SUFFOLK TRACTION COMPANY:



A CENTENNIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY: 1911–1919 compiled & edited by Mark Rothenberg

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• call \$500,000 Dream; Line Once Carried 1,000 Persons a Day" (Editorial Section). **Patchogue Advance,** January 19, 1950: p. 1. Period photos.

1894

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- "Latest Long Island News: Little Fanny Reilly Instantly Killed at Far Rockaway. Crushed Under Engine No. 46. It was in a Crippled Condition and Failed to Answer the Brakes – Engineer Lavelle Saw the Child too Late to Save Her – Ex-Mayor Gilroy of New York Kills Far Rockaway Trolley." Brooklyn Eagle, June 29, 1895: p. 7.
- "Pushing the New Trolley Road." **Brooklyn Eagle,** August 4, 1895: 2.

1896

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- "Brooklyn Investors." **Brooklyn Eagle,** September 4, 1896: p. 7.
- "A Public Trolley Hearing." Brooklyn Eagle, October 27, 1896: p. 4.

1897

• "Trolley Came and Went; The Ferries Still Run." **Patchogue Advance**, May 19, 1933: p. 12. – refers to an 1897 "prophesy" about the trolley by a local judge

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- "Cross Island Trolley Hearing." Brooklyn Eagle, February 25, 1897: p. 5.
- "Trolley Franchise: Granted by the Village Trustees this Week. The Traction Company Don't Think the Situation Here Will Admit of Some of the Conditions – The Village Well Protected." Patchogue Advance, July 10, 1897: p. 1.
- "Charter Unsatisfactory." Brooklyn Eagle, September 17, 1897: p. 5.
- "That Cross Island Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** October, 14, 1897: p. 3.
- "Modified Trolley Franchise." **Brooklyn Eagle,** November 9, 1897: p. 5.
- "75 Years Ago November 12, 1897 (Notes from the Old Files). Long Island Advance, November 9, 1972: [n.p.]
- "No Cross Island Trolley: The Latest Franchise Offered by Patchogue Rejected by the Traction Company." **Brooklyn Eagle,** November 18, 1897: p. 5.

- "Another Trolley Meeting." **Brooklyn Eagle**, January 4, 1898: p. 4.
- "Trolley Franchise Amended. Brooklyn Eagle, January 20, 1898: p. 5.

1899

• "Work Suspended." **Brooklyn Eagle,** August, 10, 1899: p. 11.

1900

- "Cross Island Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** November 11, 1900: p. 32.
- "Patchogue and Its Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** December 2, 1900: p. 13.

1901

- "That Cross Island Trolley." Brooklyn Eagle, January 4, 1901: p. 9.
- (Special to the [Brooklyn] Eagle). "The Road to Be Opened July 4: Contract Will Probably Be Signed Next Wednesday and Operations Will Then Begin in Earnest." **Brooklyn Eagle,** January 25, 1901: p. 7.
- "Right of Way Secured for Patchogue Trolley: Vanderbilt's Secretary Signs the Last Consent Needed to Complete the Route. Old Company's Assets Bought: Eldert and Johanecht of Jamaica to Acquire All Franchises and Build the Road." **Brooklyn Eagle,** January 31, 1901: p. 8.
- "Cross Island Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** February 14, 1901: 7.
- "Will Sue for Damages." **Brooklyn Eagle,** May 15, 1901: p. 8. Suit for trolley accident damages of Brooklyn Rapid Transit Co.
- "A Trolley Prediction." **Brooklyn Eagle,** May 19, 1901: p. 14.

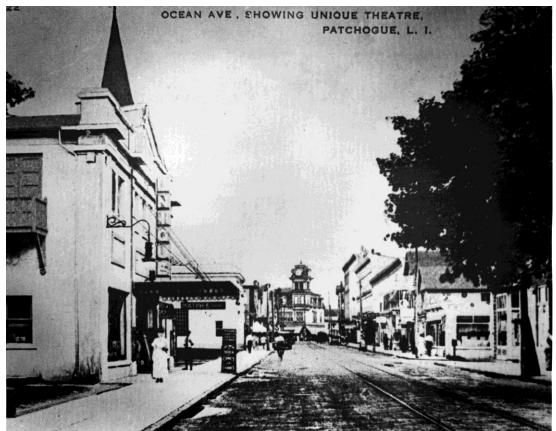
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- (Special to the [Brooklyn] Eagle). "Injunction Continued." **Brooklyn Eagle**, August 12, 1901: p. 16.
- "Cross Island Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** December 1, 1901: p. 21.
- "Light Plant They May Build: Cross Island Trolley." **Brooklyn Eagle,** December 11, 1901: p. 7.
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Battery-powered Trolley, near Great S. Bay Terminus, S. Ocean Avenue

