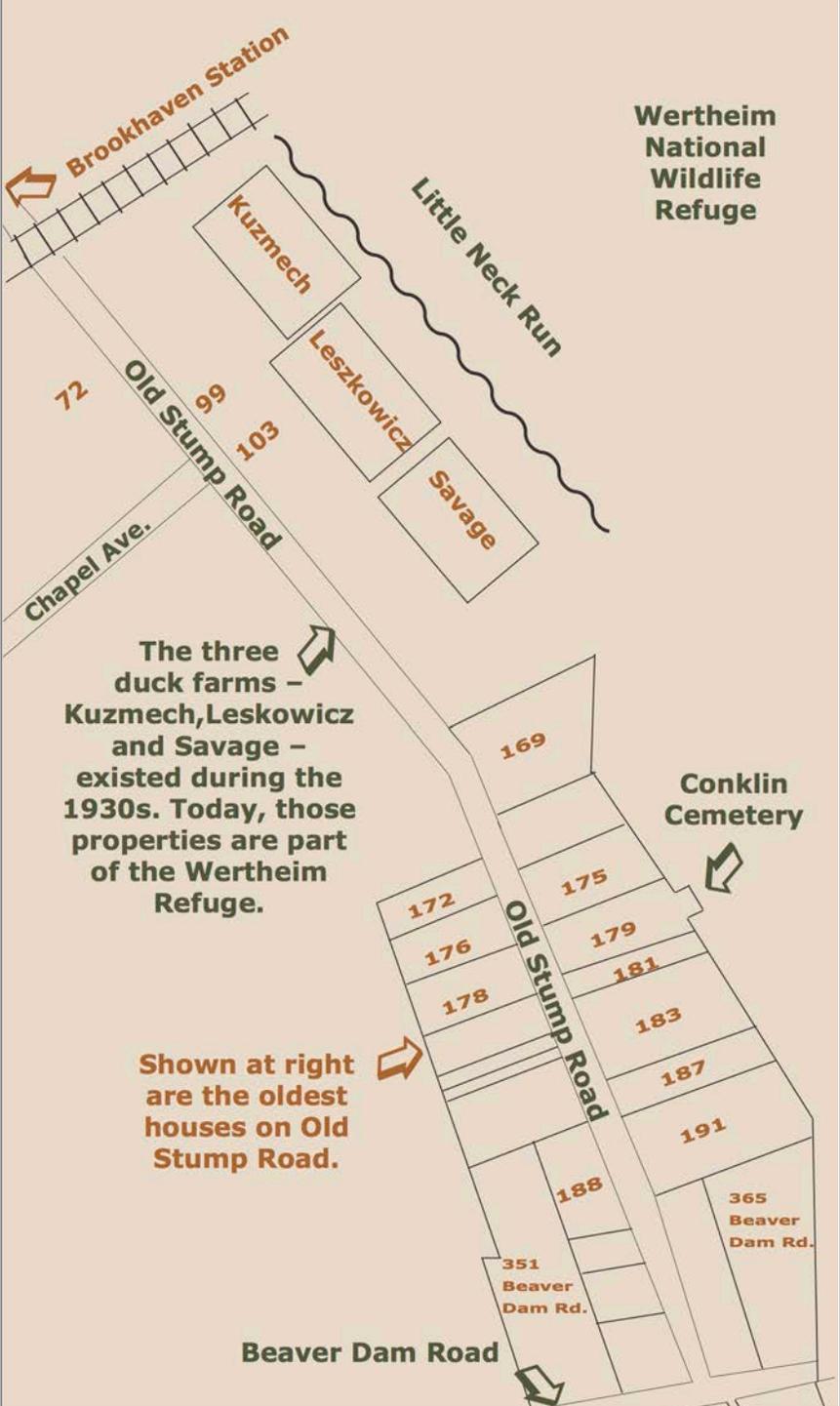
The inevitable disputes were resolved in 1917 when James H. Post bought the 13-acre Squassux Landing and marina parcel from Carman Lush and made it available for community use. James H. Post's daughters deeded the land to the Brookhaven Village Association in 1945.

In 1932, Rolf and Bernardine Michelson purchased the property north of Beaver Dam Road, opposite Squassux Landing, from the estate of Carman Lush, and operated a guest house named Lark Shores and a private hunting preserve along the river. In about 1968, the house was destroyed by fire.

Burying Grounds

There are two historic family cemeteries within the vicinity of this walking tour – the Azel Hawkins cemetery and the Rose cemetery. The Azel Hawkins cemetery is located off Stillwood Road, through a path at the bend right after 10 Stillwood Road. The Rose cemetery is off of Jared's Path in the former Ireland Estate (see map, p. 8) and easy to access. When the area was still farmland, the Rose cemetery had been severely damaged, but it was restored in 2008 by the Fire Place History Club.

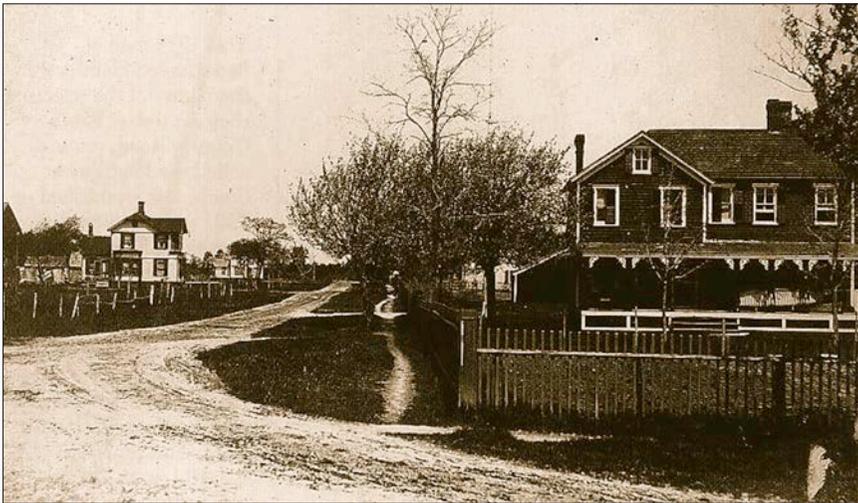
In 2009, The Fire Place History Club brought a lawsuit, heard in State Supreme Court, to require the Town of Brookhaven to maintain these cemeteries and their rights-of-way in accordance with New York State law. The decision came down in 2010, requiring the town to comply, but adherence to date has been spotty.



Shown at right are the oldest houses on Old Stump Road.

Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 2
Exploring Old Stump Road
from
Eastern Beaver Dam Road
to
Bridge Street

Distance: 1 mile
Walk the route as a separate tour or
as a continuation of Tour 1 (p.9)



This 1905 photo was taken from the corner of Old Stump Road and Beaver Dam Road looking north. The house shown on the right has since burned down. On the left side, the house in the distance is 188 Old Stump Road (see p. 34).

The Oldest Houses On Old Stump Road

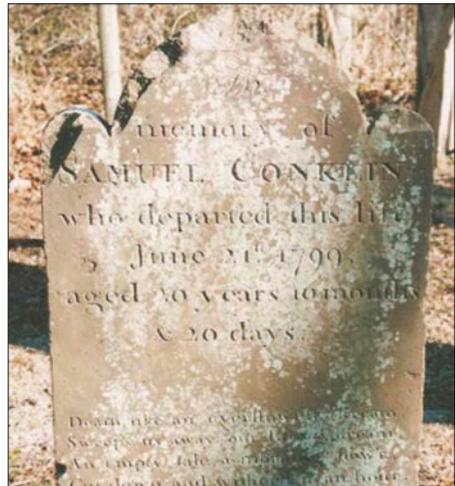
Compared to Beaver Dam Road, Old Stump Road is a relatively new road in the hamlet. The South Side Railroad/Long Island Rail Road extended its route past Patchogue to Eastport in the 1880s. The Brookhaven Station opened in 1884 on the northwest corner of Old Stump Road, also known as Railroad Avenue. The station quickly became an important focus of the community, and Old Stump provided the most direct route to the eastern end of Beaver Dam Road and the ferry to Fire Island.

The corner of Beaver Dam and Old Stump Roads has seen its tragedies. A house on the northwest corner burned in 1947, killing ex-Army pilot Donald Barry, his wife and two children. In 1977, a fire destroyed the Abither Bell Gerard (1842-1922) house on the northeast corner, killing one person.

When the first six houses were built along the southern portion of today's Old Stump Road in the early 1870s and 1880s, the deeds for these houses recorded it as a Right of Way. The road is shown on an 1873 map as connecting all the way from Brookhaven Avenue (Beaver Dam Road) to South Country Road (Montauk Highway), and continuing up Yaphank Avenue.

In 1884, the south shore line of the Long Island Rail Road was completed, and a station and freight house were located along the road where Bridge Street is today. An 1888 atlas named the new road Railroad Avenue, showing only the six houses on the southern portion. The map on p. 30 approximates modern day numbers, south to north, from 191 to 169.

The lots shown along the southernmost, east side of Old Stump Road were part of a nine-acre parcel owned by William Jarvis Swezey and sons from 1850 until 1872, when it was subdivided into seven lots and sold. Before then, during the 1700s into the early 1800s, it was most likely part of the Zephaniah Conklin farm, where a family cemetery is located behind modern day house #179.



The headstone of Samuel Conklin, who died on June 24, 1799.

Most of the houses north of the bend in the road at 169 Old Stump Road were built on land that was once part of the Miller, Ketcham, Corwin and Carman “cross lots.” Laid out in the 17th Century, these lots extended all the way from Beaver Dam Creek eastward to Little Neck Run.

Rossmore

Many, if not most, of the older houses in Brookhaven hamlet had names, as illustrated by the first house we come to on the east side of the road at **191 Old Stump Road**. Known as Rossmore, this house is shown on an 1888 map as being owned by N. Gerard, then, by 1912, being sold to Rolf and Bernadine Michelsen.



Rossmore, located at 191 Old Stump Road, shown above in 1912 and below circa 1920: – photo courtesy of Barbara Kresse



Murdock House

Opposite *Rossmore*, on the west side of the street, is **188 Old Stump Road**. The house there is said to have been built circa 1900 by John Albin, and, by 1910, owned by William Murdock.



Above: Cora and Capt. William Murdock, circa 1930s (photo courtesy John E. Barry), at their 188 Old Stump Road home, shown at left (photo courtesy Barbara Kresse).

Poole House

The next house north of 191 on the east side of **Old Stump Road** is number **187**, shown on the 1888 map as being owned by Wallace H. Swezey, who then lived at 175 Old Stump Road. The original house no longer exists, but, shortly after 1902, Thomas Poole, a fisherman, and his wife, the former Ada Swezey, daughter of Wallace Swezey, purchased the lot and built the current house. As of 2017, the Pooles' granddaughter and her husband still own the house.



Captain Gerard House



Capt. Abitha Gerard

The current owners of 183 Old Stump Road have said that the deed for the house is dated 1872. Captain Abitha Gerard, a bayman who later ran a ferry from Squassux Landing to Fire Island, was known to own the house from 1875 to 1884. The original barn and windmill are still standing behind the house.

For some 67 years after 1911, the Joseph Bennet family resided here, principally as a summer residence. The Bennets sold to the current resident in 1978.

Joseph Bennet's niece Gloria Brown writes: "Four generations of Bennets summered here and three generations are still in Brookhaven (Oaklawn Cemetery). City children like me and my cousins benefited by summering here. We learned some local history by finding family graves in the woods. Also nature habitats. Box turtles in particular were abundant, but birds, deer and other wild creatures were always to be seen. How wonderful to go down the road and get your fresh milk at the farm.

And of course to go swimming in the bay and then shower and dress in the barn."



Written on the barn door are the names of dozens of children dating from the early 20th Century.

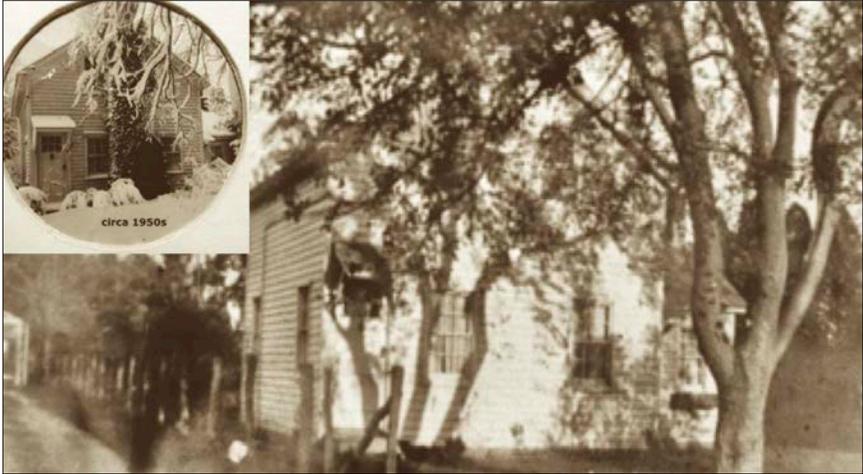
183 Old Stump Road: Below, in 1912; at left, the house today.



Bennet House

The house at **181 Old Stump Road** was built on a lot that was subdivided from the lot to its north, 179, by John Albin between 1888 and 1902. By 1922, it was the summer residence of Edna Bennet, adjacent to and south of the cottage of her parents, Joseph and Kate Bennet, at 183 Old Stump Road. Edna was a school teacher in Brooklyn.

On the back of the larger photo below was written "Edna's cottage, 1922."



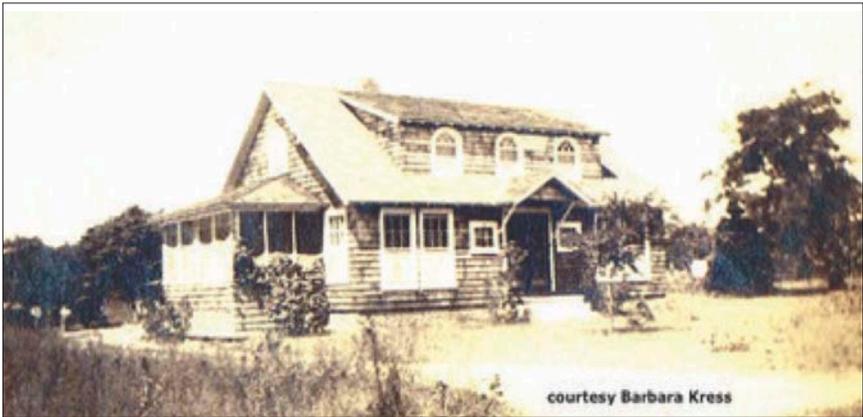
Albin House

179 Old Stump Road was probably built by James Albin circa 1872. The half-acre lot to the south of it, 181, was subdivided from this lot sometime shortly after 1888 and sold to his brother John Albin. For many years, Ed and Ruth Call lived in 179 Old Stump Road. At the rear of the property are three headstones of the Conklin family. One headstone's burial date is 1799 (see picture, p. 32).



