

Happy 100th
anniversary of the
founding of the
Brookhaven Free
Library!

BROOKHAVEN
FREE
LIBRARY



RAYMOND PERRY
© 1934

Brookhaven Free Library

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to the Community

1912-2012



Library & Literary Club.

The Fireplace Library Club, incorporated under the name Literary Club, began in 1912 with twenty-seven members, who began collecting books and using the two-story schoolhouse as their library and meeting place. The first paid librarian – one of the teachers – was paid 15 cents for an afternoon. The goal of the club was to have a permanent, stand-alone library in Brookhaven hamlet. Almost all of the early records of the FPLC are in the Post-Morrow Foundation's archival collection.

The FPLC's goal was achieved 14 years later, in 1926, thanks to the philanthropy of James Post, who had donated land and a building to the club. In 1930, the land and building were formally transferred to New York State and the Brookhaven Free Library Association was formed.

The following slides show some of the library's 100-year history.

Excerpt
from the
25th
anniversary
presentation,
1937

In 1912 some of our residents felt that we needed something to bring us together in this ~~great~~^{quiet} place. A few met in the home of Miss Childs when Mrs. Ruth Litt of Patchogue was to be the speaker. Several of those, meeting that day, were ardent suffragettes; and since woman suffrage was a subject filling the minds of many, it was proposed that a Suffrage Club be formed. Others desired a Library Club which would meet the needs of more residents, both of the young and old. So it was definitely decided to form a Library Club and Mrs. Thomas I. Morrow was elected its President. She resigned however at the next meeting. This was held at the home of the Misses Kost and the names of those who were the first to hold office were: President Mrs. Martha Hawland, 1st Vice Pres. Mrs. Nettie Valentine, 2nd Vice Pres. Mrs. Mabel L. Hotchkins, Rec. Sec. ^{Miss Emma Kost, Treas.} Mrs. Lily Reeves, Auditor Miss Louise Carmer.

THE FOUNDING OF THE LITERARY CLUB AND THE LIBRARY

The Fireplace Literary Club was founded by the following group of Brookhaven women:

*Mrs. Louis Blume	*Miss Emma Kost
*Miss Louise Carman	*Miss Minna Kost
*Mrs. Robert Carman	Miss Ellen Learned
*Miss Helen Child	*Mrs. Nathaniel Matson
*Mrs. Rachel de Arcas	*Miss Esther Matson
*Mrs. Jeremiah M. Dominy	*Mrs. Thomas I. Morrow, Sr.
*Miss Florence L. Drinker	Mrs. Norman F. Nelson
Miss Mary K. Ford	Mrs. James H. Post
Mrs. Malcolm Fraser	*Mrs. Forrest P. Reeve
*Mrs. Clyde Furst	*Mrs. Caroline E. Russell
Miss Ella R. Hawkins	*Mrs. Frank Smith
*Mrs. Walter Hotchkin	*Mrs. Jacob L. Valentine
*Mrs. William H. Hotchkin	*Miss Anne Weeks
*Mrs. Isaac Howland	

*Listed as those present at first recorded meeting.

The following slides will show photographs, if available, of the founding members and/or the homes that they lived in.

Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE

Fire Place Literary Club

OF

Brookhaven, Long Island
New York



1917

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Fireplace Literary Club of Brookhaven, Long Island, New York.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

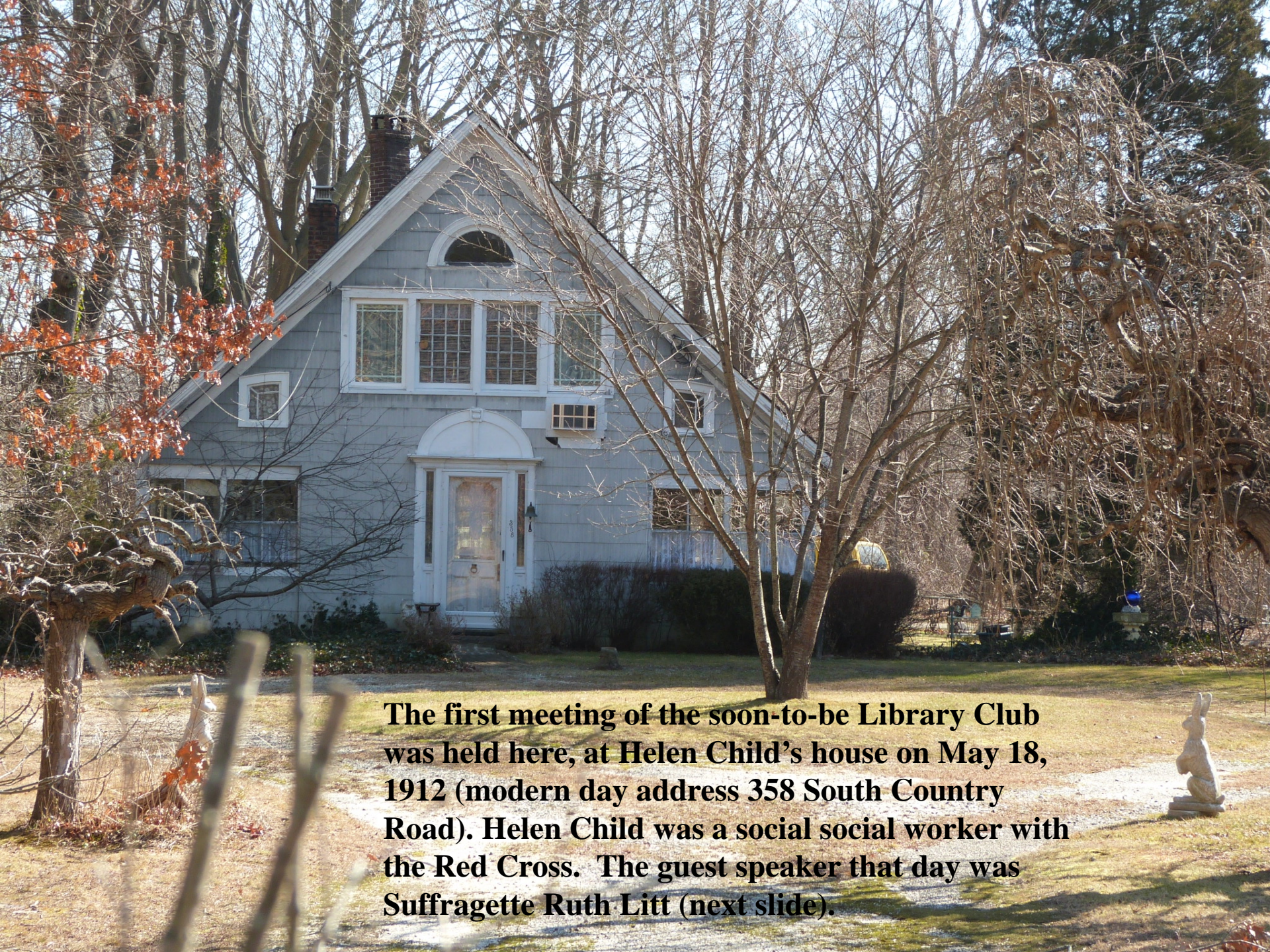
To organize a library for the use of the Club, and to provide for lectures, readings, and other entertainments which may contribute to the support of the Club and add to the pleasure of its members.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SEC. 1. There shall be two classes of members: Active and Honorary.

SEC. 2. Active Members. Any one may become an active member whose name has been presented to the Board of Directors through its Chairman; who has been elected by a two-thirds vote of the Board, and who pays Annual Dues of One Dollar.



The first meeting of the soon-to-be Library Club was held here, at Helen Child's house on May 18, 1912 (modern day address 358 South Country Road). Helen Child was a social social worker with the Red Cross. The guest speaker that day was Suffragette Ruth Litt (next slide).

**Ruth Litt demonstrated
“Suffrage Agriculture” in
1917. Picture taken where
today’s Patchogue Shores
in East Patchogue is
located.**



Mrs. Ruth Litt, Chmn. Suffrage
Agriculture, N.Y. State.



Picture from Patchogue
Shores History



Founding member and first president Martha Howland's home, 339 Beaver Dam Road (modern address). No photograph of her has been found.



Founding Member Matilda Nelson's home at 388 South Country Road. Matilda's father-in-law, Alfred Nelson, offered to donate a plot of land along South Country Road next to the Chapel House for the library building.



