

## THE PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD AREA



*4th NY Heavy Artillery*

## IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865

**The Kansas Brigade:** It wasn't a brigade, and wasn't from Kansas. It was a very small military unit, a company of foot soldiers (infantry), raised in Patchogue, for the Union at the beginning of the war. (Sadly, we have no pictures of it.) It became Company C, 12<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Militia, which participated in the Seven Days Battles of 1862.

**The Appleton Oaksmith Scandal:** That Appleton Oaksmith's house was located near Patchogue's cotton mills (on the south side of Great Patchogue Lake) may have been no coincidence, and the mills are said to have been supplied with Georgia cotton. (Georgia was then a slave state.) Mr. Oaksmith may well have had dealings with the mills, and sympathy for the South. Before the Civil War, he was involved in William Walker's (filibuster) failed attempt to conquer Nicaragua, and turn it into a slave state. In 1861, Appleton attempted to ship slaves and arms to the Confederacy, but got caught at it. He was jailed in Manhattan, but was released (on bail), then gathered some of his crew, stole another ship, and got caught again off Fire Island Inlet, when he tried to get supplies there, and local officials got suspicious. He was sent to prison in Boston, escaped or was allowed to escape, boarded a ship to Britain, where he spent most of the war. The son of nationally-known literary figures, Seba Smith and Elizabeth Oakes Smith (both anti-slavery abolitionists), he became an embarrassment to his parents, and did a lot to ruin their careers, esp. his mother's, when she had tried to defend him, and said bad things about Abraham Lincoln. After the war, Appleton returned to the U.S., cleared his name, and went on to become a U.S. Congressman, from North Carolina. Later, in a storm at sea, Appleton lost his wife and two daughters. His mother went to live with him for a time. Both his parents are now buried in Patchogue's Lakeview Cemetery.



ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH, WIFE OF SEBA SMITH

Elizabeth (Prince)  
Oakes Smith (mother)



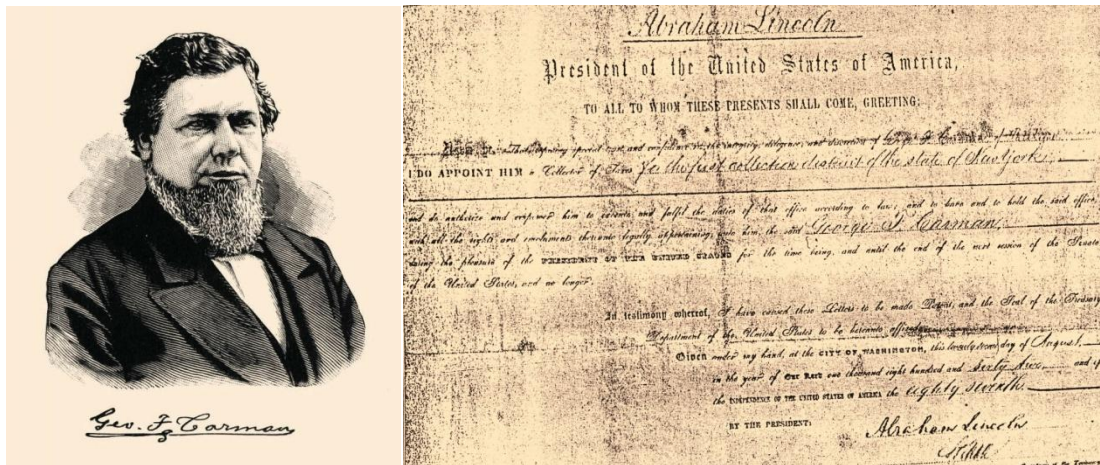
Appleton Oaksmith  
(wayward son)



Seba Smith (father)

**Questionable Patriotism:** A. Van Alstyne was replaced as editor of the Patchogue newspaper, **Suffolk Herald**, by George F. Carman, when Alstyne was accused of being “too sezech” (too pro-Southern), and not patriotic enough. Van Alstyne wrote a letter that appeared in the **New York Times**, on August 29, 1861, claiming he had always been pro-Union, and that the charges against him were ridiculous.