The Quartermaster's House

The house at 178 Old Stump Road, on the west side of the road, was purchased at a public auction held at Camp Upton, Yaphank, then dismantled in 1921 and rebuilt into this residence. The original owners were Carrie and George Nesbitt. Former resident Barbara Kresse recalled: "When my son was remodeling the house, he had some wood removed. I found two oak door saddles with 'Quartermaster Camp Upton' written on the bottom. So the Nesbitts had purchased the Quartermaster's house."



Nesbitt House

The house at 176 Old Stump Road, also on the west side, was built between 1902 and 1915, by George Nesbitt. In 1921, he moved from this house to the former Camp Upton Quartermaster's house that he had rebuilt at 178 Old Stump Road (above).

Top right: The Nesbitt house early in its lifetime. Standing on the left of the house are then occupants Louise Fogers (facing shrubbery) and her mother, Ruth Fogers.

Bottom right: The house today.



Wallace Swezey House

The house at 175 Old Stump Road was owned and probably built and completed in 1884, by Wallace H. Swezey, who lived there until the 1930s. Wallace Swezey married Adeline DeMange in April 1884, and they had 10 children between 1885 and 1900. Swezey was listed as a farmer in the 1880 census and as a bayman in the 1900 census. In 1910 and 1920, he was a dealer in ice.



Wallace Swezey family, 1903. Photo courtesy Meg Koch.

Brown House

The residence at 172 Old Stump Road was built by A. Brown between 1910 and 1915, and sold to Anthony Kalinowski in the 1920s.

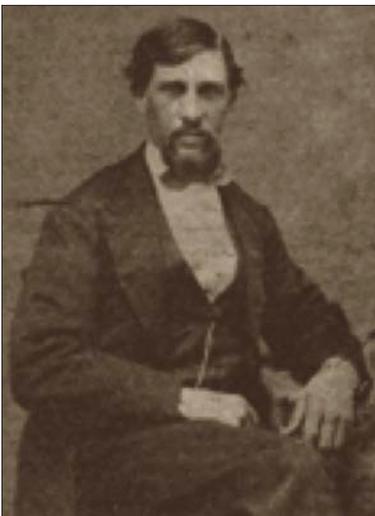
Both photos show the house as it is today.



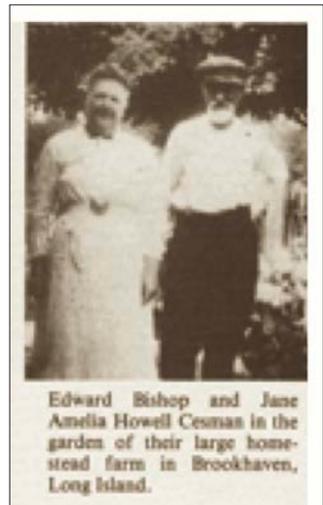
Cesman House



The last of the six houses shown in the 1888 atlas is **169 Old Stump Road**. It was built in 1884 by Edward Bishop Cesman, who grew up in Westhampton and was a decorated Civil War veteran. Edward Cesman married Jane Howell, also of Westhampton, and together they had four children: Nellie, Laura, George and Charles. Circa 1880, he came to this area to work as a surfman at the Smith's Point Life Saving Station, but, after a few years, decided to go into farming. His farmland was located to the north and east of the house.



*Left:
Edward
Cesman
in 1866,
– Courtesy
Frances
Bullock.*

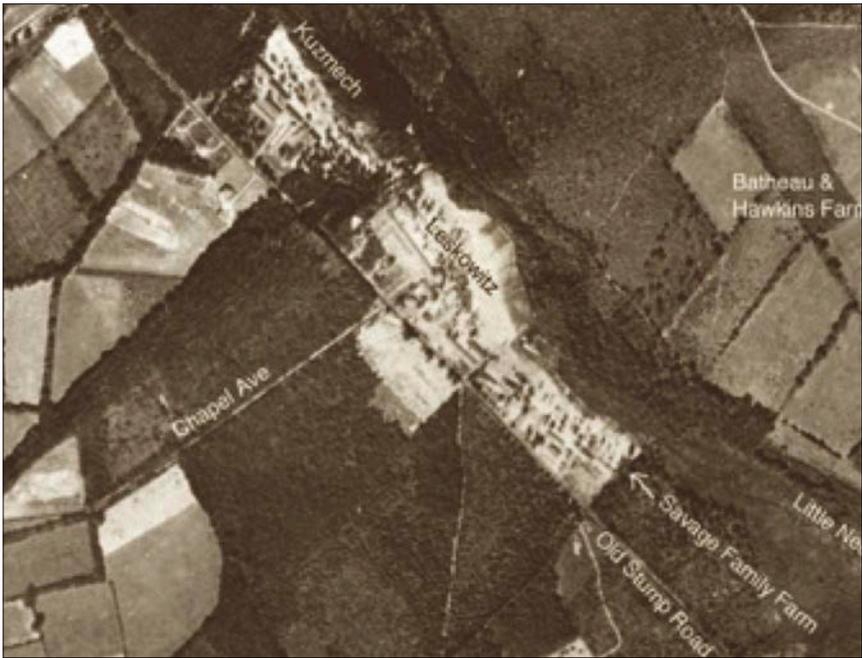


*Right:
Edward
and Jane
Cesman in
later years.*

Edward Bishop Cesman and Jane Amelia Howell Cesman in the garden of their large home-stead farm in Brookhaven, Long Island.

The Duck Farms

In the 1920s, there were three separate family duck farms on Old Stump Road – (shown L-R in photo below) Kuzmech, Leszkowicz and Savage. These were eventually consolidated into a single Leszkowicz farm. Except for the residences and their associated outbuildings at 103, 99 and 72 Old Stump Road, the Leszkowicz farmsite was purchased by the Federal government in 1978 and added to the existing 1,700-acre Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. With the exception of the three houses, most of the land on the east side, north of 169 Old Stump Road, is part of the now 2,600-acre Wertheim Refuge.



The duck farm below was owned by Antonio Savage from 1924 to 1930, when he sold it to brothers Joseph and Egnatz Leszkowicz. Today, all of the duck ranch barns, sheds and other outbuildings have been razed, and the farm land-holdings are incorporated within the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.



*“The Leskowicz duck farm, which is the third largest on the Island ...”
– Long Island Advance, Dec. 5, 1946*

A year earlier than the announcement above, the farm had been declared the third largest duck farm in Suffolk County. Eventually, it stretched for three-quarters of a mile along Old Stump Road and both sides of Little Neck Run, and Joseph’s oldest son Adam became a partner in the enterprise.

The three houses that sit on land once part of the Leskowicz duck farm, were all built by family members:

103 Old Stump Road, top right, was probably built in the 1920s by the Joseph Leszkowicz Sr. family. His sons Joseph Jr. and Egnatz Leszkowicz, and later Joseph’s children (Egnatz was a bachelor), ran the duck farm until it was sold in 1978.



99 Old Stump Road, bottom right, was built by Adam Leszkowicz, Joseph Jr.’s oldest son, in the 1940s.



Joseph Leszkowicz Jr. lived in the home at 72 Old Stump Road from about 1935 until around 1993. He was the second son of family patriarch Joseph.

Rail Road

The railroad line through Brookhaven hamlet arrived relatively late, when the South Side Railroad Company line was extended from Patchogue to Eastport in 1881. Prior to that time the East End of Long Island – Eastport to Bridgehampton – was served by a spur from the Long Island Rail Road's main line south from Manorville to Eastport (this spur was abandoned in 1939). The line now known as the Montauk Branch was not fully completed to Montauk until 1895.

The Brookhaven hamlet Train Station was on the north side of the tracks near the intersection of Old Stump Road and Bridge Place (both streets were, at one time or another, known as Railroad Street or Avenue). The Brookhaven station and freight house were built in 1884. Baymen would bring their catch and farmers their produce (for



Above: Brookhaven train station, circa 1900. The Brookhaven Station and Railway Express Agency were on the corner of Old Stump Road and Bridge Street. The freight house was on the southeast side of the railroad tracks.



Left: Train passing over the South Country Road viaduct, about 1900.

example: eggs) to the freight house for shipment to New York City markets. The station also housed a Railway Express Agency (REA), which closed in 1932. The Brookhaven train station closed for good in 1958. After that, the station build-



The Brookhaven station freight house, now preserved in South Haven.

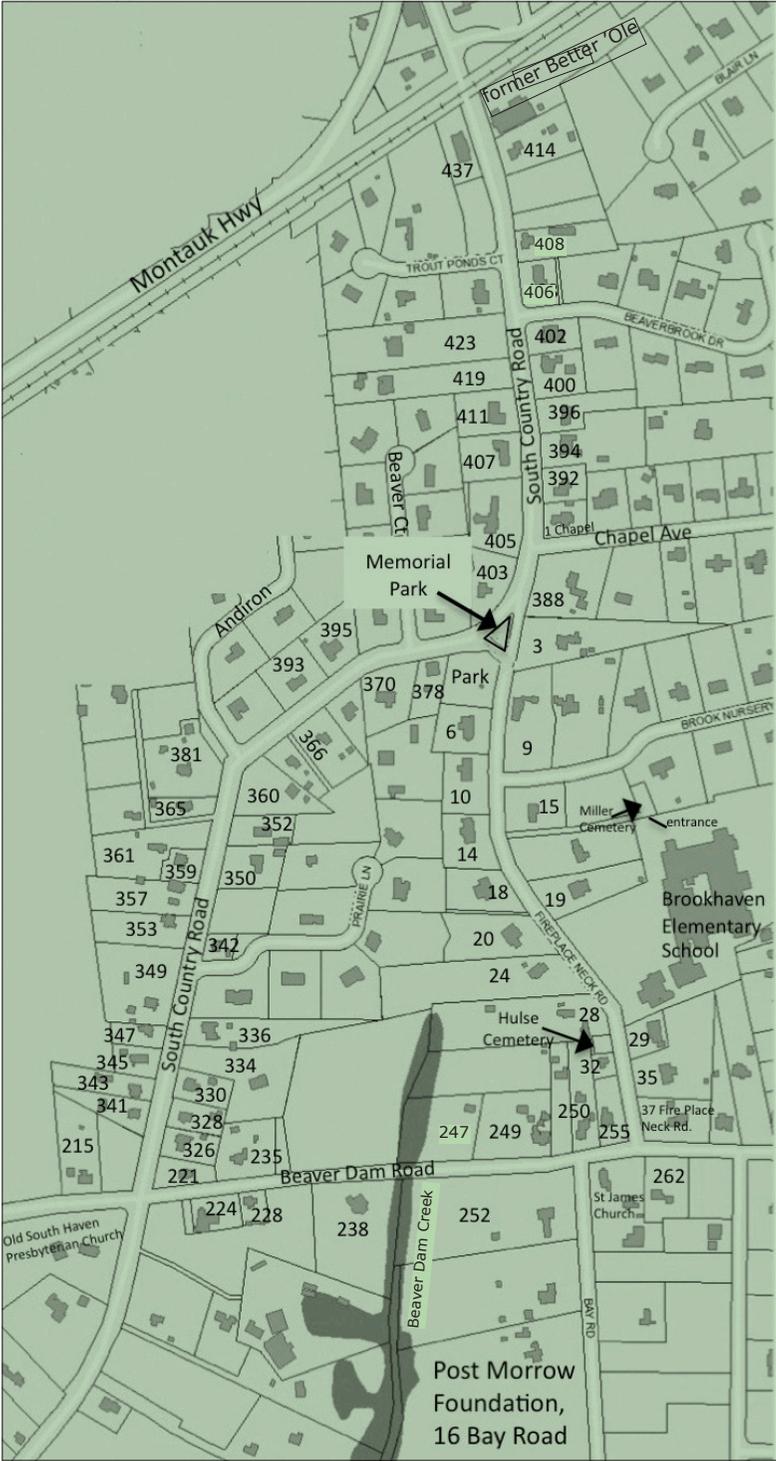
ing was moved to a site in East Moriches. The freight house was moved to Ron Bush's farm and museum in South Haven. Another small outbuilding was moved as a yard shed to a residence on Burnett Lane.

The arrival of the railroad brought many changes to Brookhaven hamlet. Easy travel to New York City and Brooklyn increased the popularity of the hamlet as a summer resort, a place for summer homes, and as an artists' community. Children used the train to travel to high school in Patchogue. Mail and freight delivery came several times a day.

Transportation of produce and supplies was also enhanced. The REA was equivalent to our modern United Parcel Service. Prior to the line's extension, passenger and freight traffic passed through Yaphank, Medford or Patchogue. At first, passengers between Manhattan and Long Island had to transfer to a ferry at Long Island City. After tunnels were completed to Pennsylvania Station in 1910, electric engines passed through the tunnels. It was typical at that time to have a steam engine substituted at Jamaica, as opposed to the norm today where the passengers often switch trains. Celebrations of the tunnel openings were held at most stations on Long Island.



*Big day in Brookhaven hamlet – September 8, 1910!
First eastbound train arrives direct from Manhattan's Pennsylvania Station via the new East River tunnel.*



Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 3

Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 3

Blazing a Loop Trail

from

The Former Better 'Ole ⇨
Memorial Triangle ⇨
Fireplace Neck Road ⇨
Beaver Dam Road ⇨
South Country Road ⇨
back to the Triangle!

Distance: 1.4 miles



This mural of the Memorial Triangle area was painted by Gavin Brack, grandson of Ralph and Peggy Taylor. It is in the home of Bob and Gloria Brown, and used with their permission.

The Better 'Ole



The Better 'Ole Tea Porch, about 1925

This restaurant was formerly known as “The Better 'Ole” and has been a fixture in the hamlet for many years. At one time, there was a large, prominent sign facing the tracks visible to Long Island Rail Road passengers advertising the Better 'Ole. Today, the building continues to be used as Painters' Restaurant.

This site was originally a part of a large farm – the old Parsonage holding (see p. 57) – eventually owned by Joshua Carman (1825-1906), a son of Sam Carman Jr. In 1888, it was purchased by Sarah Andrews. A wood-framed structure at the east end of the present building was likely the original Joshua Carman homestead. Joshua was known to be occupying this homestead at least by 1870.

The inn was likely founded shortly after WWI by William R. Seeley (Smith), who operated it with his second wife Florrie (aka Lucile), until Mar. 29, 1929, when he died. William Seeley was a well-known vaudeville actor, whose first wife was the famous actress Bessie Bonehill. The name “Better 'Ole” came from a WWI expression: “If you find a better 'ole, go to it.” This expression was incorporated into a well-known contemporary cartoon by the famous cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather (see next page). Seeley was a friend of Bairnsfather.

During this period, the Better 'Ole was a favorite hangout for theater artists who often produced impromptu performances. From newspaper accounts, it appears that the original Carman residence may have also served as a guest house.

