Long Island (NY) & the War of 1812
A Short, Classified Bibliography
Compiled by Mark Rothenberg

General


Covers the war years, and includes a good deal of material related to Long Island, to American and British activities on L.I., in its waters, and within its vicinity. Requires a bit of digging, but is fortunately indexed.


Military Minutes of the Council of Appointment of the State of New York, 1783-1821, v.2. comp. & ed. by Hugh Hastings, State Historian. Albany, NY: J.B. Lyon, State Printer, 1901: 1284-1286 [Suffolk County, February 4, 1812], 1298 [Suffolk County. Artillery. 1812], 1298 [Kings County. Artillery. 1812], 1320 [Suffolk County. Lt. Col. Isaac Satterly's Regt. 1812], 1343-1344 [Queens County. Brig. Gen. Jacob S. Jackson's Brigade. 1812], 1344 [King’s County. Lt. Col. Jeremiah Johnson's Regt. 1812], 1400-1409 [New York Military Index: Officers of the Militia, July 4, 1812: A Record of the Number of Each Division of Infantry of This State, the Names of the Respective Commanders Thereof, and Their Places of Residence], 1428-29 [Suffolk County. Several Formations. 1813], 1435 [Suffolk County. 2nd Cav. Regt. 3rd Sqdn. 1813], 1445 [Kings County. 64th Regt. 1814], 1445-1446 [Queens County. 93rd Regt. 1814], 1447 [Suffolk County. 80th Regt. 1814], 1491 [Horse Artillery. 2nd Regt. raised in Queens County], 1494 [Suffolk County. 2nd Regt. of Horse Arty. 1814], 1500 [Kings County. 22nd Inf. Brigade. 1814], 1535-1536 [Peace breaks out, new
Council of Appointment included Jonathan Dayton of Suffolk and 3 members from upstate N.Y.

**African-American Participation**

**Soldiers for Liberty: African American Freedom Fighters** (Long Island University. C.W. Post Campus. B. Davis Schwartz Memorial Library. Wars)

http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/aaffsfl.htm#1812

**Babylon, N.Y.**


Adventures of Capt. David Porter, his successes, defeat, capture, parole, eluding of the British blockade off Fire Is., arrival at Babylon, and strange triumphal procession to NYC.


Recounts Capt. David Porter's decision to escape, since he regarded his parole violated by the British commander of the *Essex, Jr.*, the pursuit that followed, to Fire Island and into Great South Bay, and Porter's arrival in Babylon, N.Y. Also records his correspondence with U.S. Navy Secretary and U.S. Commissary General of Prisoners to confirm that his decision was correct. "A Hero's Welcome", the section *Ibid*, pp. 760-764, includes information on Porter's triumphal reception in New York City, a portrait of Porter, p. 761, and an editorial account in the *Columbian*, of the Loss of the *USS Essex*, pp. 760, 762-764.

**Blue Point, N.Y.**  [+ Bellport, N.Y. & Old Inlet, Fire Is.]

Bridgehampton, N.Y.


Brookhaven (N.Y. : Town)


Includes references to slave manumissions, obstructions to navigation, dock rights & public rights-of-way on the North and South shores, construction and blocking off highways and roads (in Patchogue, from Patchogue to Coram, from Middle Island to Daniel Swezey's Landing, from N. Country Road to a large private dock in Stony Brook, laying out of Old Pine Neck Road, between the Coram & Horse Block roads, and in the fireplace [i.e., Brookhaven village]), elections of Town, State, and Federal officials, ordinances & fines for stealing sand or clams from Town beaches and shores, fish as well as fish and wild fowl, and keeping rams and swine from running rampant on the commons, establishment of 23 public school districts in the Town, followed by the first public alteration (or gerrymandering) of district lines.


Drawn from the Brookhaven Town Records, 1812-1815, entries fall under the following themes: Brookhaven Slave Manumissions During the War of 1812 (name, date freed, prior owners); No Discommode of Public Navigation: A Frame for the Great South Bay, May 5, 1812; Only You Can Prevent Battering Rams!, June 2, 1812; School Districts Arrive, November 3, 1813 (3 slides); Merchants Call for Establishment of a Town Bank: Specie Shortage Spoonerism, January 3, 1815 (printing local money).

Brooklyn, N.Y.


When Capt. David Porter of USS Essex (at the Brooklyn Navy Yard), ordered his crew to declare a loyalty oath to the U.S., sailmaker, John Erving refused, claiming
British citizenship. At this, the crew asked their captain to tar and feather the culprit. Porter approved, and Erving was rowed to shore, half dressed, wearing the new attire. A flurry of letters ensued.