Matilda Nelson

Photo courtesy Lucia Nelson

Letter from Matilda Nelson's
granddaughter:

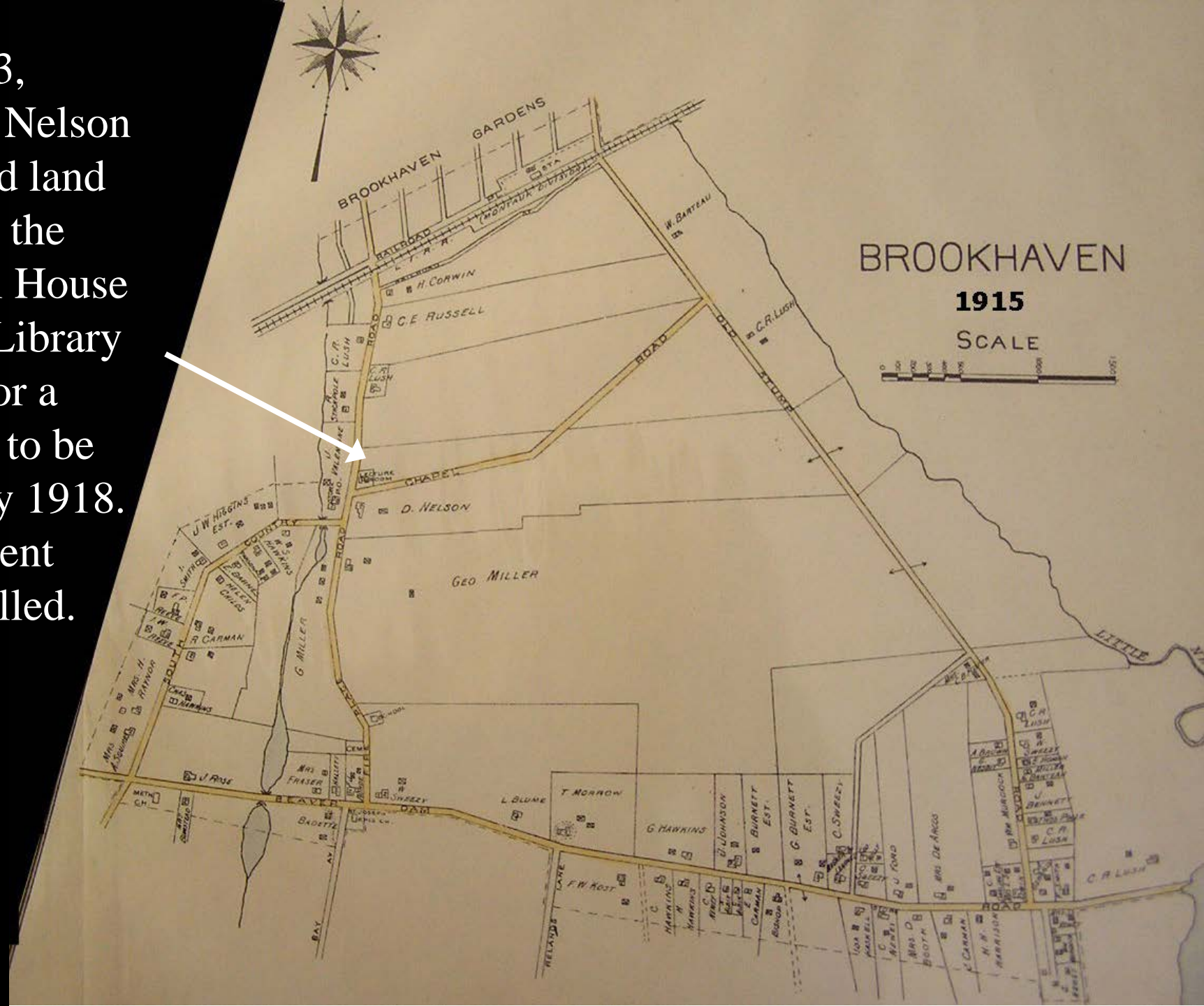
“...She called the FP Literary Club
‘The Queen Mary Hat Club,’ as
right up to the time when I was a
member in the 1960s we all wore
hats....

“Wish I could be there, Lucia
Nelson”

On April 18, 1913, Alfred and Emily Nelson deeded to the Trustees of the Fireplace Literary Club a parcel of land north of the Chapel House to build a library. Stipulation was for a building to cost not less than \$2,000 and to be completed by 1918. This was not done and the land was returned.

THIS INDENTURE, made the 18th day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirteen. BETWEEN ALFRED NELSON and EMILY F. NELSON, his wife, both of Flushing, Queens County, New York, parties of the first part, and THE TRUSTEES of the FIREPLACE LITERARY CLUB, of Brookhaven, New York, an association organized and existing under the corporation law of the State of New York, and having its place of office in Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York, presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, enfeoff, convey and confirm to the said parties of the second part, and to their successors and assigns forever. ALL that certain piece or parcel of land and premises hereinafter particularly described, situate, lying and being in the Town of Brookhaven, in the County of Suffolk and State of New York. BEGINNING at a point on the east line of South Country Road distant one hundred fifteen and seven twelfths feet (115.7ft.) north from the intersection of said east line of said South Country Road with the north line of Transverse Road or Chapel Avenue, running

In 1913,
Alfred Nelson
donated land
next to the
Chapel House
to the Library
Club for a
library to be
built by 1918.
This went
unfulfilled.





Alfred Nelson, Sr. in foreground with four of his grandchildren – Alfred, Emily, Beatrice and Norman – at the Brook Store in 1905.

Ellen Learned



Founding member Ellen Learned. She was said to have an “operatic” voice, and regularly performed in concerts in New York and elsewhere. Called “Nellie” by local residents, she was active in the affairs of the local Brookhaven Hamlet community. In addition to giving singing and music lessons, she was remembered as the volunteer director at the St James Church. She lived at 331 Beaver Dam Road with Emily Wagner.



Photo courtesy Richard Thomas


Emily Wagner, founder of the Third Street Music School Settlement, was a signer of the 1913 incorporation of the Fire Place Literary Club. She and Ellen Learned lived at 331 Beaver Dam Road (next slide).

Emilie Wagner (Third Street's founder)



Photo 1900, courtesy John Deitz

Ellen Learned and Emily Wagner's home at 331 Beaver Dam Road.



**Founding member
Catherine (Church)
Fraser with her
daughter, Phyllis, circa
1912. 22 years later
Phyllis would become
the second library
director, serving from
1934 – 1942.**

**From 1919- 1926,
Malcolm Fraser's art
studio in their home
was converted to being
the library. (Malcolm
moved his art studio
into his former
carriage house).**



1890

Photos courtesy Post Morrow Foundation



Circa
1900

Founding member Nettie Valentine. Nettie (Furman), was born in Patchogue, and married Brook Store owner and postmaster Jacob Valentine in 1893.

Jacob and Nettie Valentine, circa 1912. The Valentines' general store and post office was the community center during the 50 years Jacob ran it, from about 1885 to 1935.

