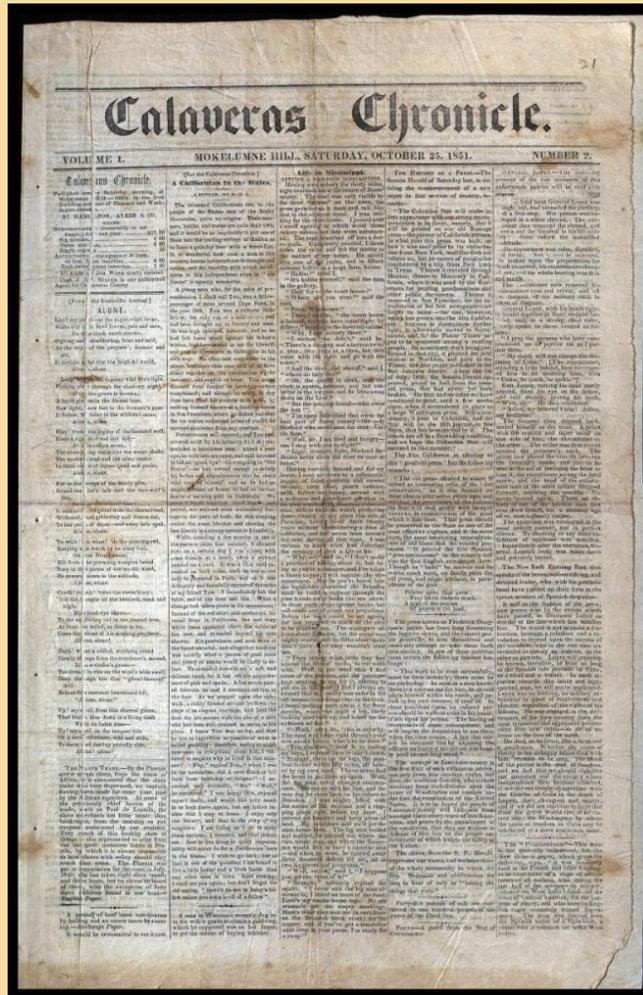




# Item of the Week from the Long Island Collection

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



## Calaveras Chronicle, October 25, 1851

It's been said that there were three types of whalers: those who wanted to make a career out of whaling, those who sought adventure, and those who probably had something they needed to desperately avoid on land. Whatever the case may have been, those looking to make a decent wage were often disappointed as what they earned depended on the size of the ship's catch. As such, one could return from years at sea and find very little money in their pocket if the voyage was unsuccessful.

That being the case, it's understandable that many whalers sought to increase their fortunes by traveling to the West Coast of the United States during the

California Gold Rush (1848-1855). The item displayed above, the *Calaveras Chronicle* newspaper, is illustrative of this and why we have it here in the East Hampton Library's [Long Island Collection](#). Though the American whaling industry was at its peak during this time period, the prospect of gold offered a different kind of adventure to young men (especially if one could travel to California for free as a whalerman). In fact, many whalermen abandoned ship upon reaching San Francisco, leaving it deserted for the possibility of untold riches.

Located in the middle of the Sierra Nevada region, Calaveras County was home to at least two important Gold Rush towns. One of which, Mokelumne Hill, is where the *Calaveras Chronicle* was founded in 1851. It had some of the richest surface deposits in the state and was one of California's principal mining towns. By 1850, the population there was nearly 15,000.

The paper above is dated October 25, 1851, making it the second issue. Within its pages, you can find the East End names of Weeks, Edwards, Halsey, Fowler, and Wade in advertisements, listed as "general dealers in groceries, provisions, and mining tools...", attorneys, barbers, or justices of the peace. It's not known what ultimately became of these men, but Mokelumne Hill's fortunes were short-lived, with its gold deposits running out by the early 1860s.

## 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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