

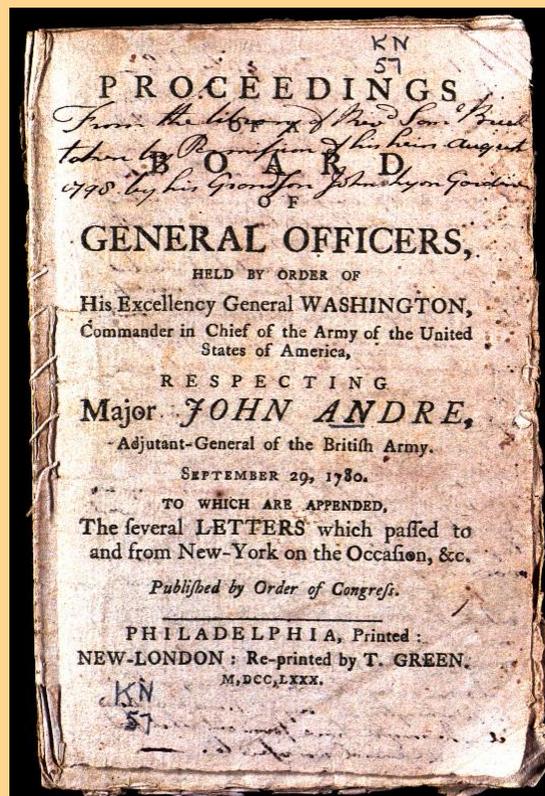


## Item of the Week *from the Long Island Collection*

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



### Proceedings of the Board of General Officers Respecting Major Andre, September 29, 1780

Many remember Benedict Arnold as the most infamous traitor in American history. While a general with the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, he sought to surrender his command of fortifications at West Point, NY, to the British. However, his plot was exposed in late September 1780, when British Major John André was captured by militiamen near Tarrytown, NY, carrying documents written by Arnold that explained how the British could overtake the fort. As a result, Arnold defected to the British army where he was commissioned as a brigadier general. André, meanwhile, was promptly hanged as a spy by the Continental Army the following month. How does this all relate to Long Island? The above pamphlet concerning John André's trial was owned by the Rev. Samuel Buell, an East Hampton minister. As per the notation written at the top, the pamphlet was taken "with permission" from Buell's library in 1795 by his grandson John Lyon Gardiner, proprietor of Gardiner's Island. On a blank page just inside the front of the pamphlet, John Lyon Gardiner remarked how British General Sir Henry Clinton, who occupied the Colonel Abraham Gardiner house (which is currently the home of the Ladies' Village Improvement Society at 95 Main St.) during the war, was accompanied by John André on a visit to East Hampton in August 1780. A woman who lived in Gardiner's household overheard André say, "If he must go, he would, but he did not expect ever to return" (it was later assumed that he was referring to West Point). Another woman, perhaps a mistress to Colonel Simcoe, said to

Gardiner's wife, "One of your forts is to be delivered up to us soon by one of your generals" (another reference to West Point and Benedict Arnold). It's fascinating to contemplate the historical connection the Gardiner family of East Hampton had to John André and Benedict Arnold's infamous act of treason. *Click the link under the image to view the entire pamphlet, as well as a transcript of the handwritten remarks by John Lyon Gardiner.*

## 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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

**The Local Artist Research Archive** is a collection of over 10,000 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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