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**History of Post-Morrow**The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. is located in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Its principal office is at 16 Bay

Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719.
Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside character of the Hamlet and the surrounding areas. Through the acquisition of properties, either by gift or purchase, the Foundation seeks to establish a nature preserve and sanctuary for the benefit and enjoyment of the immediate community. The preservation of Beaver Dam Creek, where the Foundation owns over 100 acres,

The Post and Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased the land along Carmans River, now known as Squassux Landing, which was later donated to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land upon which the Brookhaven Free Library is situated was another gift. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her father by donating various gifts to community groups, mostly anonymously. It was the hope of the Morrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

## Post-Morrow Foundation WSLETTER

volume 22, number 1

## **Post-Morrow Foundation** CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Sailing from Squassux Landing to Old Inlet in 1903

This year the Post-Morrow Foundation celebrates 50 years dedicated to preserving the environmental and cultural history of Brookhaven Hamlet.

### **50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, September 14, 2019 • 3PM - 6PM

Make your reservation now by mailing the form at the back of the Newsletter

#### 50 WORDS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY FOR \$50

In 50 words or less, tell us what Post-Morrow means to you. Submit your entry via email to: Postmorrow@optimum.net All entries are welcome; everyone has a chance to win. The winner will be announced at the party.

#### Mission Statement of the Post-Morrow Foundation:

To preserve and conserve the rural, cultural and historical character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding areas in Suffolk County, New York.

## The Posts and Morrows in Brookhaven Hamlet – Their Story



Elisabeth Post Morrow



Thomas Irwin Morrow

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

The Post and the Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased land along Carman's River, now known as Squassux Landing, named for a Native American pot maker who worked on that site. It was later donated by Post's daughters to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The Brookhaven Free Library and the land upon which it was built in 1923 was another gift to the community. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her family by donating various gifts to community groups. It was the hope of the Morrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. The Foundation has devoted itself as well to the project of protecting Beaver Dam Creek, a tidal stream running through the heart of our designated Fire Place Historic District.

Over the last several decades the Foundation has continued this legacy by preserving other properties including The Edgar Avenue Preserve, Long Meadow Farm, the Burnett Lane Preserve, the Sam Newey boatyard (aka Tookers Marina) and part of the headwaters of Beaver Dam Creek across from the Brookhaven Fire House. Two farms have also been preserved by the Foundation; Longmeadow Farm that supports the Hamlet Organic Garden (HOG) and Lohman's farm, now Deer Run Farm. The Foundation has also partnered with the Town, the County and the Federal government to preserve other properties in the area, including Southaven Properties now a part of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and the Hedges Creek Preserve, now a county park in East Patchogue. The Foundation was also involved in the protection of the Peat Hole in Bellport Village, a historic pond known for providing area residents a place to ice skate. Nine acres and the historic Washington Lodge was also preserved through a partnership with Brookhaven Town, Suffolk County and local residents. (A map of all Post-Morrow properties in Brookhaven may be found towards the end of this newsletter.).

The hamlet of Brookhaven has a long history. Originally home to the Unkechaug tribe of the Algonquin Nation, the land was purchased from the tribe in 1664 by a group of thirty-nine buyers. The hamlet was originally known as Fire Place for its tradition as a Native American pottery kiln site. In 1871 residents voted to change the name to Brookhaven. Among the original European settlers were Richard Woodhull, forefather of Revolutionary War hero Nathaniel Woodhull, and Richard Floyd, grandfather of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In 1735, what is now Beaver Dam Road became the first dedicated road in the hamlet. In the 1800's fishing and farming were a major part of the life of the community. Salt-hay (*Spartina patens*), an important source of food for cattle and packing ice for the summer months, was harvested by farmers from the North Shore. They came to Brookhaven via the historic Old Town Road, which leads from Setauket in the north to Brookhaven Hamlet in the south and is still a busy road to this day. It is this heritage and cultural history that the Foundation hopes to preserve.

## Caleb Post – The Post Family Comes to Brookhaven

Caleb Post, James H. Post's grandfather, (1785-1872) was a carpenter descended from New England settlers who arrived in the country around 1650. He and his family moved to Brookhaven Hamlet from Southampton and built the Post's house, in 1823 on South Country Road. The house still sits next to the land that now holds the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church which was moved there in 1961. Caleb married Mary Smith (1790-1869) of Moriches. James Post's father, William was the youngest of five children.

