



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



McCann's Meat & Fish Market, East Hampton, N.Y.

As time passes, the landscape often changes. While there are certainly places in East Hampton that look like they are frozen in time, most will argue that much has changed. That being said, it's fascinating to look back at what's come and gone. Take, for example, the history of a simple storefront.

Before Guild Hall was constructed across the street from the East Hampton Library in 1931, there existed McCann's Meat & Fish Market. Originally meat dealers, David A. Fithian and Frederick "Fred" McCann opened their shop on Main Street in 1888, with Fithian eventually selling his share in the business to McCann in 1899.

Fred McCann was born in East Hampton in 1860 to John and Annie Hodder McCann. Growing up, he worked a number of jobs before opening his store, which included working in a general store, bunker and cod fishing, and working for the U.S. Lighthouse Service at Little Gull Island.

Designed by architect Tom Babcock and built by George Eldredge, McCann's Market was strictly a meat market for thirty years, before changing tastes prevailed, bringing fish, fruit, and vegetables into rotation. Before the telephone became commonplace, the market sent a horse-drawn wagon door-to-door, where customers could choose their meats from the back of the wagon. They also frequently delivered

fish and clams to the Maidstone Inn and lobsters to the Maidstone Club.

In 1940, Fred McCann retired after fifty-two years and the business was subsequently closed. He died in Florida at the age of 87. The McCann Meat & Fish Market was eventually purchased and used as a summer home by Myrtle Shepard for several years, before being acquired by Guild Hall in 1964. The structure was razed and Guild Hall has since expanded towards Pondview Lane, where the market once stood.

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.

