

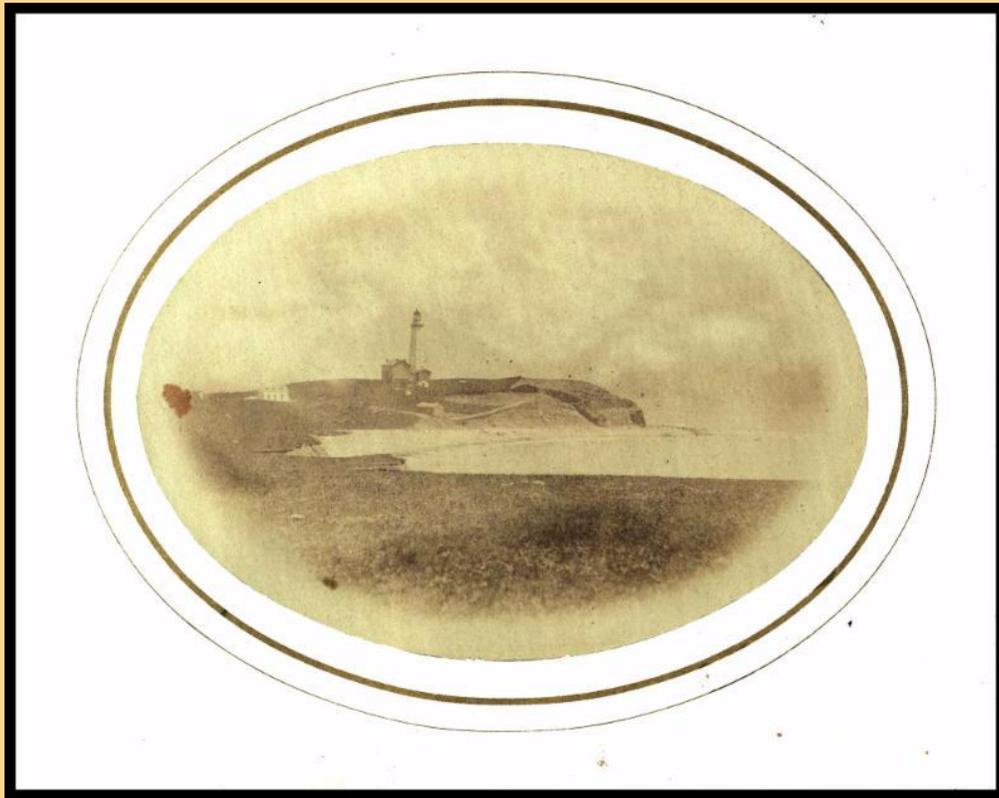


Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Montauk Lighthouse and Montauk Point, c. 1860-1880

More often than not, we come across items here in the Long Island Collection that are undated (which might include a letter, a photograph, or a newspaper clipping). When this happens, we become detectives and try our best to decipher the clues we have in front of us. Sometimes we're successful and sometimes we're just, well, stumped. Take the image above, for example, which is a familiar scene to most who have spent time out here on the East End: the Montauk Point Lighthouse. Obviously, the image appears quite old with its sepia tones. But how old? Would you say 20th century? Perhaps it's older than that. When I showed this image to Montauk Point Lighthouse historian and author, Henry Osmers, he was of the belief that it was taken in the 1870s. A similar framed image of the **Montaukett people** found in the collection has suggested dates of 1878. This past April, Long Island Collection librarian and archivist, Andrea Meyer, had the opportunity to attend the Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference in New Jersey, where she was able to attend a photo dating workshop. She brought a selection of photographs from the collection, including this one. The image was examined by photo archivist Gary Saretzky, who dated it to approximately 1860 to 1870, due to the gold circle frame (which was an 1860s motif) and the thickness of the paper (which suggests a much earlier photograph). The information received was quite illuminating and I think we learned to not just observe the content of a photograph, but its physical nature as well.

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!



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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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