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- "83 Years Ago May 2, 1902' (Notes from the L.I. Advance). Long Island Advance, May 2, 1985: p. 24.
- "Patchogue's Trolley Dispute: Village Trustees Between the Firing Lines of the Promoters of the Scheme and Their Opponents." **Brooklyn Eagle,** May 8, 1902: p. 8.
- "Patchogue's Trolley: It Looks as Though Cars Would Be Running on Ocean Avenue Next July." **Brooklyn Eagle,** May 9, 1902: p. 9.
- (Special to the [Brooklyn] Eagle). "Trustees Modify Its Charter: Building of the Road and Laying Track to Commence at Port Jefferson Instead of at Patchogue." Brooklyn Eagle, May 13, 1902: p. 8.
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- "Rockville Center Trolley: Syndicate Ready to Make It a South Side Center." Brooklyn Eagle, May 20, 1902: p. 8. – Competition increases
- "Option Extended." **Brooklyn Eagle,** June 16, 1902: p. 3.
- "Another Extension." **Brooklyn Eagle,** July 1, 1902: p. 9.
- "When Will Patchogue Get the Trolley?: The Trustees Refuse a Franchise to Lay Tracks on Main Street. Judge [Wilmot] Smith Heard in Protest. What the Trolley People Say in Reference to the Refusal of the Trustees." **Brooklyn Eagle,** July 8, 1902: p. 9.
- "More Trolley Talk: The Men Who Propose to Built the Patchogue Street Railway Answer Their Critics." **Brooklyn Eagle,** July 13, 1902: p. 38.
- "More Trolley Talk." **Brooklyn Eagle,** August 6, 1902: p. 9.
- "To Divide Suffolk County: Some Restless Spirits in the West Ends are Exploiting the Idea Will It Be Taken Seriously?" Brooklyn Eagle, November 9, 1902: p. 43.
- "Patchoguers are Listening: For the Hum of the Cross Island Trolley: Some Think They Hear It Now." **Brooklyn Eagle,** December 11, 1902: p. 7.
- "Want a Trolley Line: South Side Communities Demand a Connecting Link Other than a Steam Railroad." **Brooklyn Eagle,** December 20, 1902: p. 7.
- "More Trolley Talk Heard in Patchogue. Will a Cross Island Line and One Connecting Freeport and Moriches Be Built?: Baltimore Capital Secured. A \$500 Forfeit Posted for the Purchase of Patchogue Electric Light Plant." Brooklyn Eagle, December 24, 1902: p. 9.



Trolley Line Extension viewed northward toward Swezey & Newins at the 4 Corners, along upper S. Ocean Avenue; Unique Theatre is just S. of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Terry St. and trolley lines are in right foreground

• "100 Years Ago" (From the Archives of the Long Island Advance). Long Island Advance, March 13, 2003: p. 20.

1904 1905

1906

- "Notice of Incorporation: Suffolk Traction Company Certificate of Incorporation." **Suffolk County News,** July 6, 1906: p. 2.
- "Trolley Hearing." **Port Jefferson Echo**, August 4, 1904: p. 1.
- "We Want the Trolley: Favor Granting Franchise to Suffolk Traction Company." **Suffolk County News,** November 2, 1906: p. 4.
- "Suffolk Traction: Hearing Before the Railroad Commission on Wednesday." **Suffolk County News,** November 23, 1906: p. 3.

• "The Trolley Franchise: As Granted by Our Highway Commissioners: Text of the Agreement Signed Two Weeks Ago Under Which the Suffolk Traction Company is to Build and Operate a Road." **Suffolk County News,** November 30, 1096: p. 2.

1907

- "Trolley Hearing: R.R. Commission Hears Lexow's Arguments for Cross-Island Roads." **Suffolk County News,** January 18, 1907: p. 1.
- "Suffolk Traction Company is Surveying." **Suffolk County News,** April 26, 1907: p. 2.
- "Cross Island Trolley." **Port Jefferson Echo**, April 27, 1907: p. 1.
- "Islip Franchise Upheld: Injunction Holding Up Trolley Work Vacated by Justice Thomas." **Suffolk County News,** May 17, 1907: p. 3.
- "Certificate to Suffolk." **Port Jefferson Echo**, June 29, 1907: p. 1.
- "Suffolk Traction Company Wins." Long Islander, August 23, 1907: p. 6.
- "Trolley is Coming." **Port Jefferson Echo**, September 7, 1907: p. 1.
- "Work Resumed on Trolley." Port Jefferson Echo, September 21, 1907: p. 1.
- "Reckless Drive Caught Worse One Escapes, October 25, 1907: p. 3.



