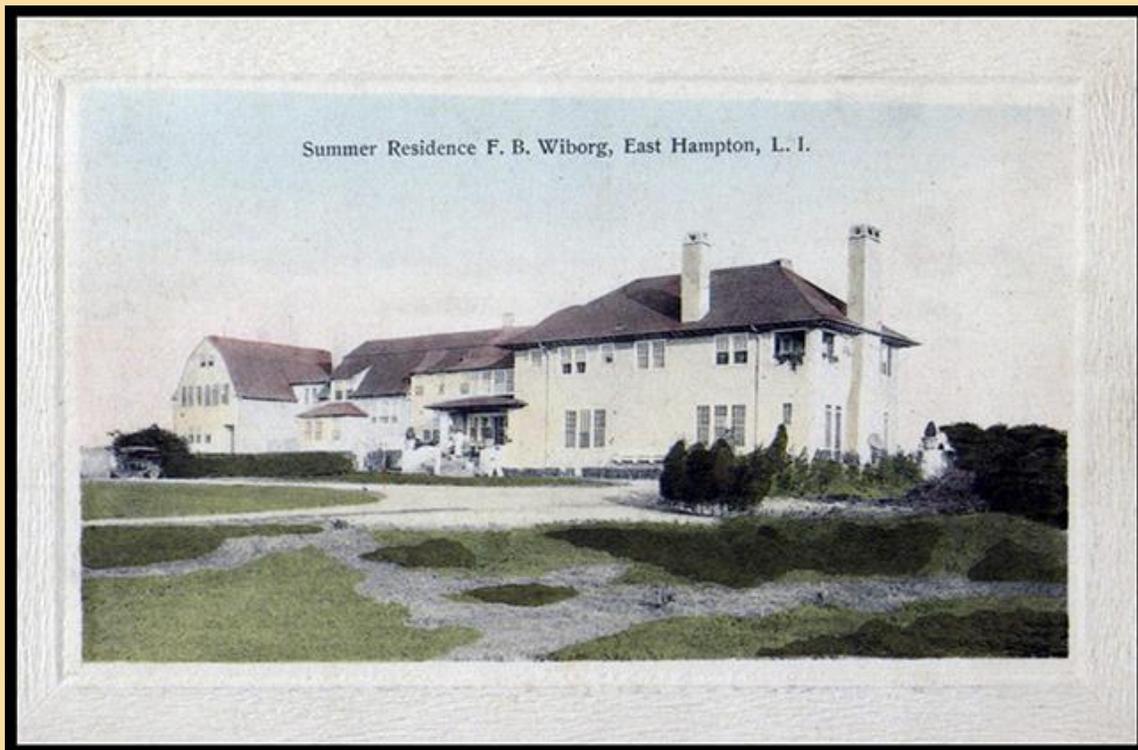




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Summer Residence of F.B. Wiborg

If you ever wondered what the grandest house in East Hampton was, then Frank B. Wiborg's the Dunes would be a top contender. The house once overlooked what is now called Wiborg Beach, making the name chosen for the summer house very appropriate, but who was this Wiborg?

Frank Bestow Wiborg was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1855 to Norwegian immigrant Henry Paulinus Wiborg and his wife, Susan Isidora Bestow. He attended the prestigious Chickering Scientific and Classical Institute in Cincinnati and supported himself through school by selling newspapers. After graduation, Wiborg went to work for Levi Ault, who sold printing ink. Their relationship soon developed into a business partnership in 1878 when they founded Ault & Wiborg Company in Cincinnati, which would successfully become a top producer and distributor of inks and lithograph supplies. By the time he was forty, Wiborg was a self-made millionaire with offices established across the country and around the world.

Originally summer vacationers, the Wiborg family rented rooms and cottages

in Amagansett and East Hampton Village before purchasing property from Mrs. Marshall Smith in the spring of 1909. That summer, with the assistance of architect Grosvenor Atterbury and builder George Eldredge, Wiborg had the preexisting cottage overhauled and extended, making it possible for the family to move in by that September. However, construction would continue on the estate for the next few years.

Upon its completion, the Dunes, a 30-room stucco mansion, was considered the largest estate in East Hampton, which had both a view of the ocean on one side and a view of the village on the other. The grounds also included a beautiful sunken [Italian garden](#), stables, a dairy barn, garages, a laundry house, and servants' quarters.

In 1941, the house was purposefully burned down and demolished by the East Hampton Fire Department as Sara Murphy, Wiborg's eldest daughter, was unable to sell or rent the home and it was considered too expensive to maintain.

In 2012, papers were taken from Dune Flat (a.k.a. the Pink House), a former chauffeur's cottage that was the last remaining structure of the Wiborg estate, and given to the [Long Island Collection](#) by the East Hampton Historical Society. Items from this collection are currently on display at the [East Hampton Library](#), including postcards, correspondence, legal documents, invitations, and travel brochures.

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 Gina Piastuck, Department Head, Long Island Collection.

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.

gina@easthamptonlibrary.org | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | www.easthamptonlibrary.org

