



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Mrs. John Adams Mayer (Dorothy Quick)

The Long Island Collection at the East Hampton Library is filled with many curious things, which all possess a story. Occasionally, visitors will ask questions about items in our display case or portraits hanging on the wall. In the Mumford Room, researchers are immediately met with the gaze of Gertrude Mumford (1875-1942), whose portrait floats above the Moran chest against the wall. The room was named for her on behalf of her daughter Dorothy Quick (1896-1962), who was the single largest donor to the building fund that later opened the room on August 30, 1946.

Alternately known as Mrs. John Adams Mayer in the portrait above, Dorothy

Quick was born in Brooklyn in 1896, the only child of Henry Stanhope Quick, Jr. (1867-1935) and Emma Gertrude Aaron (a.k.a. Gertrude Mumford). In 1907, while traveling to New York aboard the S.S. *Minnetonka* from England with her mother and grandparents, eleven-year-old Dorothy met American writer Mark Twain, who had just received an honorary degree from Oxford University. "It was the beginning of a friendship that was to last until the very day of his death [in 1910]," Dorothy later recalled.

Later that year, Twain sent Dorothy a telegram asking if she'd like an elephant or 10,000 monkeys for her birthday. When Dorothy replied that she would prefer his books, he sent them along with a tiny white elephant, which would inspire a lifelong interest in collecting elephant figurines (some of which used to be on display at the library).

Through this friendship, Twain also encouraged Dorothy's desire to become a writer, which she eventually achieved, ultimately producing several volumes of poetry and mystery novels. She also wrote columns for [*The East Hampton Star*](#) titled "What's New in New York" and for the [*Sag Harbor Express*](#) and [*The County Review*](#) (Riverhead) called "Quick Look at Things."

A year before her death, Dorothy published a memoir of her friendship with Mark Twain entitled *Enchantment: A Little Girl's Friendship with Mark Twain*. Though they knew each other just a few short years, it's clear how big an impact Twain had on her life and career.

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

