

HISTORY OF NEW HAVEN COUNTY, 1897
VOLUME II, Chapter I, The Town of Branford
J.L. Rockey

Settlement and Early History—Civil Government—Town Officers—Town Buildings—Branford Borough—Probate District—Public Highways—General Industrial Interests—Branford Village—Beach and Shore Resorts

Branford is one of the shore towns of the county. It is between seven and eight miles, along the sound, between Guilford on the east and East Haven on the west. From North Branford south to the coast line the distance is between four and five miles. The surface is uneven, there being in some localities high hills. Many of these having a smooth surface, are tillable to the summit. In the western part some of the Branford hills attain considerable elevation and are designated by local names. In the southeast outcroppings of granite are manifest and the soil is less fertile than in other localities. Along Stony creek that rock has been extensively quarried for building purposes. That stream empties into the sound at a cluster of numerous islands, several hundred in number, large and small, called Thimble Islands. Farther west is still another cluster, called Indian islands. The streams are small, Branford River, flowing through the central part, being the most important. Near the sound its course is winding, and for several miles it is a tidal stream, admitting vessels of from 50 to 75 tons burden. In the vales and lowlands the soil is strong and very productive. It has been found, with proper fertilization, to be admirable adapted for garden crops, and a number of inhabitants have lately engaged in that pursuit. The uplands are better for grazing and fruit. Agriculture is still a leading occupation of many citizens. Formerly property was much more equalized than at present, and in consequence the town was long exempt from an indigent population. In 1835, according to J.W. Barber, there was but one town pauper. In the last half century this condition of things has been changed to a considerable extent by the introduction of new industries and the use of much of the area for suburban and summer residences.

Concerning the early settlers of the locality first known as Totoket* (*Some writers interpret Totoket to mean "The place of the Tidal River," i.e., Branford river; others say with equal positiveness that the name was derived from the range of mountains terminating in North Branford. The present name, Branford, is said to have been derived from Brentford, a village in England, where some of the early settlers lived before coming to America.) there is much diversity of opinion. Some writers insist that the town was depopulated by the going away of Mr. Pierson and his followers, and Doctor Trumbull says that for a long time no organic existence was maintained, Branford being reinvested with town privileges in 1685. These assertions do not appear to be sustained by the investigations of the Reverend Elijah C. Baldwin, whose account of early events is given in the following annals:

"In the month of December, 1638, the New Haven settlers bought an additional tract of land of the Indians. It was ten miles in length, north and south, and extended eight miles east of the Quinnipiac river. It was bought of Montowese, son of Sowheog, the sachem of Mattabeseck Indians. Sowheog was a powerful sachem. His fort was at Middletown, on a hill, where, by means of his whistle, he could call around him 500 warriors very quickly. His dominion embraced a portion of this county. The Indians of Branford were governed by his son. The deed

was signed by Montowese and Sausounck. Their tribe then was very small (ten men with their families). Montowese's signature was a bow and arrow. Sausounck's was a rude hatchet. This tract of land included the present territory of Branford. Its boundaries were Lake Saltonstall and the river on the west, Stony river (not Stony creek) on the east, the sound on the south, and a line ten miles back from the sound on the north. The boundaries have never varied much from these original lines. On the east, Guilford has a small tract that once belonged to the original Branford. This territory was then called Totoket, from the Indian name of a range of hills in the northern part. Its shores were a favorite resort for the Indians of the neighboring settlements, as well as of Totoket. Fish and clams were abundant. For some years after its purchase little use was made of it except for hunting. The Indians were allowed to hunt and plant also. A few squatters occasionally pushed in along the shore. Notable among these was a Thomas Mulliner, and he thus became a cause of considerable trouble to the early settlers. From him comes the name 'Mulliner's neck,' long applied to the region now called 'Branford Point.'

"September 3d, 1640, the general court at New Haven made a grant of Totoket to Mr. Samuel Eaton, brother of Governor Theophilus Eaton, upon the condition of his procuring a number of his friends from England to settle on its lands. Mr. Eaton failed to fulfill this condition. He went to England to procure settlers, but never returned.

"In 1643 Totoket was granted to Mr. William Swaine and others of Wethersfield. The record read thus: 'Totoket, a place fit for a small plantation, betwixt New Haven and Guilford, and purchased from the Indians, was granted to Mr. Swayne and some others of Wethersfield, they repaying the charge which is betwixt 12 and 13*l*, and joyning in one jurisdiction with New Haven and the forenamed plantations, upon the same fundamental agreement settled in October, 1643, which they duely considering, readjlye accepted.'

"The removal from Wethersfield was the result of divisions in the church there. There were several ministers in the Wethersfield settlement. Each naturally desired to be *the* minister, and each had his special friends. They had not then learned the more modern policy of leaving each faction to gather around its own choice and support him as well as they could. They could support only one, but which should he be?

"Advice being sought from Davenport, of New Haven, and others, a separation was advised. Some went to Stamford; others, and the larger number, came to Branford.

"The men who had bought Totoket for a settlement came to occupy their purchase early in 1644. Their names were: Samuel Swaine, William Swaine, Luther Bradfield, John Plum, Robert Abbott, John Robbins, William Palmer, Samuel Nettleton, Roger Betts, John Linsley, Robert Rose, John Morris, Michael Palmer, Francis Linsley, Thomas Whitehead, John Hill, Daniel Dod, Richard Harrison, Sigismond Richalls, Thomas Blachly, John Edwards, Robert Meaker, Richard Mather, Jonathan Sargent, Richard Williams, Jonathan England, William Merchant, Edward Frisbie, John Horton, Samuel Pond, Thomas Lupton, Richard Richards, Edward Treadway, Samuel Plumb and Charles Taintor. These were mostly from Wethersfield.