After Seeley's death, the inn continued to be run by Florrie (Mrs. Florence S. Smith). Florrie was also a vaudeville performer, with the stage names Ma'mselle Florrie Rhodesia and La Belle Florence. Called "the society lady juggler," she was especially well-known in the vaudeville circuits of Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

During 1920-1933, The Better 'Ole gained notoriety as a speak-easy – the term "tea room" was often used as an euphemism for a place where liquor could be found. The Better 'Ole was raided by Prohibition-era Federal agents in July 1930; one of the waiters was arrested, and an assortment of liquors, beer and ale seized. Florrie later appeared at the Federal Court House in Brooklyn wearing "widow weeds," complaining, "I have to have it [liquor] to satisfy my customers."

As with most of the raids on Long Island, after a relatively small fine,
(continued on p. 48)



Bruce Bairnsfather also was the author of a play about the adventures of Old Bill and his friends, Bert and Alf, in the trenches of World War I. In 1917, a successful musical, The Better 'Ole, opened in London and ran for over 800 performances. It then ran in New York City, 1918-1919. The play was made into silent films in 1919 and 1926. The 1926 version, starring Syd Chaplin as Old Bill, is available on DVD.



Parlor of The Better 'Ole, about 1925.



Better 'Ole Dining Porch, about 1925.

nothing more seems to have come of the arrest. (During Prohibition, there were at least two other speakeasy establishments in little Brookhaven hamlet, and several homes are suspected as having been built from liquor smuggling profits.)

Florrie Smith continued to run the restaurant until declining health caused her to retire to Huntington in 1938. The Better 'Ole continued to be operated by several proprietors with various renovations and additions. From 1948 until the 1960s, it was co-owned and operated by Jimmy Robbiano and his two brothers, Gino and Joseph, and received a major remodeling in 1960. Since then, the building has housed two different restaurants.



Though names and tastes have changed with proprietors and the times, the site has consistently hosted a better 'ole.



*(above)
Better 'Ole
Dining
Room,
about 1951.*

*(left) The
Better 'Ole,
probably
about 1960.*

Burying Grounds

There are three historic family cemeteries within the vicinity of this walking tour, but only two – the Miller cemetery and the Hulse cemetery – are accessible. The Miller cemetery is behind 19 Fire Place Neck Road, accessible through a gate in the north fence of the Brookhaven Elementary School (see map, p. 44). The Hulse cemetery is opposite the elementary school.

Corwin Farm

The Richard Corwin family seems to have settled in Fire Place shortly after the Revolutionary War. Their farm eventually stretched along South Country Road from about modern Chapel Avenue northward to the railroad, and eastward to Little Neck Run past Old Stump Road. Two homes along the highway are associated with the family – the cottage at **408 South Country Road** and the larger house at **414 South Country Road**.

A Revolutionary War soldier and hero (see p. 50), Richard Corwin is buried in the Corwin family burying ground (see p. 87).

Nathaniel Corwin House

This house at **414 South Country Road** was likely built by Nathaniel H. Corwin, one of Richard Corwin's sons. It was definitely constructed before 1858, probably about 1845 – his first son was born about that date. It is located immediately to the north of his father's house. The rear addition to the house was a Sears catalog house added early 20th Century. It was a complete kit; all needed supplies, including cut lumber and nails, were delivered to the Brookhaven train station, then bought to the job site by horse-drawn carts.

Nathaniel is said to have lived in this house until his death in 1913. He is buried in the Corwin family cemetery.



Richard Corwin/ Raymond Perry House

Located at **408 South Country Road**, this house is perhaps, in part, the original Richard Corwin homestead. It is one of the older homes still extant in Brookhaven hamlet. Likely built in the late 18th Century by Isaac and Mary Wells, it was purchased by Richard Corwin (1751-1848) in 1805, along with extensive farmland.



Richard Corwin signed the engagement to support Congress, in 1775, and became a Revolutionary War soldier, present at both the battle of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis. Then-General George

Washington once tested Corwin's fidelity as a guard by attempting to pass him in the night, but Corwin would not allow him to pass and, afterward, received commendations for his fidelity. Corwin was then known by and received his pension under the name of Currin. Later, the house became the home of his son, also named Richard Corwin (1795-1882). A captain in the War of 1812, the younger Corwin lived there until 1860. Around that time he built his own retirement home at today's 12 Locust Lane, leaving the house at 408 South Country Road to his eldest son Sylvester Corwin.

A portion of the present home – attached to this house about 1862 – was originally the James Homan residence located on the west side of South Country Road. James Homan was one of the 11 men drowned in the infamous 1813 fishing accident off Fire Island.*

In the 1930s and '40s, the artist Raymond Perry lived in this house. He called it Willow Tree Cottage and created the charming painting at right. Perry was art editor for National Comics Publications, Inc. He also designed windows for churches and libraries in Pennsylvania and was noted for his portraits. In 1940, he did a pen and ink drawing of the Brookhaven Free Library that is now at the Post-Morrow Foundation. A colorized version is printed on current library cards.



*For more about the drowning tragedy, go to <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/1813Calamity/1813CalamityWhoWereTheseMen.htm>



The Chapel House in the 1940s when it was an antiques store.

Chapel House

26

The structure at 1 Chapel Avenue (corner of South Country Road) began its life in 1848 as a small Congregational Church. Its pastor was the Rev. Nathaniel Hawkins (1777-1860), an ordained Presbyterian minister (1815) and local farmer.

By 1875, the congregation was nearly extinct, and the sole remaining member deeded the property to the Presbyterians. Over time, more rooms and the steeple were added. It was used for classrooms and as a general community center (called variously the "Lecture Room" or the "Presbyterian Chapel"). The Presbyterians sold it in 1945, when they took over the Methodist Church on Beaver Dam Road. For a while it was used as an antiques store operated by George Perley Morse and also accommodated a watch repairer named Harold M. Ballard.

There is a
WATCH REPAIRER
at the
CHAPELHOUSE
BROOKHAVEN, L. I.
Work seems satisfactory
You might try him.
HAROLD M. BALLARD
9-12, 2-5 and by appointment

This building is now a private dwelling.

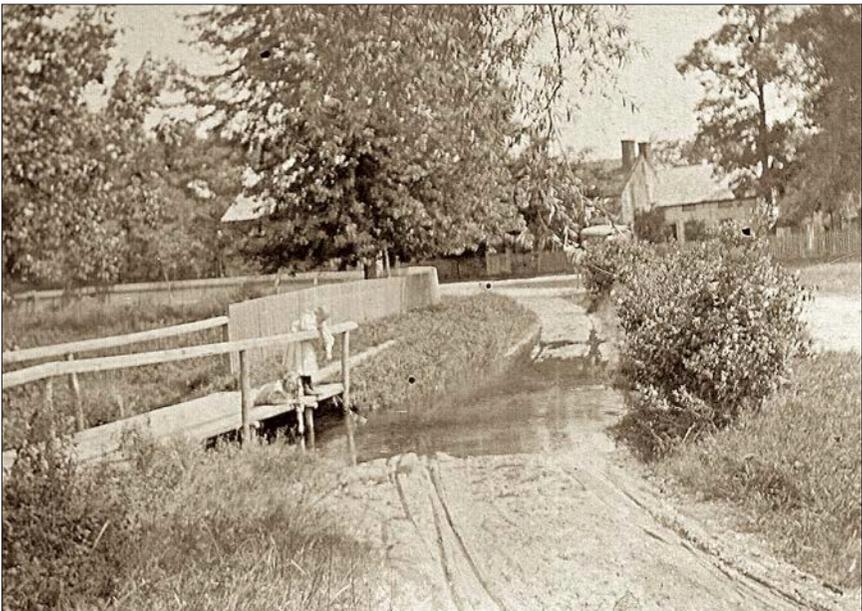
Ketcham-Nelson House

The original Ketcham house at **388 South Country Road** was located close to the highway (see below). Edna Valentine Bruce commented: "... the Ketcham house stood almost in Fireplace Neck Road, directly opposite the later War Memorial. Old houses were built close to the road so the ears of their inmates might more readily gather town news (there were no party lines in those days)."

The first house was built about 1793 by Isaac (b. 1734) and Scudder (1761-1799) Ketcham. By 1800, the only Ketcham family living in Fire Place was Elizabeth Rose Ketcham, Scudder's wife (1762-1835, m. 1789) and daughter of Capt. Nathan Rose. Scudder was Isaac's son and is buried in the Rose Cemetery off Jared's Path. In 1800, after Scudder's death, Elizabeth's household, consisted of three males and two females, all under age ten. There also were three slaves.

Members of the Ketcham family were residents of Fire Place to around 1880 when the Andrews brothers, William and George, purchased it and other farmland in Brookhaven hamlet (see p. 78 and map p. 104).

Like the Miller farm, the Ketcham farm stretched from South Country Road to Little Neck Run. There was also a small Ketcham family cemetery on the



*South Country Road looking east at Beaver Dam Creek.
Ketcham farm is in the background.*

*Ketcham
house*



property, which was moved by the family to Woodlawn Cemetery in Bellport.

In 1906, the Ketcham property was purchased by Alfred Nelson (1834-1922)*. He named it Middlebrook Farm. The Nelsons lived there until Ethel Morris Nelson died in 1966. Ethel was Alfred's daughter-in-law and wife of Desmond (b. 1869). Desmond Nelson developed Chapel Avenue and sold lots along it, as well as other lots at the property's eastern edge.

The Ketcham property was then bought by architect Frederick Allardt (who had taken up residence in the Miller homestead). He made many alterations, including converting the barn to a residence.

** The deed record is ambiguous. It is clear that the southern portion of the Corwin farm was purchased by Alfred Nelson from Louisa Goodall. The boundaries of this purchase are difficult to interpret. Edna Valentine Bruce indicated that the Ketcham farm itself was purchased from Louisa Goodall, which further research may prove to be the case.*



Ketcham Barn, now a private residence

Brook House

27



the venture became very popular. Then Wellington decided to make it a “real dining experience” and brought in New York restauranteurs as staff.

Nancy Wellington Lee remembered: “A screened-in porch was built over the brook, greatly adding to the room for tables and chairs. Attractive decor added to the ambiance of a wood-burning fireplace, the main focus to the right as you walked into the main dining room. There were two antique wood settles facing each other in front of the fireplace, tavern chairs with caned seats, colorful blue chintz drapes, and green chair cushions. I remember white walls and gray French mural panels over the fireplaces at each end of the long room.”*

John Tuthill commented: “...those patrons who desired brook trout on the menu were given the opportunity to catch their own fish. A fishing pole was offered and all the patron had to do was to walk outside and catch a brook trout in the stream which only took minutes. As soon as the fish was caught, a waiter took it off the hook and transported it immediately to the chef...”*

Situated on the site where the Brook Store and Valentine residence were originally located (see p. 57), the Brook House is now a commercial office building.

*Excerpted from the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society Newsletter, June 2009.

The building at 405 South Country Road was built about 1935 by C. Oliver Wellington (1887-1959) as an outlet for the produce of his dairy farm. He sent a local man, James Kinsella, to the State University Agricultural and Technical Institute in Farmingdale to learn dairy farming. At first a teahouse and ice cream parlor,



Nancy Wellington Lee noted: “My Aunt, Ruth Pierce, painted a sign which was an oil of a fisherman with a rod; it hung outside on a post in the front near the road for all to see. The sign was two sided, the other side was similar but not identical.” *

Valentine's Corner/ Memorial Triangle

The area of the intersection of South Country and Fire Place Neck Roads was long the “center” of the small hamlet of Fire Place, later to be known as Brookhaven. The waterway we know now as Beaver Dam Creek flowed through the triangle that formed naturally at the intersection of the two roads.

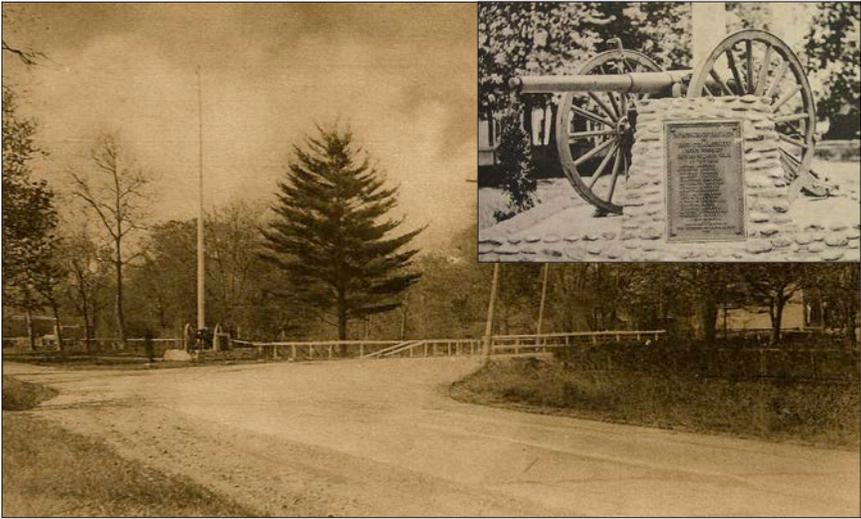
In the 19th and much of the early 20th Centuries, the general store (now called the Brook Store) housed the post office and was located near the intersection (first on the northwest side of South Country Road, then on the south side, west of Beaver Dam Creek). The spot came to be known as “Valentine’s Corner” after Charles Valentine, who became proprietor of the store and post office in 1876 and promoted his store with postcards he produced. For a while, Beaver Dam Creek was also know as Valentine’s Creek or Valentine’s Brook (see also p. 58).

In the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, there were ponds along the creek on both sides of the road, where trout were raised commercially.

Shortly after the end of World War I, when there was a desire to have a community war memorial, the site began its development as a “village square.” A memorial WWI cannon was placed in the triangle, and a plaque honoring those
(continued on page 56)

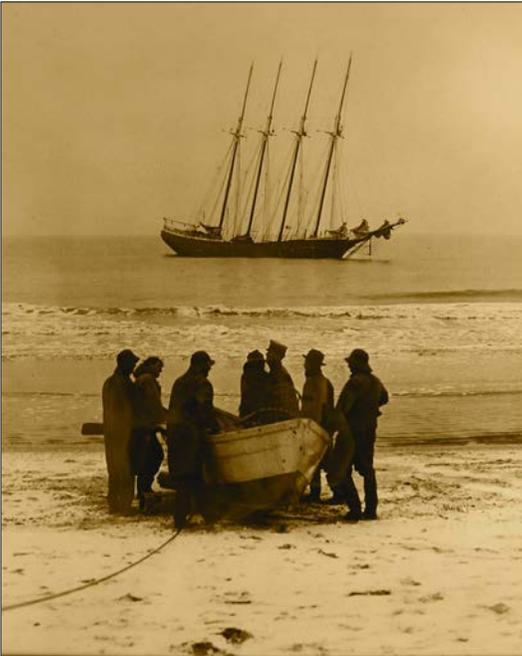


This photograph, dated June 18, 1922, shows the original design of the World War I Memorial cannon. In the background is the Valentine house, after it was moved.



