



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Home Sweet Home, East Hampton, L.I.

My earliest memory of the song "Home Sweet Home" was undoubtedly overhearing it in one of many Warner Brothers cartoons I watched while growing up. The song "Home Sweet Home" is derived from American actor and dramatist John Howard Payne's 1823 operetta "Clari, the Maid of Milan." The music for the song was created by Sir Henry Bishop, which employed Payne's lyrics. In 1852, Bishop reintroduced the song via sheet music that families could play and sing along to at home, making it very popular. It became so popular, in fact, that it's believed the song was forbidden from being performed in Union Army camps during the Civil War because it encouraged homesickness and, as a result, desertion. The above postcard features what is now the Home Sweet Home Museum at 14 James Lane in East Hampton, a lean-to style house built in the early to mid-1700s. In the late 19th century, it was promoted as the birthplace of John Howard Payne (1791-1852) and the inspiration behind the song "Home Sweet Home." However, this is more legend than fact in that it's believed Payne was actually born in New York City. He did have some connections to East Hampton as his mother, Sarah Isaacs, was born and raised there and his father, William Payne, was a teacher at Clinton Academy before John Howard Payne was born. The house was purchased by Gustav and Hannah Buek of Brooklyn in 1907 due in no small part to the John Howard Payne legend. In the late 1920s, Hannah sold the house to East Hampton Village upon Gustav's death, which was filled with "Home Sweet Home" memorabilia. Soon after, the house became a museum. Today, the Home Sweet Home Museum focuses less on the Payne folklore and more on the historical and architectural significance of the home, which has been restored to the Colonial Revival period of when the Bueks lived there.

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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