

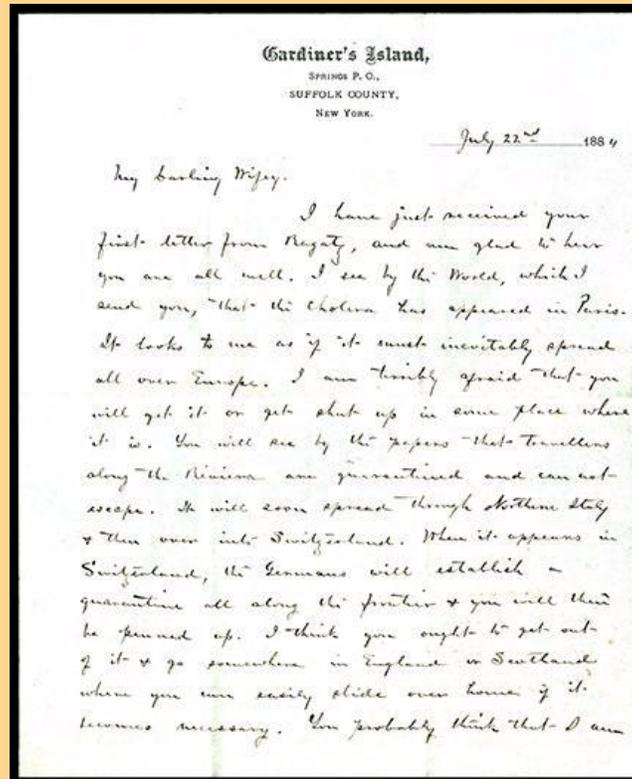


## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



### **John Lyon Gardiner to Elizabeth Coralie Jones Gardiner, Regarding a Cholera Outbreak, 1884**

Before most people travel, especially overseas, they usually take a number of precautions beforehand to ensure a pleasant and stress-free trip. This may involve researching destinations, notifying credit card companies of when and where you'll be travelling, making sure passports are valid and up-to-date, and so forth. However, taking health precautions (such as taking recommended vaccinations; securing prescriptions) is just as important today as it was in 1884 when John Lyon Gardiner, Proprietor of Gardiner's Island, wrote this letter to his wife Elizabeth Coralie Livingston Jones Gardiner regarding a possible cholera outbreak. For those unfamiliar with the disease, cholera is an acute bacterial infection of the small intestine spread through the ingestion of contaminated food or water due to poor sanitation. It can cause diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration and, if left untreated, can result in death. By 1884, cholera had already claimed the lives of millions of people across the world in a series of pandemics (epidemics over large areas) beginning in 1816. While Mrs. Gardiner was travelling abroad with the family's children, the world was experiencing its fifth cholera pandemic, which would go on to cause over 250,000 deaths in Europe alone by 1887. Understandably concerned, John sent his wife a copy of the *New York World* newspaper, which detailed cholera's appearance in Paris. He writes: *"It looks to me as if it must inevitably spread all over Europe. I am terribly afraid that you will get it and get shut up in some place where it is. You will see by the papers that travelers along the Riviera*

are quarantined and cannot escape...I think you ought to get out of it and go somewhere in England or Scotland...Never mind about the expense, money is of no account when your life is in danger." Thankfully, the family was able to return home safely.

## 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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

**The Local Artist Research Archive** is a collection of over 10,000 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, new papers, 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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