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, 12th 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.
**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 sesech” (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 2nd 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](image)

**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)

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**Patchogue High School,**

**Closing Exercises**

**of the Summer Term,**

Friday, August 5th, 1864.

**Programme.**

1. Singing
2. Declamation—"The works of God,"
3. Dismissal
4. Composition—"Liberty"
5. Declamation—The Declaration of Independence
6. Song—"Pug of the Free"
7. Declamation—"The returned veteran"
8. Dialogue—"Morning conversation"
9. Composition—"The war"
10. Declamation—"A tear for the comrades that's fallen"
11. Singing
12. Recitation
14. Declamation—Extract from Everett's Oration at Gettysburgh
15. Dialogue—"Hands,"
16. Original Composition—"The Ocean,"
17. Song—"The Gypsy's warning,"
18. Exemplification
20. Original Composition—"The Great War,"
22. Song—"Brother is hunting at the door,"
23. Declamation—"Extract from Everett's Oration"
24. Song—"Just before the battle,"
25. Singing—"Tie Reception Day,"

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**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.

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.
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

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.
Civil War Regiments in which Patchogue-Medford Area residents served:

4th NY Heavy Artillery
2nd NY Cavalry; 5th Kansas Cavalry; 8th NY Cavalry; 13th NY Cavalry

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

Famous Civil War Battles, Campaigns, and Events in which Patchogue-Medford Area Residents are Believed to have Fought or Participated:

1st Bull Run, Peninsular Campaign, Seven Days’ Battles (outside Richmond),
2nd 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