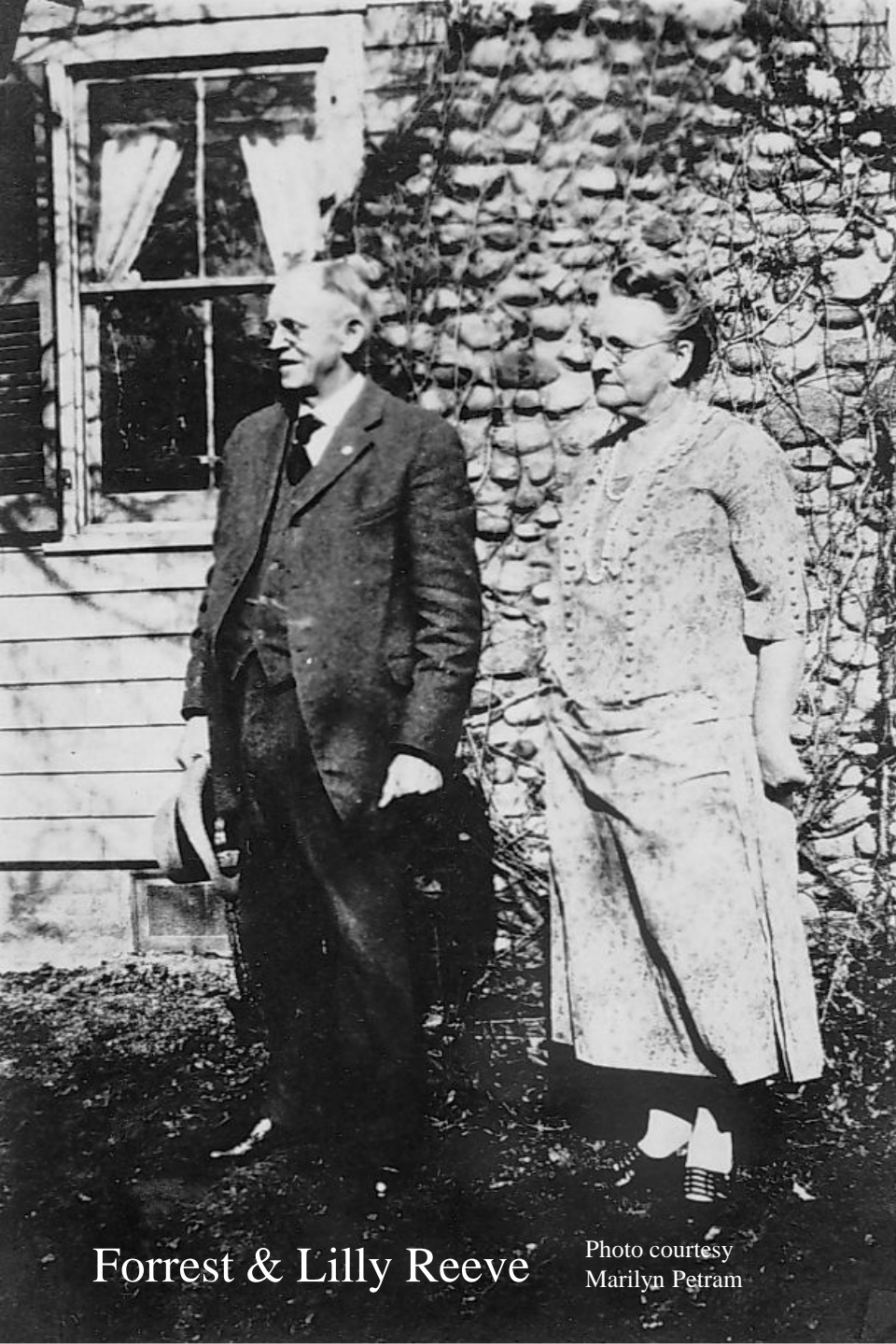


Photo courtesy Hugh Byrne



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Photo 1905. The Valentine home is on the left, Brook Store and post office on right. People in photo are Alfred Nelson and Nelson children.



Founding member Lillian Reeve with husband Forrest by their home at 349 South Country Road, circa 1930. Forrest Reeve was Brookhaven hamlet's assistant postmaster at the Valentines' Brook Store for 53 years.

