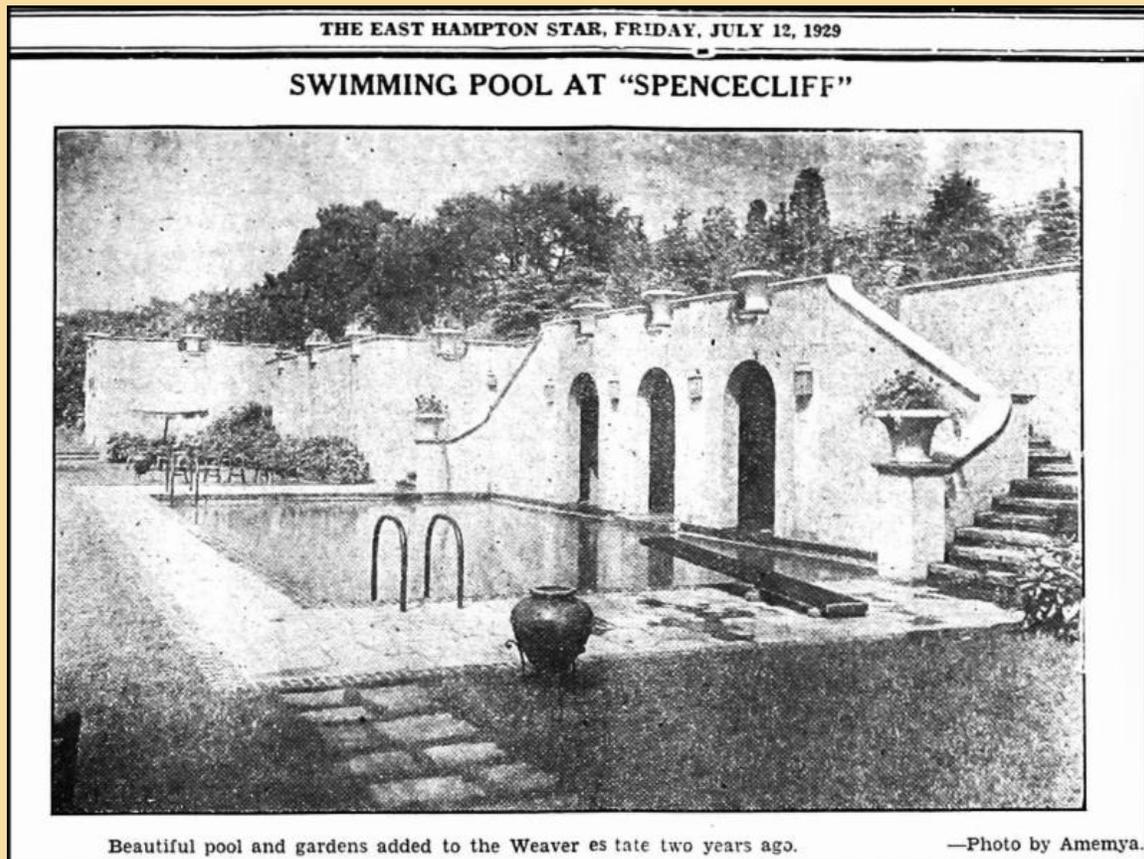




## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



THE EAST HAMPTON STAR, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1929

SWIMMING POOL AT "SPENCECLIFF"

Beautiful pool and gardens added to the Weaver estate two years ago.

—Photo by Amemya.

### **"Spencecliff," Estate of Major S. Fullerton Weaver, a Most Charming Summer Residence**

Houses come and go, but some experience transformations that can be both commonplace and intriguing. The house that later came to be known as "Spencecliff" on Georgica Road was originally built as a summer residence in 1895 for Preston B. Spring, who was one of the founding members of the Maidstone Club. The Spring property was located directly behind the lot of a W.H. Willis, which fronted Georgica Road. Spring's lot ran to Baiting Hollow Road and both property owners shared a driveway. The property contained a two and a half story wooden frame house known as "Winklehawk," which was designed by architect Joseph Greenleaf Thorp, as well as a windmill, and an additional one-story outbuilding.

After Spring's death in 1913, the house was sold to Walter Scott Roberts, who

had it remodeled by architect Howard Greenley in 1915. Aside from structural changes made to the house, he increased his land holdings, had trees planted, tennis courts installed, and a 40 by 50 foot brick bungalow constructed in 1919. In 1925, the house was sold to Major Spencer Fullerton Weaver, an architect whose firm, Schultze & Weaver, drew the plans for the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. As noted in a [July 12, 1929 East Hampton Star \(page 9\) article](#) about the home (illustrated with images of its exterior and [pool on page 13](#), seen above), Weaver is credited with remodeling the house and naming it "Spencecliff," which was named for his two sons, Spencer and Clifton. The house boasted an additional wing, 10-acre polo field/golf course, beautiful gardens, and a swimming pool.

Major Spencer Fullerton Weaver died in 1939 and the house was eventually sold to William Seligson in 1949. He made his own modifications to the house and subdivided the 12-acre property into multiple lots, having six new houses built in the 1950s. The final owners were American lyricist and playwright, Adolph Green and his wife, actress Phyllis Newman. In the summer of 1969, the house caught fire during a wedding, when a leak in a caterer's gas line sparked a fire that would engulf and ultimately destroy the house. Oddly enough, the wedding ceremony was moved to the lawn with about 100 uninvited spectators.

## 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.*

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