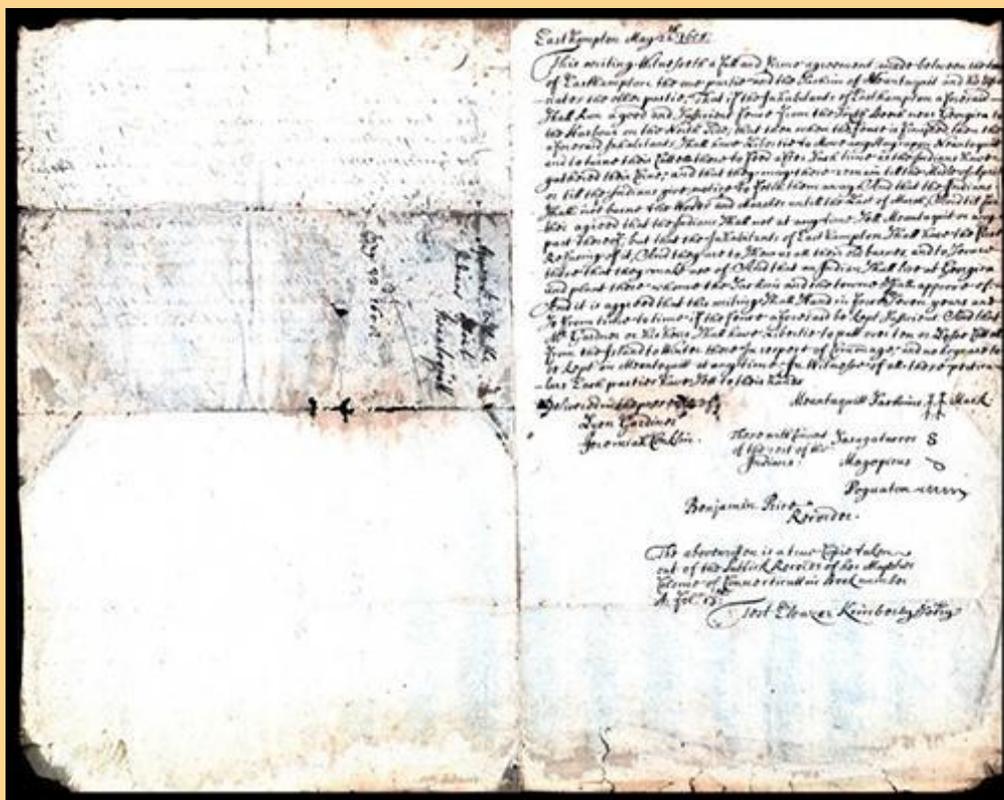




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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



Agreement on Land Use Between the Montaukett Sachem and the Town of East Hampton, 1658

Three hundred and sixty years ago this week, May 22, 1658, Lion Gardiner (spelled "Lyon" here) and the Town of East Hampton made the above agreement with Wyandanch, Sachem (or leader) of the Montaukett people. This deed offers a tangible link to the indigenous people who lived here before us, capturing hints of daily life during an early period of accommodation between the Colonists and the Montauketts, who used the land differently.

When multiple people use the same space for separate activities without a shared language, it's not surprising conflicts arise. A series of compromises were made in this deed by Lion Gardiner, Jeremiah Conkling, Wyandanch, and his three Montaukett witnesses, Sasugararros, Magopitus, and Ponguaton. Benjamin Price, the "recorder" for the East Hampton Colonists offered English alphabet spellings for Montaukett names and pictograph signatures. Wyandanch's stick figures signature can be seen. At the bottom, a note indicates another copy exists in the records of Connecticut

Colony, which had jurisdiction over East Hampton until 1664.

A key part to this agreement was controlling the Colonists' cattle, which the Montaukett people didn't want wandering through their cornfields during the growing season. Among the multiple compromises, the Colonists agreed to fence their cattle from "the South Beach near Georgica to the Harbor on the North Side," and to abide by seasonal limits on free roaming cattle. In return, the Montauketts agreed to a seasonal limit on burning swamps, and permitted English cattle to graze in an area near present-day Wainscott. Additionally, the Montauketts promised East Hampton Colonists the right to have the first chance to buy the Montauk Peninsula if the Montauketts ever decided to sell.

This brief moment of coexistence was temporary and transitional. Within the agreement's seven years, Wyandanch would die (possibly poisoned), England would return to monarchy, and East Hampton would become part of the Colony of New York, ending this period of diplomacy.

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.

andrea@easthamptonlibrary.org | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | www.easthamptonlibrary.org

