

George Huntington is the man for whom Huntington's disease is named. Huntington's disease is an incurable genetic disorder that results in the death of brain cells, deteriorating a person's physical and mental abilities over a long period of time. George Huntington is credited with first recognizing the disease as an inherited disorder, which was observed in multiple generations of families in East Hampton and Amagansett, in a scientific paper he wrote in 1872. He later credited his father and grandfather for sharing their valuable observations, without which he would not have been able to develop such a detailed account of the disease. The above image is a page from Dr. Abel Huntington's account book, dated 1799-1809; the earliest of the Huntington account books in the collection to coincide with Abel's arrival in East Hampton in 1797.

If you're interested in learning more about the history of Huntington's Disease in East Hampton, I would recommend reading [The Woman Who Walked Into the Sea](#) by Alice Wexler or [Grover & Elizabeth: An Amagansett Tragedy](#) by Susan G. MacNeill. Susan will be hosting an author talk about her book at the Library on Saturday, October 28th. Please visit [Eventbrite](#) for details.

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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

[The Local Artist Research Archive](#) is a collection of over 10,000 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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