William Post (1828-1888) was born in Brookhaven. He is listed in the census of 1850 as being a carpenter and living in Brooklyn. In 1859 he married Eleanor Cornelia Sackett (1836-1866) from New Rochelle where the family lived until her death. They had three children; James Howell Post (1859-1938) was the eldest. His sister, Mary Post (known as 'Aunt Mollie') (1861-1939), also lived in Brookhaven on South Country Road. Cornelia died of consumption five days after the death of her youngest son who was only two years old.

At 7 years of age after James' mother died he moved to Brookhaven where he lived with his grandfather Caleb and attended the Fire Place School. He lived in Brookhaven until his grandfather died in 1872 when he moved back to Brooklyn to live with the B. H. Howells family. He started working at B.H. Howell Co. at 16 as an errand boy.



Caleb Post

William Post died of scarlet fever during the famous blizzard of 1888, known as the "White Hurricane", with winds over 80 miles per hour and 21 inches of snow. James H. Post inherited the house in Brookhaven known as the *Homestead* from his father William Post.

# Brookhaven Hamlet's Good Fortune: The Generosity of James H. Post \_\_\_\_\_

"Philanthropy was always in his blood", according to Dorothy Post Hubert Jones, granddaughter of James Howell Post. She remembers him well she says. "He was a very kind, dear man". Often when he came out to Brookhaven, he would give



his grandchildren a \$20 gold piece. He received them from his service on some of the boards on which he served. Dorothy said that the family sold all of them when the Country went off the gold standard and so there are none remaining. He lived and worked in Brooklyn but kept the *Homestead*. Dorothy remembers his coming out from Brooklyn on weekends to be here in the summer.

They would motor in their launch to Old Inlet where he would spend time with his children and grandchildren. Post, as well as many other residents, kept his boat at what is now Squassux Landing. When around 1906 he learned that the owner of the property wanted to charge residents a fee for having their boats there, he was able to purchase the land and assure residents that they could tie up their boats at no cost. Post was also a founding member of the Brookhaven Village Association in 1906. He was always devoted to the whole community. "He would rather give to an undeserving person than not to give to a deserving person," Dorothy said.

As John Deitz reports on his *Brookhavensouthaven.org* website, (a source of much information for this) "Dorothy Hubert Jones, in her commentary, indicated that the move out to Brookhaven every spring was a major excitement, as all the necessary accoutrements, dinnerware, etc., were packed up and transported, pretty much simultaneously between both the Post and Hubert (on the adjacent property) families. After the main house was closed up, the Posts sometimes used a smaller cottage on the

James H. Post

### THE GENEROSITY OF JAMES H. POST CONTINUED

estate, which they called "Postscript," for country escapes. While also without central heating, it was more easily heated by wood-burning stoves and a fireplace."

On his website Dietz also notes, "In 1872 the William Post family moved to Brooklyn from New Rochelle. James was educated in the Brooklyn public schools, at the International College of the Y.M.C.A. at Springfield, Mass. and at Colgate University, where he received his LL. D. degree. (James did not attend Colgate but received an Honorary Degree later in his career – authors note) He went straight to work for the B.H. Howell Son & Co. The firm was the largest dealer in molasses and molasses sugars in the country with half a dozen factories in New York and Philadelphia." His career advanced quickly from the starting level of office boy. In 1887, he married Louisa Wells and by 1889 he became a partner in the firm.

The family company of B.H. Howell Son & Co., sugar merchants of New York, was established in 1836. Benjamin Huntting Howell



James H. Post and his new boat slip - 1929

was a cousin of the Post family. Benjamin's son Henry Banks Howell and James H. Post were partners in B.H. Howell & Son. James was involved in the consolidation of several sugar companies and in 1900 became the President of the new company, the National Sugar Refining Company, the company that made *Jack Frost* sugar. Post was very successful and was able to support his many philanthropic interests. According to his granddaughter Dorothy he "gave away most of his money".

Post's obituary in the New York Times of March 6, 1938, which is quoted in full on brookhavensouthaven.org, attests that:

"Mr. Post, although small in stature, exerted the influence of a giant in those spheres of activities where he labored most effectively for more than a quarter of a century from his office at 129 Front Street on the southern tip of Manhattan, he directed an industrial empire in sugar, reputed to be among the world's greatest. And in the family home at 88 Remsen Street, Brooklyn Heights, Mr. Post controlled a flow of donations anonymously to Protestant, Catholic and Jewish charitable and educational institutions.

