



ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH
AT TIME OF MARRIAGE



LAST PICTURE OF ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH



ELIZABETH OAKES SMITH, WIFE OF SEBA SMITH



Elizabeth Oakes-Smith was one of America's most brilliant women's rights activists in the middle of the last century. She was born on August 12, 1806, in Yarmouth, Maine, to David and Sophia Prince. Elizabeth married Seba Smith at age sixteen. They lived in Portland, Maine, where Seba was the editor of a newspaper. The Smiths moved to New York in 1839 where they became well known in literary circles. Elizabeth adopted the name Oakes-Smith after one of her ancestors who was named Uriah Oakes. By 1839, she was an accepted author and poet and won nationwide fame for the poems 'The Sinless Child' in 1842 and 'The Drowned Sailor'. Among her friends were Edgar Allan Poe and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Elizabeth was deeply concerned with women's rights and was the first woman to speak nationwide on the Lyceum platform from 1851 to 1857. Seba and Elizabeth moved to Patchogue in 1859 and purchased the Woodhull Mansion, located on the west side of the lace mill, which they renovated and called the 'Willows'. Elizabeth died on November 16, 1893, and was buried beside her husband Seba Smith in the Lakeview Cemetery, on the exact spot where the 'Willows' was once located.