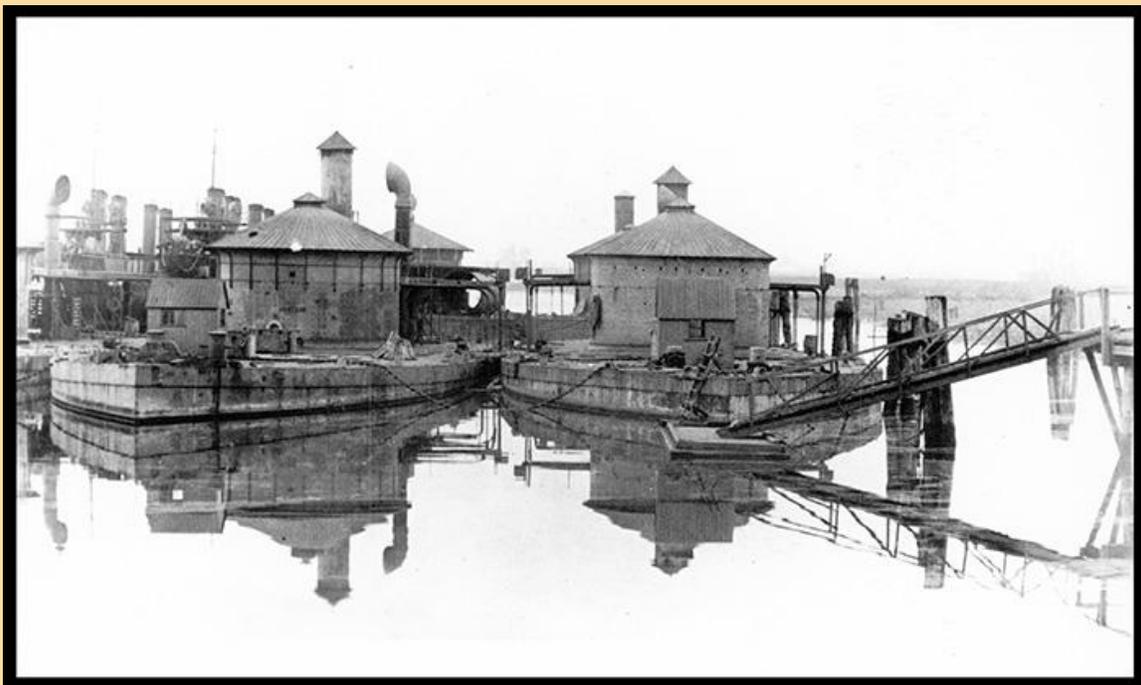




## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



### **The USS Montauk, 1902**

This photo shows the USS *Montauk* (left) alongside the USS *Lehigh* docked in Philadelphia in the League Island Navy Yard in 1902. The *Montauk* was a Civil War era ironclad monitor designed and built by John Ericsson at Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint, Brooklyn for the Union Navy in 1862. Ironclads were steam-propelled warships that were covered in iron or steel armor plates. Unlike previous warships built from wood, ironclads withstood explosive shells, allowing for close range bombardments of harbors and forts.

During the Civil War period, isolated Montauk Village had a small population, and it is speculated the Montauk Lighthouse (1796) inspired this ironclad's name. The lighthouse provided a familiar beacon for many sailors, and Southern blockade runners needed to avoid lighthouses to escape detection.

The *Montauk* departed from New York for South Carolina to join the other ships of the Atlantic Blockading Squadron on December 24th, 1862, under the command of John L. Worden. On her way to South Carolina, the *Montauk* stopped in

Washington, D.C. where President Abraham Lincoln toured it, and expressed appreciation for the new technology on board the ship.

The *Montauk* aided in the attacks on Fort McAllister in Georgia and Fort Wagner in Charleston. She later patrolled waters in North Carolina. The *Montauk* also destroyed the Confederate Navy's steamer, the CSS *Nashville*, an incident that received [coverage in local newspapers](#). When her sister ship, the USS *Monitor* sank in a storm returning to New York, the *Montauk* survived the storm intact. In 1865, the *Montauk* served as the site for the autopsy of Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth, who was shot and killed when the authorities came to arrest him. Later that year, the United States Navy decommissioned the USS *Montauk*, sending her to Philadelphia where she remained until being sold for scrap in 1904.

## 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 Mayra Scanlon, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection**

*Mayra Scanlon began working in the Long Island Collection in October 2019 as a full-time*

*Librarian/Archivist. Mayra's activities include updating the Collection's Digital Long Island database, scanning materials, and assisting patrons with a variety of research requests. A Suffolk County, Long Island native and Civil War buff, Mayra Scanlon is currently completing a dual master's degree program in History, and Library and Information Science, at Queens College, City University of New York.*

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