

Patchogue Library Was Started Back in 1883

BY
ELAINE PHIPPS

A group of subscribers met June 12, 1883 to organize the Patchogue Library Association, seeking donations of money; \$5.00 to become a member of the Association and \$1.00 to become a "subscriber for books." By August the library was in operation, and as an association continued active for 16 years until late in 1899.

The following excerpt is from the minutes of the final meeting of the association on October 28, 1899: "Proposal was received from Sorosis to take charge of books of library for one year. After that, the library to be under charge of Regents and if funds can be voted for to support the library at the next annual school meeting, to be raised by tax, then library to be continued and if not, all books, to be returned to library association. Mr. J. C. Mills offered the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Hammond! 'Resolved, that the trustees of Patchogue Library Association have an inventory taken of all the books, maps, magazines and fixtures belonging to said association and that the trustees of said library association are hereby authorized to loan to the ladies of the Patchogue Sorosis all of the above property, to be kept by them as a part of a free Library, for a term of one year and after the expiration of one year the books and other property to be returned to the library association. Unless a free library shall be established under the state Regents Law and a payment of a sum of money be voted by the people of the School District for its maintenance.' Resolution carried unanimously."

The first minute book of The Patchogue Library begins with the statement: "At the annual school meeting of school district No. 24 Town of Brookhaven, held August 7, 1900 it was voted to maintain a free library according to the rules and regulations of the Regents of the University of the State of New York. The following trustees of the library were elected, Elizabeth Mott Smith, Walter H. Jaycox, Wellington E. Gordon, D. Gertrude Brundage, Frank Overton."

The newly elected trustees met immediately, to draw lots to determine the length of the term of office of each trustee. At the same meeting officers were also elected with draw lots to determine the length of the term of office of each trustee. At the same meeting officers were also elected with Mrs. Elizabeth Mott Smith unanimously elected as president of the board of trustees, Frank Overton, secretary, W. E. Gordon, treasurer. The secretary was instructed to apply immediately to the Regents of the University of the State of New York for a charter of incorporation. W. E. Gordon and Frank Overton were appointed a committee to secure a librarian. The charter for the new library was signed and became effective at 3:30 p.m. December 20, 1900. Marion Brundage was appointed first librarian.

The next step came in August 1905 at the annual meeting of the Patchogue School district when the following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, Andrew Carnegie Esq. has offered to build a \$10,000 library building in the village of Patchogue on condition that the land for the same be furnished and \$1,000 be appropriated each year for the maintenance of the library and the Honorable Edwin Bailey having donated the land, Be it resolved that the amount appropriated for the public library be increased from \$600 to \$1,000 and thereby secure for the Village of Patchogue an Andrew Carnegie Library."

The building was completed

and dedication held March 2, 1908. Because the cost of the building was greater than anticipated the board applied to Mr. Carnegie for an additional \$5,000. This was granted on condition that the funds for the library be increased to \$1,500 per year.

Mrs. Marion Brundage Dodge became first librarian, then Mrs. Edith Terry Mills, and Miss Claire Sumner was third. By 1914 it was decided that the time had come to hire a professional librarian, and the board hired Mrs. Alma D. Custead, a student at the New York Library.

In 1917 Miss Rosetta Terry became a member of the board of trustees and served for 47 years until her resignation in 1964. From 1932 to 1964 she was the president during a period when the library became increasingly important to the community.

Mrs. Custead served as librarian from 1914 until illness forced her retirement in 1945. It was during this period that the library had its very great growth and developed an outstanding basic collection. In 1923 the library hired Miss Lois Conklin as assistant librarian to take charge of children's work. During this period, also, plans were discussed and attempts were made to enlarge the building because the library had outgrown its quarters. However, nothing further could be done until the mid 1950's.

Mrs. Custead was succeeded by Mrs. Muriel Wiggins who was serving as assistant librarian. She was appointed full time director and continued as librarian until 1952 when she retired.

In her place the board of trustees hired Miss Elaine Phipps, the present director of the library who has held the post since that time.

