



Keller, David, c.1952- . Long Island Photograph Collection, c.1880-1971.

Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute

Contact Information:
Special Collections Department
Axinn Library, Room 032
123 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549
Phone: (516) 463-6411, or 463-6404
Fax: (516) 463-6442
E-mail: LISI@hofstra.edu

<http://www.hofstra.edu/Libraries/SpecialCollections>

Compiled by:	[M. O'Connor]
Date Completed:	[August 29, 2014]

Keller, David, c.1952- . Long Island Photograph Collection, c.1880-1971.
0.6 cubic ft.

Biographical Note:

At age 14, self-described “railfan” David Keller, then a resident of Holtsville, purchased a Yashica twin-lens reflex camera, which he taught himself to use. He then set out on a mission to photograph Long Island Rail Road (L.I.R.R.) structures exclusively; however, his subject matter quickly expanded to include things such as trains and train crews. Keller’s father supported the young teen’s ambition, and he drove him all over Long Island to photograph the various L.I.R.R. stations. Keller later became a fixture at the “PD” tower in Patchogue, where he learned all about the history and operation of the railroad. During college, he worked for the L.I.R.R for three summers, first as a ticket clerk and later as a special services attendant.

Keller and fellow avid railfan and writer Steven Lynch have published two books of L.I.R.R. photographs: *The Long Island Rail Road 1925-1975 (Images of Rail)* (2004) and *Revisiting the Long Island Rail Road: 1925-75* (2005). In addition, Keller maintains a website titled Dave Keller’s RR Photo Archives (<http://sbiii.com/d-keller/d-keller.html>).

Scope and Content Note:

The collection, which spans the years c.1880-1971, is made up entirely of 8” x 10” black and white photographs. It is divided into two series, both of which contain photographs by Keller as well as photographs from rare collections that he has acquired over the years. Series I contains Long Island Rail Road photographs that span the years 1888-1971; Series II includes historical Long Island photographs (the majority of which were taken in Suffolk County) from c.1880-1970.

Notable among the Long Island Rail Road photographs are two images of Charles “Mile-a-Minute” on the day of his “race” against a Long Island Rail Road locomotive in 1899. (Murphy drafted behind the locomotive, and rode his bicycle one mile in 57.8 seconds.) Also notable is an 1888 photograph of the Brighton Beach Hotel being moved away from the Atlantic Ocean by L.I.R.R. locomotives.

Noteworthy among the historical Long Island photographs are images of a horse-drawn steam fire engine (1916), the Shinnecock Lighthouse (c.1930), Camp Upton (1918), and Nikola Tesla’s Wardenclyffe Laboratory (1969), which was built by architect Stanford White.

(Source: “Railfan Recollections at LIRR “PD” Tower, Patchogue, NY,” by Dave Keller. Accessed on August 29, 2014, at <http://www.trainsarefun.com/lirrphotos/patchogue/recallingPDtower.htm>)

SUBJECTS

Names:

Keller, David, c.1952- .

Long Island Rail Road.

Subjects:

Long Island Rail Road--Buildings--New York (State)--Long Island.

Long Island Rail Road--History.

Railroad stations--New York (State)--Long Island.

Places:

Long Island (N.Y.)--History

Suffolk County (N.Y.)--History

Form and Genre Terms:

Photographs.

The David Keller Long Island Photograph Collection is arranged in Two Series:

- I. Long Island Rail Road Photographs, 1888-1971; fifty-four 8" x 10" black and white photographs. Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically.
- II. Long Island Historical Photographs, c.1880-1970; forty-seven 8" x 10" black and white photographs. Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically.

Keller, David, c.1952- . Long Island Photograph Collection, c.1880-1971.

Box and Folder Listing

Series I: Long Rail Road Photographs

Note: Some descriptions include a locomotive number followed by a three-digit number (e.g., “4-4-0”). This number represents the wheel arrangement of the locomotive.

Box/ Folder	Description	Location	Date
1-1	Amityville station - Cross-Island trolley trestle under construction, looking east	Amityville	1909
1-2	Bliss Yard - Bliss Cabin at Blissville	Long Island City, Queens	1970
1-3	Brighton Beach Hotel – hotel being moved away from the ocean by L.I.R.R. locomotives	Brighton Beach, Brooklyn	1888
1-4	Carmans River trestle - locomotive no. 32 (4-4-0) and inspection coach No. 200 stopped on trestle. Superintendent W.S. Potter and several unidentified men on trestle and locomotive.	Shirley	1900
1-5	Central Islip - Carlton Avenue covered in snow, train tracks in foreground	Central Islip	1916
1-6	Central Islip - hospital engine #03 (0-4-0) on railroad siding in Central Islip. Walter Webb, conductor, in front of smokebox; Bill Blake on pilot; Frank “Dusty” Rhodes, trainman (3rd from left); and, two unidentified men.	Central Islip	1933
1-7	Central Islip station - locomotive No. 201 (4-4-0) pulling the first train from Penn Station, east, passed a crowd of people gathered on the station platform.	Central Islip	1910
1-8	Central Islip station – crossing gates, stationhouse and Fisher’s hotel, from Wheeler Rd., looking south.	Central Islip	1916
1-9	Central Islip station – station, after snowstorm, looking west. Express house at right; freight house in center background.	Central Islip	1916
1-10	Central Islip Station - interior view of ticket office	Central Islip	1920
1-11	Central Islip station – two eastbound G-5 locomotives (4-6-0) at station	Central Islip	c.1935