“Thomas Mulliner was already on hand. And from New Haven came Jasper Crane, Lawrence Ward, George Ward, Richard Lawrence and Reverend John Sherman. Several had their wives and children with them. These were the first year’s inhabitants.

“Coming early in the year 1644, they began to clear off the forests, build shelters for themselves and their cattle, prepare land for cultivation, gather hay from the fertile meadows, and organize society. The abundance of shell fish found along the shores no doubt made it comparatively easy to procure food. By the first of October they have a minister who resides with them and serves them regularly; this was Reverend John Sherman. He was born in Dedham, county of Essex, England, December 26th, 1613. He entered the University of Cambridge at an early age, but left college when ready for his degree, under the character of a college puritan. In 1634-5 he came to New England. He preached his first sermon at Watertown, Mass., under a large tree. His preaching was much admired. One minister said: ‘Brethren, we must look to ourselves and our ministry, for this young divine will outdo us all.’ He spent at least one year in Totoket. He preached in several places. He also acted as judge and magistrate for the colony. He died August 8th, 1685. His great-grandson, Roger Sherman, was one of the signers of the declaration of independence.

“The new inhabitants make their first division of lands in June, 1644. This is the first thing recorded upon the ancient records of the town. It reads thus: ‘June 18th, 1644 this dai it is ordered that the meadow in this plantation shall be divided into 4 parts, and then divided by lott, viz.: all the meadow that lyeth on the right hand side of the town that is earliest settled shall be in the first dividend, and all the meadow that lyeth by the river on the left side and all upwards from that place where it is considered a bridge must be, is for the 2d dividend; Also 3dly all the meadow that lyeth downe the river from the place where it was considered a bridge must be, and all that lyeth within the compass of that piece of ground called the plaine shall be in the 3d dividend. 4thly all the meadow left beside in the towne that is knowne shall be in the 4th dividend. This meadow is to be bounded and prized by Robert Rose, William Palmer, Samuel Swaine, John Horton, Richard Harrison, and Thomas Blachly, with all convenient speede, and then the lott to be cast.’

“The people first settled along the river, mostly on the western and northern side. Indian Neck was left to the Indian inhabitants. The new settlers very soon had trouble with Mulliner. The court record is ‘3d of Feb., 1644, Thos. Moulenor, sen’r, and Thomas Moulino, his son, being charged with sundry miscarryages and breach of peace but nott issued. Itt was referred to another court and the meane time it was ordered that they shall both enter into a recognisance of each man 100 l, to keep the publique peace and be of the good behavior towards all people, and especially towards the inhabitants of Totoket.’

“To show some of the vexations of the first year an instance is here given. November 11th, 1644, ‘Upon complaint made by some of the planters of Totoket, that the Mohegin Indians have done much damage to them by setting their traps in the walke of their cattell, itt was ordered that the marshall shall goe with Thomas Whitway to warnne Uncus or his brother, or else Foxen, to come and speake with the Governor and the magistrates.

“This name Foxen shows the origin of the title given to a well-known section in the northwestern part of the town.

“Among the first buildings which the settlers put up were a house for the minister, and a meeting house. The minister’s house may have been near the present residence of William Russell. The meeting house was built in the front part of the present burying yard. It was a kind of block-house, and was surrounded by palisades, as a defense against possible Indian attacks. During the hours of worship some one or more of the settlers stood guard near the entrance of the stockade. All carried their firearms when they went to meeting. They were not afraid of Totoket Indians, but of raiding bands of other tribes, who attacked Indians and whites alike in the town. It is a tradition that the Totoket Indians had to resist attacks of that kind in defense of their hunting and fishing grounds. A sort of fort was built by them near the present residence of William Bryan (of the Montowese Hotel), and once, at least, a sanguinary battle was fought there.

“The houses first built by the settlers were rude and small,--the common houses of today are palaces in comparison, both in size and appearance, and furniture. The work for both men and women was hard. Their vigilance must be constant; their crops were meagre and uncertain; their methods of cultivating the soil were rude; their tools were few and clumsy. They also had to guard individuals from purchasing or receiving gifts of land from any Indian without the consent of the town. They also required all new-comers to agree to bear their proportion of expenses for sustaining a minister.

“‘Samuel Swaine complained of Mr. Mullyner for neglecting of traynings, watchings, and bringing of his arms when it was his turne on the Lord’s Days.’ Mr. M. makes acknowledgment and promises to do better.

“During the second and third years of life in this new settlement a number of other families came in to join those already here. The most notable of the new-comers was the Reverend Abraham Pierson, from Southampton, Long Island. He came with his wife Abigail and at least two children, one of which was a son Abraham, afterward the first president of Yale College. Several other families came with him or soon afterwards, from the same place. Reverend Abraham Pierson was born in Yorkshire, England; he was graduated at the University of Cambridge in 1632; he was Episcopally ordained while in England; he preached for some years in his own country. He came to Boston in 1639 and joined the church there. For a time he preached at Lynn, Mass., where he was again ordained. In 1640 a portion of the inhabitants of Lynn, ‘finding themselves straitened,’ removed, with Mr. Pierson, to Long Island. They made an ineffective attempt to settle on the west end of the island. They then went to the east and settled Southampton. When they came to decide whether they would be under New Haven jurisdiction or that of Connecticut colony, the larger part chose the latter, because, in their view, more liberal.