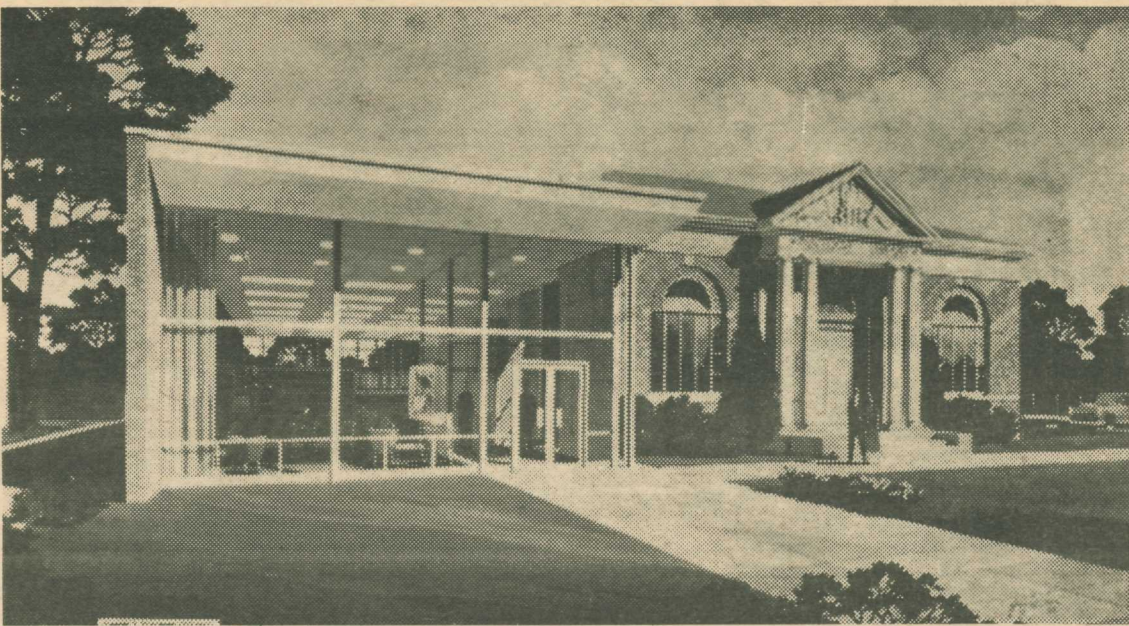
Because the library had reached its capacity in so far as books were concerned, and because there was too little study and work space the question of expansion again was brought up. An addition was planned and voted on by the voters of the school district on November 18, 1955. By early 1958 the addition had been completed and dedication was held March 2, 1958, exactly 50 years after the dedication of the original building.

The completion of the addition came at a very fortuitous time, since it coincided with the tremendous increase in population which started about the mid '50's. It also provided a space to expand the book collection and work tables for study when colleges were being established in Suffolk County.

Larger quarters also necessitated a larger staff, and one of the first to be hired was a professional librarian who was charged with the responsibility of building up and servicing the reference collection. Because of the lack of space for a larger addition and because the growth in population could be foreseen, but not at that time accurately predicted, the architect planned the addition for a 10 year period.

Now, 13 years later the library is again faced with a crisis in space. From the original 475 volumes the library grew to a collection of 24,000 volumes by 1955, and, in a building designed to house 50,000 volumes the library now owns a collection of over 85,000 books.

The circulation, one of the ways by which the library can measure usage, has increased from, under 95,000 in 1955 to almost 225,000 during the year 1970. The trustees are now faced with the problem of deciding on the best way to provide for future growth of the library to keep pace with a community that is still growing, and it is obvious that this must be done soon.



Addition to Patchogue Library dedicated 1958

Patch. Name

(Continued from page 5)

Indian names derived from the Indian who formerly erected his wigwam there. I can quote numerous examples of this fact. Paushag may take his name from the neck where he lived, as is sometimes the case, or vice versa, as is more often the fact. I have been unable to locate him on Patchogue neck and must remark that he and his name may not have any connection whatever with the name under discussion; for in this instance, as the name is a common one, occurring in the same forms and designating necks of land and rivers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we must accept it as a place name and not a personal one.

The variations in spelling are, Pochoug, 1758; Pochog, 1759; Patchogue, 1825. The prefix patch, poch, pach, or paush, Delaware, pach; Massachusetts, pohsh or paush) signifies "to turn aside", "to divide", "to split," which together with its locative terminal-auke, "land or place, gives us Patch auke, "the turning place"; or "the turning aside place"; perhaps "a locality between two streams". Why the name was so bestowed on the Long Island neck we perhaps shall never learn. I conclude it was the turning place of the canoes when they went from one place to another around the neck of land. The name in many instances denotes a boundary mark, i.e. "a turning aside place" and when so used it enters into the composition of many compound words; for instance, we find the name Shachip-pitche in one of the Indian deeds of Montauk (1670) which analysis shows, is compounded as follows: N'Shau-chipp-pack-auke, "the midway part turning aside place," or freely, "the midway place of separation."