Forrest & Lilly Reeve

Photo courtesy
Marilyn Petram

**Jeremiah and Frances Dominy,
between their house and milk
shed in South Haven, May 1928.**

**Jeremiah Dominy
was the last
operator of the
South Haven
mill, which closed
in 1910.**

**Founding
member
Frances
Dominy**

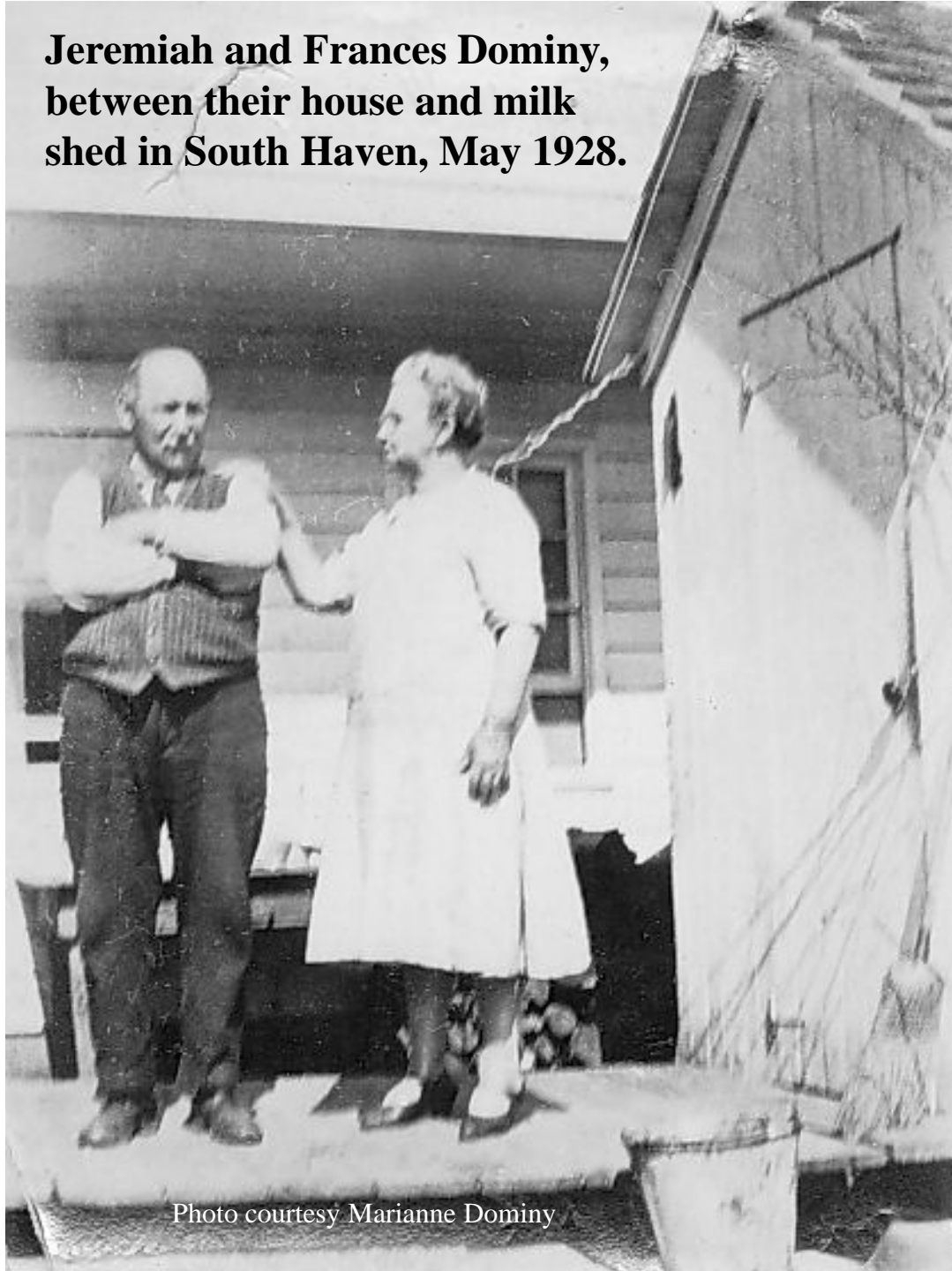


Photo courtesy Marianne Dominy

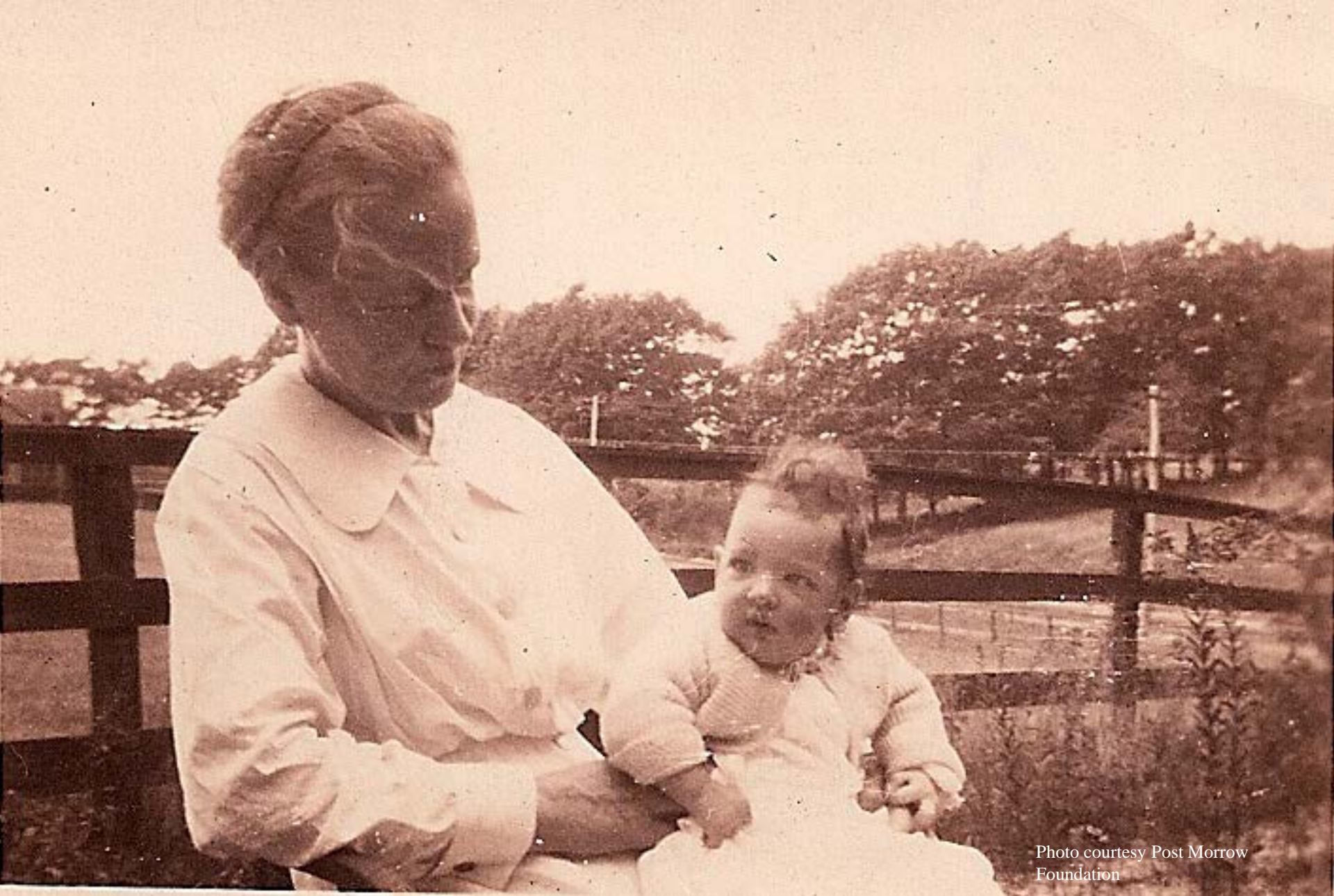
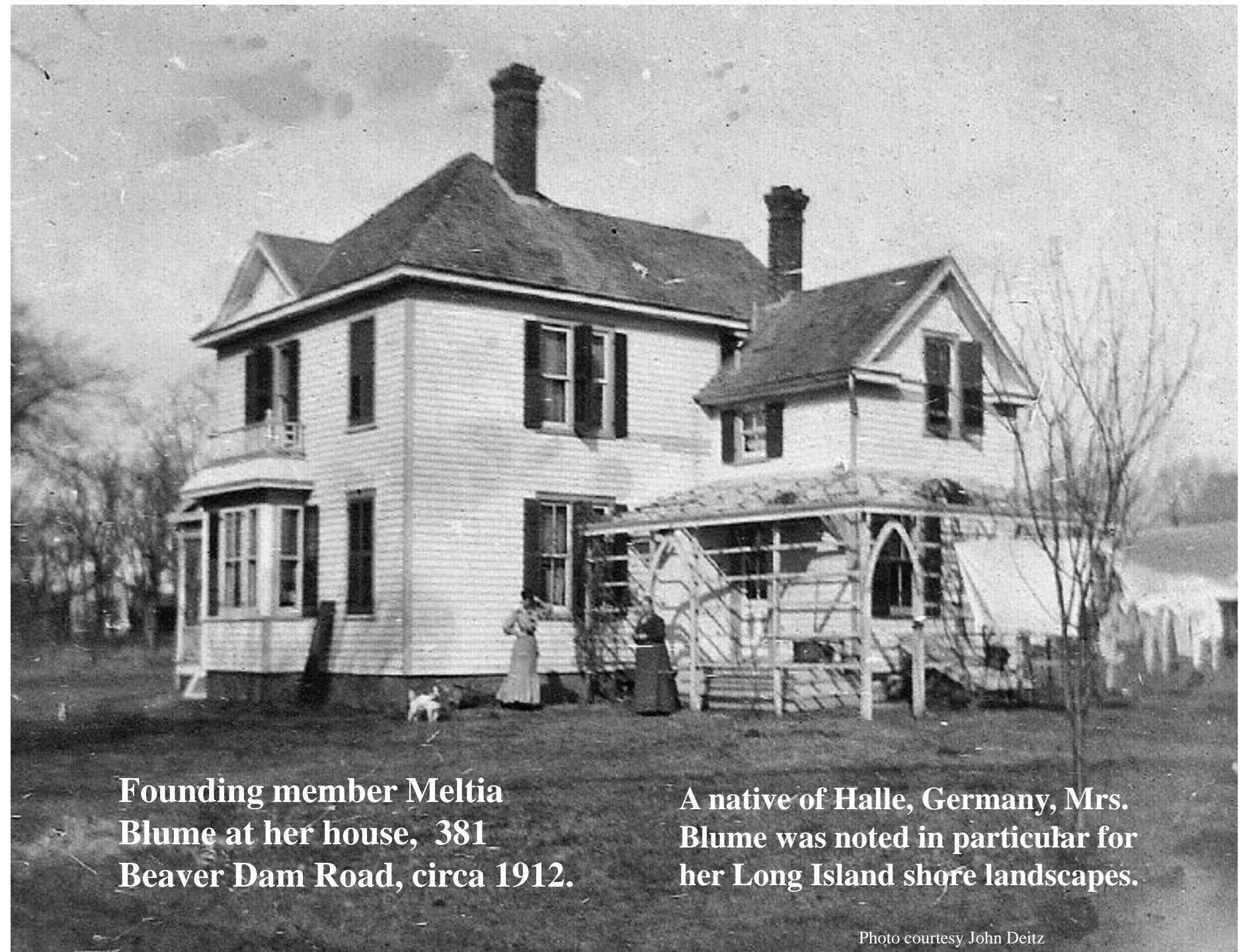


Photo courtesy Post Morrow
Foundation

Founding Member Elizabeth W. Morrow with granddaughter Betsy Morrow.

Founding member Louisa H.
W. Post, 1930.

The mission of the of the
Fireplace Literary Club was
to have a library in
Brookhaven hamlet, which
was accomplished in 1926
when Louisa and her
husband, James, donated land
and our current library
building to the Fireplace
Literary Club.



**Founding member Meltia
Blume at her house, 381
Beaver Dam Road, circa 1912.**

**A native of Halle, Germany, Mrs.
Blume was noted in particular for
her Long Island shore landscapes.**



Founding member Louise B. Carman was born and lived her entire life in this house at 41 Old South Country Road in South Haven. She is the granddaughter of Sam Carman, who owned the mills, inn and store in South Haven.



Louise Carman's barn,
built early 1800s.

