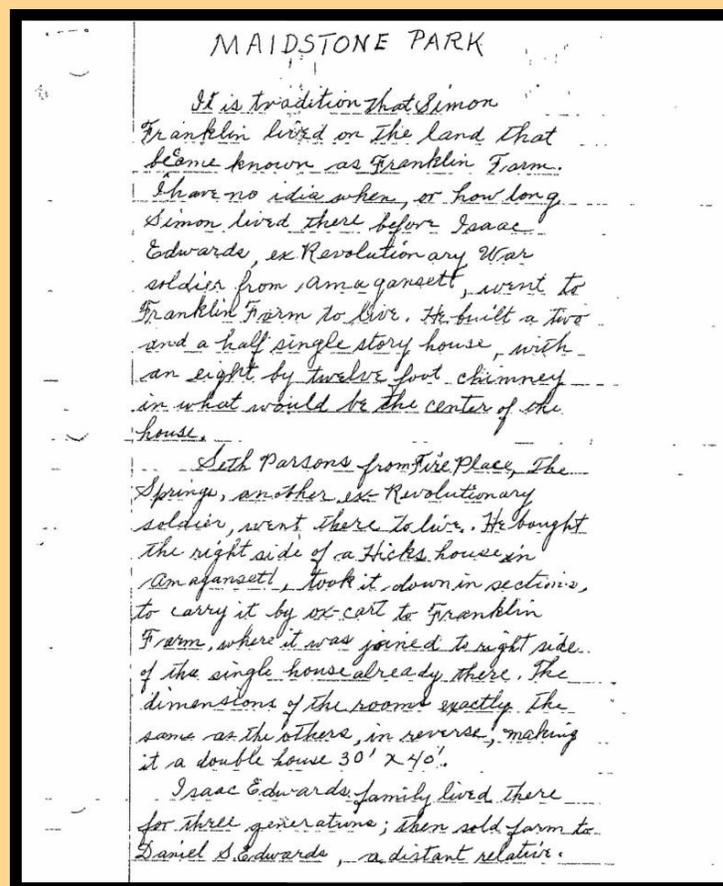




Item of the Week from the Long Island Collection

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



Maidstone Park History

Born in 1898 at Franklin Farm, now known as Maidstone Park or Maidstone Beach, Abigail Edwards Field wrote a history of the property where she grew up before her 2006 death. By her account, her Edwards family relatives lived on this land with only a few brief interruptions, going back to Isaac Edwards, a Revolutionary War veteran. For today's visitors, enjoying the magnificent views of Gardiner's Island and the beachfront, it's hard to envision a working farm with oxen grazing in the middle of the dunes or parking areas, but that's how [Maidstone Beach](#) was when Abigail was a little girl in Springs.

Abigail's childhood memories of family reunions at Maidstone Beach recall the men digging for clams to be cooked in a stone fire pit and the women swimming in stockings and long dresses, which were the bathings suits of the day. Her description of the house at Franklin Farm being moved from the property to Amagansett indicates

her notes were written after 1949, but there's no other way to date these recollections. Abigail's father sold the land she knew as the family ox pasture to Frederic and Albert Gallatin. The Gallatins already owned homes on Georgica Pond, but Abigail remembered they were attracted to the land overlooking Gardiner's Bay for the same reason many young families prefer the spot today--the quiet waters were better for swimming. In 1911, the Gallatins gave that land to the Town of East Hampton with the provision that no concessions be allowed in Maidstone Park. An adjoining section of the Edwards family property overlooking Gardiner's Bay would be sold to the Girl Scout Council of Nassau County, becoming Camp Blue Bay beginning in 1947.

Today, Maidstone Park lends its name to the surrounding neighborhoods. While Franklin Farm no longer operates, families can still be seen relaxing like the Edwards Family once did -- swimming, clamming, and picknicking at Maidstone Beach.

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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