SMITH, Seba.

Born at Buckfield, September 14, 1792.

Died at Patchogue, Long Island, July 29, 1868.
SMITH, Seba.

American Journalist; born in Buckfield, Maine September 14, 1792; died Patchogue, L. I., July 29, 1868. He was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1818 and entered the journalistic world as a writer for the Portland papers. Under the pen name of Major Jack Downing, he began a correspondence in the dialect of New England bearing upon the political issues of the day, which was continued for some time, and having been collected and published in book form in 1833, gained considerable popularity. From 1822 to 1842 he was the editor successively of three of the Portland papers, when, having acquired a somewhat wider reputation as political satirist, he removed to New York, where he wrote for numerous periodicals. His later published works are "Powhatan" (1841) a tale of verse, "New Elements of Geometry, a parody" (1850) and "Way Down East" (1853).
Smith, Seba.

The Life and Writings of Major Jack Downing of Downingville. Boston, 1834.
Letters of J. Downing, Major, Downingville Militia, Second Brigade.

(Typewritten note: "This book should not be confounded with 'Select letters of Major Jack Downing, of the Downingville militia, away down east in the state of Maine' published in Philadelphia in 1831. This book was written by Charles A. Davis and is either spurious or in imitation of the original Jack Downing." (See Williamson's Bibliography, v.2, p.448.)
N. Y. 1834.)