



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



The Bathing Beach, East Hampton, L.I.

For many on Long Island, the start of summer and the end of the school year means a return to beach days. In particular, East Hampton's beaches and bucolic atmosphere have drawn many visitors since before the 1870s. However, a typical day at the beach has changed in the last one hundred and fifty years.

Despite the decades that have passed, this early color postcard of "The Bathing Beach" in East Hampton manages to capture how busy the beach can be on a summer weekend. There is no date on this postcard from the [Harvey Ginsberg Postcard Collection](#), but the bathing suits are in a style that was worn before 1920. While many of the early postcards of East Hampton often use the phrase "Bathing Beach," the name implied what is now known as Main Beach, which can easily be identified by the bathing pavilion structure visible in other postcards of the same name (although the same terminology was repeated for beaches in other places, such as Indian Wells in Amagansett).

Visible on the beach to the left side of the postcard is a frame used for a breeches buoy ([click here](#) to view a demonstration), an early life saving device

that relied on ropes. The swarm of beach umbrellas towards the waterfront will look familiar to many a modern beachgoer. If one forgot their umbrella or tent, an arbor (seen at bottom right), covered in vegetation, possibly grapes, offered a shady spot to get out of the sun.

Below the arbor, faint lettering in the corner identifies the postcard as hand colored and printed by E.J. Edwards in East Hampton. E.J. Edwards, or [Everett Joshua Edwards](#) (1871-1950), was the son of legendary whaleman "Cap'n Josh" Edwards, who was one of the last offshore whalers of Long Island. Edwards also operated a local drug store, which was probably where this printed postcard was sold.

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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