"A majority of those who knew him by sight will remember a quiet man, probably in the act of waving aside rounds of applause at a dedication or like ceremony. He attended to many affairs in the role of officer but seldom delivered speeches. He disliked the limelight.

"Nevertheless, his generosity frequently placed him squarely before the public. Thus in 1930 the Downtown Brooklyn

Association presented him with its first annual medal for distinguished service, and two years later the National Institute of Social Sciences followed suit with a gold medal in recognition of contributions to the "civic and cultural life of Greater New York."

The *Times* obituary also noted:

"Mr. Post expressed his views on charity in a letter to *The New York Times* in December, 1935

#### He wrote:

"Through long association with charitable work in New York, I have learned something of the individualized care which each family receives from private agencies. I am heartily in sympathy with the great governmental relief program, but I realize that in thousands of instances relief is not enough."

"Nearest my heart is the rehabilitation of those so handicapped that they can never return to their former occupation. I believe, furthermore, the American public will give generously when they are convinced the need is real and the funds will be properly administered."



James H. Post

In 1927, Post received an award/medal for his distinguished social service to the City of New York, and the publication Better Times noted:

"Mr. Post was born and nurtured in the tradition of benevolence and its responsibilities. As a child he learned that it was not enough to give money. Service must go with it. His first active share in an altruistic undertaking was when, as a little boy he sold bricks to erect an orphanage to the support of which he still generously contributes.

James H. Post was a Board member of the Manhattan Transit Corporation, which approved this Resolution on March 21, 1938:

"Mr. Post was a member of the original Board of Directors of this company (The Manhattan Transit Company) which was elected in 1923, and his interest in its welfare is evidenced by his most unusual record of attendance at meetings of the Board, the minutes showing him to have been absent from but one meeting during those many years.

Practically his entire life had been lived in Brooklyn and while his principal business interest was sugar refining, he held directorships in such diverse lines as banking, both commercial and savings, in casualty and marine insurance, realty, utility, manufacturing, and warehousing.

And yet with all his varied business activities he was perhaps best known for his very deep and sincere life-long interest in the welfare of his community, as shown by his many directorships in and generous gifts to schools and colleges, hospitals and numerous charities and welfare agencies.

The community will greatly miss his unselfish devotion to the cause of public service, and his fellow directors will mourn the passing of a gentleman of the highest integrity, gracious of manner, sympathetic, kindly and lovable"

In 1887 James Post married Louisa Henderson Wells of Brooklyn. She was the daughter of the Rev. John D. Wells, for fifty years pastor of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. The Wells family traces their family back to the Mayflower. Mrs. Post was a founding member of the Fire Place Literary Club which in turn founded the Brookhaven Free Library on property donated by the Posts in 1926. She and her husband helped to found the Stony Brook Assembly near the railroad station in Stony Brook. In 1917 they donated their share of the property to the Assembly which later became the Stony Brook School which flourishes today as a private school in Stony Brook.



The Old South Haven Church which was originally located next to the Carmans River in Southaven, is now located on land that was sold to the church in 1959 by Elisabeth Post Morrow just before it was moved to its current site here in Brookhaven Hamlet.

Current site here in Brookhaven

Hamlet.

James H. Post and
Louisa Wells Post - 1929

The Posts had three daughters.

Elisabeth Post, Jessie Wells Post and Helen Marion Post. They were all members of the Brookhaven Hamlet community. Helen married Philip Hubert, Sr. and had seven children. Her daughter Dorothy Post Hubert married Reverend Curtis Jones and lives in East Patchogue. All Helen's other children are deceased. Philip Jr. is remembered as founding the Sou'Wester Bookshop in Bellport Village, a very popular bookstore and gathering place.

