



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



William Walter Fowler

This year marks the centennial commemoration of the United States' entry into World War I, with more than four million American families sending their sons and daughters overseas to serve in uniform. Though not considered U.S. citizens at the time (full U.S. citizenship wasn't granted until 1924 with the Indian Citizenship Act), many Native Americans enlisted in high numbers, with more than 10,000 serving in the U.S. Army and more than 2,000 in the U.S. Navy, according to Bureau of Indian Affairs records. William Walter Fowler (pictured above) was a Montaukett Indian born circa 1892 in East Hampton to George Lewis Fowler and Sarah Melissa Horton Fowler of Springs Fireplace Road. Their house is believed to be the last surviving Montaukett home in East Hampton Town, which was moved from Indian Field in Montauk to Freetown in East Hampton after Arthur Benson purchased land at Montauk in the late 1800s, relocating tribe members. William, along with his brothers John, George, and Norris, all served in World War I, which was a significantly large contribution from a single family. William himself served with the 367th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army in France and was honorably discharged in 1919. All brothers survived the war.

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!



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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