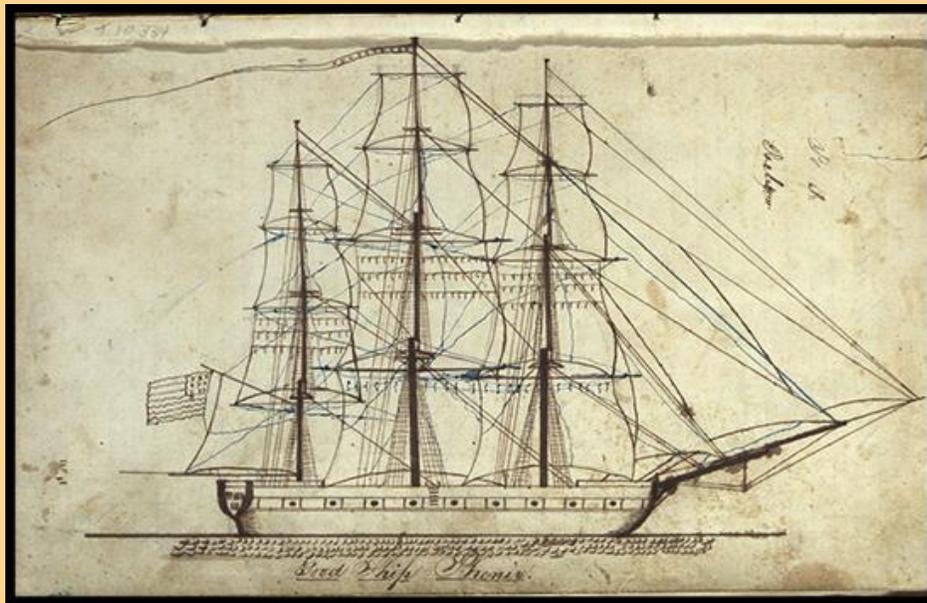




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Whaling Log of the Ship Phenix, 1844-1847, pg. 02

Did you know the Long Island Collection has over 60 original **whaling logs**? My personal favorite is the Phenix log (1844-1847), which is filled with drawings. The 314-ton ship Phenix first sailed out of Sag Harbor under the command of Captain Henry J. Green on what would be two voyages to Brazil. In 1832, Mercator Cooper became captain and took the Phenix on four voyages over the next six years. By 1838, the ship was owned by the firm of Cook & Green and captained by Samuel Percival Briggs of Southampton for the 1844-1847 voyage.

This particular log was kept by 21-year-old Philetus Foster, who lived in Riverhead as an adult, but clearly knew East Hampton well, based on the images he drew of landmarks from both villages in the whaling log. Foster would later marry Sarah A. Young in 1854, and eventually captain his own ship.

The Phenix sailed from Sag Harbor on October 10, 1844, bound for the Pacific Northwest by way of Trinidad. She returned to Sag Harbor on June 5, 1847 with 1,800 pounds of whale oil, and 8,000 pounds of whale bone. In his *History of the Town of Southampton*, James Truslow Adams recorded that the voyage made \$23,000; a mid-range profit. Two years later, the ship was sold out of state.

The Phenix's voyage was not particularly profitable or noteworthy in destination and Philetus Foster left some large gaps in his records. Yet the human element in Foster's drawings makes this log exceptional. One imagines Foster homesick or bored,

sketching places like St. Paul's Church in Manhattan, the Hawaiian and Falkland Islands, Clinton Academy, and the East Hampton Presbyterian Church from memory. When you think of Foster trying to record the places he's seen, you realize how truly amazing it must have been for Foster to journey around the world on a wooden sailing ship.

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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