



# Item of the Week from the Long Island Collection

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

This Indenture made the fourth day of March in the year of our Lord, 1747 & in the twenty first year of our Sovereign George the second the witnesseth, that Daniel son of Jane Indian Squaw, formerly servant of Mr. David Gardiner of the Isle of Wight, hath by these presents, with the consent of his said mother, of his own free will & accord put himself a lawful servant unto Nathaniel Huntting, the third of that name, son of Capt. Nathaniel Huntting, of East Hampton in the County of Suffolk & Province of New York, & to his heirs & assigns, to serve him, or them after the manner of a servant, the full term of fifteen years, which term or time is to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, 1747, & to continue until the 30<sup>th</sup> term of fifteen years are fully completed & ended, during all which term or time, the said servant, as to his master shall faithfully serve, his lawful commands, readily obey, he shall not absent himself from his said master's service, nor do any thing without preventing or giving notice of it to his master, he shall not waste his master's goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any, whereby his said master may be damaged, he shall not absent himself from his said master's service, without his leave, nor haunt alehouse, or tavern, but in all things behave himself as a faithful servant ought to do, during the term of fifteen years. And the said master doth engage & promise for & in consideration & full satisfaction, for the said fifteen years service to give & pay unto the said servant Daniel the just & full sum of four pounds, in current merchantable pay or produce of the country & to pay unto his mother Jane, now in hand, forty shillings, & forty shillings more unto her, when the said servant begins his service, And to procure for the said servant Daniel, sufficient meat, drink, clothing, washing & lodging, fitting for such a servant during the term of fifteen years; also at the expiration or end of his term, to let & keep the clothing he wore in the time of his service. For the full confirmation of the above articles, all persons concerned, have set to their hands & fixed their seals, the day & year first above written.

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of

his  
Daniel X  
mark

per  
Jane O  
mark

William Conkling Junr  
Isaac muijor Huntting

Nathl. Huntting

## Indenture of Daniel to Nathaniel Huntting, East Hampton, 1747

In 1747, Daniel, "son of Jane, Indian Squaw, formerly a servant of Mr. David Gardiner of the Isle of Wight [Gardiner's Island]" signed this indenture to Nathaniel Huntting (1730-1801) for fifteen years' service. An indenture is a legal contract

that reflects or covers a debt or purchase obligation. In this context, it refers to an indentured servant's status. While indentures were fairly commonplace in colonial America, this particular one was a bit unusual because it involved Native Americans and specified expectations for Daniel's conduct during his contract.

Gardiner's Island, like other Long Island manors, relied on Native Americans and enslaved labor to operate. It's unclear whether Daniel's mother was a free indigenous person who worked for the Gardiner family or if her servitude was also indentured or even enslaved. On March 4, 1747/8, when his indenture was signed, Jane received forty shillings, and in 1754/5, when Daniel's indenture began, she received an additional forty shillings. Although Daniel's indenture doesn't begin for almost seven years and payment is given to his mother, Daniel was probably still fairly young at the time. At the end of his indenture, Daniel himself received four pounds or equal value of crops and clothes he wore during this service period.

His indenture stipulated he "do no damage to his s[ai]d master nor permit it to be done by others without preventing or giving notice of it to s[ai]d master, he shall not waste his master's goods...he shall not absent himself day or night from his master's service, without his [master's] leave, not haunt alehouses or taverns, but in all things behave himself..." While these were not unusual expectations for an indenture, detailing them speaks to their realities.

Isaac Mulford Hunting, Nathaniel's first cousin, and William Conkling Junior witnessed the agreement and while neither Daniel or Jane could sign their names, both made their marks for their signatures. What became of Daniel after his indenture remains unknown.

## 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.*

[andrea@easthamptonlibrary.org](mailto:andrea@easthamptonlibrary.org) | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | [www.easthamptonlibrary.org](http://www.easthamptonlibrary.org)