*Memorial Triangle looking south and west.
South Country Road curves right, while Fire Place Neck Road is to the left.*

who had participated in the war was added in 1924. The anchor chain from the *Bessie A. White*, which sank off Old Inlet in 1922, was added as a fence in 1932-1933. Memorial plaques have since been added for all our nation's wars through 2016.



*Salvage crews prepare to launch toward the *Bessie A. White*, in 1922.*

The Memorial triangle – site of Brookhaven hamlet's annual Memorial Day ceremonies – is maintained by the Brookhaven Fire Department.

A vest-pocket park (called by some Fire Place Park, by others Zimmer Park) now enhances the southwest corner of the site. It was the site of former Miller trout ponds, and remnants of the dam and embankment can still be seen. Through the efforts of former Councilman Donald Zimmer, the Town of Brookhaven purchased the site and provides for its maintenance.

Brook Store & Valentine House

The Brook Store now stands at 378 South Country Road, but the land on which the Brook Store was originally sited included land on both sides of Beaver Dam Creek, between South Country Road to modern Montauk Highway. It was purchased by Robert Ellison (1773-1813) in 1805.



View of the Valentine Store and House about 1900 – looking north from Memorial Triangle.

Parsonage house, was mostly retained for the family homestead and store. In 1805, Robert Ellison was appointed the first postmaster of Fire Place. Unfortunately, Robert died before the store could be fully established, and it fell to his wife Elizabeth Hulse Ellison (1786-1861) to manage the store. Elizabeth (known to the community as “Aunt Betsy”) was a strong businesswoman and the store was successful. While her son, “Big Tom,” assisted in
(continued on p. 58)

Also included in the original Ellison purchase was a large tract of land north of about where the railroad tracks now are, eastward to Little Neck Run. The ministers of the South Haven Presbyterian Church originally was used this section, known as the Parsonage holding, as their Farmstead*. Ellison sold this northern section in 1810.

The southern parcel, which contained the old



Jake Valentine in the Brook Store.

* In 1756, the British ordered the Towns to sell any property that had been allocated to the Dissenters (i.e., the Presbyterians). This was no doubt one of the factors that led the Presbyterians to be strong supporters of the Patriot cause during the Revolutionary War.



“Big Tom” Ellison and his horse Lady Bates. Due to his size, his buggy had only one seat.

the store, he was said to have been very “independent.” His interests were elsewhere.

Soon after Elizabeth’s death, Thomas, in 1867, sold the store to his nephew, Josiah

Hallock (Hack) Bishop (1838-before 1910). Bishop added a boarding house, saloon and barbershop to the store’s functions. In 1872, Bishop had the 180-year-old parsonage torn down to make way for a new house and a “modern” store on the same site.

In September 1875, Bishop sold the store to Captain George Hawkins of Wading River. After a series of transactions it came into the possession of Charles Valentine (1815-1887), in April 1876. By this time, the store included a post office; and, in 1877, Charles Valentine became the postmaster. The area soon became known as “Valentine’s Corner” and Beaver Dam Creek as “Valentine’s Brook.” On Charles’s death in 1887, his son Jacob (Jake) Lewis Valentine (1857-1940) operated the store. Forest Reeve (1858-1934) was at first a clerk in the store and later became a partner. Jake also became postmaster in 1887, a job he held for the next 46 years. Altogether, father and son held the office for 56 years. In 1916, Jake Valentine sold the property on which the store and house were



South Country Road looking north and east from the Brook Store and Post Office. The house to the right is the Valentine house, so the picture must be after 1916 when the house was moved. At center is the Ketcham farm. To the left is an unidentified house that is either no longer extant or has been moved to join the modern Ketcham house. Neither the cannon nor the flagpole is in evidence.

located, moved the house to 3 Fire Place Neck Road, and the store to 378 South Country Road. After Jake Valentine and Forest Reeve retired, the store had various owners and tenants, including a Dr. Noble. In 1997, the store was purchased by the Post-Morrow Foundation.



Stalwart Brookhaven residents at the Brook Store, late 1800s – L-R: Forrest Reeve, William Nesbitt, Edward Ketcham, William Swezey, Jake Valentine, N. Clinton Miller, Sid Hawkins, George Miller.



About 1905, in front of the Brook Store are: Alfred Nelson Sr. in foreground, Desmond Nelson and four Nelson children – Emily Nelson (Maxwell) & Beatrice Nelson (Rosenquest), daughters of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ogden Nelson; Norman Nelson & Alfred Nelson, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Norman F. Nelson.

Miller Farm

25

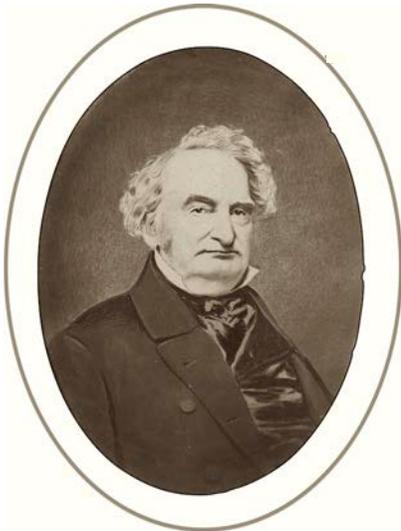
The Miller family was arguably the most prominent family in the 19th and early 20th Centuries in Fire Place/Brookhaven hamlet. Dr. Nathaniel Miller (1784-1863) and his wife Sarah Havens (1791-1863) came from East Hampton about 1815.

Two of the children – Nathaniel (1815-1896) and Mary (1817-1881) – were born in the house of Elizabeth Ellison (the old Parsonage) while Dr. Miller was building his homestead at 9 Fire Place Neck Road.

The Millers maintained a complete and independent



The picture shows the older part of the Miller house, which regardless of the road, faced south. Nathaniel is said to have built a cellar of heavy wood like a barge, to keep water out, because the location was near the level of the brook, but there is no modern evidence of it.



Dr. Nathaniel Miller

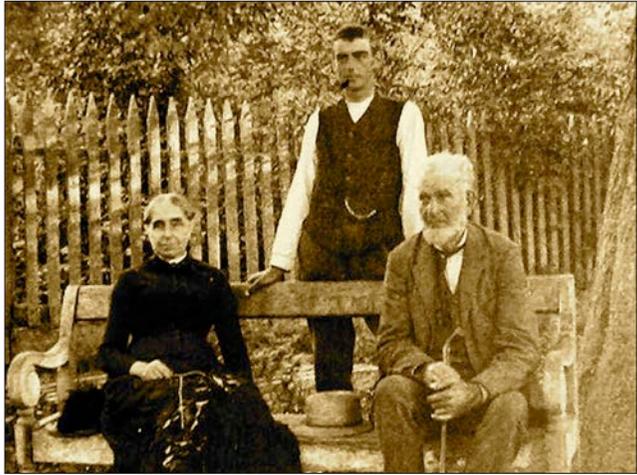
farm, including a blacksmith shop and a yoke of oxen. Their farmlands stretched from Beaver Dam Creek east to Little Neck Run (east of Old Stump Road). They raised and trapped trout from their trout ponds on Beaver Dam Creek, placed them in barrels with duck weed and shipped them to the city.

Dr. Nathaniel Miller was twice elected to the New York State Assembly. He was the third postmaster of Fire Place in 1818, and again in 1829 and 1849. The post office safe can still be seen under the stairway off the house's south entranceway. Dr. Miller's box of medicines is in the Suffolk County Historical Society Building in Riverhead.

*Ellen Carman
Miller, Nathaniel
Clinton Miller,
and Nathaniel
Miller Jr.*

Nathaniel Miller Jr. married Ellen Carman (1827-1914), daughter of Catherine Homan (1795-1861) and Samuel Carman Jr. (1789-1869). While they had nine children,

only three sons lived to maturity – Frederick (1857-1932), Nathaniel Clinton (1860-1933) and George (1870-1948). Nathaniel Miller Jr. worked the farm



Above, the Miller Farm looking south along Fire Place Neck Road. The main house is behind the fence to the left. In front of the larger barn was a scale. Immediately to the right was the trout pond, now the site of Fire Place Park.

and also held various local official jobs, including several years as Brookhaven Town Supervisor during the Civil War. He built the north addition to the house. When his mother died Sep. 11, 1863, he wrote in his diary, “She has gone to that home which she lived to be worthy of.” Of Big Tom Ellison he wrote, “Mar. 31, 1867, Mr. Ellison died. We have lost a good kind neighbor.”

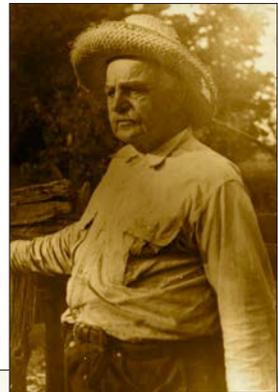
(continued on p. 62)



The above photograph, dated 1860, shows the Miller homestead and one of their trout farms.

Nathaniel Miller Jr.'s youngest son George – shown at right and below gathering hay – worked the farm until his death in 1948. Descendants of the Millers lived in the homestead until after 1959.

Several generations of the Miller family are buried in the family cemetery nearby. Access this cemetery from a gate on the north fence of the elementary school (see map, p. 44).



Brookhaven Schools

21

Fire Place had its first school in 1802. It was on the opposite (west) side of Fire Place Neck Road from the present elementary school.

In 1815, a new school was built. In 1855, that building was replaced by a third schoolhouse, which was replaced by a fourth schoolhouse in 1873. The 1855 building was sold and moved, becoming an addition to the Henry Egbert Hawkins house at 310 Beaver Dam Road (see p. 19).



1873 Brookhaven School in its second life as a residence in Bellport.

The 1873 building was used for a short while for the Brookhaven Free Library, but was soon floated to Bellport where it became a residence on Thorn Hedge Road.

The “Fire Place” school district was Brookhaven Town School No. 29. Another hamlet school, No. 25, was sited on northern Beaver Dam Road, where the high school now stands. These were both primary (elementary) schools. Students went to Patchogue to attend high school. Accounts of a young teenager’s schooldays may be found in Irma Newey’s 1904 diary at the web site <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/Newey/IrmaDNeweyDiary.htm>

Shown above, the 1873 schoolhouse, had eight classrooms, but was staffed by just two teachers and one custodian. The building lasted as a schoolhouse until 1927, when it was replaced by the present building – the fifth schoolhouse in the hamlet, located on the east side of Fire Place Neck Road.

Hulse Cemetery

19

The Hulse Cemetery is located between numbers 28 and 32 on Fire Place Neck Road, opposite the elementary school. It is associated with the 1790 Nehemiah Hulse house at 255 Beaver Dam Road. At least four Hulses lived along Beaver Dam Road in 1735 (see pp. 10 and 83).

This one of the more prominent and easily visited cemeteries. Yet the individuals buried there are not easily identified with a specific homestead or farm. Early maps do not identify the area as “Hulse” lands, and most of the individuals interred there appear to have been artisans and merchants. The oldest tombstone is for David Hulse, and this cemetery is sometimes called the King David Hulse Cemetery because he quoted so often from the Bible.

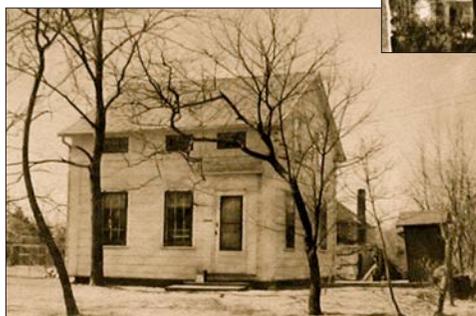
By State law, the Town of Brookhaven is responsible for the upkeep of “abandoned” cemeteries. But except for the more prominent sites, the Town has not done well in its duty. For the last several years, members of the Fire Place History Club have been lobbying the Town for improved maintenance. Additional information on local cemeteries may be found at the web site <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/cemeteries/cemeteries.htm>

Breckenridge House

This house was once the home of Samuel Breckenridge (b. 1828), father of Lillian (Forrest Reeve’s wife). The house stood on the north side of South Country Road about opposite the old Seaman farm. Shown at right, it was built somewhat like a “city” house. The top part of the house was



moved to 32 Fire Place Neck Road (date uncertain).

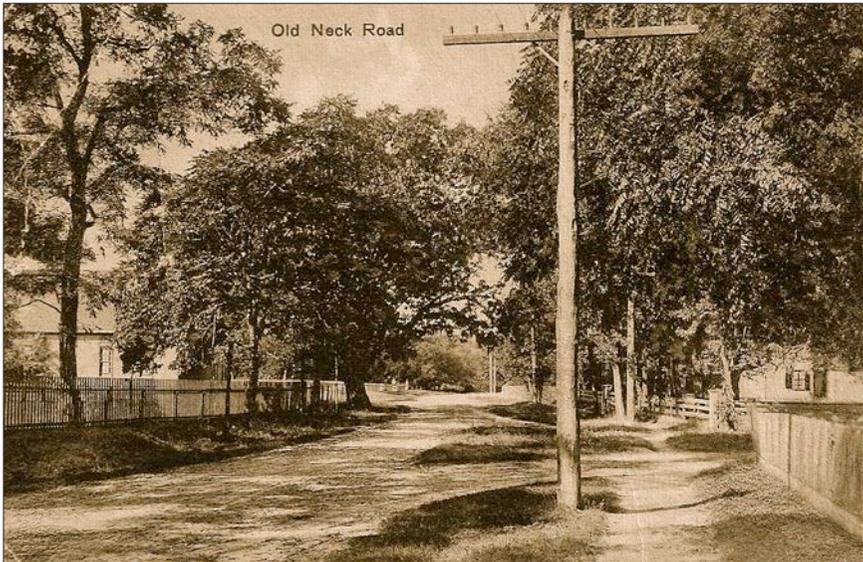


The house was built in the early 19th Century, and in 1858 was the home of J. Davies (unidentified).

Old Town Road / Fire Place Neck Road / Bay Road

Fire Place Neck and Bay Roads were among the earliest roads of the newly-settled (about 1655) Brookhaven/Setauket Town. They were part of a cross-island road built to access the salt hay meadows and other lands acquired by the 1664 Old Purchase at South. Then one road, it likely followed an early native trail. Parts of this road are still in use as Old Town Road, including a short segment in Brookhaven hamlet. In Yaphank, it is now known as Mill Road. Abandoned remnants can still be seen north of the landfill in aerial photographs.

The road terminated at an east-west road that ran along the head of the salt hay meadow lots along the shore; this road was abandoned when Beaver Dam Road was built, in 1737. Branches of the Old Town Road were soon constructed that went east to South Haven and Mastic (starting in northern Fire Place), and west to Occombomack (Bellport), fording Beaver Dam Creek. These branches were soon joined to form the South Road or South Country Road and Montauk Highway.



Fire Place Neck Road when it was still known as Old Neck Road.

