



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



LVIS Fair, East Hampton, 1915

As unrelated as it may sound, we wouldn't have the East Hampton Ladies' Village Improvement Society (LVIS) without dusty roads. Founded in 1895, the LVIS is the oldest Ladies' Village Improvement Society on Long Island. In a textbook example of the Progressive Era's use of reform movements and social activism to fix the plagues of industrialization and growing cities, East Hampton's ladies came together to address the dirty train station plaza and the village's dusty roads. In the summer of 1896, the LVIS helped raise funds for this by having a fair, which has since become an annual tradition.

The image here shows a group of ladies at the "Farm Booth" from the 1915 LVIS Fair, which took place on July 22 on the village green. The Farm Booth was billed by the *East Hampton Star* as being among the fair's main attractions, along with a doll exhibit and a "dancing platform." The Farm Booth, according to the *Star*, sold "eggs, cream cheese, fresh butter, poultry, live and dressed, and honey in the comb." The booth also had "various animals on exhibit" and fresh butter "made every hour."

Pictured in front of the booth (left to right) are eight-year-old Marion Lawrence and her mother, Phoebe Edwards Lawrence, May Groot Manson, Mary L. Dayton, seven-year-old Barbara Van Rensselaer, and Ella Story Groot. These ladies staffed the Farm Booth and organized the booth's donations. May Groot Manson's name may sound familiar as she hosted the 1913 LVIS Fair at her home on Main Street, in exchange for the right to have a table for women's suffrage at the fair. A leading figure in the East End's suffrage movement, a historical marker was dedicated in front of her former Main Street home last summer.

Clearly the Farm Booth volunteer's efforts were popular. On July 23, 1915, still exuberant from the festivities, the *East Hampton Star's* front page proclaimed: "Village Fair Best Ever."

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 Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.

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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