“Mr. Pierson and some others were dissatisfied, and, therefore, removed to Totoket, which was under New Haven jurisdiction. Sprague says, ‘Mr. Pierson agreed with John Davenport in wishing to rest all civil as well as ecclesiastical power in the church, and to allow none but church members to act in the choice of the officers of government or to be eligible as such.’ Accordingly, he desired to be under the New Haven jurisdiction, which sustained this view of civil government. Coming to Totoket he was chosen pastor. The people give him a liberal share

of the land and provide otherwise for his support. This is seen by a record a little later. September 22d, 1650, 'It was ordered that the minister's pay shall be brought each half year. For every milch cow he shall have two pounds of butter, in part pay every year; for the rest, for the first half year in beef, or pork, or Indian corn, or *wampum*—for the second half year in wheat and pease, good and marketable.'

"1659. February 24th. 'At a town meeting it was granted by the consent of the town to Mr. Pierson that he shall have the use of the whole five hundred pound lot that he has formerly used which is the meadow of a two hundred pound lot that did not belong to his house when he bought it; that was granted to him for as long as he shall live in the town, and if he shall live in the town till his death then it is given to his wife and his children for their use forever.' This will show the requirements made upon new comers.

"It is evident that new settlers were coming every year, as new names appear in the votes of the town and allotments of land. They were so careful to secure uniformity of action, and to have each measure considered by all the people, they made strict rules concerning attendance upon all their meetings. They laid heavy fines upon such as neglected to attend when they were duly warned.

"There was no bell to sound out the call to meeting. A man was therefore appointed to beat the drum as a call. One of the town charges in that day was 3 shillings for a pair of drum sticks. In those early days constant vigilance was required to guard against lawless men and wild beasts.

"One of the town votes reads thus: 'June 24th, 1650, This day it is ordered that if any man or woman, young or old, shall be taken by the watch abroad in the night after ten of the clock, and cannot give a sufficient reason therefor to the watch of their being abroad, shall for every such fault pay 12 pence or other condine punishment as the court shall require.

"During these first ten years of their history the settlers were disturbed by troubles with the Dutch. England was ruled by Cromwell. There was war between England and Holland. The Dutch were pushing their trading settlements all along the New England coast as well as in New York and down the Atlantic coast. Of course the English people here shared in the controversy. The Dutch made a short stop at Totoket, had a landing and are believed to have built a small trading house. Their stay was sufficient to give the name 'Dutch house wharf' to one of the river landings. The name is retained to this day.

"The early settlers were much engaged in traveling by water. Coasters have always been a numerous and important class in Branford. It is recorded that in 1651 fifty men from New Haven and Totoket, in attempting to settle their land at Delaware, were imprisoned by the Dutch governor. The people here instituted vigorous measures to defend themselves from possible attacks from the Dutch. But so serious did this matter become that, in 1653, New Haven and Connecticut colonies united in an appeal to Cromwell for help against the Dutch."

In spite of these apprehensions, it does not appear that the Dutch injured any one at Branford, and in the main the town was as fairly prosperous as any other community of like age in the country. The principles and practices of Mr. Pierson's community had been established, when

the town was again agitated by the question of the union of the colonies, and before it was decided affairs in Branford were very much unsettled. How this matter affected the town is thus described by Mr. Baldwin:

“From the first settlement of Connecticut by the English, in 1635, little official correspondence passed between the settlers and the English government till 1661. Companies settled about where they chose. The most of attention on the part of the British government to the new colonies is ascribed to the civil troubles at home. King Charles I was dethroned and executed in 1649. Oliver Cromwell was made protector in 1653; he died in 1658; his son Richard succeeded him, but resigned in 1659. Charles II ascended the throne in 1661. Soon followed the dreadful revenges he took upon such as had been concerned in removing his father. This furnished the romantic episode of the long concealed regicides, Goffe, Whalley and Dixwell, so interesting to all readers of our early history.

“The colonies of Connecticut and New Haven were separate governments, though Connecticut claimed jurisdiction over the whole by virtue of their first patent; there had been some talk between them about it, but nothing decisive occurred until a new charter was obtained from the new king. Then Connecticut purchased her claim of jurisdiction and the New Haven towns were constrained, though with sorrow, to submit.

“The coming of royal commissioners from England, in 1664, to look after the king’s interests here, hastened the union. There was danger, if they continued divided, that the Duke of York’s grant would be purchased; this would have carried the boundary of New York to the Connecticut river, and so left our state very small indeed. A peaceable union saved the two colonies. But some could not be reconciled to this change; Mr. Pierson and his friends were especially grieved; they saw in this new jurisdiction the destruction of all their hopes; they did not believe there could be a good and safe government unless the voting and office holding were in the hands of professional Christian men. We can imagine the earnest and absorbing talk the subject must have occasioned in these men’s homes, both in week days and on the Sabbath. Having spent so much labor in building houses, fences, etc., having cleared the land, built bridges, mills, and so many needed helpers to comfortable living, it was a serious matter to think of leaving all, to go into another wilderness and begin again. The labors of twenty-three years meant a great deal, yet their consciences constrained them. They sent agents to examine and buy lands for them on the Passaic river in New Jersey. Some persons from Guilford and Milford shared in the proposed enterprise of a new settlement.

“The agents having returned and made report of their commission, a large number of the people of Branford held a meeting on the 30th or October, 1666, which is thus noted: ‘At a meeting touching the intended design of many of the inhabitants of Branford, the following was subscribed: Deut. 1. 13; Ex. xviii, 21; Deut. xvii, 15; Jer. xxxvi, 21.

