



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Shinnecock and Montauk Tribes at the 1944 Pow Wow

This week, the Shinnecock Indian Nation will host their annual powwow starting on August 31st on the Shinnecock Reservation in Southampton. The powwow has operated every year in the same location since 1946, with Shinnecock powwows dating to at least 1912. Today, the powwow features dance competitions, and draws a crowd of over 30,000 people.

The photograph above shows members of the Beaman, Butler, and Pharaoh families at a joint powwow of the Shinnecock and Montaukett people in East Hampton in 1944. The gathering of 30 people took place near Three Mile Harbor, in East Hampton, which was unusual. As part of the event, a ceremonial peace treaty signing occurred between the Montaukett people and the Narragansett people, related to a dispute from 1658. Narragansett Chief Night Hawk (Philip H. Peckham) and Montaukett Chief Backskin (Charles Butler) led their delegations in signing the treaty, followed by a symbolic tomahawk burying and traditional dances. *The East Hampton Star* described a Cherokee, known as Chief Rising Sun, acting as master of ceremonies.

Among the 1944 powwow's organizers was a controversial figure known as Carlos Westez or Red Thunder Cloud. Red Thunder Cloud lived in East Hampton and documented local indigenous people, passing himself off as a member of the Catawba tribe, which has since been disputed. He later donated his photographs to the East

Hampton Library's Long Island Collection with biased descriptions that many would consider offensive today.

One of the occasionally awkward parts of being the steward of an archival collection is handling the way language, perspective, and academic practices have changed since materials were written or analyzed. The Red Thunder Cloud collection of photographs frequently creates many of those uncomfortable attempts to provide context or explanation for the captions.

Despite the challenges of addressing Red Thunder Cloud's choices, without his efforts, we would not have access to a collection of photographs like this one, or the identification of specific individuals.

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.

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