



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Shelter Island South Ferry, ca. 1901

Do you commute back and forth to work every day? How far do you travel? Whether it's five or fifty miles, the importance of transportation can't be denied, especially on Long Island. While many rely on cars, trains, or buses to get them where they need to be, ferry boats are also a popular option and sometimes they're the only one. Such is the case with Shelter Island as there are no bridges connecting it to the North or South Fork.

There is very little information about the photograph above, other than that it depicts a couple and possibly their driver waiting to cross at the Shelter Island South Ferry, which would take them across Shelter Island Sound to North Haven on the South Fork. The car, positioned on a raft or scow, would then be pulled across the water by a sailboat. This was known as a "sail-ferry" and part of the boat can actually be seen on the left-hand side of the image. Named the *Elloine*, this 32-foot catboat operated between 1888 and 1905.

The South Ferry as we know it today has a long history. Shortly after his arrival on Shelter Island in 1700, Jonathan Havens (1680-1748) operated a sail-ferry between his farm and Sag Harbor. This continued until 1827, when Joseph Havens, the last Havens ferryman to own the farm, died. The 60-acre estate was eventually sold to Samuel Gibbs Clark in the 1830s for \$1,350. Clark continued the Havens ferry, but chose the shorter route to North Haven, using a 16-foot rowboat to carry passengers and goods

across. He did this until his death in 1875 and his sons, Samuel Jr. and David Youngs Clark, became ferrymen themselves. Interestingly, the Clark brothers married two Havens sisters, named Elizabeth and Adelaide, making their descendants directly related to the original Havens family ferrymen. The Clark family still operates the ferry today.

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](https://www.digital-long-island.org) 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.

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Gina Piastuck joined the East Hampton Library in 2007 as a librarian and archivist and has served as the Head of the Long Island Collection since 2009. She's a graduate of LIU Post's Palmer School of Library and Information Science and holds both an M.L.I.S. degree and a Certificate in Archives and Records Management. Her responsibilities managing the Long Island Collection include providing reference and research assistance to patrons on and off site, as well as the acquisition, arrangement, description and conservation of rare and new materials pertaining to the history and people of Long Island.

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