



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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Springs School football team on the Ashawagh Hall Green 1929-1930.

Back Row, L to R: Melvin Bennett, Goerge Sidney Miller, Jr, Alvin Bennett, Berkeley Paine.
Front Row, L to R: Edward Holmes, James Crandall, Walter Hulse, William King, Fred Wood,
Egbert Pigeon, William Mott. In background on left: Wal Parsons store and Springs General Store.

Springs School Football Team **on the Ashawagh Hall Green, 1929-1930**

This month, students have returned to school and many of the school sports teams are starting to play again. Members of the 1929-1930 football team from [Springs School](#) appear in this photograph from the [Springs Historical Society Archives](#). In the photograph, players in button-down shirts and ties can be seen lining up, with only one wearing a leather helmet towards the rear of the formation. This photo was taken on the green next to Ashawagh Hall, with the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial monument visible in the background to the right, and Springs General Store visible to the left. A caption identifies all of the boys, and most of the last names are familiar local families, including Mott, Bennett, King, and Miller.

Football season traditionally runs during the fall, and this group picture was probably taken sometime between September and December of 1929.

What is particularly special about this photograph is where the team went to school. The boys are shown next to Ashawagh Hall, which was where Springs School held classes in the fall of 1929 after [the school suffered a fire on January 30, 1929](#), which burned it to the ground. The fifty-six children that attended school during the time of the fire all vividly recalled the incident, with many mentioning it during interviews for Tony Prohaska's History Project, Inc. (alternately known as the Springs Oral Histories). One of the boys in this picture, Melvin Bennett (b. 1915), remembered the fire couldn't be put out, saying, "They just watched it go down." Within thirty minutes of the fire starting, the school was completely destroyed. Some of the boys shown here may have been among the group of "older boys" who "carried the piano from the second floor" of the school. Melvin, like many others, also remembered going to school in the two-room Ashawagh Hall in the days that followed.

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Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

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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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