



## The Hamlet of Brookhaven

The Hamlet of Brookhaven has a long history that stretches back to the very earliest years of European settlement.

Originally known as Fire Place for its tradition as a Native American pottery kiln site, the land was originally purchased from the Unkechaug Tribe in 1664 by a group of thirty nine buyers. Among the buyers 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.

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 central part of the life of the community, with salt-hay harvested as a major crop. And in 1871, residents voted to change the hamlet's name to Brookhaven.

Today, the hamlet is comprised of woods and waters, wetlands and open fields, grand trees, modest churches, barns and houses which express the spirit of an older, pre-suburban form of life. Homes are too widely spaced to be a village, yet not so distant to be rural. Having avoided tract housing, shopping malls, and conversion to gentrified resort, Brookhaven is by some combination of miracle and foresight, precisely a "hamlet", retaining a quality of existence rapidly vanishing from what was once so typical of Long Island.

Brookhaven is full of harmonizing cultures: agricultural without being a farming community, situated on a bay without being a fishing village, home to a population of scientists without being an intellectual enclave, residing artists and writers plentiful without being an artists' colony. Brookhaven is a unified society precious for its diversity, where nature and human comfort exist side by side, where the beauties of ordinary life can be enjoyed without artifice or fear.

In 1985, to retain its distinct character, the area of the hamlet bound by the Great South Bay, Carmans River and Old Stump Rd, to South Country Rd and then south past Deer Run Farm along Beaver Dam Creek (within which most of the Foundation's parcels are located) was officially designated as the "Fire Place Historic District", the largest such district in the town of Brookhaven.

This is the heritage and cultural history that the Post-Morrow Foundation continues to preserve.