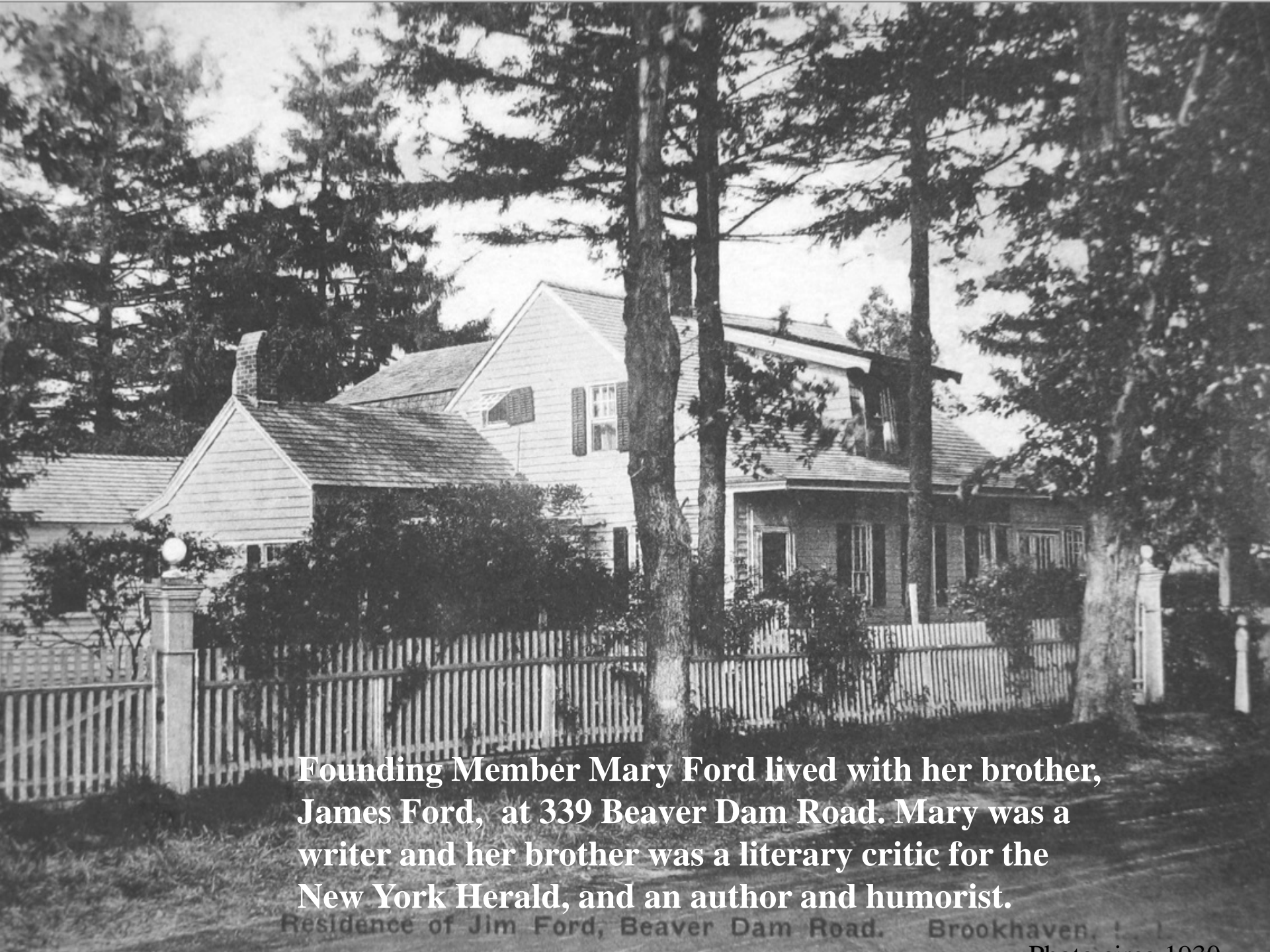


Founding member Mary Carman's house at 352 South Country Road (modern picture). Mary and Robert Carman purchased their house circa 1912, after they retired from farming in 1912. Their former home and farm in South Haven was sold to another founding member, Mary Hotchkin.



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Founding member Mrs. Rachael de Arcas ran a Brookhaven hamlet boarding house at 349 Beaver Dam Road called the Edgewater. In a 1913 listing from a Long Island Railroad advertising pamphlet, she indicated accommodations for 35 people at \$10-12 per week.



Founding Member Mary Ford lived with her brother, James Ford, at 339 Beaver Dam Road. Mary was a writer and her brother was a literary critic for the New York Herald, and an author and humorist.

Residence of Jim Ford, Beaver Dam Road. Brookhaven, L.I.
Photo circa 1930



**Founding member Mary Furst's
home at 301 Beaver Dam Road
(modern picture).**

**Ella Hawkin's
1887 Brookhaven
Elementary
School picture:**



Photo courtesy John Deitz

**Founding member Ella Hawkin's
home (modern picture) at 306
Beaver Dam Road**





Founding member Mabel Hotchkin's home at 2847 Montauk Highway in South Haven (modern picture).



Photo, circa 1900, courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Founding members and sisters, Emma and Anna (Minna) Kost lived with their brother, Frederick Kost at 298 Beaver Dam Road. Photo circa 1912. Frederick Kost was to become one of the first directors of the incorporated club in 1913. House was later moved across the street.



Founding members Anna Matson and her daughter Esther Matson lived in this home at 303 South Country Road. Anna was active in the women's suffrage movement at the time.



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Photo circa 1950s

The Elizabeth and Thomas Morrow Sr. home at 285 Beaver Dam Road. Their son, Tom Morrow Jr., would later become one of the library's biggest benefactors. Elizabeth's sister Ann Weeks, who was also a founding member, lived with them.



Founding member Caroline Russell's home at 414 South Country Road (modern photo).



Founding member Catharine Smith's home at 365 Beaver Dam Road. The Smiths were poultry farmers. Catherine's husband, Frank, also ran a ferry from Squassux Landing to Smith's Point between 1890 and 1920.



HOLIDAY HOUSE, BROOKHAVEN, LONG ISLAND

Founding member Florence Drinker was the head social worker at the Holiday House, located at 311 South Country Rd, which was "a summer nursery home for underprivileged children," owned by the Holy Trinity Guild of Brooklyn.

On Oct 14,
1913, the Fire
Place Literary
Club was
incorporated.

WE, the undersigned, desiring to form a membership corporation for the purposes hereinafter stated, all being of full age, of sound mind and citizens of the State of New York, do hereby make, acknowledge and file the within certificates and state as follows: FIRST: The particular object for which the corporation is to be formed is for the purpose of keeping and maintaining a club room for the amusement and betterment of members, to supply said members with proper reading matter such as magazines, books and papers, and to provide a place where the members of the Corporation may spend their idle moments in reading or correspondence, or conversations, and for that purpose desire to acquire a small piece of land on which to erect a small building for the purpose of maintaining such room of recreation. SECOND: The name of the proposed Corporation is "Fireplace Literary Club, Inc." THIRD: The territory in which these operations are to be principally conducted is within the Village of Brookhaven, in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., N.Y. FOURTH: The Town, Village or City in which its principal office is to be located is to be in the said Village of Brookhaven, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., N.Y. FIFTH: The number of its directors are to be six. SIXTH: The names and places of residence of the persons to be its directors until its first annual meeting are as follows:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Residing at</u>
MR. ALFRED NELSON	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MRS. LOUISA W. POST	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MR. FREDERICK W. KOST	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MRS. NETTIE F. VALENTINE	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MRS. ELIZABETH MORROW	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MRS. CATHERINE FRASER	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.

Signed and acknowledged under our seals
this 14th day of October, 1913.

Three of those signing as witnesses to the incorporation in 1913 were not founding members: Emily Wagner, Emma Barteau and Grace Corwin.

Notary Public Nassau County
Cert. filed in N. Y. Co. No. 330, Reg. No. 2-6-259
Comm. expires March 30th, 1932

Names	Residing at
MARY K. FORD	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MABEL LORD HALL HOTCHKISS	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
LOUISA WELLS POST	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
ELIZABETH H. MORROW	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
EMILY WAGNER	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
MATILDA M. NELSON	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
GRACE CORWIN	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
EMMA BARTEAU	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
NETTIE F. VALENTINE	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.
CATHERINE FRASER	BROOKHAVEN, SUFFOLK CO., N.Y.

State of New York, County of Suffolk SS: On this 14th day of October, 1913, personally appeared before me, Mary K. Lord, Mabel Lord Hall Hotchkiss, Louisa Wells Post, Elisabeth H. Morrow, Emily Wagner, Matilda M. Nelson, Grace Corwin, Emma Barteau, Nettie F. Valentine, Catherine Fraser, to me known and known to me to be the individuals described in and who executed the foregoing certificate of incorporation and they each severally acknowledged that they executed the same. N. Clinton Miller, Notary Public.

I, Walter H. Jaycox, a Justice of the Supreme Court, do hereby approve the forming of this corporation and the certificate herein as executed by the above named individuals. Walter H. Jaycox, J.S.C.

Recorded 23rd October, 1913 at 12 M.

in Liber 8 of Certificate of Incorporation
Page 333.

James F. Richardson, Clerk.



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Emma Barteau's home (now destroyed) along South Country Road near today's Andiron Drive. Photo circa 1912.



Grace Corwin's home, 13 Locust Lane.



Brookhaven hamlet's first Library was inside the school building on Fire Place Neck Road, 1912-1914, with the first paid librarian being one of the teachers (15 cents/afternoon).

Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation



Elementary school, 1915

Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

The first Library Club meetings were held at the Brookhaven Elementary School, but “it was with great difficulty that some of the most rotund of our members got in and out of the seats.” Meetings were then held at the Chapel House and Methodist Church meeting rooms.



