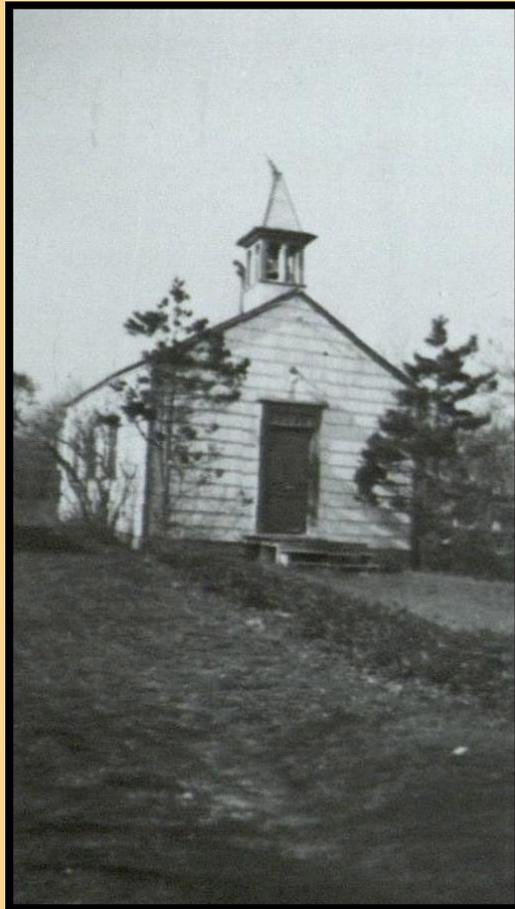




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Chapel at Freetown, East Hampton

The above chapel at Freetown, which came to be known as Freetown Chapel and later St. Matthew's Chapel, was originally located on Three Mile Harbor Road across the street from the present-day Neighborhood House. According to an 1852 indenture, John and Levina Walstein sold a 25-foot by 30-foot parcel of land to Mary R. Pell of Flushing, Queens, for a dollar, asking that a building suitable for use as a "Sabbath School Room" and/or place of "Religious or Bethel meetings" be built.

Fortunately, Mary Pell came through on her promise and a small white frame building was built on the site, providing non-denominational religious services for many years. The chapel's weekly attendees were historically comprised of three groups, the first being freed slaves. As slavery was abolished in New York State in 1827, it's believed slaves from Gardiner's Island were relocated to small homes in this area. Montaukett Indians made up the second group, having been relocated as a result of Arthur W. Benson's purchase of thousands of acres of land in Montauk. It's said Stephen Taukus ("Talkhouse") Pharaoh's funeral was held here in 1879. Lastly, many members of the Lester and Bennett families attended services, as they lived in the surrounding area.

In 1907, Freetown Chapel caught the eye of the Rev. Oscar Treder, first rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and was subsequently acquired by the parish and renamed St. Matthew's Chapel. As time

passed, more people started attending services at nearby Calvary Baptist Church or at St. Luke's itself, and the chapel fell into disuse and disrepair. Its last recorded service was held on Christmas day in 1968. In 1976, the building was moved to the Maidstone Marina boatyard for use as a mariners' chapel. Today, it serves as a gym for guests of East Hampton Point, a hotel and restaurant.

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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