William Rose/ Charles Swezey House

This home, which stood on the **northeast corner of Beaver Dam and Fire Place Neck Roads**, was destroyed about 1920. The smaller part was the home of William Rose (1807-1847), who married Everline Platt (1804-1848). He was a son of “Senator” John Rose and great-grandson of Thomas Rose, perhaps the earliest permanent resident of Fire Place. He sold the old Rose homestead and much property to J. L. Ireland in 1841.

Mary (1829-1885), William Rose’s first daughter, married Charles Swezey (1818-1894), a bayman who built the larger part of the house. He became postmaster of Fire Place in 1853 and was known as an anti-war “copperhead” during the Civil War. Before the St. James Church



was built, the Episcopalians held their meetings in this house, which is also believed to be one of the settings for Louise Forsslund’s novel *Ship of Dreams**. A fireplace from the house is believed to be built into the Thomas Morrow home.

*The novel is online at brookhavensouthaven.org/history/ShipOfDreams/ShipOfDreams.pdf

Nehemiah Hulse House

This cottage at **255 Beaver Dam Road** likely was constructed in the late 18th Century. According to George Perley Morse, it was originally built by a Nehemiah Hulse. In 1873, it was owned by W. W. Nicoll, and, in 1888, by a Mrs. J. M. Hodges. In 1902, it was owned by “S. Rhode,” who likely was Sophia Rhode, mother and grandmother to the subsequent owners – Hannah Rhode, and, later, her daughter Florence Rhode Gwynn. Florence’s husband, a postal clerk, died in the sinking of the *Titanic*.



St. James Episcopal Church



On the corner of Beaver Dam and Bay Roads, St. James Episcopal Church was erected on land deeded by John L. Ireland and his wife Mary Floyd Ireland in 1872. Before this, services were held in the home of Charles Swezey. Mr. Ireland's son John gave the bell and belfry in 1879. About 1908, the "gingerbread"

on the church's exterior, shown in the 1905 postcard above, was removed. In 1961, the original steeple, damaged in a hurricane, was replaced with a plainer memorial bell tower commemorating about twenty past members of the parish. The old oak tree shown in front of the church in both photos was over 200 years old when it became necessary to remove it in 1995.



St. James Episcopal Church and the 200-year-old Oak Tree, in the 1930s.

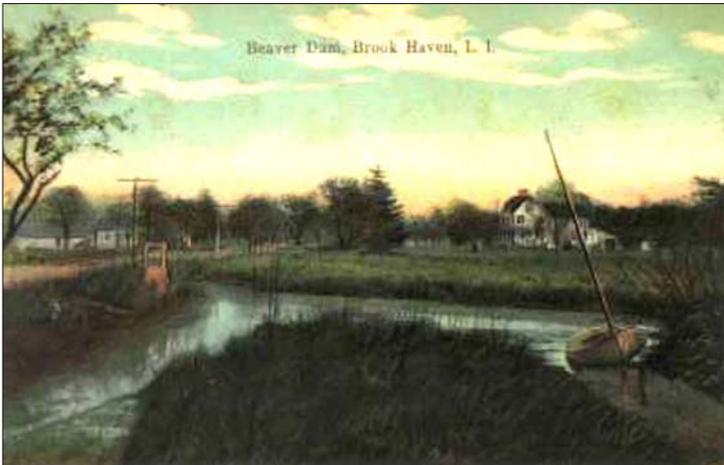
Badetty House

This original section of this house at **252 Beaver Dam Road** was likely built about the time of the Civil War. It was bought by Pierre Badetty (Badette) soon after the Civil War. Pierre was born in France. By 1880, the property was probably owned by Herbert Badetty (born 1845 in Turkey, died before 1918), who was likely Pierre's son and who, at age 21, emigrated from Turkey in 1866. About 1879, Herbert married Elizabeth Rose Swezey (b. 1848), eldest daughter of Charles Swezey.



After an 1880 fire, the front part of the house was restored; in 1920, an encircling porch and “gingerbread” were removed, the side was enclosed and the porch added.

Herbert and Elizabeth operated the home as a boarding house in the early 20th Century. There were about a dozen boarding houses in Brookhaven hamlet at the time, and the Badetty House was considered among the finest. In 1912, it charged \$12 per week for accommodations.



Postcard photo looking north across Beaver Dam Creek, to the Badetty House at right.

Fraser-Champlain House



This home at **249 Beaver Dam Road** was built prior to 1858. It was long the summer residence and studio of artist Malcolm Fraser. The house was owned by a Buffum family in 1873. The house has been extensively altered, including additions and a new front door and porch.

Charles Malcolm Fraser (1868-1949) was a native of Montreal, Canada. His first wife was Katherine E. Church (m. 1897, d. 1930). He then married Mary Austin Aldrich, a sculptor. Malcolm wintered in Ormond, Florida, and donated 56 of his paintings to the Ormond Memorial Art Museum as a war veterans memorial. These can be seen by visiting the museum's web site – <http://www.ormondartmuseum.org/index.html>

Malcolm Fraser was the father of one daughter, Phyllis, who married Frank A. Champlain at Brookhaven. They had five children.

The carriage house at the rear, dated 1861, was not original to the site, but moved there on a barge in the late 1930s from the Aldrich estate in Bay Shore.

The small cottage by the pond and Beaver Dam Creek was originally a carriage house located nearer to the Fraser house. It was moved to **247 Beaver Dam Road** in the 1920s and used as a residence by the Frank Champlain family. The property is now owned by the Post-Morrow Foundation.



Beaver Dam Creek

29

Beaver Dam Creek defines the western boundary of Fire Place Neck. On the west side of the creek is a small neck, sometimes called Tarman's Neck, whose western boundary was defined by a small stream, now mostly marsh, that flowed from the present location of the high school, under South Country Road at its intersection with Beaver Dam Road, then into Beaver Dam Creek.



This 1960 painting by Connie Heede could be Beaver Dam Creek today. Image courtesy of Richard Beyer.

Early Brookhaven Town records note this as a location where pine-tar was manufactured (and taxed).

Beaver Dam Creek has had an influence to the community that some would say is out of proportion to its size. We will mention its economic importance later in the tour. The lower reach, more-or-less navigable to Beaver Dam Road, has for centuries been a safe harbor for small fishing and pleasure boats. And it has long been a source of artistic expression.

Bumstead House

Built between 1888 and 1902, the house at **228 Beaver Dam Road** is shown on the 1915 Atlas of Suffolk County as being owned by a Mrs. Bumstead. The current owners have said that a section of their residence was once a barn.



Old Methodist Church

This building started its life in 1940 as a Methodist Episcopal Church Society building on the north side of South Country Road, a little east of Beaver Dam Road (top photo below). The Society first met in parishioners' homes, but



soon built this meeting house. In 1872, a steeple was added as the building was moved to its present site at **224 Beaver Dam Road**, on land deeded by Isaac Seaman.

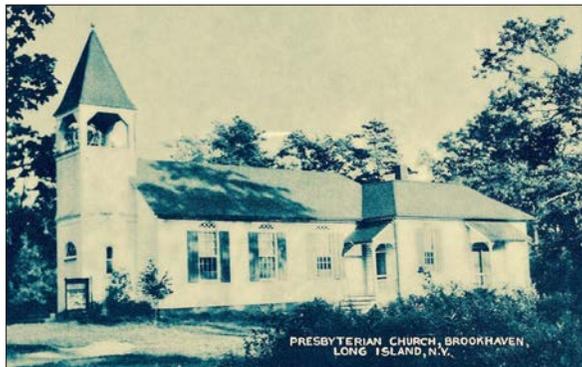
In 1945, in a series of transactions, apparently spearheaded at denominational levels, the Bellport and Brookhaven Methodists consolidated their parishes

to the Bellport Presbyterian Church building, while the Brookhaven, South Haven and Bellport Presbyterians similarly consolidated to the Old Methodist Church, shown below (while maintaining ownership of the South Haven site).

In 1960, the Presbyterians moved the South Haven Church building to its present site (see p. 74) and sold the Old Methodist Church building (shown bottom right) to mural artist Philip Reed (1928-2000), who used it as his studio and home. It continues as an artist's private residence, having been extensively remodeled while maintaining the old church's character.



Congregation gathered in front of the Methodist Church, in early 1900s.



Rose House

This house, located at **235 Beaver Dam Road**, is all original and a fine example of a well-to-do family's early 19th Century Long Island home. It was built in 1811 by John Rose (1768-1826), son of Lt. Thomas Rose (1736-1780) and grandson of Thomas Rose, the first permanent resident of the Hamlet. The house was built by the same carpenter that built the Nathaniel Miller home. The one-story south wing was originally a store or trading post (about 1770) located near the Bay.



This early 20th Century picture shows Harriet and Cornelia Rose.

John married Elizabeth Rose (1769-1834, no relation), daughter of Rev. David Rose (1736-1799), Pastor of the South Haven Presbyterian Church. John became a Brookhaven Town trustee, Town Supervisor and an elected New York State official. While he is often referred to as "Senator" Rose, it appears that the state office he held was in 1810, when he was an Assemblyman from Suffolk County, according to the 1871 New York Civil List of State Senators and Assemblymen from the late 1700s onward. John Rose's fifth son, Mulford (1812-1894), inherited the house and had four children. His daughters Harriet (1840-1930) and Cornelia (1843-1920) lived in the home and did not marry. His eldest daughter Elizabeth (1836-1915) married, and her first or second cousins, Miss Clara Steckel and Mrs. Alma Sleter, inherited the old home.



A portion of a mural uncovered by current owners during their restorations.

Old South Haven Presbyterian Church

While it's not definitely known when the Old South Haven Church began to worship, most probably the organizer was the Rev. George Phillips about the year 1717. At that time the "Town" church was situated in Setauket, on the north shore of Long Island. The growing settlement on the south shore of the Town of Brookhaven found traveling to worship in Setauket very difficult.



Around 1900, the South Haven Church stood on South Country Road (now Montauk Highway), looking west.

The Presbyterian Church was erected in Fire Place in 1740, and rebuilt in 1828 at a cost of \$1,959.04. The exterior of the building is little changed. However, there has been remodeling and renovation of the interior. Originally, the pews faced the opposite direction, the entrance was through two doors on either side of the steeple (their placement is still visible on the inside walls), and there was a "high" pulpit between them beneath the steeple. With the pews

facing the entrances (there was no balcony), late arrivals and early departures would have been in full view of both minister and congregation.



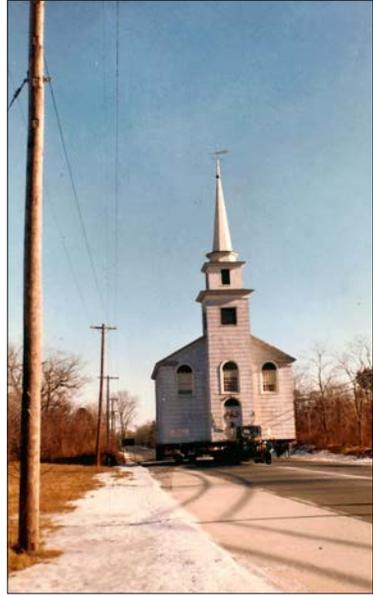
The Presbyterian Church in South Haven, about 1930.

In 1861, the two door entrances were replaced by a single entrance through the steeple, a balcony and narthex erected, the direction of the pews reversed, and a lower pulpit platform placed at the opposite end. It was at that time
(continued on p. 74)

that the clock, which still is placed on the balcony rail, was given by Samuel Carman Jr.

In 1873 or 1874, lightning struck and severely damaged the steeple. This event initiated a second remodeling. The steeple was repaired to its present appearance, the "Amen benches" to the right of the pulpit were replaced by a choir box, and the interior painted a drab brown with a border, popular with the Victorians.

In 1939, during the pastorate of the Rev. George Borthwick, the interior received its third remodeling. The "Amen pews" were restored to the right of the pulpit, the interior walls and pews were repainted to the original off-white, and a new pulpit reading desk was installed. The general appearance of the church was again similar to its early 19th Century style – the principal differences being the orientation of the pews and pulpit, and the presence of a balcony.



*Moving day for the
Old South Haven Church.*

On Dec. 29, 1960, under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Kellogg, the building was moved from its original location near the Carmans River in South Haven to the James Post estate in Brookhaven, **on the northwest corner of Beaver Dam and South Country Roads**. A small addition was added to the rear of the main church building, and the two entrance doors were added from this room to the main church.

Members of the South Haven Church played dramatic parts in the Revolutionary War. The Rev. David "Priest" Rose provided leadership to the community during the trying years of the War. His sermons and influence did much to arouse a sacrificing patriotism among members. William Floyd, who became a General, sat as a representative from the Province of New York at all sessions of the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. Nathaniel Woodhull, who also became a General under George Washington, proved to be one of the first notable martyrs to the American cause. Commanding a rebel force on Long Island, he was captured by the British. He was ordered to humiliate himself by declaring, "God save the King!" But he replied, "God save us all!" A soldier struck him with a sword, and he died of his wound. Judge William Smith, Lord of the Manor of St. George, was also active with the rebels. He took the place of General Floyd in the Provincial Congress of New York and was a member of the group that, in 1777, framed the state constitution of New York.

Post House – The Homestead



In this postcard titled “The Homestead,” South Country Road is to the right – a picket fence can just be seen through the trees along the road.

the house was known, was originally built close to South Country Road. In Oct. 1906, James H. Post (1859-1938) moved the original homestead several hundred feet up the low hill, away from the highway, and rotated it 180 degrees, such that the original front of the house became the back. Several additions were made, the most substantial being a two-story addition on the west side that housed a new kitchen and private quarters for the servants, and a one-story residence wing on the north side.

About 1821 or soon after, the house **just to the south of the Church** was built by Caleb Post (1785-1872). Caleb was James H. Post’s grandfather. The Post family was from Southampton, by way of Moriches. Caleb was a carpenter.

The Homestead, as

Post Carriage House

Situated behind the Old South Haven Church, the Post Carriage House/Barn was built about the same time as James Post moved The Homestead. It was constructed in at least two stages and was without substantial foundation, being built upon locust posts – a standard construction for such buildings. In 1960, when the South Haven Presbyterian parish moved the Church, they renovated the Carriage House as a parish hall.

By 2003, the foundation had deteriorated and the congregation decided to save the building by placing it on a full height foundation.



This sketch by Robert Baum, based on architectural features of the building, depicts the Carriage House much as it likely originally appeared.

Henry Raynor House

This house at 341 South Country Road was likely built shortly after the Civil War. It belonged to Henry Raynor (b. 1829) in 1873. Adjacent to the south of this house, at the corner of South Country and Beaver Dam Roads, was the home and store of Edward S. Raynor (1813-1884). Henry and Edward Raynor were likely related, probably brothers.



Edward's wife and Henry's sister-in-law was Hannah (b.1824). Her diary from 1883 to 1906 is available at the web site <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/Raynor/MrsHMRaynorDiary.htm>

Forrest Reeve House



Forrest Reeve (1858 -1934) was a long-time resident of the Hamlet. He was a clerk at the Brook Store, assistant postmaster for 52 years, and a respected citizen active in community affairs. It is uncertain when his home at 349

South Country Road (shown left) was built – the north wing likely was late 19th Century.