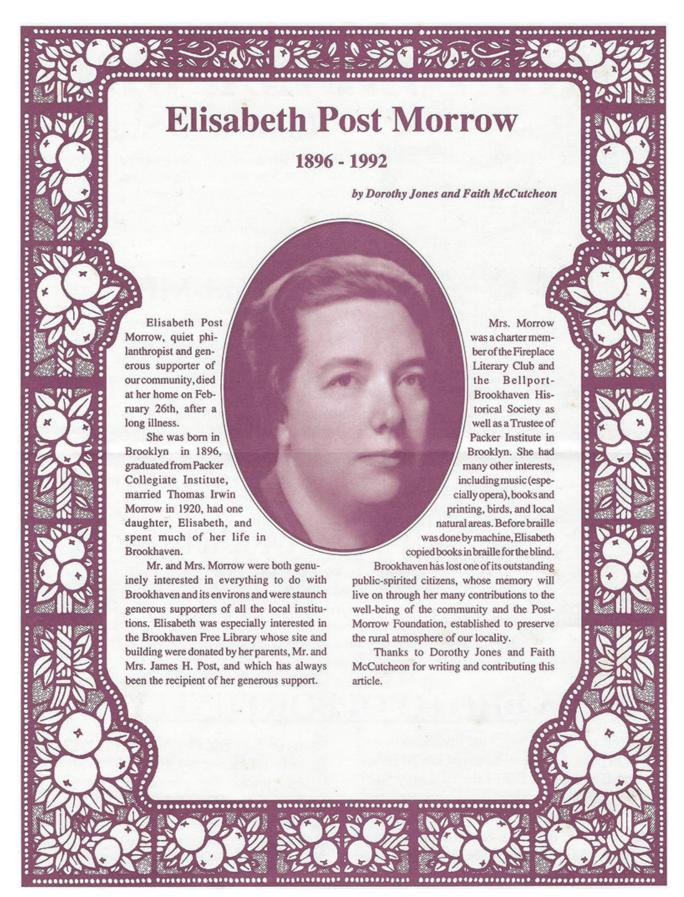
Jessie Wells Post never married and left most of her estate and land to her sister Elisabeth, some of which constitutes the Post-Morrow Foundation's land holdings today in Brookhaven Hamlet.



of her estate and land to he

## Elisabeth Post Morrow Died in 1992

HER OBITUARY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE BROOKHAVEN FREE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



## 

Thomas Irwin Morrow, Sr. (1855-1919) was born in Tyrone County, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States around 1872 and lived in Brooklyn. He became a superintendent of the varnish division in the John W. Masury paint company in Brooklyn. In 1874 J. W. Masury who owned the company purchased the Seatuck Clubhouse an estate in Center Moriches. Most of the estate was destroyed in the hurricane of 1938. However, the Masury Estate Ballroom survived, was restored and is listed on the National Historic Register.

His first marriage was to Elizabeth Mary Gahan also from Ireland and they had four children. She died in 1890. Soon after, he married Elizabeth Hannah Weeks of Brooklyn (1867-1942). They had four children (two died in infancy) one of whom was Thomas I. Morrow Jr.

Around 1903 the Morrows moved out to Brookhaven Hamlet and built the house they and their family lived in at 285 Beaver Dam Road. Thomas Irwin Morrow Jr. (1894-1965) grew up in Brooklyn and Brookhaven. He graduated from the Cathedral School of St. Paul in Garden City in 1912 and entered Cornell University the following year. He left college to serve during the war.



The Morrow Family in 1915 Tom Sr. and his wife Elizabeth, seated with their children Helen and Tom Jr. standing behind.

The woman kneeling is likely Tom Sr.'s mother, Mary Irwin Morrow.

Tom, Sr's. father had died by 1915.

## 3 The MASURY MIXER for December 15, 1919 SUCCESS OF COSMOLAC GLOWING TRIBUTE TO LATE MR. MORROW AND "TOM"



COSMOLAC WAS INVENTED BY MR. MORROW AND PERFECTED BY HIS SON

Tom Morrow the Chief Factor in the Wonderful Record of 1919



In World War I, Tom Morrow served as an Ensign in the Navy, as a naval aviator. He married Elisabeth Post in 1920. Very active in the Brookhaven community; he served on the Brookhaven Fire District for many years. He was a quiet man according to Dorothy Jones and everyone liked him. He was very successful in the paint business where he worked together with his father. This article from the *Masury Mixer*, 12/15/1919, gives Tom and his father the credit for developing a new and better kind of varnish. After his father's death, Tom went on to become a successful executive of the Benjamin Moore paint company.

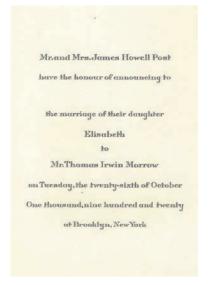
We don't know where Tom and Elisabeth met each other. It could have been in Brooklyn or Brookhaven. They must have enjoyed the summers together in the country.

