

Patchogue in 1812

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History is at all times interesting and especially so of one's native town. For the benefit of many who heretofore have had no knowledge of the early settlement of Patchogue, the following facts will prove interesting: Patchogue in 1812 was then in its infancy. It was a small settlement in the wild woods around which the noble red men, then becoming extinct, roamed. Where now are handsome residences and fine public buildings were then the tall pine and sycamore with here and there a small habitation.

In 1812 there were but 75 inhabitants in Patchogue. At that period, there were only two roads or paths as they were styled, viz: the present Main Street and Ocean Avenues; "The Lane" as Ocean Avenue was known in those days, and which title is now in use by many of the older inhabitants, was about 12 feet wide. There were but five houses, all of which were on the east side of the lane, starting from the foot of the lane. The



first house was that of Moses Wicks, located north of the house of Mr. Robert Mills. The next neighbor was Jacob Baker who lived on the turn of the road near where Mr.

George M. Odell now lives. Baker's house was torn down in 1825. On the site of the present Boyle homestead lived William Baker, father of the late Lewis B. Baker and grandfather to Mrs. John M. Price. About where Carman Street now is lived Daniel Smith, the grandfather of the writer. Not a single habitation graced the west side of the lane. Between the Baker homestead and Daniel Smith's was a pair

of bars across the lane and at the head of the lane near where Mills & Hammond's store is now located was a gate. It was between the bars below and this gate that cattle roamed at large. The gate having been erected to allow egress for pedestrians and to keep cattle from straying on the main street.

On Main Street, starting from the corner of Ocean Avenue to Swan Creek, was but one house on the south side, that being owned by Squire Beale, the grandfather of the present Rev. Charles H. and William T. Beale. This house was situated about where Goldsmith Horton now lives. Coming back on the north side of the street the first was a small mill house near the site of G. G. Swezey's mill at Swan River. Next came the house of John Charlick, father of Oliver Charlick, who was well known as the first president of the Long Island Railroad. The Charlick homestead was situated near what is now Medford Avenue. The next neighbor was Jesse Howell, about where the Craven homestead now is. Medford Avenue was then the old road to Coram. A few roads to the east of the residence of Mr. C. E. Rose was the home of Phineas Rose, grandfather of C. E. Rose.

This brings us back to the lane. What is now Pine Street was a tract of pine woods from which in later years the street derived its name. Between Pine Street and the Patchogue pond on the north side of the street were two houses, viz: that of a Mr. Larned, near the present mill and within a stone's throw, the home of Mr. Ackerly, father of the late Elisha