

Ackerly. On the south side of the street, alongside of the creek, lived Smith Hammond, the village cobbler. Near him was Samuel Conklin who lived a few rods to the west of the present Davis Block. It was there that the soldiers of 1812 stopped over night while on their tramp from Brooklyn to Sag Harbor, where they had been ordered to prevent the British from landing. It was here that Patchogue became an interested partaker in the war of that year. Michael Smith, Peter Banes, Peter Smith, Jonathan Baker and several others being drafted to accompany the soldiers to Sag Harbor. One of the British ships at Sag Harbor had meanwhile sent a barge ashore with six men in charge to obtain water. Three of the Britishers ran away and coming to Patchogue lived the remainder of their days here. One of the fugitives, Devuril by name, or "Devil" as he was nicknamed, was finally the village pedagogue. The writer was one of his pupils.

The Conklin house was moved from its former site to South Street a few years ago. It is the only house now left that stood at that time. The next and last house was that of Mr. Mulford situated upon the site of Losee Hotel. Mulford was the largest land owner in the settlement. These were what composed the first settlement of Patchogue. The houses were not very large but cozy and neat. Each had their farm attached by which a living was made. Situated away from the settlement was the homestead of Joshua Smith on what is now Bay Avenue. His house was located about where Hiram Newins now lives.

The Great South Bay at that time was not traversed to any great extent. Boats went across the bay only with a fair wind. The oyster industry was then in its infancy. The settlers catching a few oysters in their own crude way just enough for home consumption, oysters being a luxury of that period. In 1808, the ocean broke through the beach at Smith's Point, injuring the oysters so that all died. In 1814, the beach again closed. During 1816, the bay yielded an extra abundance of hard clams. Along the south side bushels of the juicy bivalves were caught, the natives boiling them out and sending the barreled product to the New York Markets. The clams sold for six cents per hundred. Capt. Samuel Tooter, who had been in Virginia, brought home a boat load of Virginia oysters, which he threw overboard just west of Howell Point. This was the first appearance of Virginia oysters in the Great South Bay. Oysters then sold or twenty cents a bushel and continued at that price for over 30 years.

Correspondence was limited in those days, the mail being delivered on horse back twice a week between New York and Patchogue. Eight hours were consumed in going to New York. The settlers however, did not have occasion to travel much, their visiting being confined within the limits of the settlement. Many of our village people claim an ancestry to the settlers of 1812 and are proud of the same. The settlement grew rapidly until now it blossomth forth its 75 inhabitants to a population of over 4,5000 ranking as the leading village on the south side.

ANDREW JACKSON SMITH STATE OF NEW YORK, SS:COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, )

WILLIAM C. CHAPMAN, Being duly sworn deposes and says that he resides at Patchogue, Suffolk County, New York and has resided there for more than thirty-five years last past.

That the foregoing article, taken from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle about the year 1900 was written by Andrew Jackson Smith for J. Fred Flugrathe, who was then a correspondent for the said Brooklyn Daily Eagle and that it was afterwards published in said paper.

Deponent further says that he year 1900 is fixed as the date when said article was published because at that time said Andrew Jackson Smith was living with deponent's parents while deponent was still living at home and at that time said Andrew Jackson Smith was an old man and had always taken a keen interest in historical facts relating to the Village of Patchogue, his family having lived here for several generations and that said Andrew Jackson Smith was personally acquainted with Peter Smith who is mentioned in this article.

Signed: William C. Chapman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of June 1930.

Notary Public, Suffolk County, New York