



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

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



### **Hook Pond, East Hampton, August 1898**

Sometimes the topics for these newsletters come easily to me and sometimes I have to dig deep for inspiration. However, more often than not, I decide to just go with the flow and let the ideas come to me. This past week, for instance, a patron of mine inadvertently reminded me of my previous efforts to find the perfect clam pie recipe. I suddenly remembered that last fall, I edited the online catalog records of about 85 cookbooks that we currently possess here in the [Long Island Collection](#). Ranging from the late 19th century to the present, I would occasionally page through them and find everything from "war bread" (a WWI era recipe made largely from cornmeal) to terrapin soup. However, one recipe I usually came across was clam pie. As I did not grow up or live on the East End, I was intrigued. Clam pie appears to be British in origin and it would make sense that those who settled this area would take advantage of the local ingredients available. Though looked down upon in New England, the humble clam was a plentiful food source here and their use in a pie was a filling dish that could feed a family at little cost. Even the poorest man could rake and shuck his own clams. As it stands, clam pie seems to be a regional dish of Long Island, especially the East End. The oldest printed recipe found in the Long Island Collection comes from the 1896 [L.V.I.S. cookbook](#). Credited to Mrs. Ann Parsons, her "Oyster or Clam Pie" called for one cup of oysters or clams, one beaten egg, one cup milk, a little broth, salt, pepper, and butter baked in a double pie crust. Other recipes call for bacon, herbs, potatoes, onions, clam juice, tomatoes, and so forth. As cooking is often done to taste, I'm sure there's no one perfect

version and perhaps my search is more difficult than I think it is. The above photograph from 1898 shows a group of children clamming in Hook Pond, with rake in hand. One wonders if a clam pie rewarded their efforts.

## 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 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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