

February 29, 2020

Browns Lane is Jude Lane

Brewster Lane is Peter Lane

Tuthill Lane is Sebra Lane

Osborn Lane is Thomas Lane and Reuben Lane

For today, February 29th, this last day of Black History month, I am renaming four streets that bear the names of prominent early Bellport families. The new names are of those people they owned as slaves.

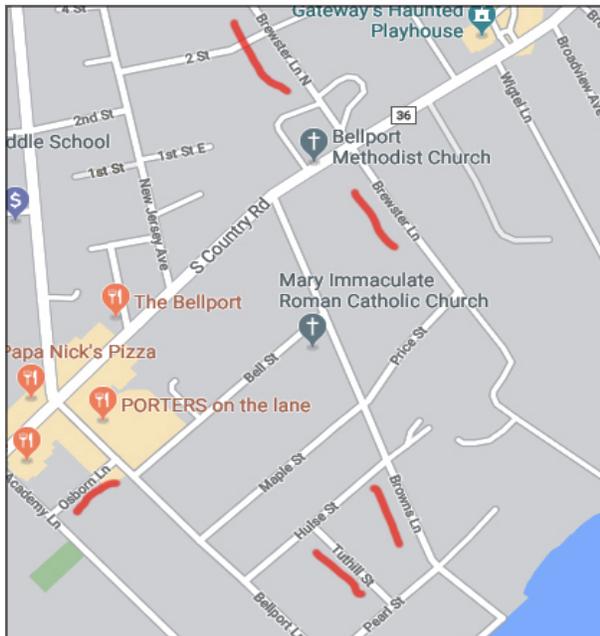
I am performing this one-day renaming action to honor those women, men, and children who were enslaved right here in Bellport, even if all this happened a long time ago.

Whom our streets are named after speaks to who we are. In my work as an artist I often seek to place everyday scenes in a larger cultural and historical context. This action is designed to raise critical consciousness of how the legacy of slavery here and across Long Island is one of the factors impacting our divided community to this day.

Mikael Levin

with Ira Silverberg and Brigid Andrews.

Special thanks to Tricia Foley, as well as to Victor Principe and to the Longwood Central School District *Slavery in Brookhaven Town* project.



This action is not about whether the Browns, Brewsters, Osborns and Tuthills lived specifically on these streets, and this action is not only about these four families. There were additional slave owning families in the area.

Under a 1788 New York State law regarding the freeing of enslaved people, slave masters listed the names of those that they were going to set free. Miriam Brown listed **Jude**; Mills Brewster listed **Peter**; Nathaniel Tuthill declared that the child **Sebra** would be set free when of age; and Henry P. Osborn listed **Thomas** and **Reuben**. These families probably had other enslaved people as well, not listed here.

Please post remarks, questions to Instagram **#bellportwhowere**