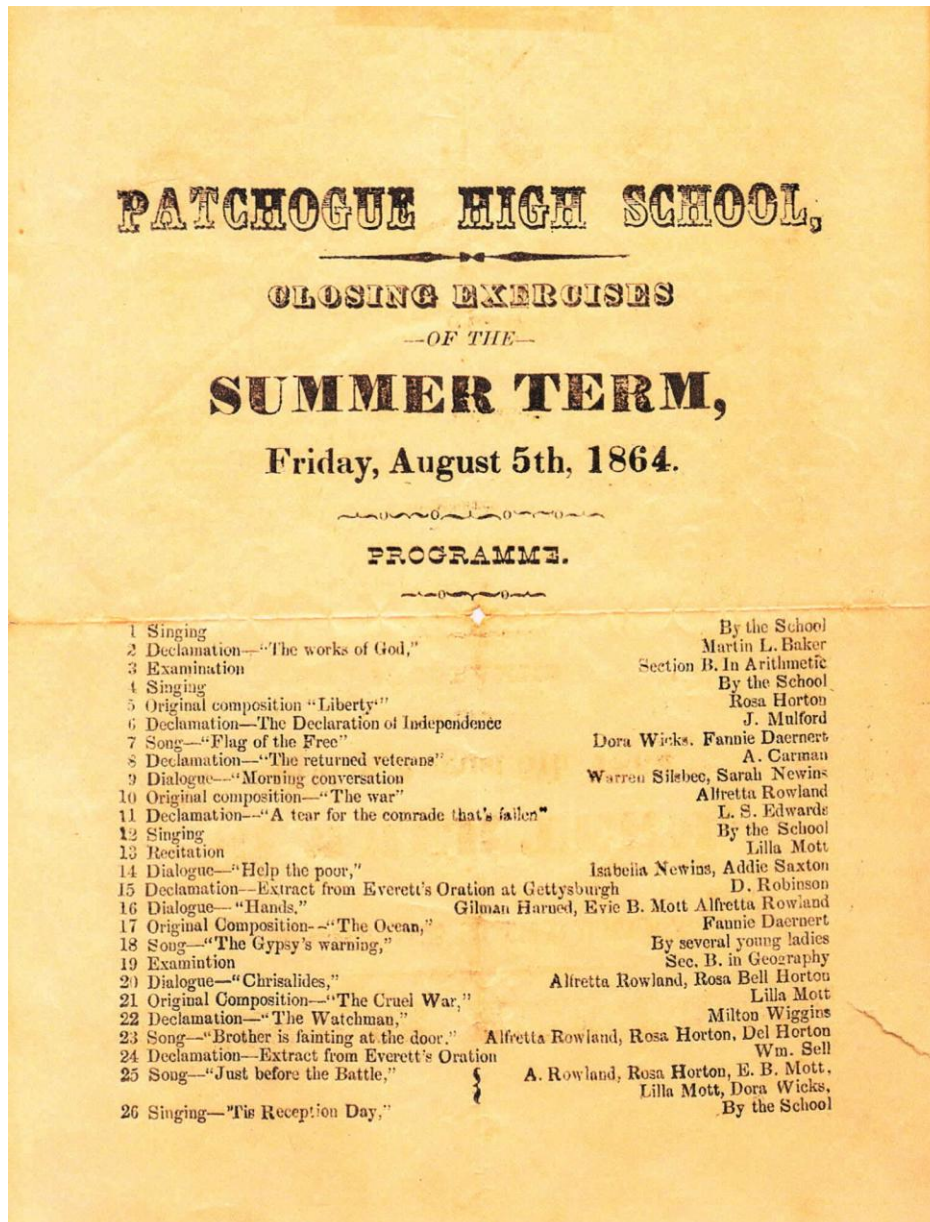
**George F. Carman:** Right around the time of the Second Battle of Bull Run (or 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas), in August 1862, Pres. Lincoln needed to appoint a new **collector of taxes** for the **First Federal District of New York**. The District included Suffolk, Queens, and Richmond (Staten Island) Counties. George Carman, of Patchogue, was selected, and respected for his honesty, would go on to serve several U.S. Presidents.