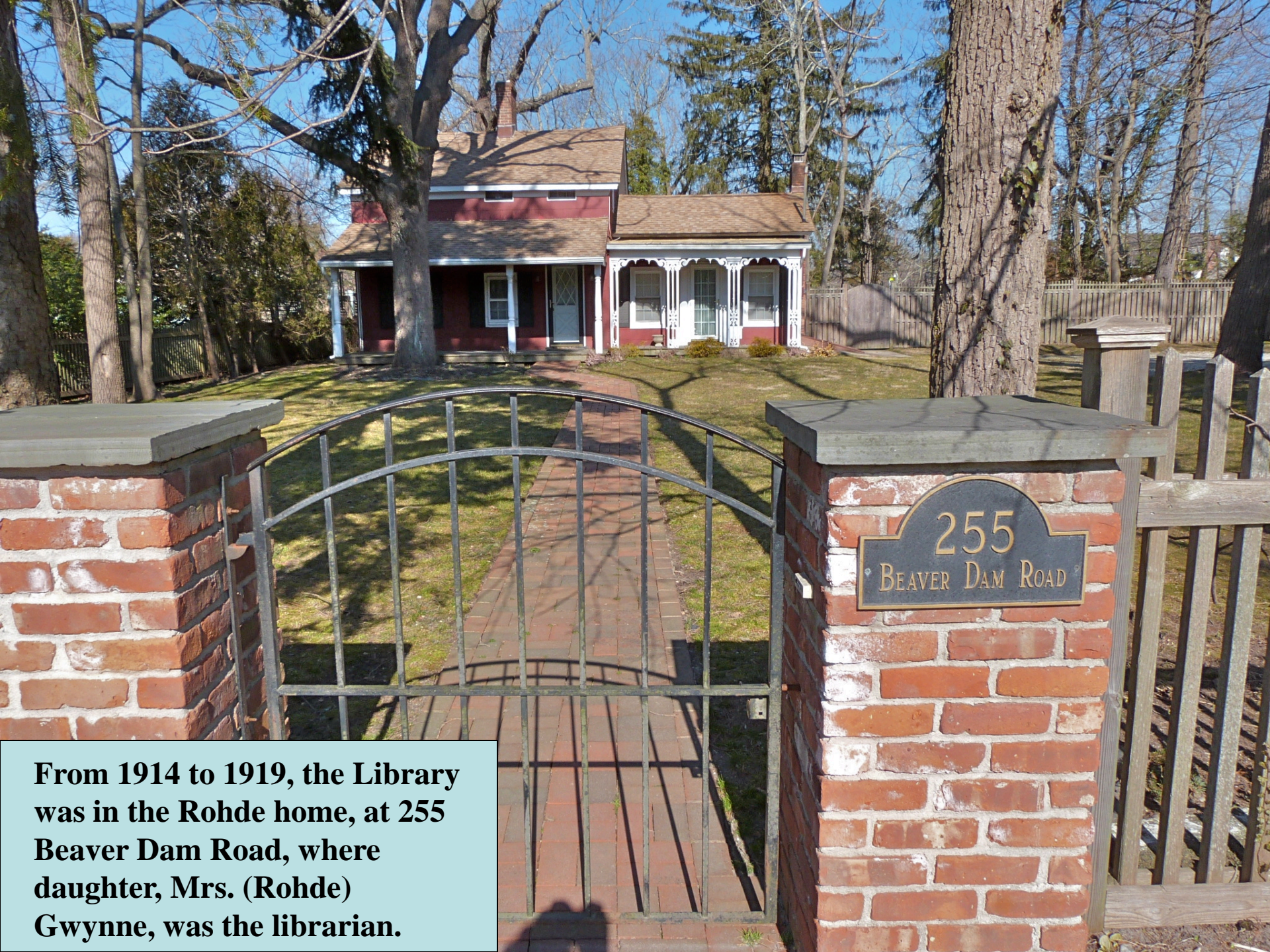
Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Some of the first meetings of the Fire Place Library Club were held here in the Methodist Church on Beaver Dam Road (today a private residence).

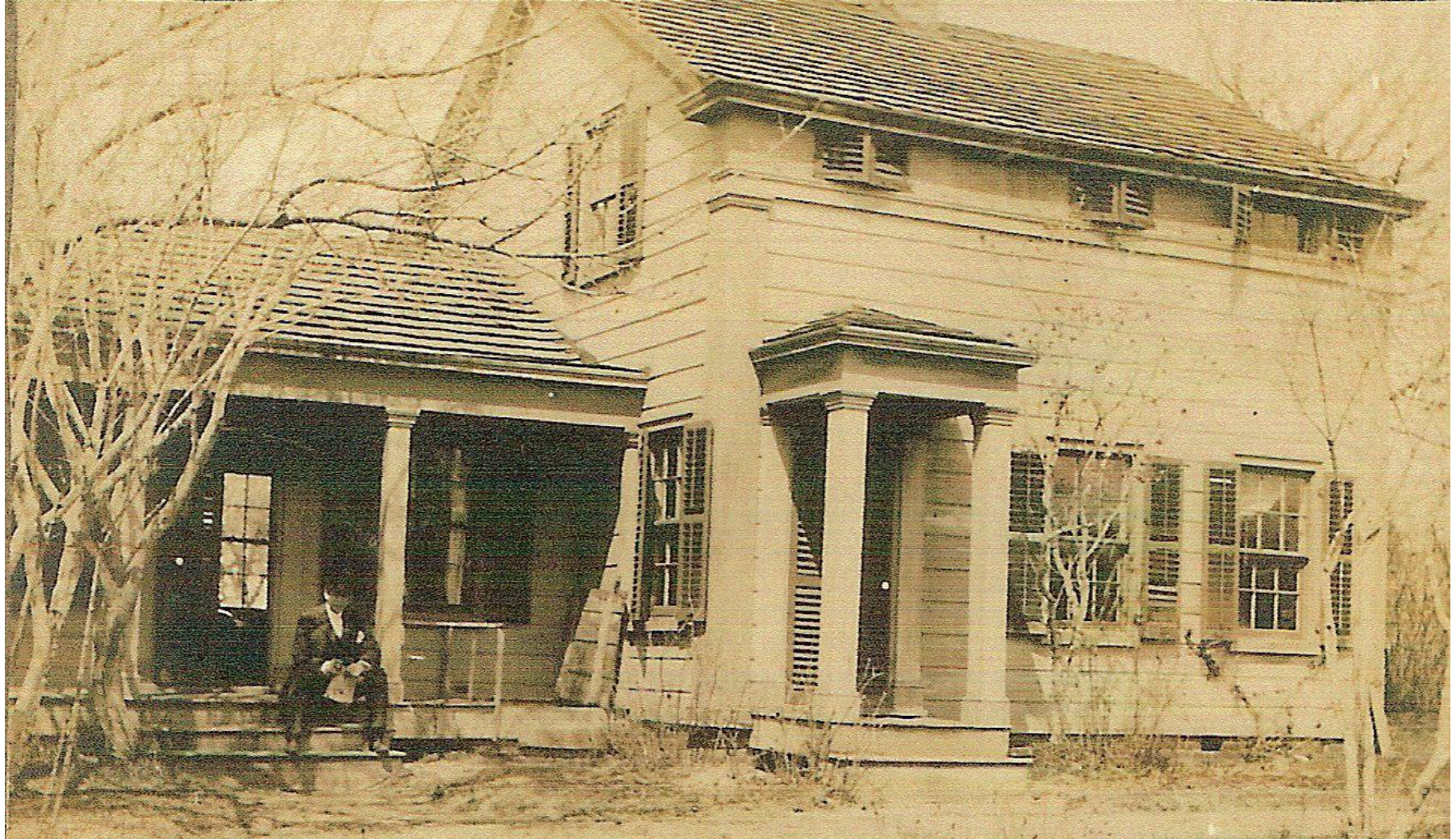


Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

Other early Fire Place Library Club meetings were held here at the Presbyterian Lecture Hall or Chapel House (today a private home).



From 1914 to 1919, the Library was in the Rohde home, at 255 Beaver Dam Road, where daughter, Mrs. (Rohde) Gwynne, was the librarian.



From 1919 to 1926, the library was in Malcolm Fraser's former studio, 249 Beaver Dam Road. Above: Malcolm Fraser in front of his former studio turned library.

Photo courtesy Faith McCutcheon

Squassock's Indians,
Brookhaven, L.I.