**Causes – Impressment**


**Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.**  [*U.S.S. Arrow*, steam brig]


**Diplomatic Aspects**


**Fire Island, N.Y.**

Bayles, Thomas R. "'Captain Joe', Schooner Captain" (Footnotes of L.I. History). *Patchogue Advance*, September 16 1948: [?].

*Captain Joseph Robinson of East Patchogue, N.Y.'s narrow escapes, running the inlets,* in plying his cordwood trade with NYC, in the face of the British blockade, sometimes in tandem with other captains.


2 paragraphs (at bottom of 1st column & top of 2nd column)

**Fishers Island, N.Y.**

Forts & Fortifications


Entries are not restricted to the War of 1812 years, nor to Long Island, but include both, as well as brief descriptions. Some forts saw service in more than one war, or had been built, rebuilt or renovated on the site of an earlier fort or fortification. Long Island's War of 1812 forts sometimes take time to locate. There is a separate [greater] New York City section, which includes forts of Brooklyn and Queens. This is the prime source on the topic.


Gardiners Island, N.Y.


Note: The pages cited cover only the War of 1812, and represents only part of the larger article (pp. 61-77). That article, in turn, originally was published in the Magazine of American History, 13(1) January 1885: [?].

Huntington (N.Y. : Town)


These pages include transcriptions of entries in the Town records made during the course of the war, mainly in 1813.

Legends


On the presence of Thomas Masterman Hardy not only off L.I. in this war, but reputed in the American Revolution.

Medical Aspects (Civilian)


Local wartime and post-war medicine, and charges of Dr. Joel Griffing, then of Setauket.

Mobilization, American


U.S. Senator John Smith (1755-1816), of Mastic's letters to a Smithtown constituent and acquaintance illustrate his reluctant last shift to support of the war, as 1812 progressed.

Naval & Amphibious Operations

Bayles, Thomas R. “War of 1812 Blockades” (Footnotes to L.I. History). Patchogue Advance, [?, 194?): p. [?].


Includes scattered material relating to events, personalities, ships, raids and landings, related to Long Island.


This series includes scattered material relating to Long Island events, personalities, ships, stores forts, arsenals, raids and landings, and diplomacy, and official correspondence.


**Long Island Sound**


U.S. Commodore Stephen Decatur's attempt to run commerce raiders, from New York, via Hell Gate, past the guarded eastern straits of L.I. Sound, into the Atlantic, past the British squadron.


Northville, N.Y.


Describes 2 skirmishes in the Northville area, and one in the Wading River coastal area of L.I., along the L.I. Sound.

Orient, N.Y.


Orient was then known as Oysterponds. The author was curator of the Oysterponds Historical Society Museum.

"Mrs. Latham Reminiscent: She was Seven Years Old When the War of 1812 Began: Born in Orient 93 Years Ago: What She Remembers of the British Raids on the East End of the Island; The Sturdy Old Long Island Matron Still Hale and Hearty -- Her Grand-daughter the Winner of the Demerest Gold Medal." *Brooklyn Eagle*, May 10, 1896: 29.

Patchogue, N.Y.


Poquatuck, N.Y. *see also Oyster Ponds, or Orient, N.Y.*

"Valiant Enemies: British Sailors Released Crew of American Vessel in 1812." [no
Neutral ground, Seizure of Captain Elisha Rackett's 15 ton Oyster Ponds coastal trading vessel, Liberty, and its crew off the East End, a British trading visit to Poquatuck, a mother's appeal ("Aunt Hettie" Rackett) for release of her son, a rebuff, assent, and release of vessel and crew.

**Port Jefferson, N.Y.**


Contains a paragraph (beginning at bottom of column 1), of a 1 cannon battery at Tinker's Point, that failed to stop a British raid on the shipping in Port Jeff Harbor. After that ineffective show, it became known by locals as Fort Nonsense.


Refers to British "cutting out" raid on Port Jefferson Harbor, seizing 7 schooners, driving 1 aground, driven off by the Tinker's point battery. Also mentions John Paul Jones' use of the harbor to "careen" and clean his ship's bottom (probably in the American Revolution).

**Eagle, 1809** (United States Coast Guard)


Recounts, "In 1814 the British vessels *Pomona* and *Dispatch*, arriving off Setauket harbor, sent seven barges into Drown Meadow Bay [i.e., Port Jefferson Bay], where they captured the vessels *Two Friends*, *Hope*, *Herald*, and *Mercantile*, and burned the *Oneida*, which were all anchored in the bay."

**Riverhead (N.Y. : Town)**

Records audits of the accounts of the Riverhead Town Overseers of the Poor (4/13/1813 and 4/1/1814); a Town meeting, mainly concerned with and involving public votes on measures concerning support of the poor and of the school districts, and bidding out the services of 8 impoverished individuals, with 3 "Justices of the peas" present (4/6/1813); and another Town meeting with votes on support for the poor (4/5/1814).


