



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



"Clinton Academy" by James Preston

There's much to be understood about the above tile painting by James Moore Preston, which would not have been possible without the influence of the Tile Club. The Tile Club was an informal group of young artists founded in New York City in 1877 during the Aesthetic Movement (which was partly an art movement that focused on handcrafted decorative objects). Members met weekly at each other's studios to discuss art and paint on ceramic tiles. No subjects or themes were suggested for the tiles and results ranged from portraits to seascapes. Painting was not strictly limited indoors and the club managed to take its first sketching trip to Long Island in the summer of 1878 (which was amusingly documented in [Scribner's](#) the following winter). Ultimately reaching East Hampton, members enjoyed the rustic beauty and charm of their surroundings by painting windmills, landscapes, and beach scenes. Though the Tile Club was only active for ten years, their work seemed to have a profound affect. Maude Sherwood Jewett (1875-1953), an American sculptor who lived East Hampton, was an admirer of the Tile Club and possessed a large collection of ceramic tiles. As her home was a gathering place for other artists, she asked each of them to paint a [tile](#), which was then inserted into a tabletop. In 1983, the tiles were donated to the [Long Island Collection](#). The depiction of Clinton Academy

above was painted by James Moore Preston (1873-1962), an American painter and illustrator belonging to the Ashcan (or Ash Can) School of art, which was a realistic style of painting from the early 20th century that depicted everyday life in New York City, particularly urban street scenes. He worked for many years as an illustrator for the Philadelphia Press, Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, and Woman's Home Companion.

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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