

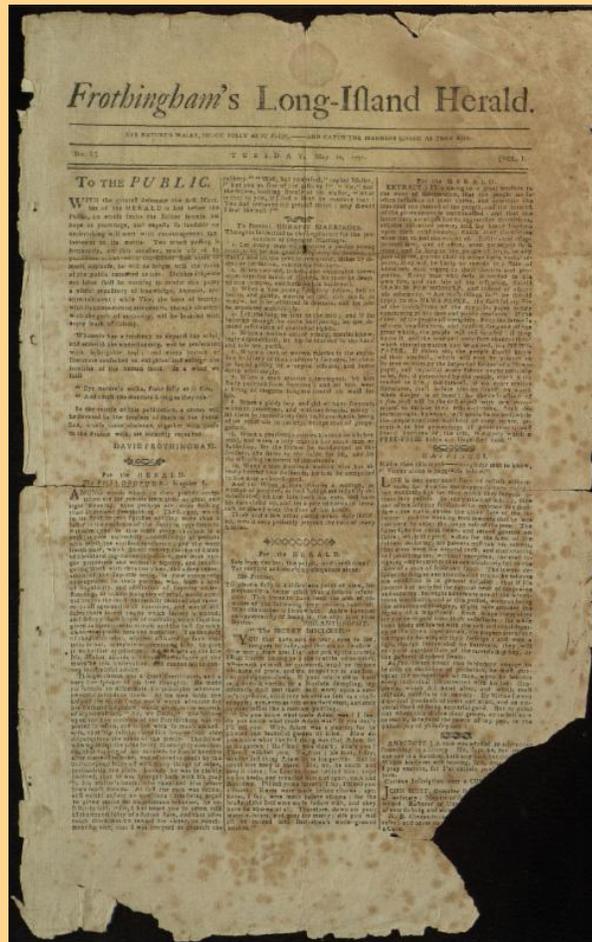


Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Long Island Herald, Vol. 1, No. 1, May 10, 1791

Did you know that David Frothingham was Long Island's first printer? Born in 1765 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, Frothingham and his wife, Nancy T. Pell, moved to Sag Harbor in 1791 and opened a printing office, book store, and book bindery on Main Street near the Annie Cooper Boyd house. While there, Frothingham printed Long Island's first newspaper, the Long Island Herald (see above), on May 10, 1791. The paper existed during the Federalist Era in American history, which is most known for the acceptance of the U.S. Constitution, the strengthening of the federal government, and the moving of the nation's capital to Washington, D.C. It was also during this time that it became a crime to make false statements against the federal government, which was enacted as part of the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. This is where David Frothingham becomes entangled in an unfortunate situation. Perhaps drawn by the politics of the time, Frothingham went to New York to become a printer for the Argus, a leading Republican newspaper. In 1799, the Argus reprinted part of a letter implicating Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and

member of the Federalist Party, in a scheme to suppress the Republican newspaper Aurora by purchasing it with funds secretly received from a British envoy. Upon reading this, Alexander Hamilton wasted no time in accusing David Frothingham of seditious libel, for which he was soon prosecuted. He was found guilty, fined, and sentenced to four months at Bridewell Prison. Unfortunately, not much is known about what happened to David Frothingham after this time. He never returned to Sag Harbor, leaving behind his wife, who ran the Long Island Herald until 1802, and their children. It's been argued that he escaped jail and fled to Africa, died at sea, or was taken out west and murdered. There is a stone for him in Oakland Cemetery in Sag Harbor, but he is not there.

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 wedding 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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