They were married in Brooklyn at the South Third Street Presbyterian church in 1920 where Elisabeth's grandfather was pastor. The reception was at their residence 88 Remsen Street, Brooklyn. Officiating at the ceremony was the Reverend D. Newell Woolsey Wells, Elisabeth's uncle. Elisabeth's attendant was her sister Jessie Wells Post and Austin S. Roche of Garden City acted as best man.

Tom and Elisabeth had one daughter, Elisabeth, who was born in 1923. She is now Sister Mary Angela and a member of the Sisters of St. Mary's in Greenwich, New York. Benedictine in ethos, the Sisters of the Eastern Province of the Community of St. Mary seek to live a traditional, contemplative expression of the monastic life.



Tom and Elisabeth Morrow – 1917



Wedding announcment

Mr. and Mrs. James Howell Post have the honour of announcing the marriage of their daughter Elisabeth to Mr. Thomas Irwin Morrow on Tuesday, the twenty-sixth of October, One thousand, nine hundred and twenty, at Brooklyn, New York.

## PHOTOS FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM -



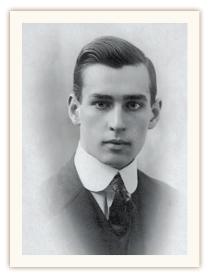
Elisabeth Post Morrow



Tom Morrow and his daughter Elisabeth (Betsy)



James H. Post and his daughter Elisabeth



Tom Morrow in 1915



Post Boat "Sea"

"Brookhaven Hamlet has had a long nautical heritage, both for commercial and pleasure boats. In 1912, James H. Post purchased this craft from a boat builder in Bay Shore. It became a fixture in the Hamlet, first docked at Squassux Landing and later at a slip on Beaver Dam Creek at the rear of his daughter and son-in-law Elisabeth and Tom Morrow's home on Bay Road. The people in this picture are unidentified, although one of the women is likely Louisa, his wife. While the picture is said to have been taken by James Post, the man in the boat, while faint, bears a resemblance to Post". Dietz website.



Tom Morrow, Fire Commissioner in 1948



Elisabeth Morrow with her daughter



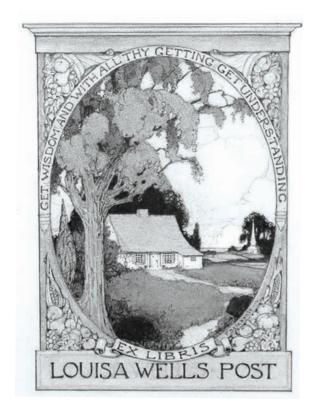
Elizabeth Weeks Morrow with her granddaughter Betsy.



James H. Post The Homestead, South Country Road - 1905



The Homestead in 2009



"GET WISDOM AND WITH ALL THY GETTING GET UNDERSTANDING"

Bookplate by Frances Washington Delechantz, bookplate designer, New York City. Both Mrs. James H Post and Mrs. Thomas I Morrow loved books and were founding members of the Fireplace Library Club in 1912. Renamed the Fireplace Literary Club and incorporated in 1913, the club was dedicated to forming a Public Library in the "Village of Brookhaven". The dream for a building came true in 1926 when the club moved into a building at 323 Beaver Dam Road donated by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Post, where the library resides today. The Fireplace Literary Club still meets and one of its members is Dorothy Jones, granddaughter of Louisa Wells Post.



Thomas Morrow Sr. residence also known as Acacia, Beaver Dam Road-1947.



Acacia in 2009



Tom and Elisabeth's home on Bay Road in 2008 Now the headquarters of the Post-Morrow Foundation.



Helen Morrow (Ewing), Tom's sister

## Trees in the Hamlet \_\_\_\_

"Trees are Simply Amazing. They clean air and water, slow climate change, ease poverty and hunger, prevent species loss, and feed the human soul. All we need to do is plant and care for them. Let's work together to make it happen around the world."

The Arbor Day Foundation. - https://www.arborday.org/ (National Arbor Day April 26, 2019)

Trees make Brookhaven Hamlet beautiful and healthy. They cool the atmosphere in their surrounding area; "they absorb and filter storm water, they lower energy costs for buildings... Studies have shown that merely walking past a newly planted lot lowered the participants' heart rates" (*N.Y. Times*, Margaret Renkl, 10/8/18.)

We asked our readers what trees they especially liked in the Hamlet and why. We received some very nice responses:

**Lynn Brown,** trustee of the Post-Morrow Foundation and director of the Brookhaven Village Association tree planting project: "Perhaps my favorite tree is the Red Maple (Acer rubrum) aka swamp maple. Why..? It's one of the first to signal the arrival of spring with its red twigs and red buds plus it has brilliant fall foliage and the red maples even look beautiful in the winter!"