George F. Carman & President Abraham Lincoln's August 1862 letter of Appointment

**Quotas & Substitutes:** As the war dragged on, and casualties rolled in, fewer people were willing to volunteer for military service. Counties, cities, and towns were required to raise quotas (a certain number of people) to go to war. In the Civil War, whether you were an individual or a town, if you had enough money you could pay for someone else (a substitute) to go to war for you. Brookhaven, like many towns, raised money to pay for substitutes, which appears several times in the **Town Records**. Of course, if the substitutes were wounded, killed, captured, or died of disease, the people who paid not to go, would sometimes feel guilty for the rest of their lives.

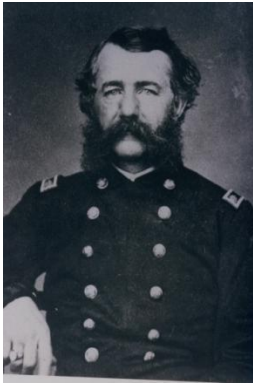
**1864 High School Summer Commencement Exercises** (held the same day as the Battle of Mobile Bay, in which Union Admiral closed the last major Confederate port)



**Patchogue & Jefferson Davis' Prison Doctor:** As the Civil War came to an end, in 1865, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy was captured and sent to prison at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Because he was beaten up, put in chains, and badly treated, the highest ranking doctor, **John Joseph Craven**, was called in to look at him. Dr. Craven treated his wounds, with U.S. President Andrew Johnson's help, got Davis better living conditions, and in 1866, Dr. Craven wrote an international bestseller about his prison conversations with Pres. Davis, that helped get Davis released from prison. After the war, Dr. Craven returned to private life as a doctor, also tinkering successfully with inventions that made him rich. When he retired in 1881, he chose Patchogue, where he



was an instant celebrity, living in a mansion at the corner of East Main St. and Medford Avenue. He was an active supporter of village social life and education, and from 1883-1893 was the first president of Patchogue Library Association, which preparing the way for today's Patchogue-Medford Library.



*Lt. Col. J.J. Craven Home of Civil War Town Supervisor John S. Havens, later of John J. Craven, as it appeared in 1916*

**Havens' General Store** (once stood at 67 West Main St.): Owned by **John S. Havens**, it opened its doors in 1857, as the crisis between North and South began to deepen. Havens' store must have been popular as a gathering place, for on the eve of the Civil War, John S. Havens was elected **Brookhaven Town Supervisor** (and remained so for most of the war). Supervisor Havens' Civil War home was the mansion that once stood at the corner of E. Main St. and Medford Avenue (that, in 1881, he sold to another veteran, John J. Craven). Sadly, Havens' original store had burned down in 1865. But, he rebuilt it afterward, more sturdily, of brick. Much later, in 1913, the store was sold, to become Shands, and more recently was resold and renamed Brickhouse Brewery.



