

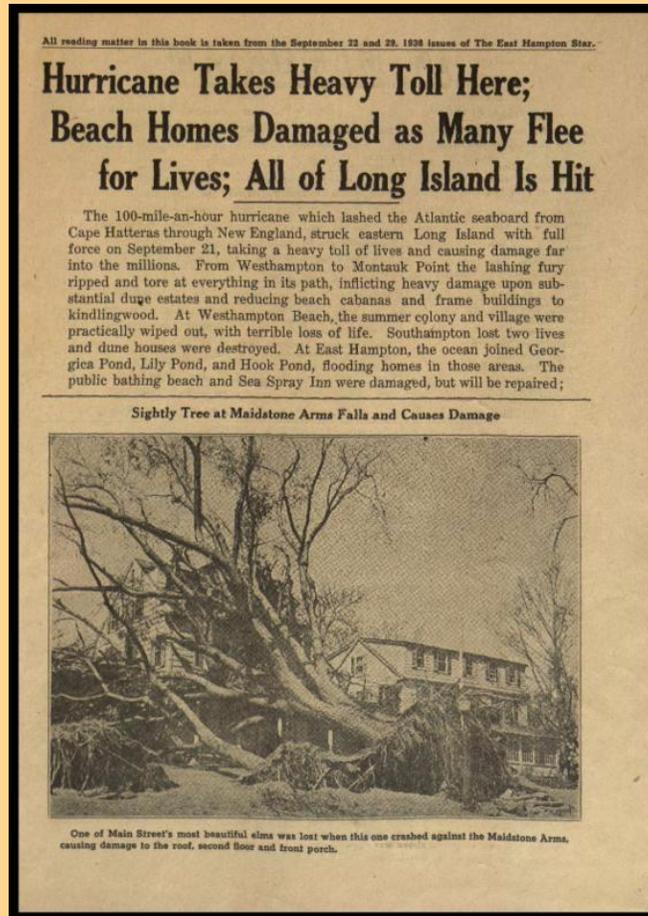


Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Hurricane Memorial Booklet, September 21, 1938 (pg. 4)

This year marks the 79th anniversary of the devastating 1938 New England Hurricane (also known as the Great New England Hurricane and the Long Island Express), which was the most powerful and destructive hurricane to strike New England in recorded history. The storm originally formed out of a tropical cyclone near the Cape Verde Islands (an archipelago off the northwest coast of Africa) on September 9, 1938. While moving westward across the Atlantic Ocean, it developed into a Category 5 hurricane as it approached Bermuda. However, it abruptly turned north and traveled up along the Eastern Seaboard at a rate as high as 70 mph. Due to the lack of meteorological technology at the time, the U.S. Weather Bureau (currently the National Weather Service) was unable to provide Long Island residents with much advanced warning of the hurricane. As a result, many were caught unaware as the storm made its first landfall near Bellport at approximately 2:30 p.m. during high tide on September 21st. As a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds of 121 mph, gusts of 183 mph and 15-foot storm surges, the East End of Long Island bore the brunt of the storm. Westhampton's Dune Road lost 150 beach houses (which were either destroyed or swept out to sea by storm surge and 40-ft.

waves), Montauk briefly became an island when ocean water flooded over the South Fork at Napeague (destroying the railroad tracks), and according to the Hurricane Memorial Booklet published by the East Hampton Star (see above), the ocean joined Georgica Pond, Lily Pond, and Hook Pond, destroying the homes in those areas. The human cost was also high as many people drowned, were killed by uprooted trees and flying debris, or were electrocuted by downed power lines. By 4 p.m., the hurricane reached Connecticut and eventually Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, killing 600-800 people in its wake. To learn more about the New England Hurricane of 1938 and how it affected the East End, please click the [link](#) to see what's available in both the Library and Long Island Collection's catalogs. If you're curious to see how the hurricane physically affected East Hampton, please visit [Digital Long Island](#) to view our images.

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, new papers, 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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