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Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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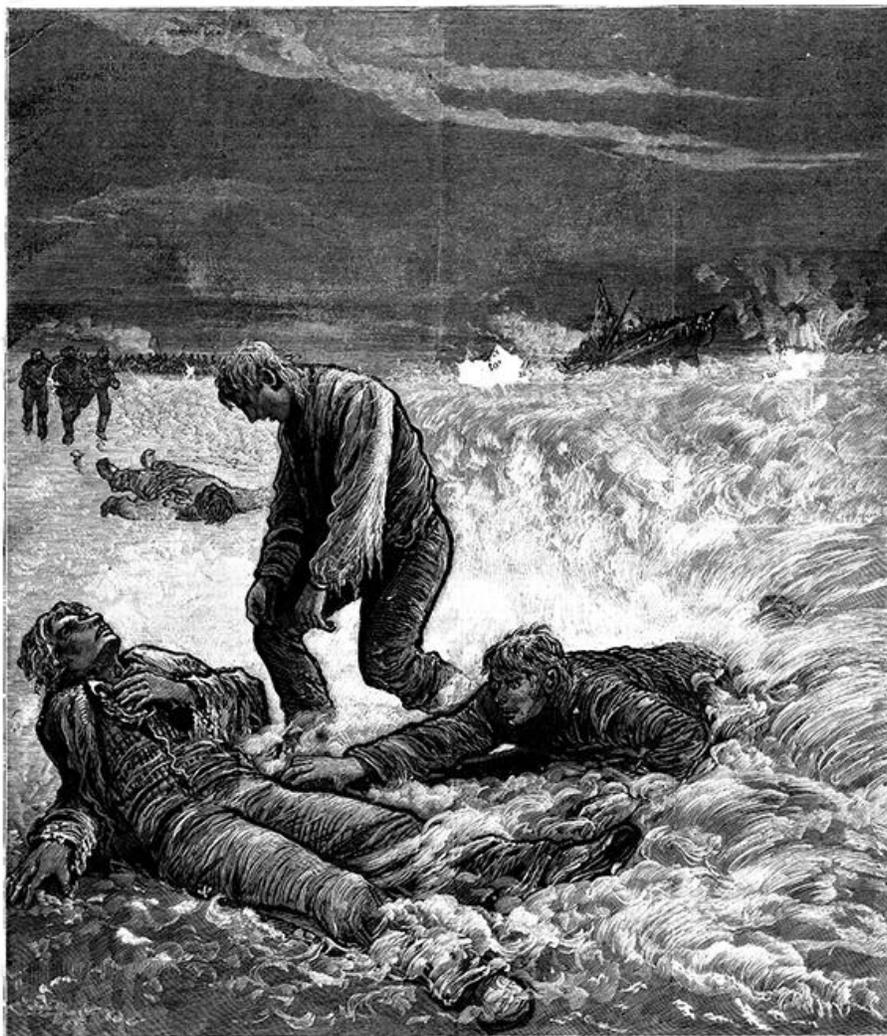
FRANK LESLIE'S
ILLUSTRATED
NEWSPAPER

No. 1,112—Vol. XLIII.]

NEW YORK, JANUARY 20, 1877.

[PRICE, 10 CENTS. PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE, \$3.00.]

"THE GROWTH OF RUSSIAN POWER"—with Illustrations. "as January Number of the POPULAR MONTHLY, now ready." The cheapest and most entertaining Magazine in the language. Price 20 Cents.



NEW YORK.—THE WRECK OF THE BRITISH SHIP "CIRCASSIAN," OFF BRIDGEHAMPTON, L. I., ON DECEMBER 29TH, WITH THE LOSS OF TWENTY-SEVEN PERSONS. ESCAPE OF THE FOUR SOLE SURVIVORS.—SEE PAGE 227.

**Cover of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper,
Image of Circassian Wreck, January 1877**

Imagine the effect *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (later renamed *Leslie's Weekly*) had on the viewer. Published between 1855 and 1922, the newspaper originally used woodblock engravings and later photographs to depict American life in vivid, sometimes sensationalist, detail. Some of its covers portrayed the [Great Railroad Strike of 1877](#), an [Iowa tornado](#) (1885), the [Haymarket affair](#) (1886), the [Pullman Strike](#) (1894), and [World War I](#) (1918).

The above cover of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* in the East Hampton Library's [Long Island Collection](#) features the *Circassian* shipwreck disaster. A cargo ship, the *Circassian* set sail from Liverpool, England on November 6,

1876, with its intended destination the Port of New York.

On December 11th, the *Circassian* ran aground on a sandbar off Bridgehampton, 400 yards from shore, in a winter storm. According to the log of the Mecox Life Saving Station, the stranded ship was spotted at 10:55 pm by surfman Samuel H. Howell, who quickly sought help. All forty-nine men aboard were safely rescued. The following day, Coast Wrecking Company of New York was sent out to Bridgehampton to salvage the ship and its cargo. Removing the cargo was a slow process, which was often delayed by weather.

In spite of an approaching storm and recommendations otherwise, the wreckers were ordered to stay on board the ship by their supervisor until the salvage was completed. Unfortunately, weather conditions became so bad that when the *Circassian* finally sent out a distress signal on December 29th, the men could not be safely rescued. By early morning the following day, the ship began to break apart and the wreckers were cast into the sea.

Only four of the thirty-two men on board the ship survived, who managed to reach shore by holding onto a boat buoy. This scene is depicted above, with surfmen from the Life Saving Service rushing to their aid from down the beach. Tragically, ten men hired as wreckers from the Shinnecock Indian Reservation were among the casualties.

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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