1. That none shall be admitted free-men or free burgesses within our town upon Passaic River, in the Province of New Jersey, but such planters as are members of some or other of the Congregational churches, nor shall any but such be chosen to magistracy or to carry on any part of civil judicature, or as deputies or assistants to have power to vote in establishing laws, and making or repealing them, or to any chief military trust or office, nor shall any but such church members have any vote in any such elections; though all others admitted to be

planters have right to their proper inheritance, and do and shall enjoy all other civil liberties and privileges according to all laws, orders, grants which are, or shall hereafter be made for this town. 2. We shall, with care and diligence, provide for the maintenance of the purity of religion professed in the Congregational churches.' Whereunto subscribed the inhabitants from Branford: Jasper Crane, Abra. Pierson, Samuel Swaine, Lawrence Ward, Thomas Blatchley, Samuel Plum, Josiah Ward, Samuel Rose, Thomas Pierson, John Ward, John Catling, Richard Harrison, Ebenezer Canfield, John Ward, Sen., Ed. Ball, John Harrison, John Crane, Thomas Wrentington, Delivered Crane, Aaron Blatchley, Richard Lawrence, John Johnson, Thomas Lyon (his L. mark).—23.

“Most of these signers moved with Mr. Pierson to Newark (Newwork). They comprised many of the most prominent inhabitants of Branford. They went by vessel down Long Island sound. This is the way most of the first settlers came to Branford. Those from Wethersfield came down the Connecticut river and along the shore; those from Southampton and New Haven also came by water in most cases. They built and used small coasting vessels from the first.

“We have evidence that Branford was by no means depopulated; the town records were not removed; other settlers came in, buying and occupying the houses and lands of such as had removed. Some that had proposed to go, not making a favorable sale of their property, decided to remain. Mr. Pierson engaged the Reverend John Bowers to preach to those who remained, and he paid him to the end of the year 1666.”

“Newark was the third colony Mr. Pierson helped to plant. Now he sat down under a code of laws of his own choice, with his hopes realized, and remained with his people until his death, August 9th, 1678.

“Though so many had removed, the rest showed they were not discouraged. June 20th, 1667, they met and took vigorous measures to rally the planters to hope and courage. They voted and put on record this agreement: ‘Forasmuch as that it appears that the undertaking and the settlement of this place of Branford was procured by and for men of Congregational principles, as to church order, according to the platform of discipline agreed on by the synod of 48, or thereabouts, drawn from the word of God in the main; we, that yet remain here, can say that we have found much peace and quietness, to our great comfort, for the which we desire to bless God; and that it may so remain to such as do continue their abode in this place, and to such as shall come in to fill up the rooms of those that are removed, and that do intend to remove from this place of Branford. We all do see cause now for to agree that an orthodox minister of that judgment shall be called to it and among us. The gathering of such a church shall be encouraged. The upholdment of such church officers shall not want our proportional supply of maintenance, according to rule. We will not in any wise encroach upon or disturb their liberties in so walking from time to time, and at all times: nor will we be in any ways injurious to them in civil or ecclesiastical respects. And this we freely and voluntarily engage ourselves unto, jointly and severally, so long as we remain inhabitants of this place, and this we bind ourselves unto by our subscription to this agreement. It is also agreed that whoever shall come for purchase or to be admitted or planted here, shall so subscribe before admittance or his bargain be valid in law among us.’ Jasper Crane, Jonathan Rose, John Wilford, Thomas Blatchly, Samuel Plum, Michael Taintor, John Collins, Michael Palmer, John Ward, John Linsley, George Adams, John

Whitehead, Samuel Ward, Edward Frisbie, Henry Gretwich, Matthew Biskatt, Thomas Harrison, Thomas Wheadon, John Robing, Robert Foote, George Page, Thomas Gutsill, Samuel Swayne, Samuel Pond, Isaac Bradley, William Rosewell, Peter Tyler, John Anams, Moses Blachly, John Frisbie, William Maltbie, Bartholomew Goodrich, Sigismond Richalls, George Seward, Edward Ball, William Hoadley, Eleazer Stent, John Rogers, Samuel Bradfield, John Charles, Edward Barker, Anthony Hand, Thomas Sargent, Daniel Swaine, John Linsley, Jr., John Rose, John Taintor, Francis Linsley – 48. Six of the signers of this agreement afterward went to Newark. John Wilford, Thomas Blachly, John Collins and Michael Taintor are put forward as leaders. They are directed to buy Richard Harrison's house and lands for a minister. The people pledge themselves to pay for them. They require all new-comers to do the same." * *(Baldwin)

In addition to those who removed or remained, it is known that 26 persons died before 1666, which would indicate that while the population of Branford was not as great as that of some other towns, at that period, the improvements must have been of considerable importance.

New and desirable settlers were added yearly, and under the more liberal policy of the united colonies, the work of development was carried forward. Of the new men who settled here was William Rosewell, a merchant in New Haven. December, 24th, 1672, the town gave him, "in consideration of his setting up a saw mill upon Beaver brook and selling the people boards and timber at a specified price, the privilege of cutting the wood he needed for timber, etc., provided he cut none within a mile of the furnace pond. Mr. Rosewell built a house about where Mrs. Peggy Fowler now lives. He gave it to his wife, Catherine (Russell) as a marriage portion. He continued to buy land of different parties until he owned a large estate. He was also engaged in trade between New England and Barbadoes. He probably had vessels built for his trade near Peggy Fowler's. He died July 19th, 1674. His widow died in 1698. Of their three children only one, a daughter, outlived the parents.