**Chiara Scharpf**, President of the Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ): "I love the Basswood tree in front of the Post-Morrow Foundation house. When we have our annual picnic there I always think about climbing up through the beautiful branches."

Mary Hawkes, friend of Post-Morrow who donated a basket of tree-related books and material to our Autumn Bash in 2018: "The beautiful copper beech opposite Marydale Lane. In all seasons it has a wonderful glow and magic to it."

**Sean Pilger**, Owner/farmer of the Hamlet Organic Garden: "My favorite tree is the White Pine here at the farm next to the pickup station. It was a great companion to the Red Barn that was here for 100 years and it still is a sentinel for the farm."

**Jeff Jensen**, Owner/arborist of South Country Arboriculture, who assists with the BVA tree planting project: "The White Oak on Beaver Dam Road. Oak trees are especially important to the ecology of the forest because they host such a diverse population of insects, birds and other life. They contribute greatly to the atmosphere and breathing quality of the community. White Oaks can live to be over 600 years old."

Chris Schaefer and Margot Palermo, friends who walk around the Hamlet almost every day, were not sure how they could choose: They said "We love them all – the trees in the Hamlet are all very special."

Here is the Welcome to the Fire Place Historic District sign next to a Red Maple planted by the BVA tree project.



The BVA Tree Fund has planted a variety of trees each year throughout the community. Trees native to Long Island are given priority over other species, yet a variety of trees are planted as to improve diversity. Since 2001, 226 trees have been planted in the Hamlet.

http://www.brookhavenhamletfoundation.org/tree-fund/



Acer rubrum - Red Maple



Tilia americana -Basswood tree or Linden tree



Fagus sylvatica purpurea Copper Beech



Pinus strobus - Eastern White Pine



Quercus alba - White Oak





Boy Scout Troop #4 helped to protect our Pitch Pine seedlings from deer browsing.

Placing small fences around them we hope to enable these little trees to replace many of the pines that succumbed to the Southern Pine Beetle infestation.

We thank Troop 4 and Lex Mallon and Angel Slewinski their leaders for their hours of work to protect the little seedlings.

Also in the photo; Scouts Adam Quick, Noah Quog, Daniel Slewinski, Dylan Gottshatt, working towards their environmental life merit badge.



Pinus rigida, a Pitch Pine seedling





While this tree is not a rare species it looks a bit unusual. It is on one of the Post-Morrow trails. See if you can find it.



The logo for Post-Morrow Foundation.



Some call it the magic tree, a place of respite. It is on another Post-Morrow trail. See if you can find it.



The Post-Morrow tree in winter.

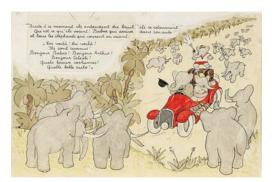
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern Red Cedar

## Another Legacy of Elisabeth Post Morrow

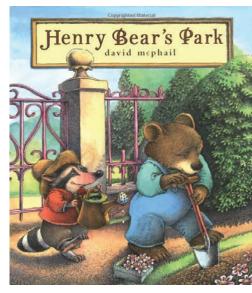
We were surprised this fall to receive a letter from Jewell Jarrold from the Long Island University Special Collections Library. She inquired whether our James H. Post was related to Marjorie Merriweather Post who sold her land to LIU. Formerly owned by her father, the campus was named for C.W. Post in Brookville. We said that we thought not, but she went on to say that their special Collections had received a contribution from Post-Morrow in 1995 of over 300 children's books. She said they had been very grateful for this contribution and wanted to connect with the Foundation.

"The American Juvenile Collection at the LIU Special Collections LIU Post Library contains more than 9,000 first edition juvenile titles in Fiction, Folklore, Fairy Tales and Poetry published in the United States in the 20th Century. It is a distinguished collection due to its major focus between 1910-1960. The AJC is the key to our grandparents'/parents' treasure chest of memories and helps us understand where we have been and how we come to be who we are." LIU Post Special Collections Library

