



# Item of the Week from the Long Island Collection

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

Daniel Osborn

Know all men that in regard to the children  
of Easthampton hath covenanted and agreed with  
Papasaquan and his Squaw both of Montauk of  
Indian for and in consideration of three pounds  
in hand already payed to the said Indians  
and three pounds to be paid onely by condition foloweth  
that if to say the daughter of the aforesaid  
Indians who lived formerly with Nathaniel Key  
whos name is Margit is hereby bound as a servant  
unto the said Daniel Osborn and his wife  
from the day of the date hereof until the full  
End and terme of eight <sup>years</sup> ~~years~~ next ensuing if  
therefore it shal wol and truly shal  
be payed and mist if the fore named terme of foure  
years next ensuing that then the sayd Daniel Osborn  
is hereby obliged to find unto his said servant  
meate drink and lodging with what else is necessary  
during the said terme and at the end of the  
said time he shall set free his said servant  
paying unto her the fore mentioned sum of three  
pound which as is sayed shal be comd due and the  
aforesaid condition in testimony hereof the  
parties aforesaid have set their hands and seals  
signed sealed and delivered in presence of us  
the witnesses of us  
Seth Parsons  
John Parsons

papasaquan  
his Squaw  
papasaquan  
his Indian  
the mark of Margit  
the mark of Daniel Osborn

**Indenture of Margaret, daughter of Papasaquan, a Montauk Indian, to Daniel Osborn and his wife, June 09, 1691**

On June 7, 1691, Daniel Osborn (1665-1713) made an agreement with a

Montauk Indian named Papasaquan and his unnamed squaw (or wife), indenturing Papasaquan's daughter Margaret [spelled Margit and Margett] for six pounds. Seth Parsons and John Carl witnessed the indenture, which appears above. It was signed by Papasaquan, Margaret, and Papasaquan's squaw with pictograph-like signatures.

By the terms of the contract, Daniel paid Margaret's family three pounds at the start of the seven-year indenture, with Margaret receiving the other three pounds at the end of her contract. This indenture "obliges" Daniel Osborn to provide Margaret with "meals, drinks, and lodgings" during the term of her contract, and "at the end of said time he shall set free his said servant" and at that point, Margaret would be paid.

Perhaps the most interesting detail about this indenture is that it indicates Margaret was previously indentured as a servant to another English settler, Nathaniel Hayes. Hayes appears in the East Hampton Town Records beginning around 1692 for about a decade, and almost all of the references relate to cattle in Montauk.

It's not entirely clear what sort of work Margaret did as a servant, but looking at Daniel Osborn's family offers some insights into Margaret's life during her indenture. Daniel Osborn was born to Mary Bond Osborn and Thomas Osborn Jr. in East Hampton. The Osborn family worked as tanners, and Daniel is believed to have also worked as a weaver. It's possible Margaret's duties during her indenture included work to support Daniel's weaving and tanning. However, in 1691, the year Margaret's indenture began, Daniel and his wife Elizabeth Hand Osborn (daughter of Stephen Hand) had their first child. During Margaret's indenture, Elizabeth gave birth to four children. Elizabeth's pregnancies and new babies certainly would have made extra help around the house from a servant like Margaret very timely.

## 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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