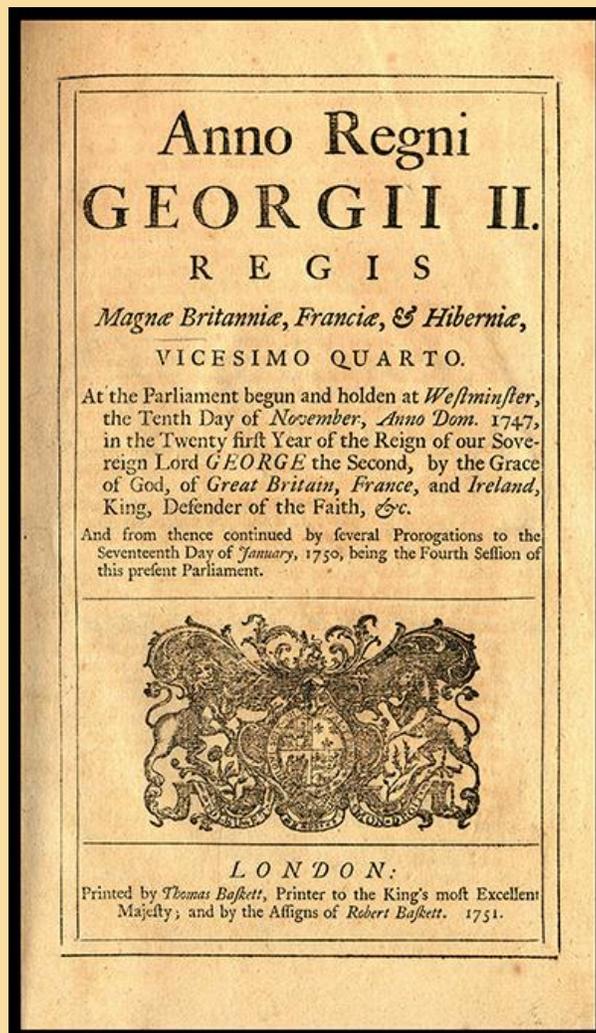




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



An Act for Regulating the Commencement of the Year, 1751

This week, most of us will be struggling to remember the New Year when we write down the date. If you grapple with this annually, can you imagine having to write three different years in a span of 367 days? If you think the extra day in Leap Year is confusing, imagine skipping eleven days, which actually happened in September 1752. People went to bed on September 2, 1752 and woke up the next morning on September 14, 1752.

This was part of the Gregorian calendar change, a date change that took place following Pope Gregory's realization that a twenty-minute difference in calculating the length of a year could really add up over a few thousand years. When Pope Gregory issued an order for Catholic countries to change their calendars and catch up in 1582, Britain had just dumped the Catholic Church in order to do their own thing in terms of church and state. Most mainland European countries made the change sooner, leading to dates written with two years, like "February 22, 1722/1723." This was known as "double dating."

In January of 1750, the British government finally gave in and decided to change the empire over to the Gregorian calendar. Parliament passed "An Act for Regulating the Commencement of the Year," a copy of which is seen above. Parliament's act outlined the steps required for this convoluted changeover and strove to make sense of the steps one needed to line up the two calendars. Before the Gregorian calendar, the year legally started on March 25th, so the act also switched the start of the new year to January 1st. In the first phase of the calendar change, the year didn't change to 1751 on the day after December 31, 1750, making the next day January 1, 1750. The year finally changed to 1751 the day after March 24, 1750. For the last step, the entire British Empire jumped ahead eleven days to sync with the "New Calendar," making the day after September 2, 1752 into September 14, 1752.

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 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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