The photo above right shows Forrest Reeve and his wife Lillian Breckenridge (1867-1948). At left is Forrest in about 1886, holding the Hamiltonian mare Gypsy, owned by Charles Valentine, proprietor of the Brook Store.

Smith House

The house at **359 South Country Road** was built prior to 1850, probably by Jacob Baldwin Smith (1807-1876). He was a seaman and bayman. While there have been many modifications, the basic character of the original home remains, and it is typical of many early 19th Century Long Island homes.



In the early 20th Century, the house was operated as a guest house by Amy B. Smith D'Arcas (1873-1945), who called it the Fire Place Inn. Amy was Jacob's granddaughter, and daughter-in-law to Rachael Purdy D'Arcas who operated the Edgewater Inn on Beaver Dam Road. The two women were said to have been strong competitors who often were not on the friendliest of terms.

Old Presbyterian Manse

The house at **366 South Country Road** was originally a Presbyterian manse constructed in 1902 as a home for the parish's minister. During the 100 years after 1800, when the first manse and land were sold, the ministers at the South Haven Presbyterian Church had to live, at first, in the manse at Middle Island, and, later, in the one at Bellport. James H. Post gave the lots on which the Brookhaven manse stands. The first minister to occupy the new manse was the Rev. William Fryling. The manse was reported by minister occupants as being cold and drafty in winter. By the late 1950s, the building was deemed no longer suitable. The original property was split, the manse sold, and a smaller manse erected adjacent to the north. The new manse was a Shirley model home that was moved to the site.



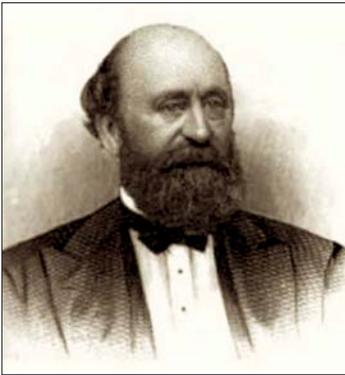
The original 18th Century manse – a farm approximately bound by modern South Country Road, Montauk Highway, Old Stump Road, and the railroad – was sold to Robert Ellison in 1805.

Andrews Brothers Farm

During the last quarter of the 19th Century, the brothers William (1818-1896) and George (1827-1896) Andrews of New York City acquired many farm lots in Brookhaven hamlet, not all of which were in the area of this tour.



Andrews family members became perhaps the largest land owners in the area. Their combined holdings eventually included most of the east side of South Country Road north of Beaver Dam Road, the west side of Beaver Dam Creek from South Country Road to the railroad, the Ketcham farm, parts of the original Corwin farm, and the old Parsonage/Joshua Carman lands north of the railroad. There were other noncontiguous parcels, some quite large, suggesting that they may have been speculators as much as farmers.



Portrait of William Andrews from: J. Leander Bishop, A History of American Manufacturers From 1608 to 1860

William Andrews was a prominent inventor and manufacturer. While working for his father, an iron merchant, William started salvaging sunken ships and lost cargo for their iron. One of his first inventions was a centrifugal pump for removing sand-laden water from wrecked ships, which led to his becoming the first to raise a sunken ship by pumping it out. His experience with pumps led to the development and manufacture of

efficient water well pumps and a successful well-driving business in Brooklyn and Queens – the driven well and pumping water from underground aquifers was a new “cutting-edge” technology in the mid-19th Century. William held many patents for pumps, steam engines, portable boilers and hoisting machines, and received many awards, including juried awards at the 1876 United States Centennial International Exhibition.

The family was closely connected with the Miller family. William married Mary Miller (1817-1861, m. 1843), a daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Miller Sr. The other brother, George, married Sarah Miller (1831-after 1900, m. 1856), another daughter of Nathaniel.

Beaver Dam Creek

29

On May 5, 1724, the Town granted Nathaniel Brewster the right to have the stream called Beaver Dam on which to build a grist mill and fulling mill.



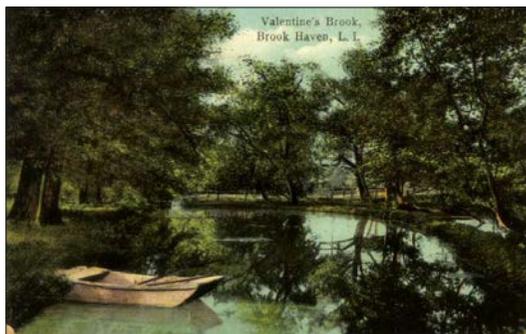
Beaver Dam Creek north of South Country Road, looking north. Note the left-most barn, said to have been a “trout house.” Shown is Nettie Furman Valentine, Jake Valentine’s wife.

Apparently it was not built, for on Mar. 25, 1742, the trustees regranted Beaver Dam Creek north of John Hulse’s land to William Helme Jr. for a mill on the same conditions as given in the former grant. There is evidence that he did build the mill, but it probably was not much of a success either because of the competition of the mill at South Haven or the lack of sufficient power due to limited flow and head.

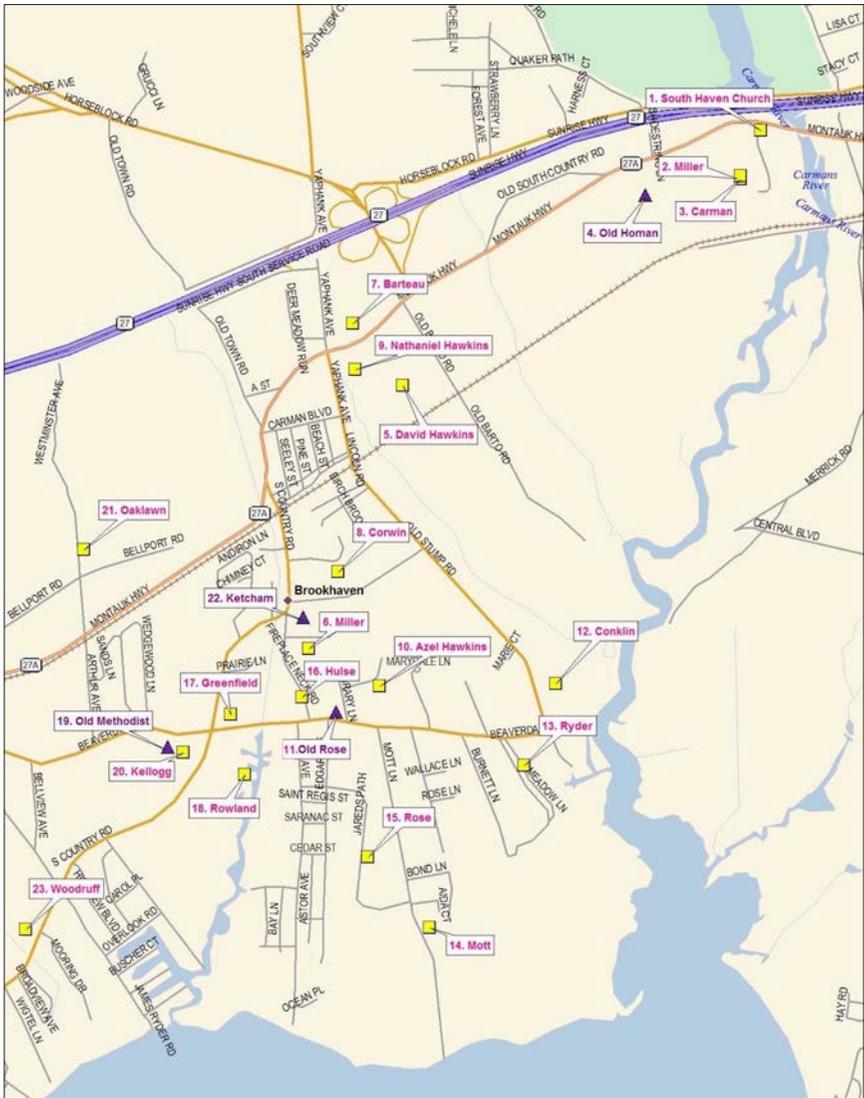


The mill dam is today used as a road bed over the creek. During much of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the stream was used as a commercial fishery for the raising of trout. The Millers had one or two small dams south of South Country Road, and the old mill pond north of South Country Road was also farmed.

(above) Looking west on South Country Road at Beaver Dam Creek, taken about 1888. The camera seems positioned in today’s Triangle space, showing its early development. Traveling toward us is a horse and buggy.



(right) Beaver Dam Creek south of South Country Road, looking north and showing one of the Miller trout ponds. Note diking at right.

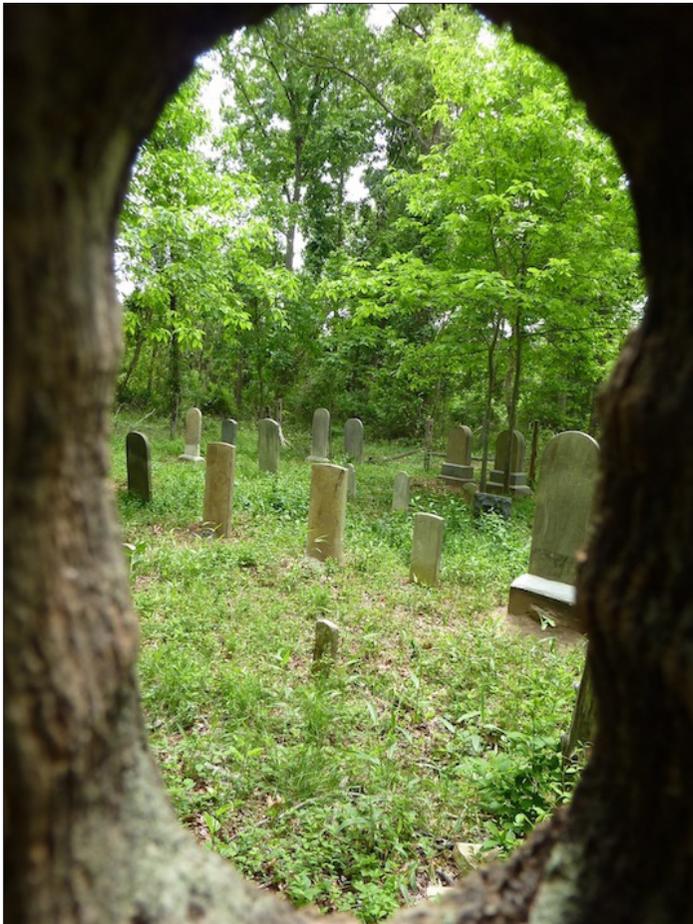


Map created by John Deitz showing the locations of the seven family cemeteries within the Fireplace Historic District, along with the 23 other former Fire Place family cemeteries.

Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 4

Visiting the Burying Grounds:

Family Cemeteries
and
Oaklawn Cemetery



The David Hawkins Cemetery, (5) on the map at left, is located inside the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, but inaccessible to the public.

Historic District Cemeteries

The locations of all of the former Fire Place family cemeteries are shown on the map on p. 80 by John Deitz, each identified by name and number. Seven of the family cemeteries lie within the Fire Place Historic District (see p. 5), but only four of them are easily accessible (*numbers in parentheses reference the map on p. 80*): (6) Miller, (16) Hulse, (10) Azel Hawkins and (15) Rose. Of the accessible cemeteries, several have brochures about those buried there available at their entrances.

This book focuses mainly on those cemeteries within the historic district:

20

(6) The Nathaniel Miller Family Cemetery

This cemetery is easily accessed through a gate along the north fence of the Brookhaven Elementary School's parking lot. Dr. Nathaniel Miller built his home at 9 Fire Place Neck Road in 1815 (see p. 60). He and his wife, Sarah Havens Miller, and many of their children, spouses and descendants are buried in this cemetery on his homestead and farm. There are 14 headstones.



In 1890, Dr. Miller's son, Nathaniel Miller Jr. (1815-1896), leads his oxen along South Country Road by today's Brookhaven Memorial Park.

(16) The “King David” Hulse Cemetery 19

With 14 headstones, this highly accessible cemetery is located almost directly across the street from the Brookhaven Elementary School on Fire Place Neck Road and is associated with the house at 255 Beaver Dam Road. Among the first settlers in the hamlet, the Hulses apparently owned some of the Long Lots (see p. 10) and, perhaps, a Cross Lot. Four members of the family signed a petition in 1735 to have Beaver Dam Road built.



The Hulse Cemetery in March 2015

The Fire Place History Club maintains the seven family cemeteries within the Fire Place Historic District, as well as several that are outside those boundaries. Shown at the Azel Hawkins Cemetery (see next page) after repairing the cemetery and installing a fence around it in 2010 are (from left) Gloria and Bob Brown, Marty Van Lith, Betty Bundy, Richard Thomas, Ron Kinsella, Barbara Kresse, John Deitz, Diane Martens, Faith McCutcheon, Phoebe Downs, and Eben Ludlow.



(10) Azel Hawkins Family Cemetery

18

In this cemetery of 19 headstones are buried some of the earliest Hawkins residents of Brookhaven hamlet, who established homesteads and farmsteads along Beaver Dam Road. Azel and his brother Selah built many of the houses along Beaver Dam Road in the 19th Century (see p. 8 and beyond).

To get to the Azel Hawkins cemetery, go down Library Lane and, not far from the library, turn right onto Stillwood Road. About 100 yards from Library Lane, where Stillwood Road takes a bend, look to the right to see a path that leads about 50 feet into a wooded area, right to the Azel Hawkins cemetery, surrounded by a split-rail fence:



(15) Thomas Rose Cemetery

8

This is the oldest family cemetery still extant in the Fire Place Historic District. It is easy to visit from Jared's Path, and there are brochures at the entrance to the cemetery. In 2008, The Fire Place History Club located and restored about 20 headstones in the cemetery but it is known that several headstones are missing. It is likely that the pre-1780 burials are in unmarked graves. In 1988, a local newspaper article said that the earliest burial was 1708, but this is unconfirmed. There are three Revolutionary War veterans interred here.

According to former Brookhaven Town Historian Osborn Shaw, Thomas Rose was the first permanent settler on Fire Place Neck. In Town records, Thomas recorded an earmark for his cattle at Fire Place on Oct. 12, 1700. We assume

that he owned one or more of the Long Lots. In 1704, the records show that he purchased two additional Long Lots. He and his son Nathan (it is likely they are buried in this cemetery but their grave markers are no longer extant) continued to purchase tracts of land along Beaver Dam Road until, by the end of the 18th Century, the Rose family was perhaps the largest single landowner on Fire Place Neck.



The Thomas Rose Cemetery



The Fire Place History Club after installing a split-rail fence around the Rose Cemetery (from left): John (JEB) and Suzy Barry, Fran Darrow, Linda Patanjo, George Koch, Marty Van Lith, Meg Koch, Bob Brown, Joan Watson and Diane Martens.