*John S. Havens*

John S. Havens, Civil War  
Brookhaven Town Supervisor

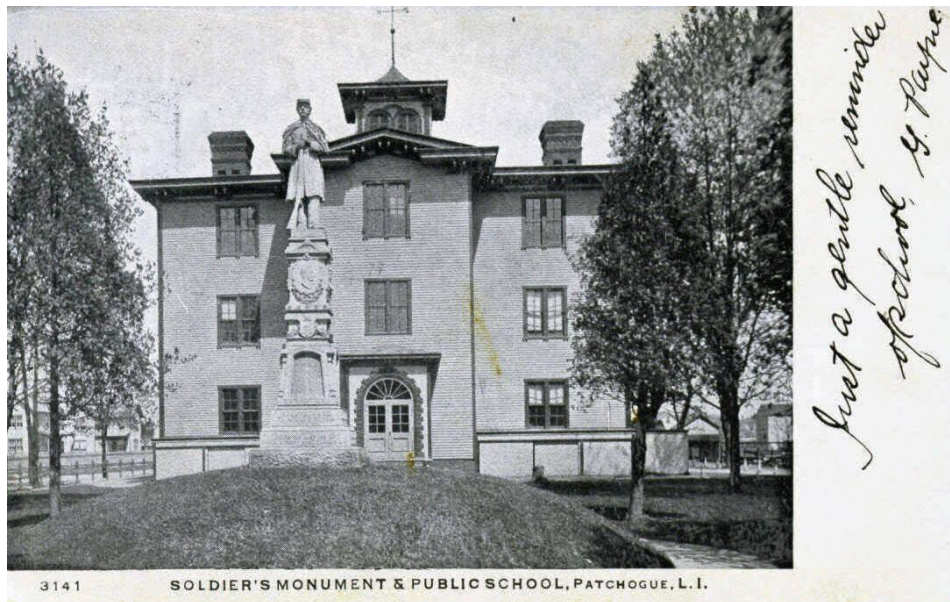


Havens General Store  
later Shand's General Store,  
today's Brickhouse Brewery



**Rooftop View of Patchogue (1868):** Looking southwest from the Eagle Hotel (which was just east of Roe's Hotel on the North side of E. Main St., near the Four Corners) toward the Patchogue River. This photo is the closest we have in time to the Civil War, and probably reflects how this part of the village would have appeared during the war.

### Memory: After the War: Patchogue Soldier's Monument



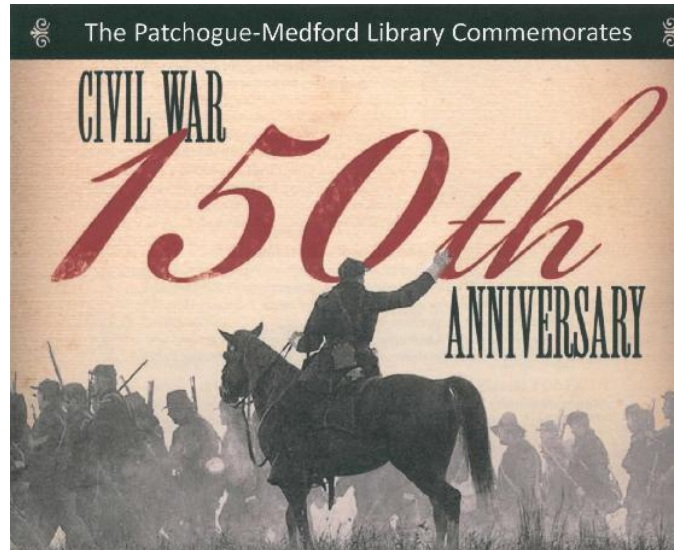
*Just a gentle reminder  
of Patchogue, N. Y.*

3141 SOLDIER'S MONUMENT & PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATCHOGUE, L. I.

*Postcard View of Patchogue's Civil War (Zinc) Soldiers' Monument,  
when still in front of Patchogue High School, about 1900;  
containing names of those who served.*



**Patchogue-Medford Library**  
**CELIA M. HASTINGS LOCAL HISTORY ROOM**  
54-60 East Main Street  
Patchogue, New York 11772



**CIVIL WAR REGIMENTS IN WHICH PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD AREA RESIDENTS SERVED:**

**4<sup>th</sup> NY Heavy Artillery**

**2<sup>nd</sup> NY Cavalry; 5<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry; 8<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry; 13<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry**

**5<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 12<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 12<sup>th</sup> NY Militia; 48<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry;  
59<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 75<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Colored Infantry; 90<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry;  
95<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 107<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 127<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry;  
131<sup>st</sup> NY Infantry; 139<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry; 145<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry;  
159<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry**

**FAMOUS CIVIL WAR BATTLES, CAMPAIGNS, AND EVENTS IN WHICH PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD AREA RESIDENTS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE FOUGHT OR PARTICIPATED:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run, Peninsular Campaign, Seven Days' Battles (outside Richmond), 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run, South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Baton Rouge, Siege of Port Hudson, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, NYC Draft Riots, Red River Campaign, Battery Wagner, Olustee, Fort Fisher, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Totopotomoy, Yellow Tavern, 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Cold Harbor, Siege of Petersburg, Atlanta Campaign, Resaca, Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Sherman's March to the Sea, Sherman's March through the Carolinas, Recapture of Fort Sumter, Cedar Creek, Five Forks, Appomattox, Lee's Surrender, Johnston's Surrender, Imprisonment of Jefferson Davis**