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

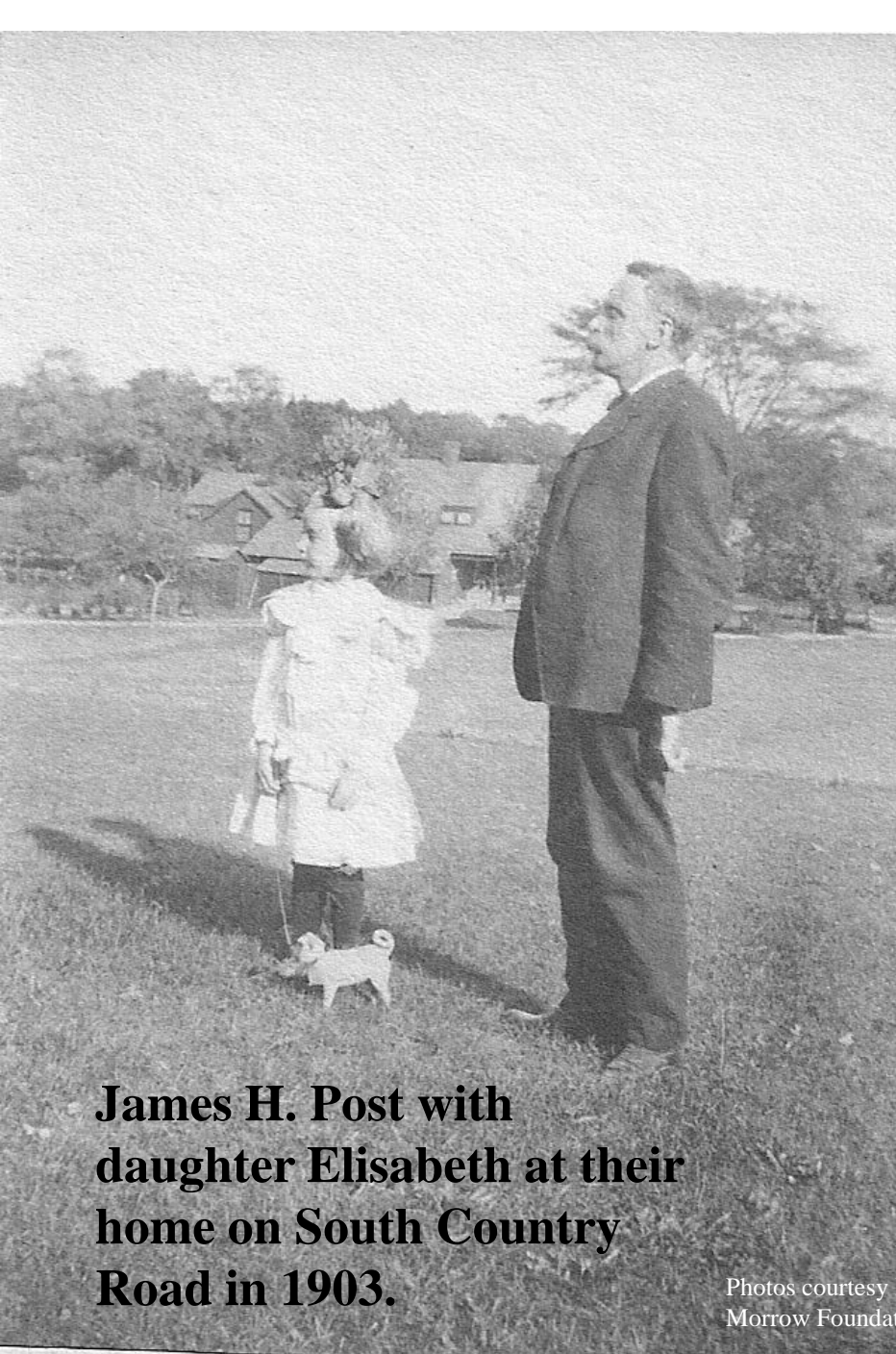
**Fireplace Literary Club members dressed as Indians,
fundraising for a library building circa 1920s.**



Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation

THE BROOKHAVEN LIBRARY BROOKHAVEN, L. I.

In 1926, the Fireplace Literary Club's dream was realized when James Post donated land and the above building to the Literary Club.



**James H. Post with
daughter Elisabeth at their
home on South Country
Road in 1903.**

Photos courtesy Post
Morrow Foundation



**James Post, our hamlet's greatest
benefactor, in his garden along
South Country Road, circa 1929.**



INTERIOR VIEW, BROOKHAVEN LIBRARY



BROOKHAVEN LIBRARY

1930

THE FORMATION OF THE BROOKHAVEN
FREE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In order to meet the requirements of the Board of Regents of the State of New York covering the operations of a Free Library and to provide greater service for the residents of the hamlet, the Brookhaven Free Library Association was incorporated and a charter granted on June 19, 1930. The following were the original charter members:

MRS. NETTIE FURMAN VALENTINE
MISS MARY KINGMAN FORD
MRS. MATILDA MITCHELL NELSON
THOMAS I. MORROW
JAMES HOWELL POST

Thomas I. Morrow, Jr. was an original charter member of the Brookhaven Free Library in 1930.

Tom Morrow married James Post's daughter, Elisabeth, and together they were major contributors and supporters of the library throughout their lives.



Thomas I. Morrow, Jr. circa 1920s

Photo courtesy Post Morrow Foundation



Picture: Tom Morrow, Jr. and Elisabeth in 1941.

They continued the philanthropy of their parents, founding members Tom and Elisabeth Morrow, Sr., and James and Louisa Post, with many things in our community, which continues to this day with the Post Morrow Foundation.



When the Brookhaven Free Library Association was incorporated, Brookhaven and South Haven were still mostly farmland as shown in this 1930 aerial photograph.

Photo courtesy of Stony Brook University

*How swiftly have these twenty-five years of The
Fireplace Literary Club life passed and what changes have
we seen here and in the entire world.*

*An article published recently mentions what man could
not do in 1912. Among these are:*

Go to a talkie

See a news reel

Ride in a streamlined train

*Own a modern automobile (as materials in use now,
were not available then).*

Get a long distance telephone ^[can] in a few seconds.

Get London on the telephone.

Fly from N.Y. to Los Angeles overnight.

Send a letter by air mail

A package by Parcel Post

Freeze his own ice cubes

Offer a woman a cigarette

Buy anything wrapped in moisture-proof cellophane

Shave by electricity.

*Get a bonus from the government for not raising
corn, tobacco, cotton, and wheat.*

Ride in the country on concrete roads.

Live in a glass brick house

Buy a tabloid newspaper

1st request for public money 1941

Brookhaven, New York
April 18, 1941

TO THE VOTERS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #29:

At the school meeting on May 6th, you will be asked to vote on the following proposition: "Shall the sum of \$300 be appropriated for the use of the Brookhaven Free Library, and be raised by tax on the taxable property of School District #29?"

We ask you to consider these facts.

The Brookhaven Library belongs to the village. The Brookhaven Free Library Association is incorporated under the State, to which the trustees, elected by the Library Association, are responsible.

The library has been supported for many years by membership dues in the association, and by voluntary gifts. The Fireplace Literary Club is a regular contributor, and its representatives assist in the administration.

The time has come when there must be an assured income if the library is to continue its present usefulness. The State Department of Education is urging repeatedly that funds be obtained from the school district, in order to make the library secure for the future. They say, "It would be a pity for Brookhaven to lose, through lack of adequate support, the fine library they have built up."

Do you know:

1. That our library, though small, has a high rating with the State supervisors?
2. That the circulation for 1940 was nearly 4000, and that of children's books nearly 1000?
3. That the library co-operates with the school by lending to it groups of children's books?
4. That the state gives us for books an amount equal to the amount we can provide for that purpose?
5. That our librarian can borrow for you any desired books from Albany?

The sum asked for would increase your school tax about four cents on \$100 of assessment. That is, if your assessment is \$1000, the tax increase will be forty cents. Is it not worth it?