While the following three cemeteries are within the historic district, they are inaccessible to the public:

(13) The Ryder Cemetery

Located off Meadow Lane, between house numbers 11 and 15, this cemetery contains three headstones. It cannot be accessed due to the overgrowth of the wood lot surrounding it. Although Barnabas Ryder owned 17 acres surrounding his burial site in the early 1800s, little definitive genealogical information has been found for the Barnabas Ryder family.



Fire Place History Club members doing restoration work on the Ryder Cemetery in 2013.

Fire Place History Club members doing restoration work on the Ryder Cemetery in 2013.

(12) The Conklin Cemetery

Situated behind 179 Old Stump Road, this cemetery is inaccessible. The Zephaniah Conklin family were early Fire Place settlers who farmed the area around their cemetery along Little Neck Run in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries.



(8) The Corwin Cemetery

Due to negligence on the part of the Town of Brookhaven, the Corwin cemetery (below) is inaccessible. The Town approved a building lot overriding the Corwin Cemetery's right of way from Chapel Avenue, thus eliminating access to it. There are 11 headstones in this family cemetery. The one at left belongs to Revolutionary War hero Richard Corwin Sr. (b.1751), who was present at the battle of Yorktown and at the surrender of Cornwallis. George Washington is said to have once tested his fidelity as a guard by attempting to pass him in the night, but Corwin would not allow the General to pass and later earned commendations for his fidelity. His house is still standing at 408 South Country Road, (see p. 50). His son, Richard Jr., also buried here, was a Captain in the War of 1812.



Oaklawn Cemetery

33

On the Brookhaven hamlet cemetery map on page 80, showing the locations of all the known hamlet “burying grounds,” are two cemeteries: (11) **Old Rose**, formerly located where the Brookhaven Free Library stands today; and (19) **Old Methodist**, once situated across from Bellport High School. Both have been moved to the (21) **Oaklawn Cemetery**, today’s “burying ground” for Brookhaven hamlet, which is located outside the historic district, north of Montauk Highway and behind Varney’s Restaurant.

Prior to 1890, there was no public, nonsectarian cemetery in Brookhaven hamlet, the nearest one being the Woodlawn Cemetery in Bellport, which opened in 1865. At a meeting of 12 hamlet residents, held at the home of Nathaniel Miller on Mar. 20, 1890, Miller and James H. Post created the Oaklawn Cemetery by donating six acres of land for a nonsectarian burial ground. After Oaklawn opened in 1890, several family cemeteries of the hamlet’s early settlers were moved there from their former homesteads.

Currently, Oaklawn is an active, not-for-profit cemetery for hamlet residents maintained by plot-owner volunteers of the Oaklawn Cemetery Association, headed, in 2017, by association president John E. Barry (631-286-0204).

The Old Rose cemetery was the burying ground in which “Senator” John Rose was interred when he died in 1826. Senator Rose’s cemetery lay at the corner of Library Lane and Beaver Dam Road, just east of the library; his home stood at 235 Beaver Dam Road (see p. 72). When the library was built in 1926,

the cemetery was disinterred and moved to Oaklawn Cemetery.



The graves of Senator John Rose and his family members were relocated to this section of Oaklawn Cemetery in 1926, after removal from their original burying grounds in the Old Rose cemetery, now the site of the Brookhaven Free Library



Also buried in Oaklawn Cemetery's Rose family section is William Rose who, on Nov. 5, 1813, set out to fish with ten other Fire Place men at Old Inlet and never returned. To this day the drowning of these 11 men remains the worst tragedy in Brookhaven hamlet's history (see p. 50).

The 70 graves in the Old Methodist Cemetery, were completely disinterred in 1890 with most of the graves relocated to the Oaklawn Cemetery. The photos below show a section harboring some of the graves that were moved.



Most of the Old Methodist Cemetery was relocated to Oaklawn in 1880. The photo above shows headstones being restored by the Oaklawn Cemetery Association.

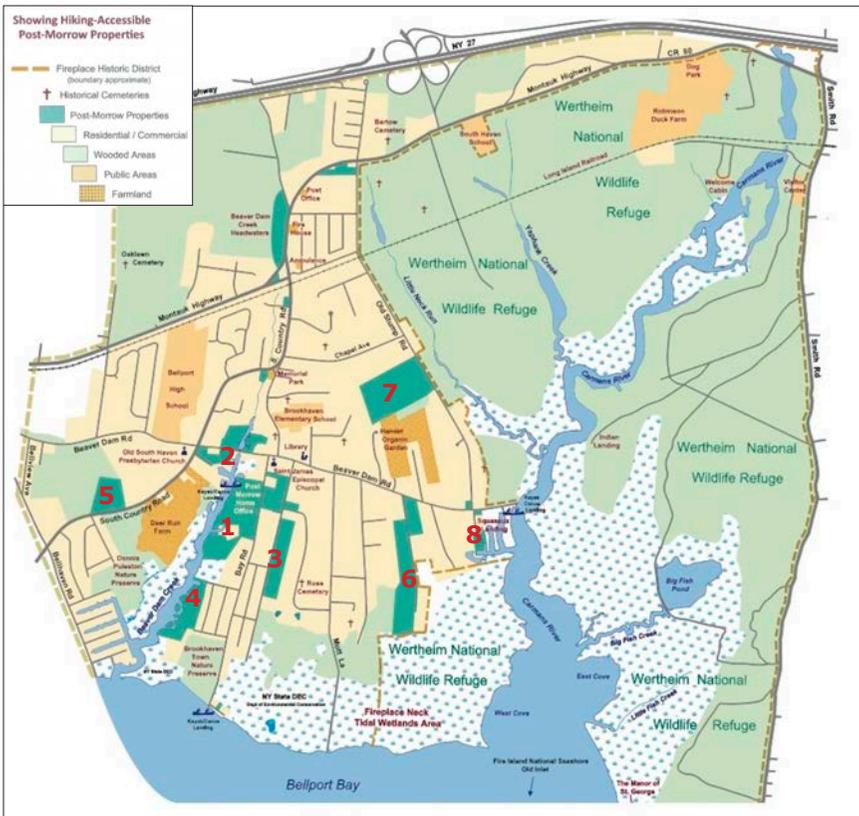


Brookhaven Hamlet Walking Tour 5

Walking

the

Post-Morrow Foundation Trail System



The Post-Morrow Foundation has developed a trail map highlighting Brookhaven hamlet properties and the walking trails that have been established there.

Residents and friends are welcome to walk these trails and enjoy the natural beauty of our community. This section briefly describes each trail, but full-size, full-color Brookhaven Trail Guides, which provided the material for this section, are available free of charge at the Foundation's office at 16 Bay Road.

The Post-Morrow Foundation

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside and historic character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding area.

The Post and the Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post originally purchased land along Carmans River. Now known as Squassux Landing (said to be named for a Native American pot maker who worked on that site), the property was later donated by Post's daughters to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land where the Brookhaven Free Library is currently located was another gift to the community.

Through the mid-1900s, Elisabeth Post Morrow continued her family's tradition by donating various gifts to community groups. By establishing the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc., the Morrrows provided a means for this legacy to continue. Since its inception, the Foundation has especially devoted itself to protecting the Beaver Dam Creek, the tidal stream running through the heart of our designated Fireplace Historic District.

The Hamlet and Trail Maps

CELL PHONE TOUR



Wherever you find this sign, call into the posted number to find out more information about that location.

631-866-7049

Most of the properties owned by the Foundation lie within the hamlet of Brookhaven and are shown on the map on p. 90. The public is welcome to enjoy properties that are hiking accessible. Along the way you will see green signs with numbers, each a stop on the audio tour for your cell phone. *This book uses similar graphics to identify stops so you can listen to the tour if reading at home.* Instructions are available at the Post-Morrow office.

The public is also invited to use the Bay Way water trail by launching from the Post-Morrow Foundation Homestead, traveling downstream on Beaver Dam Creek, eastward along the south shore of the hamlet, then up the Carmans River to Squassux Landing, the Carmans River Maritime Center at Tookers Boatyard, or Indian Landing at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

Other protected lands include New York State Department of Environmental Conservation property along the edge of Bellport Bay, Suffolk County's Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve to the east of South Country Road adjacent to Deer Run Farm, the Town of Brookhaven Nature Preserve at the end of Bay Road and, of course, the expanse of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge to the east of Old Stump Road, straddling both sides of the Carmans River.

Post-Morrow 1 2 3

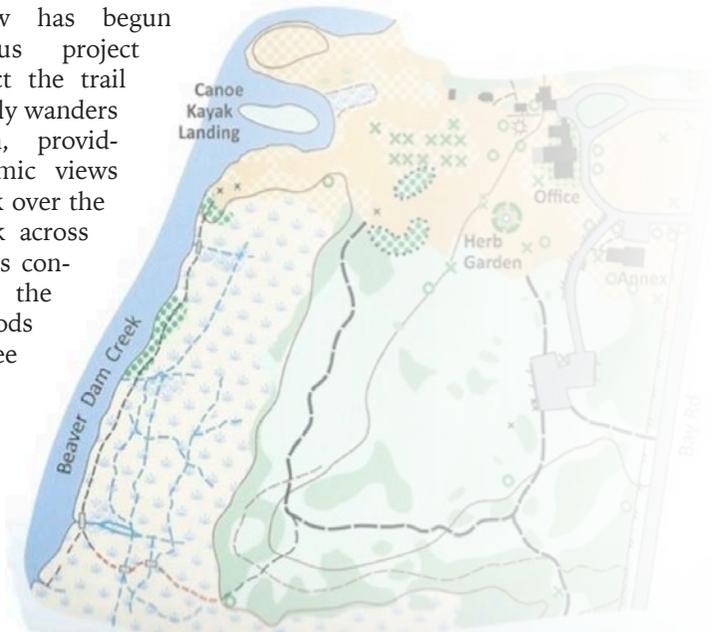
Home & Headquarters

By establishing the Foundation Headquarters on their homestead, the Post-Morrow family provided for their land along Beaver Dam Creek to be saved in perpetuity.

The property also features the Malcolm S. Fleming Annex, a community meeting house with an adjacent parking lot opened for larger events, an herb garden maintained by the Long Island Herb Society, and the beautiful Eastern Red Cedar that inspired the Post-Morrow logo – all situated on a tranquil lawn sloping gently to Beaver Dam Creek, where kayaks and canoes can be launched and visitors can rest on benches by the creek.

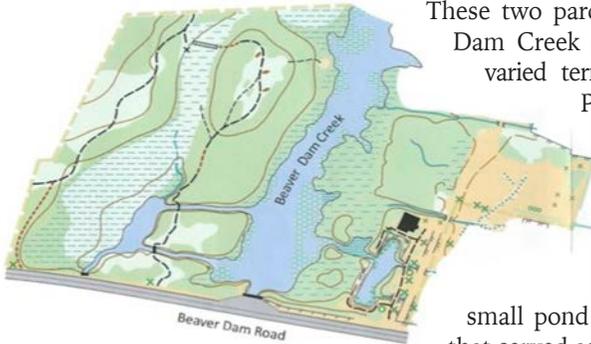
Across Bay Road, the Foundation owns a small parcel of mostly open old-growth woods that connects the homestead property with the Edgar Avenue Preserve a block away (see p. 95). It features a wonderful wood-chip trail – designed and created by the Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality – suited for hiking or riding a bike. In combination with the Foundation’s upland home property it offers an extended hiking trail loop through old-growth upland woods.

Post-Morrow has begun an ambitious project to reconnect the trail that currently wanders downstream, providing panoramic views of the Creek over the marsh, back across the wetlands connecting to the upland woods trail loop (see p. 94).



1 on Trail Map, on p. 90

Beaver Dam Creek Wetlands 4



2 on Trail Map, on p. 90

These two parcels separated by Beaver Dam Creek display perhaps the most varied terrain and habitats of any Post-Morrow property.

At the edge of open lawn, the east side features the site of an historic home (named The Pond House for the small pond on which it is situated) that served as a studio for well-known Brookhaven artists Malcolm Fraser and

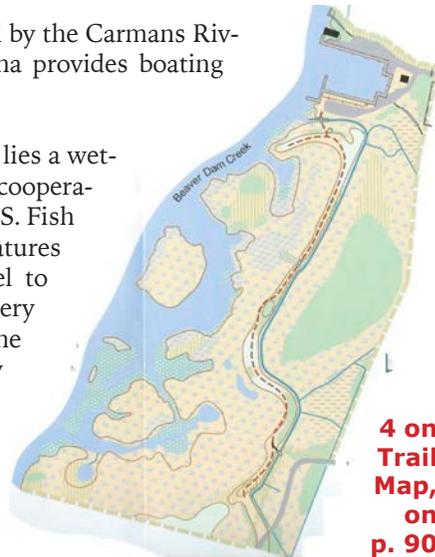
George Tooker. In the future, on the site of the house, Post-Morrow plans to construct an observation deck, extending into the expanse of mixed vegetation wetlands that slope down to the creek.

The west side features an old trail loop currently being reestablished that crosses two canals draining marsh and companion pond into the creek. Beyond the water features, the trail climbs gradually, passing through a section of open old-growth woods, down across a seasonal marsh, up a rare Brookhaven hillside, then back downhill to a planned trail that will return to Beaver Dam Road through thick marsh vegetation.

Fire Place Marina 5 6

Owned by Post-Morrow and operated by the Carmans River Maritime Center, Fire Place Marina provides boating access to Beaver Dam Creek.

Stretching to the south of the marina lies a wetlands area recently rehabilitated in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This property features a containment berm running parallel to the creek whose rise supports shrubbery along with open patches of trees. The berm also features an old pathway that Post-Morrow hopes to restore, which offers beautiful panoramic views across tall grasses and small ponds, inlets and islands to Beaver Dam Creek.



4 on Trail Map, on p. 90

Edgar Avenue Preserve

7

Just restored in the past few years from a tangle of undergrowth and choking vines, Edgar Avenue Preserve is now a picturesque, open walking park where Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality helped design and establish multiple trail loops through a mix of meadow and open woods, with a long berm bordering its eastern side.

In future years, the Foundation plans to introduce and maintain native trees and shrubs so the Preserve will be a lasting showcase for the community.

Long Meadow Farm

Formerly Burnett family land, part of this property is now farmed by the Hamlet Organic Garden Co-op. Long Meadow Farm also features two large meadows whose habitat of seasonal grasses attracts meadow birds and field animals. Connecting trails cut through mixed growth with the entire property encircled by a trail loop through woods that rim the property.

**7 on Trail Map,
on p. 90**



**3
on
Trail
Map,
on
p. 90**

This project is supported by the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) of the USDA.

We thank Jen Clement for graciously providing a right of way from the eastern end of Long Meadow Farm through her land to Beaver Dam Road.

