



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Stephen James Ferris, Sketch of Mary Moran Tassin, Christmas 1880

This portrait of Mary Scott Moran (later known as Mary Moran Tassin) was sketched by her uncle, Stephen James Ferris. The image is inscribed "Uncle Ferris, Christmas 1880, To Mary Moran," suggesting it may have been given as a Christmas gift or was a portrait undertaken during a holiday gathering. Mary was born in 1868 to East Hampton artists Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran and would have been about twelve years old in this picture.

The artist, Stephen Ferris, was married to Thomas Moran's sister, Elizabeth,

and lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Like Thomas Moran, he studied etching in Philadelphia with engraver and printer John Sartain. Ferris taught art at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women for twenty-six years and was particularly known for his etchings of portraits and figures.

Much of the information we have on Mary Scott Moran Tassin is through the moments she shared with her more famous family members. For example, we know she and her sister Ruth B. Moran accompanied their father to the Grand Canyon around 1910, because we have a [photograph](#) of the sisters (with Mary seated, at left) with Thomas Moran.

The East Hampton Library's [Long Island Collection](#) holds a [local sketch](#) Mary Scott Moran Tassin made, and she clearly had artistic talents. In 1895, Mary married Wirt de Vivier Tassin, a prominent metallurgist, geologist, and chemist, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Hampton. Wirt worked for the United States Geological Survey, the United States Navy Yard, and the United States National Museum (now the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History) and later for the United States Navy Yard. The Tassins would live in Washington D.C. following their marriage. When Wirt died in 1915, Mary chose to remain in Washington. However, when Mary died in 1955, she was buried in East Hampton with her siblings and parents. Following her death, many of her father's materials were given to the East Hampton Library in what is now known as the [Thomas Moran Biographical Art Collection](#).

EXPLORE MORE

[The Digital Long Island Collection](#) is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

[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.

[The Local Artist Research Archive](#) is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.

Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

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.

Researched and written by Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.

Andrea Meyer began working in the Long Island Collection in January 2015. Her responsibilities include updating Digital Long Island, scanning, processing new collections, and assisting patrons with research. She earned her M.L.I.S. through Long Island University, and completed her M.A. in Archives and Public History at New York University through the dual-degree program. Andrea started working in archives in 2005. Prior to working for the East Hampton Library, Andrea worked at the New Jersey State Archives, at NYU Libraries, and as a private research consultant. Her clients included the New-York Historical Society. She is also involved with the Sag Harbor Historical Society.

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