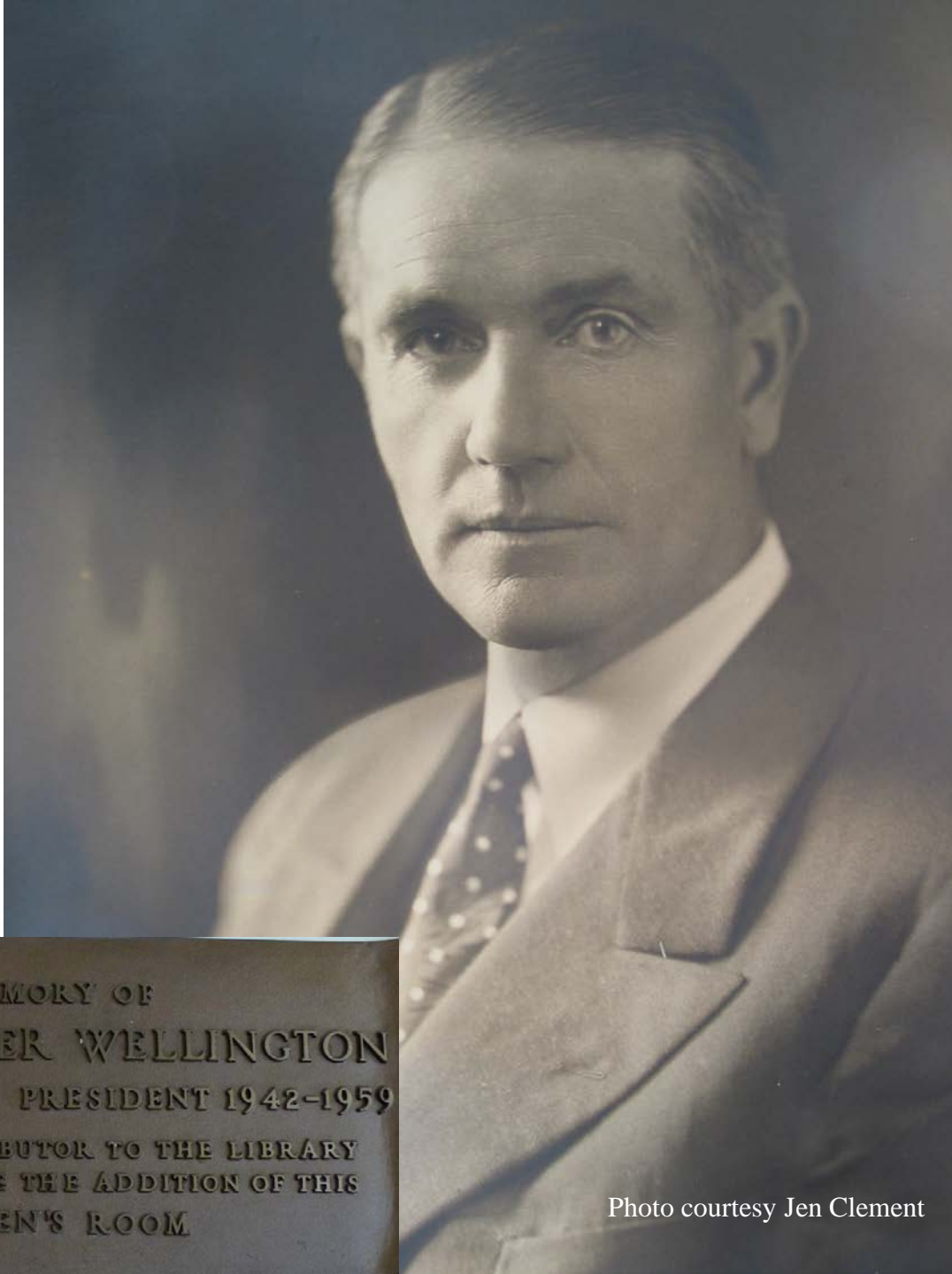
Will you come to the school meeting and vote for it?

Yours very truly,

Acting Secretary,
(Joint Committee of
Brookhaven Free Library
Association and Fireplace
Literary Club.)

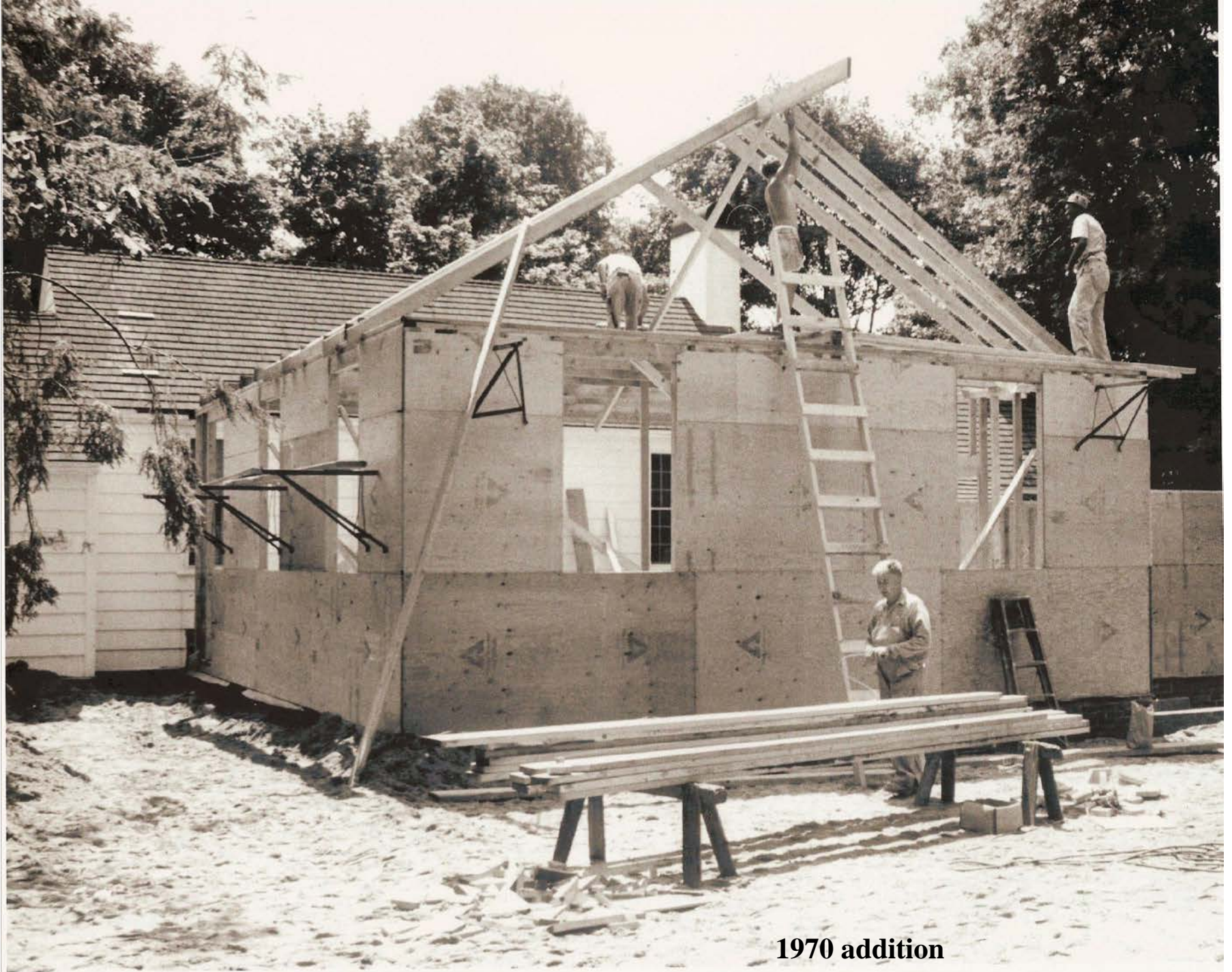


The first addition to the library was in 1957, with a generous donation from C. Oliver Wellington.



IN MEMORY OF
CHARLES OLIVER WELLINGTON
TRUSTEE 1937-1959 PRESIDENT 1942-1959
A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTOR TO THE LIBRARY
WHO MADE POSSIBLE THE ADDITION OF THIS
CHILDREN'S ROOM

Photo courtesy Jen Clement



1970 addition



1970 addition



1989 addition

addition



There's a quiet little village down by the Bay
Where the air is as fresh as can be,
For the good old sou'wester comes booming in
From the Gulf Stream far out at sea.

Though few in numbers, the people here
Have grown to love the old place
With its locusts and oaks and broad green fields
And its air of unspoiled country grace.

Far from the great City's turmoil and strife
We are gathered to mark the glad day
When our Club celebrates twenty years of its life
In this peaceful old town by the Bay.

Let us all stand together and never forget
Those who gave us this beautiful home,
For in sunshine and storm here our hearts will still turn
Though o'er the wide world we may roam.

Norman Fairlie Nelson

Twentieth anniversary
Fireplace Literary Club
June 16 - 1932

There's a quiet little village down by the bay
Where the air is as fresh as can be,
For the good old sou'wester comes booming in
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Norman Fairlie Nelson
20th anniversary
Fireplace Literary Club
June 16, 1932



Brookhaven Free Library, April 9, 2012



Brookhaven Free Library, April 9, 2012

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



The End.

Program will loop back
to beginning.