



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Mary Nimmo Moran at age 57

Mary Nimmo Moran wasn't just the wife of painter Thomas Moran, but an artist in her own right. Born in Strathaven, Scotland on May 16, 1842, she was the daughter of silk handloom weaver Archibald Nimmo and Mary Scott. When she was five years old, her mother died and her father relocated the family to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, due in part to Scotland's economic decline and increased mechanization of the textile industry, which left many handloom weavers like Archibald unemployed.

In 1858, Mary Nimmo met [Thomas Moran](#), whose artistic career was just beginning, when his family moved next door. They eventually had a courtship that lasted a number of years before they married in 1863. At this time, Mary began studying art under Moran and later noted that from him "came all my first impressions of art and nature as applied to art, up to that time I had never thought of using the brush or pencil."

In the beginning, Mary was a landscape painter; often joining her husband on outdoor sketching trips. In 1879, however, Moran introduced Mary to etching (which involves directly engraving onto a copper plate) and it became the medium she is most known for. Her success brought her membership in the Society of Painters and Etchers of New York and she became the only woman among the 65 original fellows of London's Royal Society of Painters and Etchers. She won several awards and her prints, signed "M. Nimmo Moran" (to hide her gender) were collected by prominent individuals. Often times, she and her husband's work were displayed in the same show.

Unfortunately, Mary Nimmo Moran died prematurely of typhoid fever in 1899, (the year the photo above was taken), after caring for her sick daughter Ruth. [Nineteen of her etchings](#) can be seen in the Long Island Collection today, many of them done locally. It is our wish, that she never be forgotten.

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 wedding 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](https://www.digitallongisland.org) 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.

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