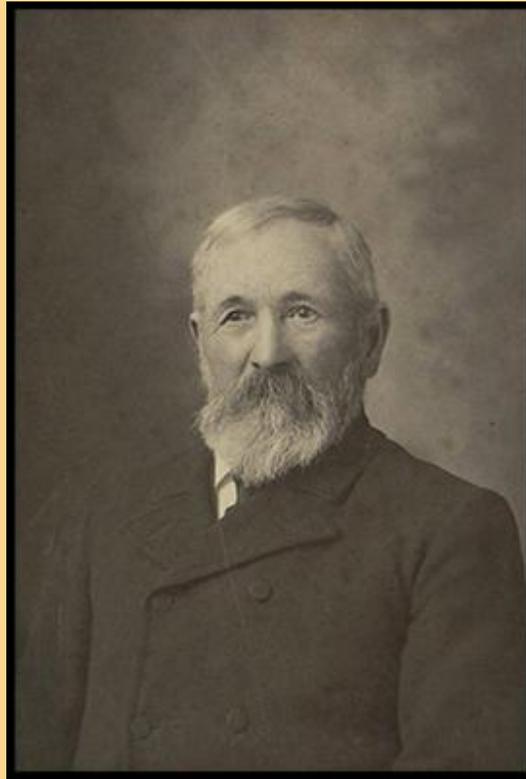




## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



### Portrait of Franklin Cooper Jessup

I casually scrolled past this image while navigating our [Digital Long Island Collection](#), but came back to it, suspecting it might contain some hidden gem. After all, you shouldn't "judge a book by its cover," right? On the surface, there's nothing particularly outstanding about the portrait; just what appears to be an older gentleman in a pea coat. However, an interesting life took place beneath the surface of this photograph.

According to some preliminary information I discovered in our library [catalog](#), this photograph of Franklin Cooper Jessup (1823-1909) was donated to the [Long Island Collection](#) by his daughter Isabel, which excitedly notes on the reverse that: "Mr. Jessup was with his Uncle Mercator Cooper on his famous voyage to Japan in the ship *Manhattan*!"

For those unfamiliar, Mercator Cooper captained the ship *Manhattan* out of Sag Harbor on a whaling voyage in 1843. In 1845, the ship rescued twenty-two shipwrecked Japanese sailors in the North Pacific and returned them to Tokyo, Japan. At the time, Japan was ruled by a military government that exercised an isolationist foreign policy that kept nearly all foreigners from entering the country for over two hundred years.

The following year, the *Manhattan* returned home and Jessup's next adventure was the California Gold Rush. In 1849, he sailed out of Greenport as a crew member on the ship *Sabina* as part of the Southampton and California Gold Mining & Trading Company. He remained there for three years before returning home to Westhampton and a life of farming.

Later, Franklin Cooper Jessup became a member of the Potunk Life Saving Station (also known as Petunk and Westhampton Beach) crew and served as keeper in 1872 and 1881-1896. According to his 1909 obituary in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, it's estimated "he saved or assisted in saving between five and six hundred lives."

## 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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