



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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Hunting Inn, East Hampton, L.I.

Sandwiched between Davids Lane and Huntting Lane, lies the Hunting Inn at [94 Main Street](#). A familiar sight in the village, it's hard to imagine the Hunting as anything other than an inn, but the history of the building itself predates it.

According to *Records of the Town of East Hampton*, a town meeting was held on November 15, 1698, where it was agreed that a two-acre plot of land be given to the Rev. Nathaniel Huntting (1675-1753), who had come to East Hampton to replace the Rev. Thomas James (1621-1696), as second minister of the [First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton](#).

This plot of land was taken out of a larger ten-acre piece of property, which had formerly belonged to [Thomas Squire](#). As discussed in a previous newsletter, Thomas Squire died intestate in 1686, meaning he died without a will or a visible heir to leave his property to. As such, Capt. Josiah Hobart, High Sheriff of Suffolk County, was appointed as administrator of Squire's estate by Gov. Thomas Dongan.

In 1699, a two-story saltbox house was built on the lot to accommodate the young Nathaniel Huntting and his growing family. He was also given use of other

lands set apart by the Town for use by the church, as well as firewood, and a salary of £60 a year (about \$13,846 in today's money).

The house remained in the Huntting family for nine generations and many modifications were made over time. An addition was built on the rear of the home in the 1700s and further changes were made in 1875 when the Huntting became a boarding house, as well as in 1900 and 1912 when it became an inn and new wings were added to the structure. Though, according to Jeannette Edwards Rattray in her book *Up and Down Main Street*, it's been an inn since before the Revolutionary era.

In 1939, the last Huntting descendant sold the inn to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Frood, who also managed the Maidstone Arms (now the Maidstone Hotel) and the Hedges Inn. The Palm Restaurant Group took over the inn in 1980 and continues to manage it to this day.

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The East Hampton Star Archive is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

The Karl Grossman Research Archive is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

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We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to [Digital Long Island](#) on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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Gina Piastuck joined the East Hampton Library in 2007 as a librarian and archivist and has served as the Head of the Long Island Collection since 2009. She's a graduate of LIU Post's Palmer School of Library and Information Science and holds both an M.L.I.S. degree and a Certificate in Archives and Records Management. Her responsibilities managing the Long Island Collection include providing reference and research assistance to patrons on and off site, as well as the acquisition, arrangement, description and conservation of rare and new materials pertaining to the history and people of Long Island.

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