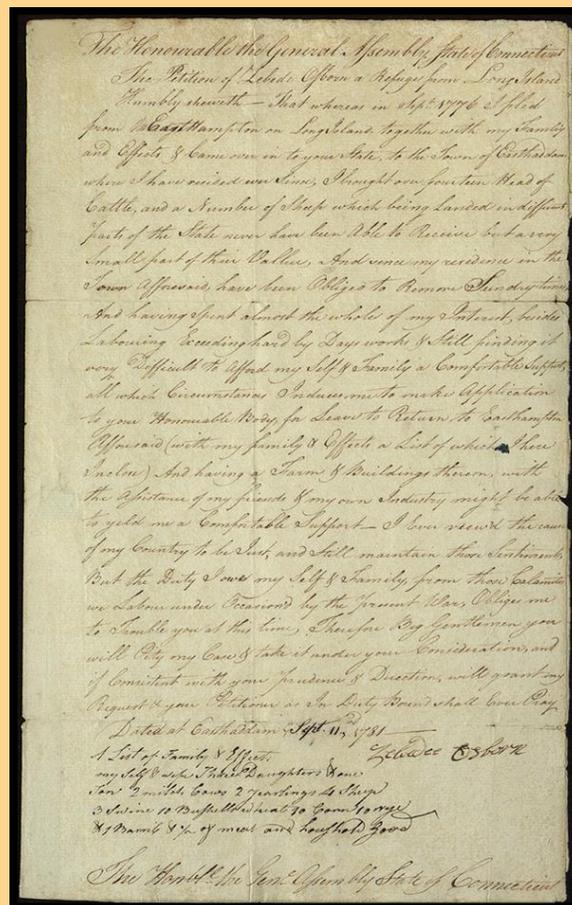




## Item of the Week from the Long Island Collection

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



### Petition of Zebedee Osborn to the General Assembly of Connecticut, 1781

On September 11, 1781, seven years after Long Island was overrun by British troops, Zebedee Osborn petitioned the Connecticut State Legislature (see above), requesting permission to return to his home in East Hampton, New York. Like many Long Islanders at the time, he fled British occupation after signing a local circulation of the Continental Association in 1775, which was a document supporting independence.

According to Frederic Mather's book, *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut*, Osborn arrived by boat in East Haddam, Connecticut in September of that year. As refugees, Long Islanders in Connecticut often applied to the Connecticut State Legislature for permission to travel across enemy lines to tend to their homes and businesses. Zebedee Osborn went through this application process more than

once, previously applying in March of 1780 to go to Long Island for flax.

By September of 1781, the war seemed to be dragging on indefinitely for many and Osborn was clearly feeling the strain of trying to support his family as a refugee. His petition focused on the financial burdens that drove him back home to a hostile situation. In his petition, Osborn indicated that his family, including his wife, three daughters, and one son, were with him at the time. In addition, he also had two milk cows, three pigs, two yearling horses, some sheep, and ten bushels each of wheat, corn, and rye. All of which were inventoried, as they needed to be transported by boat, which in some cases were basically rowboats.

Long Island would remain occupied until November of 1783, when the last British troops left the United States, but Osborn was able to return to East Hampton before the war was over, since he appears as a witness on another [deed](#) in 1782.

## 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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