"John and Noah Rogers came from Long Island, and were sons of William Rogers of Southampton and Hempstead; Eleazer Stent came from New Haven with his mother and sisters. His father was a Protestant minister who had sailed from England for Virginia. He died on the passage. His family afterward came to New Haven. His widow married Thomas Beaumont. She was again a widow when the family came to Branford. She again married Thomas Harrison, of Branford. Eleazer Stent was in Branford as early as 1667. He was a freeman in 1672; was granted six acres as a home lot. It was between the Russell place and 'fig lane,' going back to the river, not on the highway at first. He was soon made town clerk, to assist John Wilford. He continued after Wilford died, and for many years. In 1683 he was granted a small piece of land near 'Little Plain brook.' 1687, March 4th, he was granted ten acres at 'dirty swamp, along Guildford old road;' was chosen 'commissioner' May 3d, 1688; same day was given six acres upon the hill west of Brushy plain, on condition of his giving up six acres of 'dirty swamp.' John Plant, to whom, 1683, February, the town gave six acres upon Mulliner's hill. His son, James, was born February 22d, 1685. February 4th, 1688, the town gave John Plant six acres more on the 'half way hill,' that is half way to 'iron works.'

"Isaac Bradley, who came from New Haven and settled near Stony river, and was granted land. The 'Bradley farm,' near the East Haven line, south of the main road, was long owned by his family."

“John Collins, a shoemaker, came from Guilford. George Baldwin, a blacksmith, came from Milford. 1688, October 4th, the town gave him ‘Sawpit’s’ lot, also land at ‘Cattholes,’ also swamp between ‘the narrow of dirty swamp and world’s end path.’ In 1691 the town gave him five or six acres below Brushy plain. In 1694, August 14th, he was also chosen constable, and to ‘beat the drum’ for Sabbath and other meetings. He was paid thirty shillings for it. In 1697 he was chosen collector of taxes.

“Richard Towner. His first grant near Canoe brook, 1690. April 8th, he changed his land ‘near Bartholomew Goodrich, at the old mill brook.’ 1692, November 2d, he was chosen to have the oversight of young people on Sabbath days. He gave name to ‘Towner’s hill.’ William Bartholomew was here and agreed to build a corn mill. Thomas Gutsell was settled near Branford Point; from him came the name ‘Goodsell’s Point.’ His wife Ruth (Butler) deserted him, going off to Providence, R.I., with Joseph Woodward.

“During these years the town kept up a ‘train band.’ 1687, April 5th, town agreed to furnish a silk flag for the soldiers, paying Edward Johnson for work upon it.

“John Blakiston came here soon after 1700; he was a mariner. He began to buy land near the present Blackstoneville, and continued, from year to year, until he was one of the largest landholders in the town. He is believed to have been the grandson or great-grandson of the William Blackstone who built the first house in Boston, Mass. He then owned much of the land upon which the present city of Boston is built. Boston preserves the name in one of her streets. He is also believed to have been a near relative of Sir William Blackstone of England, a name so well known and honored.

“This John Blakiston came over from Rhode Island. Tradition relates that his marriage was not agreeable to his friends, or his wife’s friends, so the young people resolved to make a new home for themselves in this town. All the Blackstones of Branford were and are his descendants. Much of the land originally purchased by the first John Blackiston, is still retained in the Blackstone family of to-day. Rhode Island and Massachusetts have their Blackstone river, Blackstone canal and town of Blackstone. This name has been closely identified with the important interests of Branford for 150 years. It has also sent out honored branches to other places.”

Near the same time (1700), Reverend Gurdon Saltonstall came to Branford and married Elizabeth, daughter of William Rosewell, the trader and ship builder, and who had left a large estate in the town. In 1707 he was elected governor of the colony, and was reelected until his death, in 1725. Soon after being elected governor he built a large mansion on the Rosewell property, near the Furnace pond, which he occupied most of the time, living at New London the remainder of the time, and was buried at the latter place. From the fact of his residence here Saltonstall lake took its name. The house is still standing and was for many years one of the grandest on the shore, being fitted up in a style becoming the station of a governor.

Nathaniel Johnson was another important settler after 1700. He was a merchant from the old country, and brought much wealth to the town, which he invested in lands. “He bought the two hundred acres that had been given to Thomas Mulliner, Jr., in the northwest corner of the town.

Mulliner and his wife moved to Westchester, N.Y., and the name ceased here. Mr. Johnson is believed to have built the house that stood where Mrs. Peggy Fowler now lives. It was burned, with all the barns near it, about sixty years ago. It made so large and hot a fire the people had great difficulty in saving the other houses in the street. Samuel Barker was another wealthy man who came about the same time. His first purchase was 42 acres at 'Littleworth,' of Philip Pond in 1734. He gave the Reverend Mr. Robbins five acres the same year. Mr. Barker is believed to have built the house still standing on Cherry hill. That house was finely finished and furnished for its day. It had pictured tiles around its fire places. Some of those tiles are still to be seen. Some are preserved by the family of James F. Morris, who once owned the place. The place was sold to Ralph Isaacs, a man of some considerable fame in this place during the war of the revolution. His daughter married an Ingersoll, and became the mother of the Ingersolls now so well known in New Haven. Another family of note coming here about the same time was the Gould family. That family furnished the physicians for Branford for about 100 years. They are believed to have built the house that stood between the present Stedman and Robinson places on the Main street. Richard Gould, M.D., came to America from North Country, County Devon, parish of Oakhampton. He was born April 28th, 1662. He died March 9th, 1746, aged 84.

“William Gould, his son, was born at the same place February 11th, 1693. He was a physician here July 2d, 1757. He had three wives and ten children. His son, William Gould, Jr., M.D., was born here November 17th, 1727, and died July 29th, 1805. He had a son, Orchard Gould, M.D., who was born March 1st, 1764, and died February 4th, 1819. His brother, James Gould, was an eminent lawyer and judge for many years. His sister, Elizabeth, was the wife of Hon. Roger M. Sherman, of Fairfield. Mrs. Mary Daniels, who built the house where Mr. Henry Nichols now lives, was a daughter of Doctor Orchard Gould.

