



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Newtown Lane, East Hampton, L.I.

The focus of today's *Item of the Week* is not so much Newtown Lane, featured in the above postcard from the [Harvey Ginsberg Postcard Collection](#), but the house seen closest to the viewer belonging to Christian Schenck (1851-1924) on the corner of Main Street and Newtown Lane (where Elie Tahari currently stands at [1 Main Street](#)).

Christian Schenck was born in Hattenbach, Germany on August 5th, 1851 to Henry and Eva Schenck. He immigrated to the United States as a teenager (borrowing money to secure his passage) and worked for Judge Henry P. Hedges in Bridgehampton. While there, he married Eva Elizabeth Kennell and co-operated his own meat market business with his brother before moving to East Hampton in the 1880s.

While in East Hampton, Christian Schenck opened another meat market at approximately [63 Main Street](#), which is where Vineyard Vines is located today. In need of a home for his family, Schenck sought property. According to a

September 7, 1883 diary entry kept by Miss Frances "Aunt Fanny" Hunting, who boarded across the street during this time, Mrs. Clara A. Fithian Griffing "sold her house last week to Christian Schenck" for \$2,900. Mrs. Griffing had inherited the house from her father, Abraham Fithian, who died in 1876. It's said Schenck moved the Fithian house elsewhere to build a newer, more modern house on the property later that year. In the spring of 1884, Frances Hunting recorded in her diary that the Schenck house was just about ready for the family to move in and commented, "Very pretty...pearl color with chocolate-colored trimmings."

In 1902, Christian Schenck sold his meat market business to the Gilmartin Brothers, who opened their own meat market soon after. In an interview with Christian's grandson Kennell Iddings Schenck in 1998, he conveyed that the Schenck family home was moved in 1904 to the corner of Church Street and Gingerbread Lane, where its wrap-around porch was removed and the house divided into two pieces to make it easier to move. The house is smaller than originally built, but still stands 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](#) 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 Gina Piastuck, Department Head, Long Island Collection.

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.

gina@easthamptonlibrary.org | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | www.easthamptonlibrary.org

