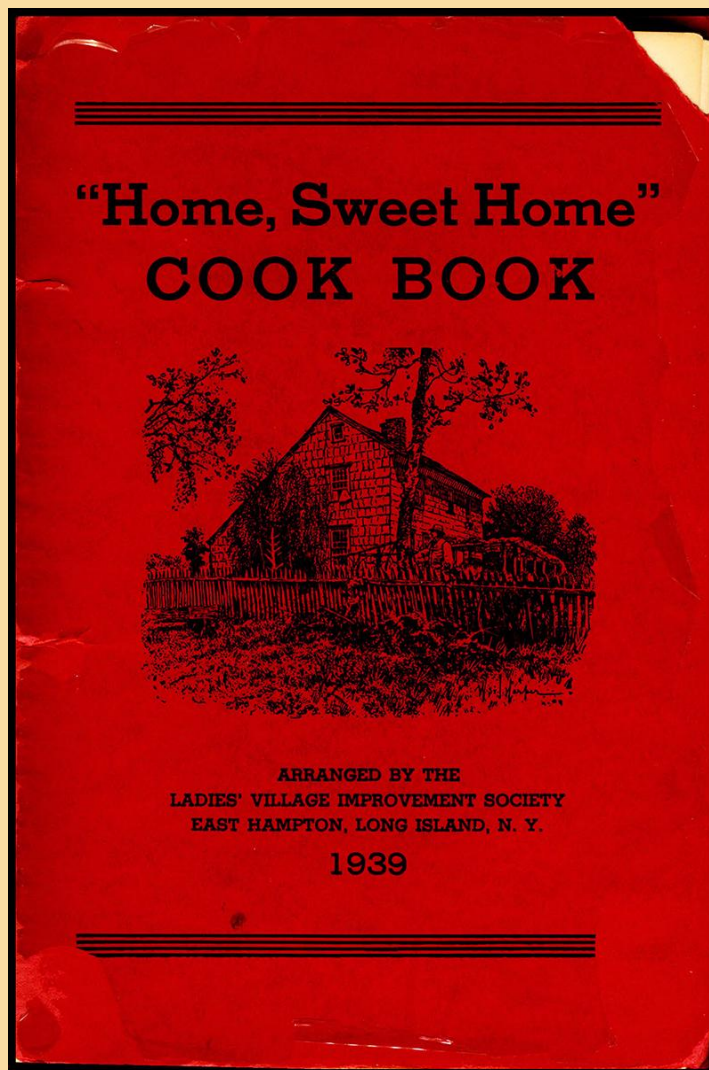




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Holiday Cooking Inspiration with the Ladies' Village Improvement Society's 1939 Home, Sweet Home Cook Book

With Thanksgiving approaching and marketers focused on the holidays, the Home, Sweet Home Cookbook from the Home Sweet Home Museum archives,

published by the [Ladies' Village Improvement Society](#) in 1939 caught my eye. For decades, the emotions referenced in John Howard Payne's song "Home, Sweet Home" have been used to evoke the feelings of desire for comfort and home, often with images of warm fireplaces, by marketers. The Ladies' Village Improvement Society capitalized on the local connection to their mission, pitching themselves as "improving home and village." This phrasing built on the tradition of American women advocating for social improvement as part of their responsibilities to manage home life.

East Hampton's Ladies' Village Improvement Society was established in 1895, and they identify this as their seventh cookbook, which was [sold for a dollar under the leadership of Cookbook Chairwoman Mrs. Nathan H. Dayton](#). Like many fundraiser cookbooks, it's a compilation of recipes offered from members of the community, organized by sections, with a large advertising section. Familiar names like "Miss Ruth G. Stratton," "Mrs. Everett J. Edwards," and "Mrs. John Adams Mayer" (aka Dorothy Quick) appear throughout contributing recipes, some of which, like "[Fried Cauliflower](#)," would appeal to modern tastes. Other recipes seem a bit dated, like the recipes for gelatin salads and the three recipes for chop suey accompanied by an additional "[American Chop Suey](#)" recipe (page 37). Also noteworthy is the small section labeled "[Men's Recipes](#)" (page 88) which includes Montauk charter fishing industry founder Frank Tuma's recipes for fish chowder and "[Montauk Starve-to-Death](#)," (page 89) a clam and potato dish served on toast.

For those of you entertaining or cooking, you may be interested in [the recipes for large groups](#), which include chowder for twenty-five people! I'm certainly hoping my relatives don't decide to serve Mrs. Woodhouse's [cream, banana, and gin cocktails](#) at Thanksgiving, but you may find some local inspiration for what to bring to a holiday gathering.

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



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:

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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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