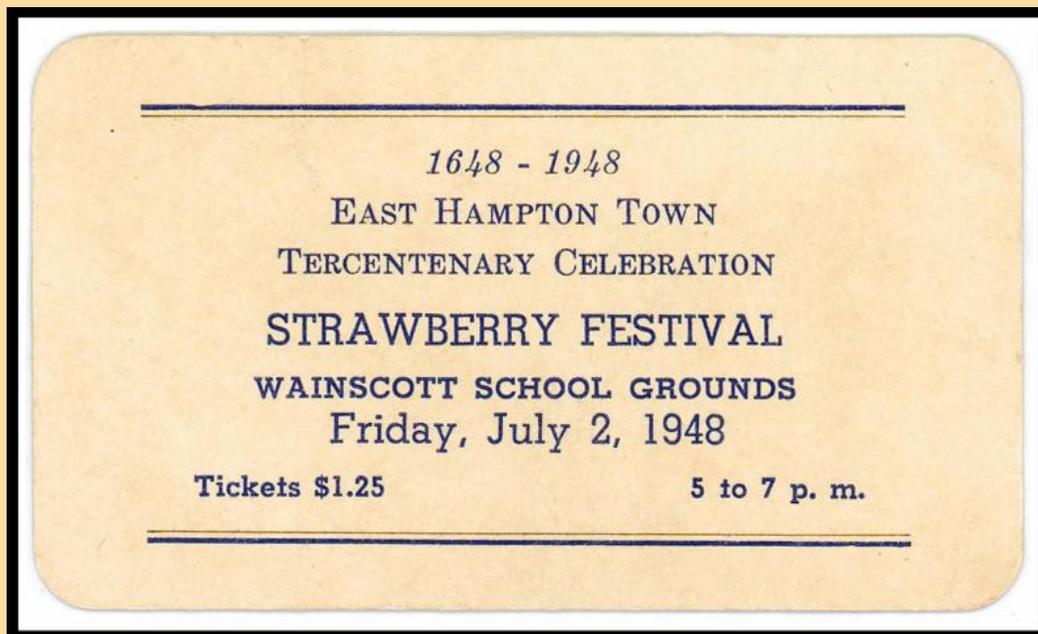




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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Strawberry Festival, East Hampton Tercentenary Celebration Ticket, 1948

With the Wainscott Sewing Society's upcoming strawberry festival on June 16th at Wainscott Chapel, this ticket for the 1948 East Hampton Town Tercentenary Celebration's Strawberry Festival left me wondering about the history of strawberry festivals locally.

The earliest known reference to a strawberry festival on the South Fork appeared in the May 10, 1860 edition of the [Sag Harbor Express](#) (see "Festival" at top of second column), which announced the Sag Harbor Methodist Episcopal Ladies' plans to host one in the middle of June. That same June, the Sag Harbor Presbyterian Church and the [East Hampton Presbyterian Society](#) (see "East-Hampton Festival" in first column) also held strawberry festivals. The East Hampton festival gathered over two hundred people who consumed six bushels of strawberries.

Strawberry festivals remained popular throughout the next century. Between 1885 and 1900, they were hosted by various organizations, including the Hook School's students, the East Hampton Ladies' Village Improvement Society, the

East Hampton Methodist Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Sewing Society, Amagansett Chapel, and Springs Chapel. Typically, "hot shortbread" and fresh strawberries were served, with some events offering fresh cream and ice cream. Of course, strawberry festivals depended on the availability of homegrown strawberries, and often occurred within the same week, or even days.

The 1948 Wainscott Strawberry Festival was part of three weeks of celebrations, including a pageant and parade for the 300th anniversary of the settlement of East Hampton. Tickets to the July 2nd Strawberry Festival cost \$1.25 for adults and seventy-five cents for children. Entertainment included bagpiper John Morrison, and young Bobby Bubka, who played accordion for a Polish dance group. Wainscott School's grounds hosted the festival, but Chairman Raymond Osborn planned to use Wainscott Chapel in case it rained. Strawberries were served with shortcake, whipped cream, and coffee by high school girls in peasant costumes and catering was organized by Isabell Osborn, Margaret Hedges, and Mrs. Philip Dickson. The 1948 Festival sold over five hundred tickets (see "Wainscott Day..." at top right) and despite warnings that advanced tickets were required, *The East Hampton Star* reported no one was turned away, even after tickets were sold out.

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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 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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