



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



School Portrait, c.1916-1919, East Hampton, N.Y.

Do you still have your childhood school pictures? The Long Island Collection doesn't have many (aside from our [East Hampton High School yearbook collection](#)), but we appreciate the few we do have. Often, school pictures provide the only images available of a relative or prominent local figure before they became well known. This photograph came from the family of Josephine Passamonte DeAmario, who let us scan some of their saved school pictures, which are now about a century old. The photo above shows Josephine's brother, Joseph Passamonte (b. 1910), in front of the [East Hampton Primary School](#) on Newtown Lane with his class.

Joseph was the second of five siblings born to "Anna" (Antonia) and "Salvey" (Saverio) Passamonte. Joseph's parents were Italian immigrants who came to East Hampton in 1908. Salvey worked as a mason for *Barnes Brothers* before working as a caretaker for the Town disposal grounds. The Passamonte boys, who frequently appeared in local newspaper coverage of baseball games, initially followed their father into the masonry business. Later, Joseph worked as a clerk at a 5 & 10 store, and

served in the Army during World War II, eventually moving to Schenectady.

We don't know who all of the children in this photograph are, but the ones we know have familiar local names, like Maurice Mott, who was one of the nine Mott boys who grew up playing in the lumberyard with Bucket Daniels. We would love to know if you recognize one of these unidentified children.

Judging by appearances, and [Joseph's later school picture](#), the class is probably a Kindergarten or first grade, which would date the photo between 1916 and 1919. At this time, *The East Hampton Star* recorded Mrs. Rosalie Tucker, Mrs. Catherine Wade, and Miss Mary Eldredge as teaching those classes. Regardless of the teacher's name, she had her work cut out for her, getting 40 fidgeting students to stand still for a picture!

A note to our readers: Thank you for your interest in our Long Island Collection "Item of the Week" posts! Going forward, we will be sending these out on Fridays. Also, look for our "Item of the Week" features in upcoming issues of *The East Hampton Star*.

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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