



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

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



### **Dr. J. F. Erdman Residence, East Hampton, L.I.**

Late last month, the East Hampton Library's Long Island Collection acquired a curious item from an upstate antiques dealer. The item, an old scrapbook titled "Garden Record Book," looks like a throw-away. It's tattered and well used, with most of its pages separated from the binding, containing old photographs, magazine clippings, scenic postcards, and other ephemera. The book belonged to Georgiana Erdmann, the wife of Dr. John Frederick Erdmann, who owned a summer cottage on Lily Pond Lane known as *Coxwold*.

*Coxwold*, named for the Cotswolds region in south central England, was designed by Harrie T. Lindeberg of the New York architectural firm Albro & Lindeberg. Built in 1913, it's one of only four houses built by the firm in East Hampton, all of which are located along Lily Pond Lane. An outstanding feature on the home was the roof, which possessed an artificial thatch design (the architect's trademark). Unfortunately, the roof burned due to a fire in 1927 and was later replaced.

Another outstanding feature of the house was the garden, which was noted for its topiaries fancifully shaped to represent each member of the Erdmann family. Georgiana's garden record book contains a photograph of this, as well as a meticulous layout of the flowerbeds with a corresponding numerical chart, indicating what was planted where. The chart includes over 90 varieties of flowers, trees, and shrubs, ranging from parrot tulips and yellow hollyhocks to English primroses and weeping

cherry trees.

The garden, truly, must have been a sight to behold. However, planning the garden wasn't just a passing interest to Mrs. Erdmann; it was a passion. The book continues beyond 1913 in to the 1930s, with catalogs from Hicks Nursery in Westbury, instructions on plant care, and receipts for transporting plants from New York. She cut out and pasted images of pink roses onto her scrapbook pages, and included images of other gardens that surely served as inspiration.

*Note: "Erdmann" is misspelled in the image above, however, the post card is referenced by the printed text on the card -- misspelling included. Image credit: [The East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection, The Harvey Ginsberg Post Card Collection](#).*

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