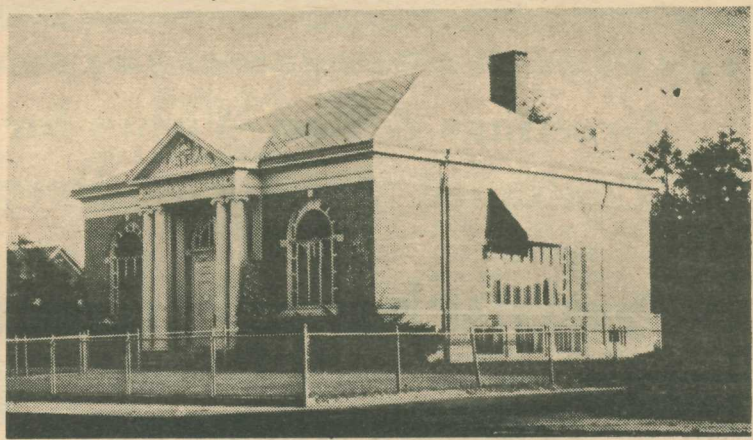
Finally the same name (Pauchogue) occurs as the name of a creek (the first one west of Nicolls Point) in the town of Islip, on an early map of the Nicoll patent, a copy of which is in my possession. It is possible that this stream takes its name from the point of land, as the point is between two creeks, and is naturally "a turning place".

Trusting this answer to your questions will serve your purpose.

I am very truly yours,
Wm. Wallace Tooker.

Ed. note: The postscript was also written in 1896.

This information is from the highest authority. Mr. Tooker has spent a large part of his life in studying the Indian names on Long Island and in collecting relics of the Indian habitation. His collection is far and away the largest and finest on the island. It was recently exhibited at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, at 174 Montague Street in that city, and attracted wide attention. The Institute is now negotiating for the purchase of the valuable curios, which include arrow heads, domestic



PATCHOGUE LIBRARY, built in 1908 as it appeared in 1936 on Lake Street.

Patchogue Methodism Began In 1791 in West Section

The beginnings of Methodism of America date back officially to the Christmas Conference held in Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, Md. December 24, 1784. Seven years later, in 1791, Methodism had its official beginning in the Patchogue community. Names that have been common to this village from that day to this, names like Wicks, Tuttle, Mott and Webb, were included in the charter membership of the Methodist Society.

The original meeting place was the old Tuttle homestead on the east side of Atlantic Avenue, Blue Point, immediately south of the present junction of Weeks Street. From the Tuttle home the organizers moved the church to its first official building which was situated on the corner of Main Street and Waverly Avenue, Patchogue, and was shared with the local Baptists, Congregational and Presbyterian denominations. Each of the groups, under their agreement, was to use the building one quarter of the time, which created no problem for the Methodists since their circuit-riding, itinerant pastor rarely arrived for preaching services more often than once a month.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Baptist and Presbyterian churches moved out of the building, and by 1830

utensils, pipes, fish-hooks, ornaments, and many other articles.

Mr. Tooker is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the Anthropological Society of Washington, D.C., a corresponding member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and of numerous historical societies. His researches for the origin and meaning of the word, Patchogue, ought to decide its derivation for all time.

Our cycling friends have the right idea. They look forward to Patchogue as "the turning place" in their century runs".

the Methodist Society had sold their share to the Congregational group so they could commence building their own church on a piece of property donated to them by Jonas Wicks, and situated diagonally across the street on the southeast corner of Main Street and River Avenue.

The Methodist group continued to worship on this site until 1854 when they purchased land on the southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Church Street in Patchogue and built a place of worship, dedicated in June of that year and used until 1890 when the present church site on South Ocean and Church Street was purchased and a brick structure erected. On June 1, 1890, Bishop Andrews, then presiding Bishop of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, preached its service of dedication. The following year the New York East Conference held its annual session in Patchogue's new sanctuary thus marking the first time that the conference meeting had been held on Long Island outside the limits of Brooklyn.

The itinerant pastor of 1791, Benjamin Abbott, could probably not have envisioned the tremendous force he was unleashing in the Patchogue community. Over the years since he arrived the people called, "Methodists" have worshiped in private homes, school houses, the old Oak Grove Meeting grounds, and in the finishing room of the Jonas Wicks paper mill. They have financed the building of four separate church buildings and effectively employed 23 ordained ministers since 1887.

