



## Item of the Week *from the Long Island Collection*

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

Assessment Roll of the town of East Hampton in the County of Suffolk taken by Jacob Schellingor James Flann, David V. Scoy, Jeremiah Huntington and Jonathan S. Conklin Assessors of said town of East Hampton in the Month of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

Names of the Proprietors	Description of Real Estate of Non-residents	Value of Estate		Total	Taxable	
		Real Estate Dollars	Personal Dollars		Dollars	Cents
Baker Stephen		200	20	220	54	
Baker Nathaniel		2270		2270	586	
Baker Thomas		560	150	710	168	
Baker Ananias		50		50	11	
Baker Abraham		710	60	770	180	
Barns Abraham		2500	640	3140	733	
Barns David's heirs		470	340	810	189	
Bennet Jeremiah		90		90	21	
Bennet Gamaliel		20		20	5	
Baker Henry			40	40	10	
Baker Daniel Junr		100		100	23	
Barns Jonathan		700		700	168	
Barns Jonathan Junr		310		310	72	
Barns Sabnages			100	100	23	
Carried Over		7980	1350	9330	2177	

### Assessment roll of real and personal estate, East Hampton, 1811, pg. 02

Wouldn't you love to know who owned the most valuable property in town? This week, federal taxes are due, providing an excellent opportunity to talk about the value of tax records for historical information.

The [Long Island Collection](#) has inventories of East Hampton Town taxpayers that were updated every three years between 1799 and 1883. These three-year intervals

were required by the 1799 New York State "Act for the Assessment and Collection of Taxes," which created many of the directions for compiling the 1811 taxpayer list shown above.

Just like census data, tax lists offer genealogists information about who resided in East Hampton Town. When heirs of an individual were named, as in the case for William Bennett and John Edwards, we know the individual has died. Records of "nonresidents," like Hugh Gelston, who owned a store in Sag Harbor, or Montauk landowners Benjamin Coleman and David Hedges, can help position property referenced elsewhere.

By the time of this 1811 assessment, it appears that both real and personal property were being taxed at just over 23 cents per hundred dollars. The 1799 act named assessment values for personal property like carriages, livestock, gold watches, brass clocks, wagon wheels, slaves and boats. Personal property included "utensils" not used for militia purposes, farming, or other trades and professions. An exemption was made for ship cargo.

The combined value of all assessed property in the Town of East Hampton totaled \$307,820 and generated \$718.27 in tax income. That income went to state taxes, along with supporting schools and the poor.

And who paid the most for property? That was John Lyon Gardiner, the Proprietor of Gardiner's Island, who owned \$55,700 worth of property. The next largest valuations were applied to Hunting Miller and Jeremiah Osborn, who owned \$7,760 and \$6,360 in property, respectively. Everyone else in East Hampton Town owned less than \$4,700 of property.

## **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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