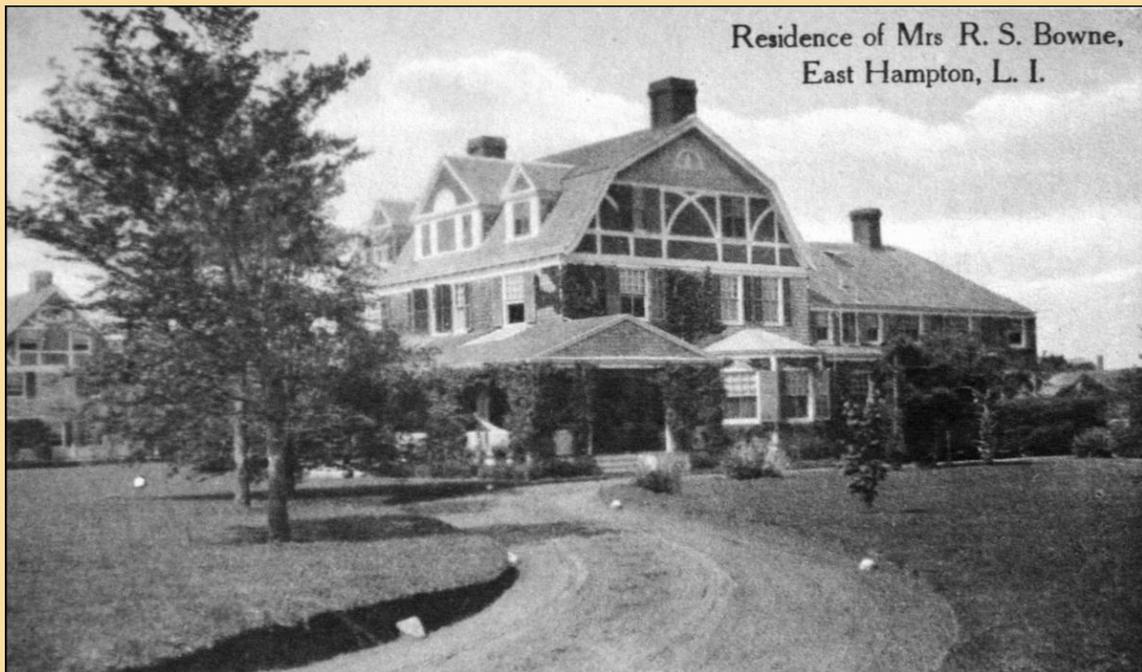




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Residence of Mrs. R.S. Bowne, East Hampton, L.I.

The story of the Robert Southgate Bowne house, seen in the postcard above, begins with a death notice. Recorded in *The East Hampton Star* on March 20th, 1886, George B. Elkins of Brooklyn was remembered for being a "real estate speculator." Indeed, Elkins owned a house and about fifteen acres of land along the west side of Ocean Avenue, which he purchased from Abraham Fithian in 1872 for \$6,000. After his death, the tract of land was sold off in pieces by his two daughters, Mary C. and Georgiana Elkins.

Much of the property appears to have been sold to summer residents who later became founding members of the Maidstone Club, including Dr. Everett Herrick, Dr. George E. Monroe, and Robert Southgate Bowne. Bowne, of Flushing, Queens, was the first president of the Long Island Rail Road and one of nine original directors of the Maidstone Club. In December 1888, he and James Gallatin each purchased two acres of land from the Elkins sisters. They soon contracted with James L'Hommedieu, a builder from Great Neck, to build them each a summer cottage. Construction was evidently part of a building boom taking place, as recorded in *The East Hampton Star* on May 11th, 1889, "The work on Messrs. Warren G. Smith's, Robert S. Bowne's, Jas. Gallatin's and

George E. Munroe's cottages, is fast nearing completion and it is expected they will be ready to occupy July 1. These new cottages make quite an addition to the South End of the village. We understand several more cottages will be erected in that vicinity during the coming year."

According to *Fifty Years of the Maidstone Club* by Jeannette Edwards Rattray, "The Bowne place was very gay in the 1890s," with many parties held at the house, in addition to dances given for the Bowne's four children at Clinton Hall (Clinton Academy). Unfortunately, happiness was short-lived as Robert Bowne suffered a stroke while out riding his horse in East Hampton in September of 1896. He died in his home at the age of fifty-four, despite the efforts of his neighbor, Dr. George E. Munroe. At the time of his death, Bowne was remembered for being one of East Hampton's oldest summer residents with a deep interest in the welfare of the community.

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.

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