1-12	Dunton station - MP tower, old Dunton station in distance, looking east from signal bridge. Atlantic division is at right; Montauk division, at left; and Berlin siding to Westerbridge, at far left.	Queens	1908
1-13	Dunton station – station under construction, looking east. (1 photo, 1 copy)	Queens	1914
1-14	East Farmingdale - Charles “Mile-a-Minute” Murphy behind locomotive No.39 (4-4-0). In a “race” against the locomotive, Murphy drafted behind it, and rode his bicycle one mile in 57.8 seconds.	East Farmingdale	1899
1-15	East Farmingdale - Charles “Mile-a-Minute Murphy” riding his bicycle on a planked rail on the day of his “race” against locomotive No. 39 (4-4-0). Murphy drafted behind the locomotive, and rode his bicycle one mile in 57.8 seconds.	East Farmingdale	1899
1-16	Eastport station – view of stationhouse, looking north	Eastport	c.1920
1-17	Fresh Pond junction - Operator R. Zambuto on the telephone in Fremont Tower	Ridgewood, Queens	1970
1-18	Great River station - view of station, looking east down the railroad tracks	Great River	1971
1-19	Greenport station - locomotive No. 212 at the station, looking east	Greenport	1971
1-20	Greenport station - locomotive No. 212 at the station, Shelter Island Ferry at right. Taken from freight house.	Greenport	1971
1-21	Holtsville – Suffolk Traction Company under construction, looking northeast. Built but never used.	Holtsville	1912
1-22	Holtsville station - entire population of Holtsville posing at the station	Holtsville	1912
1-23	Jamaica Racetrack station – view of station, grandstand at left	Jamaica, Queens	1958
1-24	Jamaica station - J Tower and yard, looking west from end of station platform	Jamaica, Queens	1966
1-25	Long Island City – view of float docks. Locomotive No. 446 is at left; No. 440 is in the center.	Long Island City, Queens	1970
1-26	Malba station – view of train at station	Malba, Queens	1932
1-27	Manorville station- block operator James V. Osborne at MR cabin. Station at left, looking southeast.	Manorville	1921

1-28	“Massapequa” parlor car, interior view	Unidentified	1966
1-29	Miller’s Place station - Holiday House guests posing for a group photo in front of the stationhouse	Unidentified	1910
1-30	Montauk Station - view of station, looking east down the railroad tracks	Montauk	c.1920
1-31	Montauk Station - view of stationhouse; Montauk Manor at right, in middleground	Montauk	1970
1-32	Morris Park facility - rotary snow blower no. 193 at facility	Jamaica, Queens	1967
1-33	Oakdale - freight house, exterior view	Oakdale	1971
1-34	Oakdale station - view of stationhouse, looking northwest	Oakdale	1971
1-35	Oakdale station - view of stationhouse, looking southwest	Oakdale	1971
1-36	Patchogue station - train and horse-drawn carriages at station. View is looking northwest. Station was built in 1863 and demolished in 1963.	Patchogue	1905
1-37	Patchogue station – Camelback locomotive No. 9 (4-6-0) at station. View is looking east.	Patchogue	c.1920
1-38	Pinelawn Cemetery station – view of administration building. Annotation on verso reads: “Built in 1910, at a cost of \$100,000, but burned shortly thereafter. It was never used. The archway near the tracks stood until it was demolished in 1973. Looking North -- Wellwood Avenue at right.”	Farmingdale	1910
1-39	Port Jefferson station - locomotive No. 20 (4-6-0, Class G-5s) and train cars. View looking northeast.	Port Jefferson	c.1940
1-40	Ronkonkoma station - view of station and railroad tracks, looking east from trestle	Ronkonkoma	1915
1-41	Sag Harbor station – view of stationhouse, looking southeast	Sag Harbor	c.1920
1-42	Sayville station – view of station, looking southwest	Sayville	1971
1-43	Seaside station – view of station, a man standing at left and a boy at center	Rockaway Park, Queens	1916

1-44	Shoreham station – view of station, looking northwest. A young man is standing in front. Station demolished in 1938.	Shoreham	c.1914
1-45	Steeplechase station - view of station, looking east	Rockaway Park, Queens	1916
1-46	Stony Brook station - train and horse-drawn carriages at station	Stony Brook	1905
1-47	Trainmen’s Trio: standing, left to right: Matthew Balling (with guitar), Jefferson I. Skinner (with guitar) and Charles H. Burton	Unidentified	1930
1-48	Wading River station - train and three horse-drawn carriages at the station; three men standing on platform	Wading River	1905
1-49	Warwick St. station - view of station, looking west	East New York, Brooklyn	c.1920
1-50	Westhampton station - crowd waiting for train home the day after the Fourth of July	Westhampton	1915
1-51	Whitestone Landing station - view of station, looking east. Closed February 1932.	Whitestone, Queens	c.1920
1-52	Woodhaven Junction station - view of station, looking northwest. Passengers on platform, at right; electric substation at far left. New station built c. 1940.	Woodhaven, Queens	c.1920
1-53	Wyandanch station - crane demolishing station	Wyandanch	1958
1-54	Wyandanch station, crane demolishing station the 1958	Wyandanch	1958