Trolley Line construction team works on S. Main St. extension line, Patchogue, NY, on November 13, 1907 (Photo by Howard S. Conklin, Courtesy Long Island Advance)

• "Getting Together: Declaration of Peace Between Rival Trolley Companies; Hearing at Albany, Monday; Senator Lexow Announces that the Suffolk Traction Company and the South Shore Traction Company Have Reached an Agreement." **Suffolk County News**, October 28, 1908: p. 1.

1909

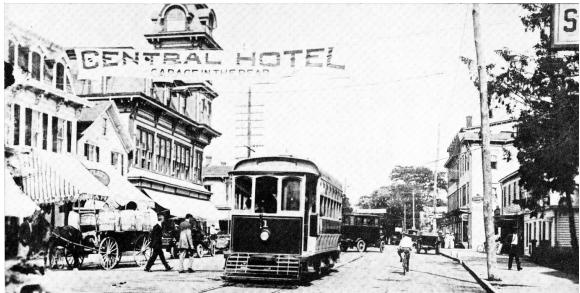
- "Our Trolley Car." **Suffolk County News,** May 26, 1960: p. 8E. says S. Shore Traction Co. began laying tracks on March 27, 1909, and the first trial of a horse-drawn car was on July 4, 1909; the only question being which village is intended by the article?
- "100 Years Ago" (From the Archives of the Long Island Advance). Long Island Advance, May 28, 2009: p. 18.
- "Long Island Summer Resorts Now Filling Up: Although Season Has Not Yet Fairly Opened Indications are That the Coming Summer Will Be One of Unparalleled Prosperity to the Hotels of the Breeze-Swept Island." New York Times, June 6, 1909: p. X2. – Includes references to the proposed trolley
- "Faith Almost Gone: Wail from Patchogue About the Suffolk Traction Co.: Rails Laid for Two Years; Never a Car to Run on Them – Citizens Demand that They Be Tork Up; Rumor that South Shore Traction Co. has Acquired Interest." **Suffolk County News,** August 20, 1909: p. 1.

1910

- "Patchogue." Suffolk County News, June 3, 1910: p. 3.
- "Suffolk Traction Company Sells." Long Islander, November 18, 1910: p. 10.

1911

"Paving Way for Patchogue Trolley." Port Jefferson Echo, January 14, 1911: p. 1.



Trolley, on W. Main St., Patchogue, headed in toward Bayport, Blue Point & Sayville (Courtesy Long Island Advance)



Trolley lines, visible along its East Main St. extension, from Patchogue's 4 Corners. (Note the various modes of horse and human-powered transportation.)

- "Another Trolley: Franchise Will Probably Be Granted Soon; A Well-Attended Hearing: A Large Majority of the 300 Men Assembled Favored Acceptance of the Proposition of the Suffolk Traction Co." **Suffolk County News,** February 21, 1913: p. 1.
- "To Tear Up Trolley Tracks?: Does Part of the Line Infringe Railroad's Property is Question." **Suffolk County News,** March 21, 1913: p. 9.

1914

- "Public Notice." **Suffolk County News,** August 21, 1914: p. 3.
- "A Trolley Hearing: Suffolk Traction Company Asks to Go to West Sayville; Also New Route in Bayport." **Suffolk County News**, September 11, 1914: p. 1.

1915 1916 1917 1918

• "Discontinue Trolley: Suffolk Traction Co., Heavily in Debt to Town of Islip." **Suffolk County News,** August 23, 1918: p. 1.

1919

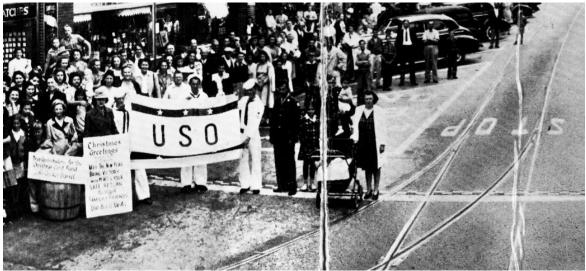
- "Concession to Bayles Shipyard." **Port Jefferson Echo**, February 22, 1919: p. 1.
- "Patchogue Trolley Service Stopped." Port Jefferson Echo, October 18, 1919: p.
 1.
- "75 Years Ago" (Taken from the Files of the Long Island Advance), comp. by JoAnn LaRue. **Long Island Advance**, October 20, 1994: p. 26.

