



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Portrait of Doctor David Edwards

This weekend is Ellen's Run, a fundraiser benefiting the Ellen Hermanson Foundation, which is credited with bringing new medical imaging technology to Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Imaging technology, beginning with the X-ray, completely revolutionized healthcare over the last century. Can you imagine trying to figure out if a bone was broken before X-rays? East Hampton's Dr. David Edwards began his career doing just that; witnessing the dawn of medical imaging technology from his private practice in East Hampton and later at Southampton Hospital, where he specialized in "bones and babies," beginning a decade before X-rays became mainstream.

Dr. Edwards was born in Amagansett in 1877 to the legendary whaler Captain Joshua B. Edwards and Adelia Conkling Edwards. He attended New York University and Medical College in the city; working first at Bellevue Hospital in 1899, then at New York Foundling Hospital, and finally at Seaside Hospital on Staten Island before returning to East Hampton.

As a country doctor, Dr. Edwards made house calls on horseback, motorcycle, and car, in all sorts of weather. He also took sick children into his home when there were no hospitals available and was responsible for building an early small hospital at

Neighborhood House in East Hampton on Three Mile Harbor Road.

Between opening his private practice on December 16, 1901 and his death on May 7, 1964, Dr. Edwards served East Hampton for over fifty years. He delivered over 3,000 local babies without ultrasound imaging. His medical accomplishments included treating a smallpox outbreak among eleven Promised Land menhaden boat crew members, and diagnosing the first known local case of tick fever on Gardiner's Island in 1913. The same year Southampton Hospital opened, Dr. Edwards joined the staff in 1916, becoming President of the Medical Board and Chief of Surgery from 1941 to 1947. He continued to work at Southampton Hospital until his death.

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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