



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Odd Fellow's Hall, East Hampton, L.I.

You know this building. You've seen it before while walking down Newtown Lane or popping in and out of the hardware store next-door. Set back from the street, it looks a little out of place amidst Newtown's commercial buildings. Perhaps you asked yourself whether it was an old church or house before realizing it's currently Eileen Fisher, a women's clothing store. Built in 1897, this two-story Shingle Style structure was designed by architect Joseph Greenleaf Thorp (of Grey Gardens fame) for use as a lodge by the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows. Who are the Odd Fellows? They're a fraternal order that was originally founded in England in the 18th century, but spread to the United States by the 1800s. They're called Odd Fellows according to a number of theories; the first having to do with one's occupation. In 18th century England, major trades were organized into guilds or organizations for the purpose of social or financial security. However, smaller trades did not enjoy this. Therefore those who possessed varied or unusual trades sought to remedy this problem by banding together to form a larger group of "odd fellows." Another theory considers the time period of early industrialization in which the Odd Fellows were founded, where it would have been considered very odd to find people who valued and upheld the ideas of fraternity, benevolence and charity. The East Hampton chapter of the Odd Fellows was founded on April 11th, 1890 and had 85 members by the time the lodge (known as Hampton Lodge #575) was built. The building was officially dedicated on January 27th, 1898, with much fanfare from the community, involving speeches, three brass bands, and marches up and down a decorated Main Street. A lavish banquet was held at Clinton Hall after the ceremony.

Image: [The East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection, The Harvey Ginsberg Post Card Collection](#)

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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 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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