Burnett Lane Preserve

Purchased by the Post-Morrow Foundation in partnership with the Town of Brookhaven and the Thorofare Foundation, this 25-acre property straddles Burnett Lane with one large upland meadow on either side. A horse paddock is located just south of the meadow on the east side of the lane. The original Burnett family home is the beautiful yellow house (see p. 20) just to the north across Beaver Dam Road.

The Burnett Lane Preserve features a meandering trail system (newly established in 2011) mown through mixed and new-growth wooded areas (reclaiming what was once farmland), winding through large strands of pine, then gradually sloping down in the southern section into old-growth hardwood forest, increasingly wet with seasonal marsh and ponds as it nears Fireplace Neck Tidal Wetlands.

6 on Trail Map, on p. 90

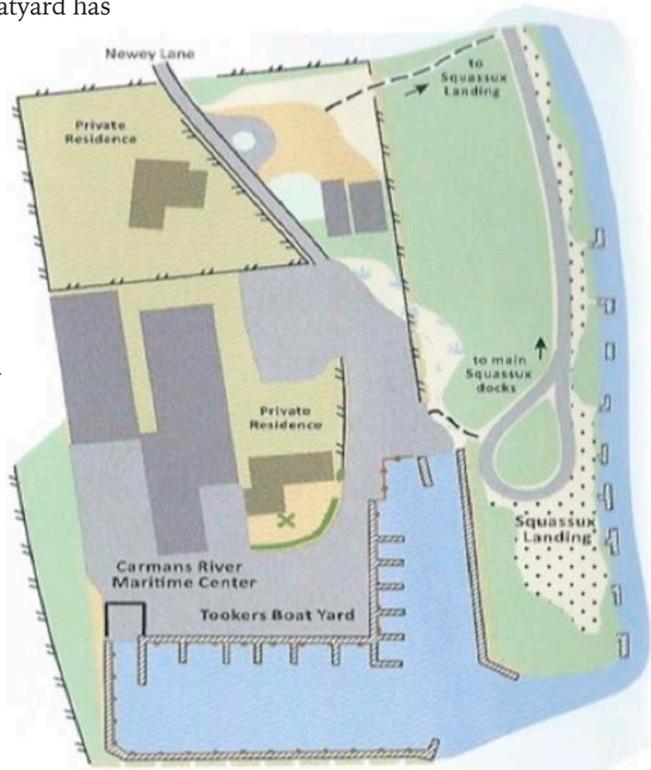
9 10 11

Tookers Boat Yard

The most heralded Brookhaven shipbuilder was Captain Samuel Newey. Starting in 1900 he turned out boats of all description from his shipyard – sloops, yachts, yawls, boats for ferrymen and boats for the oil trade, commercial draggers equipped with heavy booms and hoisting gear, and little sailboats for the younger generation who wanted to race.

After selling to Vacuum Oil Company a 55-foot freighter that he had built for himself, he delivered 14 more tankers to them that sailed to India and Africa.

Since 1997, the boatyard has been home to the Carmans River Maritime Center, which is keeping this tradition alive, as well as SN1, which operates the marina. Tookers Boat Yard lies adjacent to Squassux Landing, owned by the Brookhaven Village Association.

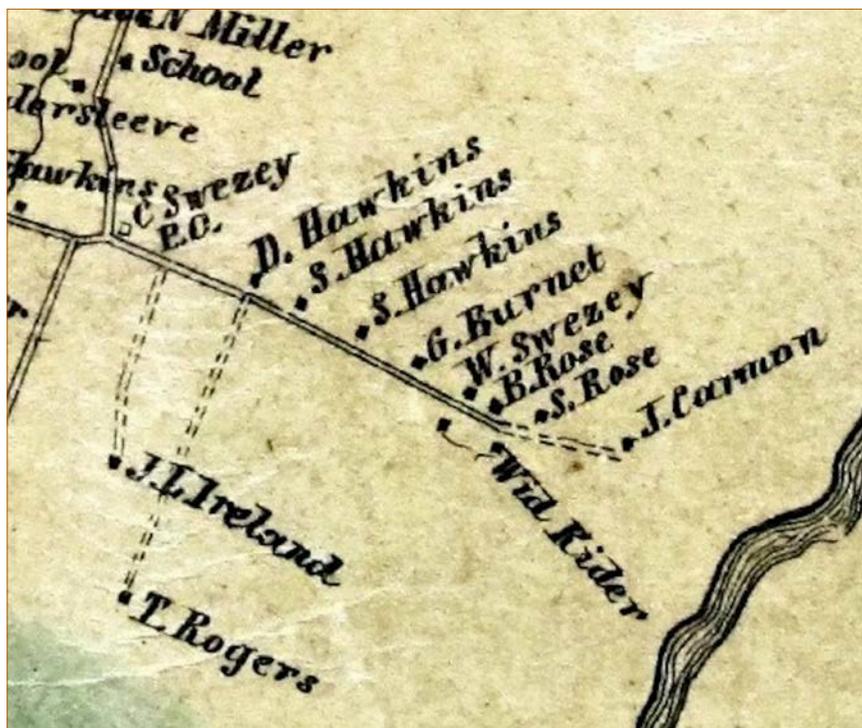


12

8 on Trail Map, on p. 90

Maps of Brookhaven Hamlet

1858 Chace Map ~ Beaver Dam Road



Residents whose homes are shown on map, from left:

"C. Swezey" - Charles (1818-1894)

"J.L. Ireland" - John L.

"T. Rogers" - Thomas (1789-1876), a farmer who removes to Sayville

"D. Hawkins" - Daniel H.

"S. Hawkins" - Samuel, his brother

"S. Hawkins" - Selah, their uncle

"G. Burnet" - George Hubert

"W. Swezey" - William Egbert

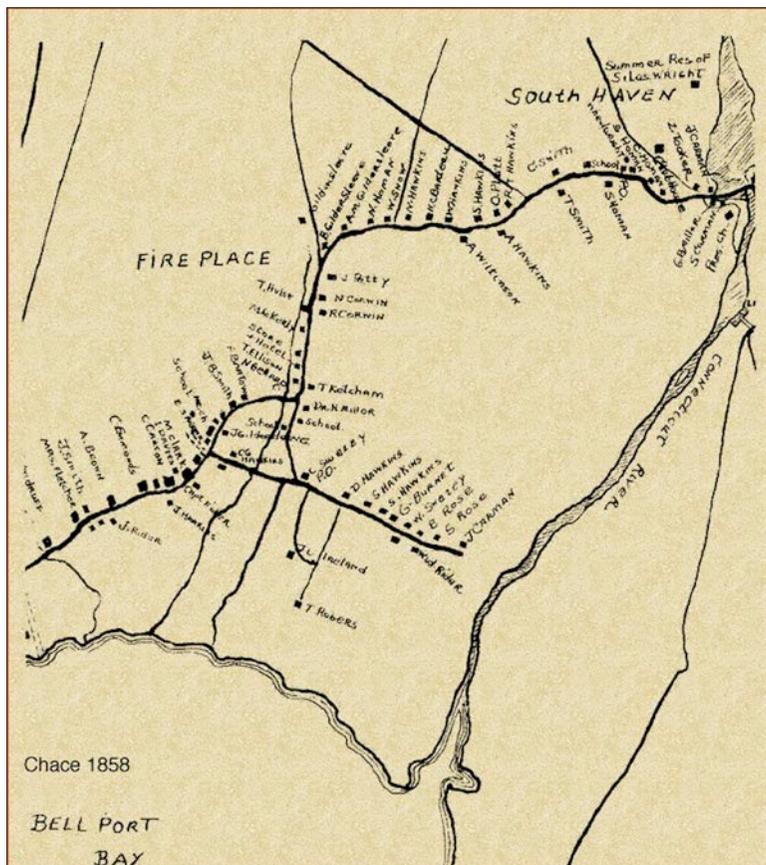
"B. Rose" - William Brewster

"S. Rose" - John Smith

"Wid. Rider" - probably Hannah Ryder (b. about 1793), widow of Barnabas Ryder (1790-1851), whose gravestone lies, inaccessibly, off Meadow Lane.

"J. Carman" - Joseph Carman, son of Samuel

1858 Chace Map



In 1858, the hamlet was still called Fire Place or Fire Place Neck. In 1871, the name officially became Brook Haven hamlet, and, in 1924, it officially became Brookhaven. This map is from a section of the large wall map, "Atlas of Suffolk Co.," published by J. Chace Co., New York, 1858. An original copy of this map is available at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead.

The map was constructed by Chace under the supervision of the Smith-French survey of New York State, the most ambitious and advanced mapping project for any American state to that date. Originals of this map are quite rare. In addition to the original copy available at the Suffolk County Historical Society, another is available at the State University of New York at Stony Brook library. Copies of this map occasionally become available for sale at prices that have ranged from \$7,500 to \$9,500.

1858 Chace Map Revisited



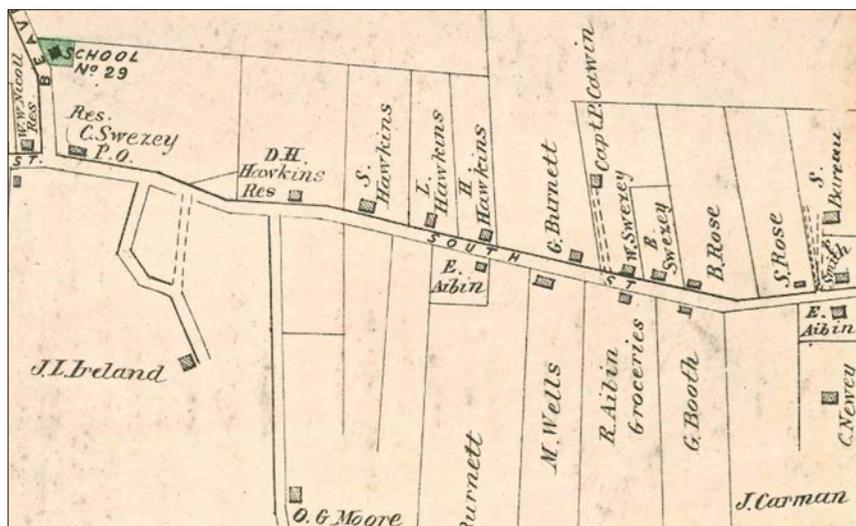
In 2010, John Deitz created this map from a tracing of a section of the large wall map “Atlas of Suffolk Co.,” published by J. Chace Co., New York, 1858. While replacing the original handwritten notations with modern type, he also added a few clarifying notations in parentheses and italics, which are not found on the original map. An original copy of this map is available at the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead.

1873 Beers Map



This is a section of an atlas by the J. B. Beers & Company, a major supplier of maps and atlases in the 19th Century. This atlas is available through libraries of the Suffolk County Cooperative Library System.

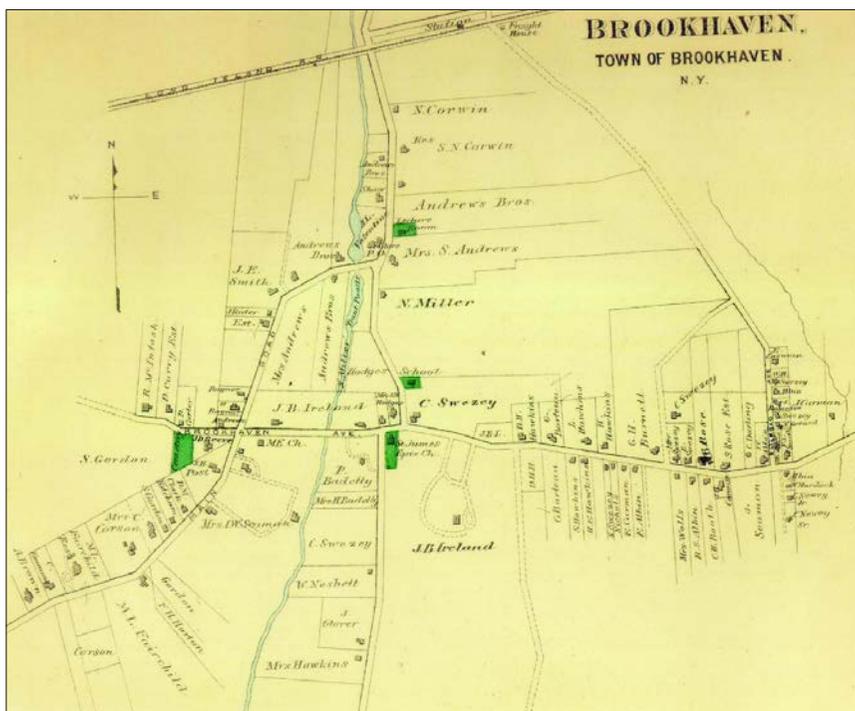
1873 Map ~ Beaver Dam Road



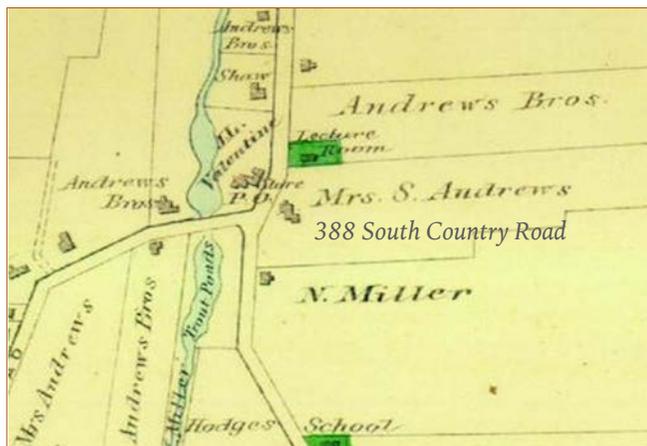
Residents whose homes are shown on map, from left:

- "C. Swezey" - Charles
- "D.H. Hawkins" - Daniel H., first cousin to Lewis and Harmon
- "O.G. Moore" - Orin G. (b. about 1846)
- "S. Hawkins" - Samuel, brother of Daniel
- "L. Hawkins" - Lewis
- "H. Hawkins" - Harmon, brother to Lewis (both sons of Selah, deceased)
- "E. Albin" - Elbert (b. about 1822)
- "M. Wells" - Morris (b. about 1822)
- "G. Burnett" - George
- "Capt. P. Corwin" - ? (this was the Richard Corwin farm)
- "W. Swezey" - John Warren?
- "B. Swezey" - William Egbert (Bill?)
- "R. Albin" - Robert
- "G. Booth" - Gordon (b. about 1814)
- "B. Rose" - William Brewster
- "S. Rose" - John Smith
- "S. Barteau" - Stephen Curtis (1838-1925)
- "C. Smith" - Charles (b. about 1842)
- "E. Albin" - Ebenezer (1824-1898)
- "C. Newey" - Charles
- "J. Carman" - Joseph.

1888 Wendelken Map



The complete 1888 Wendelken map of Brookhaven hamlet. Full copies of this atlas are available through libraries of the Suffolk County Cooperative Libraries System.



Segment of above map of Brookhaven hamlet showing the Andrews farmlands (see p. 78) and the house at 388 South Country Road (p. 52).