http://liu.cwp.libguides.com/archives\_and\_special\_collections/ajc



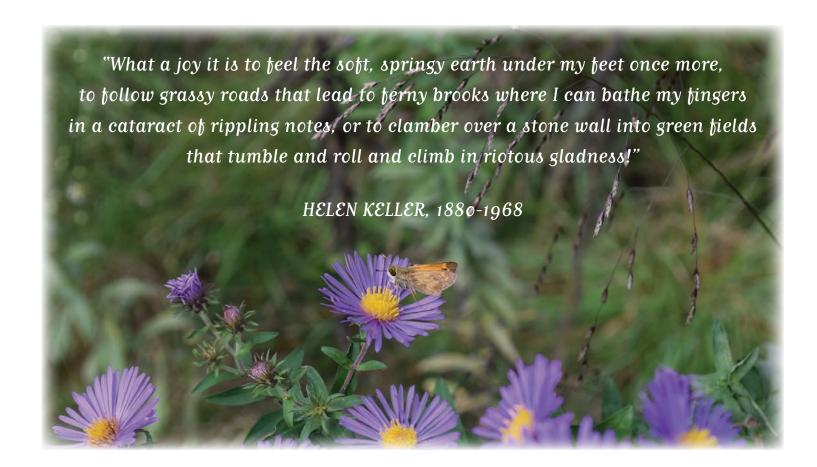
Here is the cover of one the books that were given to LIU by Mrs. Morrow and an illustration from another book donated to LIU.



Henry Bear's Park, by David McPhail

An illustration from; The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant, by Jean de Brunhoff

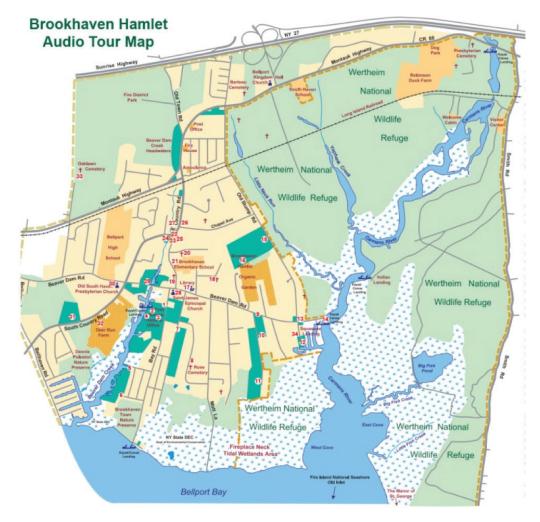
"Just then they hear a noise. They turn around. Guess what they see! Babar arriving in his car and all the elephants running and shouting: "Here they are! Here they are! They have returned! Hello, Babar! Hello, Arthur! Hello, Celeste! What beautiful clothes! What a beautiful car!"



## Post-Morrow Foundation Trail map and Cell phone tour guide to Brookhaven Hamlet \_

These trail signs depict various historic and sites of interest throughout the Hamlet. Maintained by the Foundation they are for residents and visitors to enjoy the history and environmental importance of the Hamlet. The tour is also joined with the Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society which has signs throughout the Village of Bellport.





Hamlet trail map with Oncell phone stations relating the history of Brookhaven Hamlet. The Foundation has trails throughout the hamlet.

### A New Trail in the Hamlet

CEED (Center for Environmental Education and Discovery-http://www.ceedli.org/), located at the Washington Lodge, 287 South Country Road in Brookhaven, has developed a new walking trail in conjunction with the Suffolk County Parks Department. The trail winds around the northern portion of the Washington Lodge, through a lovely wooded area with several specimen trees and a Rhododendron forest.



It then crosses South Country Road and enters the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Preserve including the Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve. It travels through the woods there, including the winter sledding hill known locally as "Pork Chop Hill",

down to the marsh meadow adjacent to Beaver Dam Creek. It is hoped that it will eventually reach the edge of Beaver Dam Creek through a Post-Morrow Foundation property. This area has been the subject for a planned restoration project for some years by Suffolk County.

The Washington Lodge property was owned at one time by George Constant Louis Washington who was a chemist and inventor of instant coffee. Used by the troops in World War I it was an immediate hit for GIs who very much wanted hot coffee on the front lines. In 1961 the property was purchased by the Marist Brothers for a school which was never developed. The Post-Morrow Foundation worked with the Town and County to purchase 9 acres and the Washington Lodge which has now been preserved. CEED has a long term lease with the Town of Brookhaven to develop environmental education programs for the community.

Dorothy Jones, James H. Post's granddaughter, recollects that when she visited her aunt Helen Post Hubert who lived nearby Washington Lodge when George Washington lived there, from time to time a Peacock would wander over to their house.