1927

• "He Waited Long for Trolley to Sag Harbor." **Patchogue Advance**, December 16, 1927: p. 5. - Yes, thanks to a local prank, an unsuspecting visitor in 1927 waited for a long defunct trolley, to a destination it never reached, until finally set straight by a local police officer

1941

• "Proposes Removal of Trolley Rails: Butcha of Medford Suggests Plan to Village; Sale of Old Metal Might Offset Cost of Labor—Referred to Street Committee and Commissioner." **Patchogue Advance,** August 8, 1941: p. 1



Trolley lines are still visible on Main St. and N. Ocean Ave., in this section of a wellknown 4 Corners photo, taken in 1944, decades after Suffolk Traction ceased to exist

1951

• "Trolley Tracks in Local Streets May be Junked: Chamber Spearheading Scrap Drive, Asks Info on Tearing Up of Rails." **Patchogue Advance**, December 15, 1951: pp. 1, 4.

1995

• Leib, Charles R. "Patchogue Mulls Trolley Purchase." Long Island Advance, August 3, 1995: pp. 1,3. Photos.

1999

• Mihaley, Michael and Frank S. Costanza. "A 25-Cent Bargain: Trolley Service Returns to Patchogue, But Who's Riding?" **Long Island Advance,** December 16, 1999: pp. 3, 10. Photo.

[n.d.]

- "Trolley to Patchogue: Manhattan-Suffolk Company Line Endorsed by Civic Associations at a Large Meeting." [?], [n.d.]: [n.p.].
- "Must Have His Support: Long Islanders Believe They Need [LIRR] President Baldwin's Aid to Secure Cross Island Road. Big Meeting on Saturday.

Huntington-Amityville Route Picked Out as the Most Desirable One to Build." [?], [n.d.]: [n.p.]

Archives and Special Collections

 Stony Brook University. Libraries. Special Collections and University Archives. Robert M. Emery Long Island Railroad Collection. [See esp. listings for Box 2, Scrapbooks 5-7.] http://www.stonybrook.edu/libspecial/collections/manuscripts/emery.sht ml

Historic Images (see also photos above)

- "The Brief Heyday of the Trolley" (Time Machine). **Newsday**, January 9, 2000: LI Life EE: p. G8. – captioned photos, with brief text. Upper photo is misdated.
- "But Will the Trolley Ever Come Back?" [captioned photo]. **Main Street Press**, May 14, 1971: p. 6.
- "In the Heart of 'This Busy Village." [captioned photo]. **Patchogue Argus**, December 10, 1935: [n.p.] -- Shows trolley line being laid northward from the 4 Corners.
- "Main Street Memories." [newspaper photo, depicting the excavating and building of the trolley line, along Main St., Patchogue]. [?], November 5, [n.d.]: p. [?]
- "Patchogue Trolley" [grainy photocopy of photo; source not provided]
- Trolleys on Long Island" [2 newspaper sketches + brief commentary]. [?], June 13, 1976: p. 103 "Special"
- [Photo of Trolley line being constructed going northward from the 4 Corners] Courtesy Phil Trypuc. (Archives of the Long Island Advance.) **L.I. Advance**, [n.d.]
- Union Savings Bank. "When Trolleys Were Heated by Stove" (The Romance of American Progress). **Patchogue Advance,** March 17, 1931: p. 8.
- Ziel, Ron and George H. Foster. "Patchogue's Past." *In* **Steel Rails to the Sunrise.** New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1965: p. 155.



Battery-run trolley returning from its Holtsville (northwesterly) run, at 4 Corners

Maps

• [Portion of map, showing **trolley right of way between Canaan Lake Park** (Sections A and B), through the properties of James Hughes, the Hait Estate, S.M. Keiper, and border of that of William Shreve's, **to** the village of **Holtsville**]

Websites & Web Pages

- **Patchogue Village Uncovers Trolley Tracks** (Greater Patchogue Historical Society) <u>http://www.greaterpatchoguehistoricalsociety.com/index.php?id=74</u>
- Suffolk Traction Company (Bygone Long Island)
 http://www.bygoneli.com/forums/content.php/226-Suffolk-Traction-Company
- **Suffolk Traction Company** (Greater Patchogue Historical Society) <u>http://www.greaterpatchoguehistoricalsociety.com/index.php?id=91</u>
- Suffolk Traction Company (Wikipedia)
 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffolk Traction Company
- **Suffolk Traction Company Car # 2** (New York Transit Museum @ Flickr.com) <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/newyorktransitmuseum/5455709079/</u>

Trolley Heating System



Publication: Patchogue Advance 1926 - 1948; Date: Mar 17, 1931

Courtesy Long Island Advance, ad from *Patchogue Advance*, 3/17/1931: p. 8.