James Gould was born in Branford December 5th, 1770; graduated from Yale in 1794, and received degree of LL.D. in 1819. He was one of the most learned men of his times, and his contributions to literature are chaste and elegant to an unusual degree.

“Richard Gould, M.D., must have practiced medicine here for a number of years. He was much esteemed, as is evident from his being elected tythingman in 1728. Only the most dignified and trusted men were chosen to this office in that day. William Gould, his son, purchased several tracts of land at Paved street and Hopyard plain. Some of that land is still owned by Elias Gould, the only male descendant of the name now living in Branford.

“Another physician living in Branford at that time – Isaac Bartholomew, M.D. He became a large owner of land, buying a great deal at Hopyard plain. This name has been a prominent one in Branford since the first William Bartholomew, who built the first dam and the first corn mill on the Branford river. It used to be pronounced ‘Bottlemy,’ or ‘Barthlemy.’

“John Guy and Orchard Guy are the first names of another somewhat influential family. John Guy, in 1723, buys Eleazer Stent’s place, near the town street. Orchard Guy, a little later, has a house near the place where Charles Wilford now lives.

“October 10th, 1737, Andrew Beach, of Fairfield, buys an acre of land, a house and barn at Mill plain, of Archibald McNeil. The house was evidently built by McNeil. The place is now owned and lived in by Timothy Palmer and family.

“The land just north was owned by Roger Tyler. Mr. Jordan Rogers owned what Mr. Timothy Palmer’s new house stands on. Mr. Andrew Beach is believed to be the ancestor of all the Branford Beaches. He was a ‘cordwainer’ – what we now call a shoemaker. Archibald McNeil may have built that old house. He bought and sold several places, and is believed to have built several houses. He once owned a house that stood about between Hattie Hoadley’s house and the Blackstone House.

“In 1734 Ephraim Parish bought of Solomon Palmer five and a half acres of land and a new house-frame and a barn. Mr. Palmer had bought the land of Bezaleel Tyler. It is the place so long the home of Reverend Timothy O. Gillett and wife. Mr. Parish built the house; he had a son, Ephraim, and a grandson, Russell Parish. This Russell sold it to Reverend T.O. Gillett in 1811. Russell Parish had kept a hotel there for a number of years.

“In 1733, William Barker sold a piece of his home lot to Reverend Philemon Robbins. It was on ‘Pig lane,’ or Barker’s land, and known as Foot’s lot. That is probably the lot on which the Reverend Mr. Robbins built his house. This lane ran down to the meadows, both east and west of what is now the main road. It ran by the south side of William Averill’s house, and south of the Catholic church on the west side of the street. There were houses on that lane, one supposed to be the first Stent house, down at the east end of the meadow; another half way to the road, believed by some to be the first Robert Foote house.

“There was a road in those early days which commenced back of Mrs. Peggy Foster’s house, and ran along the meadow up to the main road, back of the Baptist church. There were at least three houses on that road – one close to the railroad, said to have been the first frame house in Branford; another about west of Captain William Averill’s place; another west of Mr. John Foot’s place. Another road turned west from this last, near the Stent lot, and followed the meadows round to Page’s Point.

“In December, 1736, Samuel Stent died. He had been a public-spirited and useful man; he left money to the church and £10 to the town for the care of the poor. This sum was loaned on interest by the selectmen. As it ceased to appear in any reports after a few years, it was probably lost. During these years, from 1735 to the first years of the war of the revolution, Branford rapidly grew in population and wealth. The land was taken up and cleared and cultivated over a great part of its surface. Many vessels were built and quite a foreign trade grew up. A new wharf was built at the Dutch House landing, by Samuel Barker, in the year 1752.

“The whole territory of Branford belonged to those who were proprietors at the time of obtaining the patent, and such as they sold to. When a new settler came and bought, he shared in whatever new divisions of unappropriated lands were made. There were three divisions before the year 1700. There were four more before 1750. The greater part of all Branford territory was taken up between 1700 and 1740. The fourth division took up most of the present territory of North Branford. The fifth division took a great part of Stony Creek section. There were meetings of the

proprietors separate from the town meetings. These continued even down to within the memory of some now living. Their records show to whom each parcel of land was originally given. In assigning land, they left places for roads to such land; these were the highways, and they were few. Most of the roads now in use have been opened during the last sixty years.

“In Branford, as in some of the other towns, slavery was a recognized institution, Indians and negroes being sold in bondage. The more wealthy families had usually two or more colored men and women. These servants, as they were called, were often a very interesting part of the household.”

“Among the foregoing Richard Harrison came to Branford about 1650, and died in 1653. One of his sons, Richard, removed to New Jersey in 1666. It is supposed that the family came from Virginia and was connected with the Harrisons of that state. Thomas Harrison, another son of Richard, remained in the town. He had five sons, who left numerous descendants, among them being Governor Henry B. Harrison, Hon. Lynde Harrison and others. One of the five sons, Thomas, and his son, Nathaniel, and grandson, Nathaniel, Jr., were very prominent men in their day, filling many positions of honor and trust. The Harrison family is still numerous and honorable represented in Branford and North Branford.”

Another settler of prominence was William Maltby, who for a long time was one of the justices of the quorum and was usually called Judge Maltby. Samuel Maltby graduated from Yale, and also became prominent in affairs. Most of this family removed.

Captain William Hoadley, born about 1630, and supposed to have been a brother of Reverend John Hoadley, of Guilford (who returned to England in 1650), was an early merchant of Branford. He left a large family, and from them have descended members who attained honorable distinction; as Governor George Hoadley of Ohio, Charles J. Hoadley, LL.D., state librarian; David Hoadley, the architect, and his son David, president of the Panama railroad, and others who were active in the town's affairs.