In 1964 they erected and dedicated another religious education wing to their present house of worship. Together with their sister churches in the village of Patchogue they have struggled through good times and bad to provide the generations of men who have passed through here the challenge, the comfort, and the conditions of love that are the ingredients of the good life for all men.

APRIL 1, 1971

100th ANNIVERSARY

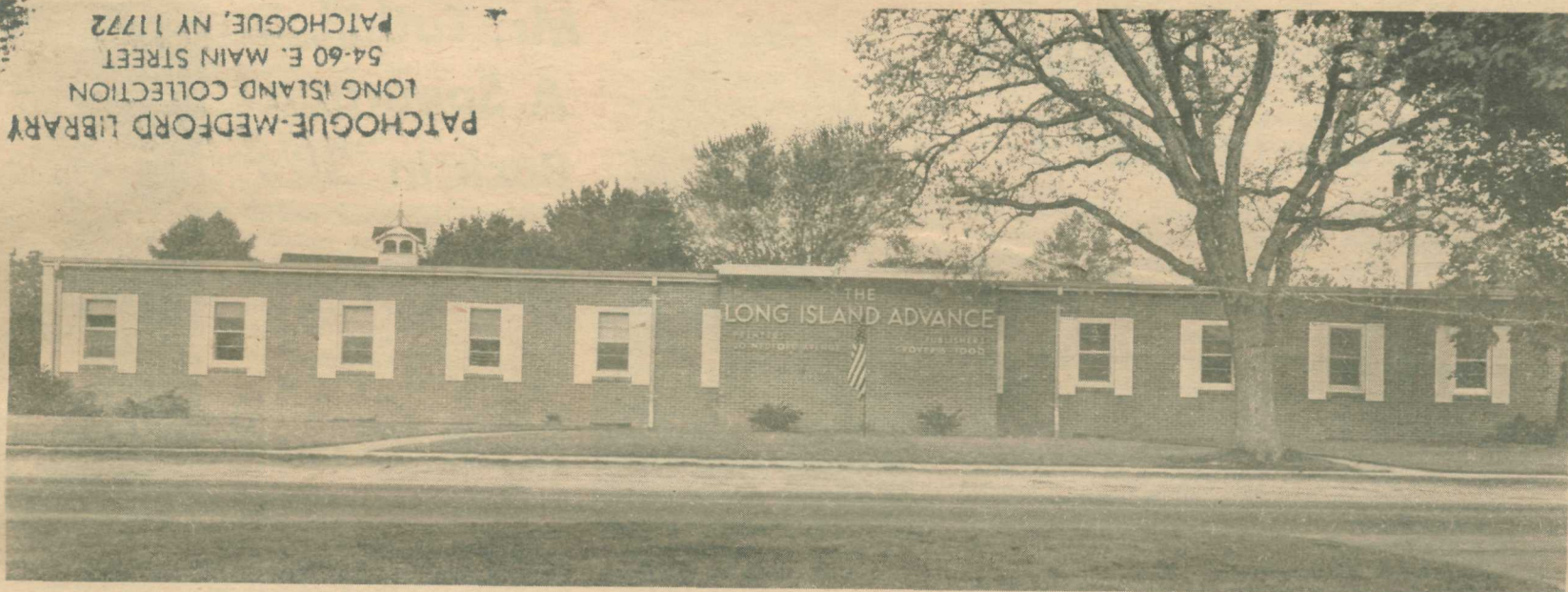
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The Long Island Advance

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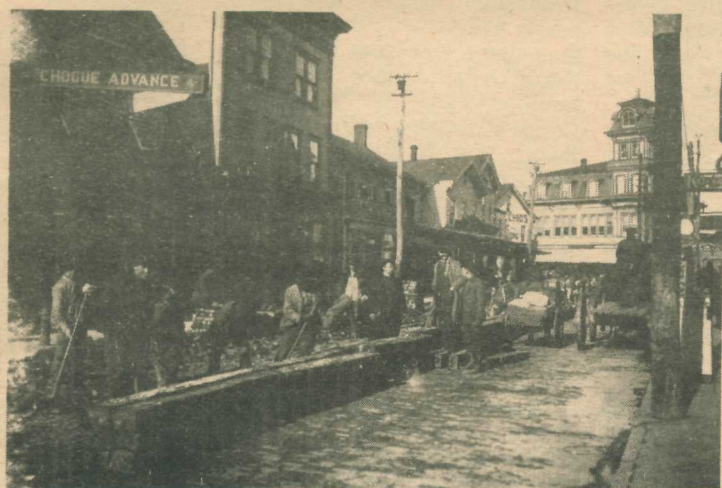
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