Series II: Long Island Historical Photographs

2-1	Alexander P. Iveson standing in doorway to his blacksmith shop	Yaphank	c.1890
2-2	Ayling residence (Wheeler Rd.) under construction, Model-T Ford truck parked next to the house	Central Islip	1919
2-3	Boy Scout in Central Islip troop uniform	Central Islip	c.1935
2-4	British rigid airship R-34 on ground	Mitchel Field	1919
2-5	Camp Upton, Knights of Columbus Hall	Yaphank	1918
2-6	Camp Upton, Remount building	Yaphank	1918

2-7	Camp Upton, War Department Theatre	Yaphank	1918
2-8	Camp Upton, YMCA Headquarters building	Yaphank	1918
2-9	Carlton Avenue, stores and Fisher's Hotel, covered in snow	Central Islip	c.1920
2-10	Carlton Avenue, street view, looking south	Central Islip	c.1928
2-11	Cordwood being cut by Mr. Rich	Middle Island	n.d.
2-12	Corner of Carlton & Suffolk avenues, view from rear of Central Islip train station	Central Islip	c.1916
2-13	East Islip Fire Department fire engine – two firemen standing alongside, two standing on floorboard behind steering wheel	East Islip	c.1916
2-14	East Middle Island school house, exterior view	Middle Island	1900
2-15	Edward Pfeiffer store and two cars at gas pumps out in front, looking east down Middle Country Rd.	Middle Island	c.1920
2-16	Fisher's Hotel, five employees standing on porch	Central Islip	c. 1920
2-17	Fisher's Hotel, woman sitting on front steps	Central Islip	1954
2-18	Ford Tri-Motor plane preparing to take off from Mitchel Field	Mitchel Field	c.1925
2-19	General store - two men with bicycles in front, two cars at right	Central Islip	1916
2-20	Heller's restaurant, unidentified man and woman behind the counter	Central Islip	c.1920
2-21	Holtsville Farmingville Fire Department firehouse. Building was first used as a school house, and then served as a post office until 1970.	Holtsville	1970
2-22	Lopped tree, originally used as a property marker	Middle Island	1900
2-23	Middle Island Presbyterian Church, exterior front view	Middle Island	Oct. 1950
2-24	Mile post marker that reads, "30 M to SUFFOLK CH." Marker was placed during Benjamin Franklin's service as the British crown's deputy postmaster general for North America. CH stands for Court House.	Orient Point	1973
2-25	Mill at Riverhead, view from across the river	Riverhead	1916

2-26	Old Field Lighthouse, exterior side view	Stony Brook	c.1930
2-27	Old Hook Mill, exterior front view	Easthampton	1961
2-28	Palace Vans' horse-drawn moving van - driver in driver's seat, holding reins to team of three horses	Patchogue	c.1910
2-29	Patchogue Hotel before demolition, exterior front view	Patchogue	1969
2-30	Pergola - view of one of the two pergolas on Cliff Road; partial view of car parked at left	Belle Terre	c.1935
2-31	Purol gas station, man reaching into a car parked outside the station. View is looking north from station.	Central Islip	c.1920
2-32	Riverhead Fire Department [?] steam fire engine, fireman standing alongside team of horses	Riverhead	1916
2-33	Shinnecock lighthouse – exterior view of lighthouse and surrounding buildings	Shinnecock Bay	c.1930
2-34	Sleigh (horse-drawn) at corner of Carlton and Suffolk avenues	Central Islip	c.1920
2-35	Southampton Windmill	Southampton	1961
2-36	Swezey homestead, R.M. Bayles and a dog are near gate that leads to property	Middle Island	c.1880
2-37	Town Line Road, view looking down road	Hauppauge	1920
2-38	Town Line Road, view looking down road	Hauppauge	c.1930
2-39	Town Line Road, view looking down road	Hauppauge	c.1935
2-40	Tydol gas station - cars outside the station, one on a lift. View looking north from rear of railroad station.	Central Islip	c.1928
2-41	Unidentified house, interior view	Unidentified	1916
2-42	Unidentified house, exterior view	Brentwood Park	c.1916
2-43	United States soldiers in the back of an Army truck	Bay Shore	c.1938
2-44	Wardenclyffe Laboratory, exterior view from entrance road. (Nikola Tesla's laboratory; built by Stanford White.)	Shoreham	1969
2-45	Wheeler Road - street view, looking north from corner of Suffolk Ave	Central Islip	c.1925
2-46	Windmill, exterior rear view	Water Mill	1961

2-47	Yaphank Mill, men loading a wagon alongside the mill	Yaphank	c.1910
------	---	---------	--------