They would then call the caretaker and he would come over and take the peacock back to the Washington Lodge where Mr. Washington kept an extensive menagerie of exotic animals. Each time he would take back the Peacock he would give the girls a feather and so they had quite a collection.

CEED is planning many environmental education programs for this trail system and Washington Lodge and encourages people to come and visit the center to see what activities are scheduled.



## Brookhaven Hamlet as Historical District – by Arthur Danto

Brookhaven Hamlet includes 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 wedge of land bounded, counter clockwise, by the Great South Bay, the Carmans River, Old Stump Road, South country Road, and the east end of the Lohman Farm (now Deer Run Farm).. It is roughly bisected by the Beaver Dam Road, a gently meandering path going west from Squassux Landing and over the South County Road.

Internally, the hamlet is marked by woods and waters, marshes and open fields, grand trees, barns modest churches, and houses which 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.



Much of the area where land meets water falls under the protective legislation for marshland and wildlife, so there is a reasonable expectation that our shoreline, otherwise so vulnerable to developers, will retain its integrity indefinitely. Further, by a combination of miracle and community awareness, Brookhaven Hamlet has maintained against the forces of development - the tract housing, the shopping mall, the gentrified resort - an authentic air of tranquil residence our fathers and grandfathers took for granted, but which we today cannot.

It is because our hamlet is one of the few surviving instances of an endangered species that its members are requesting it be recognized as meriting the protective status of an historical district. It is not the desire of the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet to stop time or to turn the clock back. But we recognize that the luck that has enabled the hamlet to survive cannot be counted on to last, and the community must take some responsibility for its maintenance, to have some measure of control over the future, so the natural sort of growth and change which have brought about its cherished atmosphere may continue.

This atmosphere surrounds a community that is an intersection of distinct but harmonizing cultures: it is agricultural without being a farming community. There is a life of the bay without its being a fishing village. There is a population of scientists from Brookhaven National Laboratory without it being an intellectual enclave. There are artists and writers without it being an artists' colony. Nor is it a dormitory town of a resort. It is a unified society precious for its variousness.

Beaver Dam Road 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, 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 beauty of its short length. And, at its end, historical Squassux Landing is also an active place - a center for the community, a docking area for clammers and fishermen, a shelter for pleasure

boats, and a place to watch the marsh life. Just beside Squassux is a boat works which 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.

In sum, 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 shrine, a place of natural beauty of a threatened species, it is like a memory which is not merely of the past, but part of the experience of the present, which deserves to be saved for the future.

(Arthur Danto was Professor and Chairman of the Philosophy department at Columbia University when he wrote this essay. The article was included in the Hamlet's petition to the Town of Brookhaven for Historic District status. The petition was well supported by the community and became effective in 1985. The district is designated as the 'Fire Place Historic District' and is the largest such district in the Town of Brookhaven)

- Taken from the Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter, October, 1998.

## The Autumn Bash - September 2018

Thanks to our many supporters we had a successful Autumn Bash this past September. We were able to raise \$30,000 towards the barn which will house the equipment that enables us to maintain all our trails in the Hamlet as well as our facility. We have applied for all the permits needed and hope to start construction this coming summer.







A rendition of the proposed barn, drawn by Pauline Hazard.

### Thanks to our 2017-2018 donors.

#### We are grateful to the following donors.

Their assistance helps the Foundation maintain its effort to keep Brookhaven Hamlet and the surrounding area in its natural state and to protect the environment as our legacy to future generations.

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Saturday, September 14, 2019 3PM - 6PM

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Bald Eagle on Beaver Dam Creek – Photo by Marty Van Lith, October 2014

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## GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

A gift of any amount is most welcome and will assist us in our stewardship of lands and resources in the Brookhaven community.

We have included an envelope for your convenience or you can go to our website, www.postmorrow.org and contribute via the "donate now" pay-pal button.



Spring in the Hamlet

We are grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the efforts of the Foundation to preserve the unique beauty of our community. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible.

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POSTAL PATRON

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<u>Memorial gifts</u> A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to someone who loves the area. We would be happy to notify the family of your charitable gift.

#### Gifts of land and/or historic material

We welcome gifts that reflect the heritage of our community.

#### Bequest

If you would like to extend your support of the work of the Foundation to preserve our heritage you may include in your will a bequest of cash, securities or property to the Foundation. If you would like to discuss a potential bequest please call Bruce Wallace, President at 631-286-0686.