These include a special meeting (with war-related resolutions), and elections of town officials.

**Sag(g) Harbor, N.Y.** [U.S. Customs Port]


"Copy of the Roster of Soldiers Stationed at Sag Harbor, Under the Command of Major Benjamin Case, in War of 1812-1815." In Suffolk County Historical Society. Register, 10(2) Fall 1984: 29-38.


The fort, and its arsenal, were defended by the 4th NY Artillery Regiment, under Maj. John Jermain.
Letters and Notes from Various Government Officials Concerning the Arsenal at Sag Harbor, 1809-1816. Albany, N.Y.: [s.n.], 1809-1816.

Plan No. 1 Barrack for 25 Men. Sag Harbor, NY: [s.n.], [1812?]


Sag Harbor in the War of 1812 In "Early Sag Harbor", an address delivered before the Society, Feb. 4, 1896 (Sag Harbor Historical Society)

http://longislandgenealogy.com/sag1812.html


Situation of Fortifications, Harbor and Surrounding Heights: Plan No. 2. Sag Harbor, NY: [s.n.], 1812?


Sands Point, N.Y.


Briefly recounts West Point trained Abraham Lyson Sands's service as a recruiter, later as aide-de-camp to Andrew Jackson, during his invasion of Spanish West Florida.


Setauket, N.Y. [Washington Benevolent Society]

**Shelter Island (N.Y. : Town)**


**Slave Manumissions – Brookhaven (N.Y. : Town)**


Summary of Brookhaven Town Records, June 1812-Feb. 1815, listing 8 individuals, their

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Date Freed</th>
<th>Prior Owner(s) / Requestor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betty</td>
<td>1812, June 2</td>
<td>Philips Roe [last slave freed in Brookhaven prior to the war]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>1813, April 6</td>
<td>Jonas Hawkins, Jr. &amp; Thomas S. Mount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killis</td>
<td>1813, September 7</td>
<td>Samuel Thompson, dec'd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamer</td>
<td>1814, March 1</td>
<td>Hannah Woodhull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killis</td>
<td>1814, March 1</td>
<td>Thomas Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>1814, March 1</td>
<td>Theophilus Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margett</td>
<td>1814, May 4</td>
<td>Robert Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juleanor</td>
<td>1814, September 6</td>
<td>Wessel Sell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recorded Births in to Slavery, in Brookhaven Town, During the War of 1812.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>1812, October 3</td>
<td>Col[one]l. Nicoll Floyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>1812, October 20</td>
<td>Theophilus Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriet</td>
<td>1813, January 3</td>
<td>Ruth Thompson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip</td>
<td>1813, March 15</td>
<td>Richard Robinson</td>
<td>Mother's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanny</td>
<td>1813, April 4</td>
<td>Theophilus Smith</td>
<td>Abandoned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedro</td>
<td>1813, May 3</td>
<td>Mary Robert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan[ny].</td>
<td>1813, November 9</td>
<td>William Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabellah</td>
<td>1814, January 7</td>
<td>Mary Robert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>1814, March 1</td>
<td>Nicoll Floyd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel [Jayne]</td>
<td>1814, September 9</td>
<td>General John Smith</td>
<td>[Or, mother's]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>1814, October 12</td>
<td>Mary Robert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamer</td>
<td>1814, November 29</td>
<td>Nicoll Floyd</td>
<td>Mother's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Southampton, N.Y.**


"Islanders Recapture Sloop" (Footnotes of History). *Patchogue Advance*, January 6, 1949: [?].

Taken from, 95 year old William R. Howell's recollections, originally printed as, "Story of the Recapture of the Sloop Mary Anne Caroline." *Brooklyn Eagle*, April 11, 1895: 7.

**Southold, N.Y.**

Horton, Mrs. Roland C. “Southold Farm was Bombarded.” *Long Island Forum*, 17(6) July 1955: 120.

Phoebe Mulford and a British raid outside Southold.


**Submarine Warfare**


Facsimiles of Robert Fulton's original color drawings and his August 1806 manuscript *On Submarine Navigation and Attack*.


**Stephen Decatur**, by Tocarra Derrickson ([Intercom.net](http://www.intercom.net/local/school/sdms/global/decatur.html))

**Suffolk County, N.Y.**

Wading River, N.Y.


Describes 2 skirmishes in the Northville area, and one in the Wading River coastal area of L.I., along the L.I. Sound.

Weather


One of the coldest winters in local memory, in 1814, emphasizing Stony Brook.