Edward Barker was one of the leading men in the western part of the town. His son, Samuel, graduated from Yale, and bore the title of Mister. One of his sons, Samuel S., who graduated from Yale in 1772, was an officer in the revolution, resigning as major in 1782. Both he and his father removed to Beekman, N.Y., where he died in 1819.

Noah Rogers, another early prominent settler, also had a grandson, Captain Edward Rogers, who took an active part in the revolution. Removing to New York, his son, Edward, became a member of Congress after 1840.

Colonel Edward Russell, a son of Mr. John Russell, one of the leading public men in his time, was a captain in Colonel Douglass' regiment, in 1776, and the same year became a major in General Wooster's command. In 1778 he received the rank of colonel and did much service in the war.

An idea of the names of many of the citizens of Branford may be obtained from the following lists, which have been compiled from the town books, in the periods named, where they were registered as owners of ear marks for their cattle:

1747: Nathaniel Page, Benjamin Barnes, Ebenezer Harrison, John Parrish, Joel Parrish, Nathan Goodrich, Abraham Foote, Nathaniel Butler, Isaac Harrison, Daniel Hoadley, Nathaniel Frisbie.

1748: Samuel Barker, Thomas Rogers, William Barker, Benjamin Palmer, John Butler, John Potter, Josiah Harrison, Daniel Harrison, Wheeler Brown, Samuel Palmer, Aaron Baldwin, Enos Barnes, Joseph Page.

1749: Elisha Frisbie, Daniel Page, Noah Frisbie, Daniel Butler, Eliphalet Howd, James Barker, Samuel Rose, Isaac Hoadley, Daniel Otis.

1750: John Ford, Joseph Palmer, Abel Butler, Josiah Butler, Samuel Butler, Asa Leete, David Leavitt, Eleazer Stent, Samuel Stent, Samuel Kirkham, Abraham Hoadley.

1751: Benjamin Bartholomew, Daniel Rogers, Joseph Bartholomew, Daniel Bradley, Samuel Russell, Jehiel Whedon, Samuel Maltbie, John Russell, Edward Russell, Joshua Dudley.

1752: Daniel Johnson, Timothy Harrison, Samuel Rose, Elnathan Beach, John Plant, Abraham Plant, Samuel Barker, Abraham Harrison.

1753: Stephen Blackstone, Jacob Hoadley, Samuel Rogers, Josiah Fowler, Ebenezer Linsley, Edward Brockway, Silas Parker, David Tyler, Benjamin Plant, Richard Towner, Jonathan Plant, John Smith, Elisha Smith, Jonathan Russell, Jr., Nathaniel Taintor, Thomas Gould.

1754: John Johnson, David Hudson, Ebenezer Russell, Jonathan Whedon, John Linsley, Jr., Stephen Harrison, Joseph Rogers, Ebenezer Hoadley, Daniel Baldwin, Stephen Foote, Joseph Wilford, James Hoadley.

1756: James Baldwin, Daniel Palmer, Jacob Palmer, David Hudson.

1757: Phineas Baldwin, David Foote, Jr., William Gould, Ebenezer Foote.

1758: Joseph Finch, Reuben Whedon, Nathaniel Goodrich, Timothy Frisbie, Amos Seward, Josiah Parrish, Thomas Frisbie.

1759: John Barnes, Richard Baldwin, David Linsley, David Goodrich, John Welford, Joseph Tyler, Joseph Tyler, Jr., Jonathan Goodsell.

1760: Samuel Barker, 2d, Isaac Palmer, Jeremiah Woolut, Nathaniel Harrison, John Welford, Jr., Abel Page, William Harrison.

1761: Papillon Barker, Edward Rogers, Samuel Baldwin, Abijah Hobart, Thomas Norton.

1762: Reverend Warham Williams, Jacob Linsley, Ephraim Foote, Samuel H. Torrey, Nathan Foote, Timothy Hoadley, Wilkinson Howd, Obadiah Winters, Abraham Rogers, John Blackiston, Jr.

1763: Ralph Hoadley, Isaac Linsley, Thomas Stent, Eli Rogers, John Rose, Solomon Rose.

1764: Isaac Foote, Obed Linsley, John Harrison, Rufus Palmer, Noah Baldwin, Jr.

1765: Ezekiel Hays, George Baldwin, Timothy Russell, Edward Barker, Timothy Palmer, Samuel Still, Othniel Stent, Jeremiah Scarritt, Minor Merrick.

1766: Solomon Tyler, Benjamin Linsley, Ebenezer Truesdell, Thomas Russell, Jared Robinson, Peter Harrison, Bille Rose.

1767: Isaac Tyler, Stephen Potter, Zaccheus Baldwin, Bartholomew Goodrich, Timothy Goodrich, Samuel Russell, Jr., Amos Harrison.

1768: Jonathan Linsley, Rufus Hoadley, Samuel Buel, Asa Foote, John Butler 2d, Samuel Harrison, Jr., Orchard Guy, Samuel Maltbie, Jonathan Truesdell, Joseph Chidsey.

1769: Samuel Hoadley, Judah Howd, Ozias Tyler, John Negus, Joseph Page, Joel Rogers, John Stent.

1770: Jared Barker, Roger Tyler, Samuel Ford, Josiah Harrison, Jonathan Tyler, Peter Tyler, Jason Rogers, Ephraim Beach, Jareb Palmer, Jabez Palmer, Rufus Palmer, Nicholas Palmer, William Goodrich, Bille Tyler, Samuel Byington, Elisha Barker, Reuben Page.

1771: Daniel Page, James Maltbie, Timothy Hoadley, Enoch Staples, Jonathan Maltbie, Bernard Lintot, Samuel Hand, Samuel Eells.

