



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Hardscrabble Farm Dairy

In a [story](#) related by Rosalie Dayton Tucker in 1978, Hardscrabble Farm in East Hampton got its name because of her great grandfather, John Thomas Dayton (1795-1874). One year, he purchased a spring wagon known as a "Jerusalem Dilly," which was the first of its kind to appear in town (having only been previously seen in local pageants and parades). As the family normally rode to church in a farm wagon, he kept the fancy new wagon at home for a month before proudly driving it down Main Street one day. Onlookers, perhaps amused or astonished, were purportedly heard to remark that Mr. Dayton would have a "hard scrabble" (meaning hard work or struggle) to pay for it. This nickname ended up attaching itself to the Dayton farm and the name stuck ever since. Hardscrabble Farm remained within the Dayton family for multiple generations before being sold in 1928 by Robert J. Dayton (Rosalie's brother) to Judge Samuel A. Seabury. The 170-acre farm, located along the East Hampton Sag Harbor Turnpike and bordered by Long Lane and Stephen Hands Path, had been converted into a dairy farm in the years before it was sold, providing milk to both East Hampton and Sag Harbor. The above image shows a woman distributing milk to children at Hardscrabble Farm Dairy. The large milk bottle had previously been featured on a Fourth of July parade float in 1921, for which Hardscrabble won first place. It was said to be ten times the size of a quart milk bottle, which was made at Edward M. Gay's (a contractor and builder) workshop on Newtown Lane.

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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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 10,000 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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