



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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Henry C. Stimson House, East Hampton, N.Y.

If you're a fan of American author Nathaniel Hawthorne, it may interest you to know that a house known as Seven Gables once stood on the corner of Main Street and Buell Lane next to what would later become the East Hampton Library. While Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* (based on an actual [house](#)) focuses on themes of greed, love, curses, obsession and murder within a creepy New England manse, the history of East Hampton's Seven Gables is, thankfully, less ominous.

While many have resided on this corner property through time, its most well-known resident was the Rev. Samuel Buell, who obtained ownership in 1746 when he was ordained as third pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. By the 1850s, the property belonged to Timothy Hedges, whose house was supposedly modeled after one he had seen in England, with two-and-a-half stories and five gables. After his death, the house belonged to various relatives, including his sister, Esther, and later his daughters, Mary Conger and Catharine Hedges.

In 1894, the house was sold to the family of Henry C. and Julia Atterbury Stimson of New Jersey, who were summer boarders to East Hampton since

1879. They had previously rented the house for six years before ultimately purchasing and remodeling it for use as a summer cottage. According to *The East Hampton Star* for that year, the house was painted, a hedge was planted, trees were removed, and an elevator was installed.

Unfortunately, Henry C. Stimson died shortly after purchase on November 20, 1894 at the age of 82. His wife, Julia, died there in 1908 and ownership of the house was transferred to their daughter, Mary Atterbury Stimson, who died twenty years later. It was at this time the house went to her sister, Catherine Boudinot Stimson Weston. Catherine's husband, Theodore, was an architect who remodeled the house; adding two additional gables and naming it "Seven Gables." Catherine died in 1942 at the age of 97 and the property was subsequently purchased by the Osborne family, who had the house torn down and donated the land to the East Hampton Library for future expansion.

EXPLORE MORE

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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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