1772: Samuel Page, Jr., Edward Mulford, Russell Barker, Rogers Tyler, Jairus Bunnell, Edward Stent, Benjamin Tyler, Samuel Whedon.

1773: Jonathan Beers, Freeman Crocker, Ebenezer Rogers, David Rose, John Johnson.

1774: Samuel Foote, David Harrison, Jr., Asahel Tyler, Obadiah Tyler, William Douglas, Jeremiah Johnson, John Monroe.

1775: Elihu Stone, John Harrington, Hezekiah Palmer, Abijah Rogers, Ammi Harrison, Peter Harrison, Ichabod Culpepper, Joseph Rogers, Jr., William Monroe.

1776: Jonathan Towner, Jonathan Bartholomew, Samuel Tyler, Ebenezer Beach, Matthew Butler, Isaac Hotchkiss, Benjamin Hoadley, Israel Baldwin, Israel Linsley, Elihu Linsley, Timothy Barker, Jr., Aaron Morris, Jesse Stent, Ransom B. Harlow, Solomon Goodrich, Samuel Howe, Samuel Howe, Jr., Solomon Talmadge, John Butler, 3d, Major Edward Russell, John Russell, Joseph Parmalee, Timothy Parmalee.

1777: Timothy Chidsey, Barnabas Palmer, Collins Page, Isaac Ingraham, James Goodrich, Estus Barker, Michael Taintor, Jr., Medad Taintor, Jonathan Towner, Ephraim Parrish, Lemuel Johnson, Cornelius Johnson, Samuel Griffing, Artemas Johnson.

1778: Elnathan Tyler, Amaziah Rose, Gideon Goodrich, Jr., Rosewell Chidsey, Robert Olds, Hooker Frisbie, Benjamin Maltbie, Zaccheus Maltbie.

1779: Edwin Harrison, Rufus Linsley, Nathan Rose, Wooster Harrison, Isaac Smith, Elihu Rogers, Oliver Lanfair, John Augur, Malachi Rogers, Benjamin Barker.

1780: William Scott, William McQueen, Captain Benjamin Baldwin, John Rogers, Captain Reuben Rose.

Some doubt attaches to the early records of the town, and it is questioned whether they are complete. Certainly, on some points, they are obscure and imperfectly preserved. But it is not true, as is often said, that the early Branford records were carried to Newark, New Jersey, when Mr. Pierson and his adherents removed thither, in 1666-7. John Plum, the first clerk, died in Branford in 1658, and his successor gathered up his accounts and preserved them as well as he could, after he had copied them. These records of Eleazer Stent show nice care in the writing, but their orthography is in the peculiar style of two hundred years ago. Most of the early records pertain to affairs of the planters in relation to the allotment and disposition of lands, the care of the herds and flocks, and the support of a minister, as examples:

“December 15th, 1645. This day it was ordered that Mr. Sherman should be allowed a year, to begin from the 1st of October, 1644.”

“This day it was ordered by the inhabitants of this place (commonly called Totokett), that John Plum shall keep the town books. It is ordered, also, that all the inhabitants shall give in their estate unto John Plum by the 25th of this month, and the second day of the week next following all the inhabitants are to meet at Mr. Sherman’s house by eight of the clock, upon the penalty of losing of twelve pence.”

“December the 28th, 1645. It is ordered this day that Mr. Palmer, Mr. Swaine, Samuel Swaine and John Plum shall go to-morrow to New Haven to meet Mr. Mulliner at the Governor’s, to agree upon a way both for Mr. Mulliner, the accommodating and voting, and any other difference that is between him and the town. It is ordered, also, that any one under a 100th shall be accommodated according to that rule that Mr. Sherman, Mr. Swaine, Goodman, Rose and John Plum did bring in. Those that have a 100s bond according to the former order. Moreover, it is ordered that Mr. Palmer, in consideration of some former expense and also for the good services he has done the town, and also for the public business that he is to do the town for one year following as they call him thereunto, he is to have that piece of meadow which lyeth at the end or side of his lot to the neck, and also upland apportionable to it.”

This shows that Mr. Palmer was the first town agent chosen.

“The 2nd month, the 10th day, 1646. This day it was agreed by the town and Francis Linsley that the said Francis shall keep the heard of cows and heifers from the 16th of this month to the 16th of the 9th, and he to call for them by the sun half an hour high in the morning and to bring them home at that time in the evening, and he must blow a horn, or make some other noise, before he come in the morning and also in the evening, that we may be ready to turn them out of our yards, and to return them in the evening.” They further arrange that he is to have one Sabbath out of four. If any of the cattle get lost he is to look for them four days, with a man to help, at his own charge.

Another important public measure was the surrounding the town or much of it by a strong fence.

“The 16th of the 9th month, 1646. This dai it is ordered that there shall a fence be made from the sea, beginning near that neck where Thos. Mulliner sometime dwelt, to run about five miles to the sea near a place where the Indians now dwell. And four miles of this fence is to be done according as it shall fall to men by lott. And the first lott that shall be drawn is to begin within one-quarter of a mile next that part of the sea first mentioned, and so every one shall do his part according as he shall be drawn, as he that is drawn first shall make first, so every one severally shall do it according as their name shall be drawn then following. And the rest that remains shall be done in generall. This fence is to be finished by the first of May next, and no man is to take any timber but right against his fence. And whoever defaults of not doing by the time appointed every one shall forfeit to the town two shillings per pound a rod or span or pole. And for every day after this it shall not be done every one that is defective shall pay sixpence a day for every rod or span or pole until it be made, and also pai the damages that shall come whoever defaults of not making. The fence is to be 4 feet 2 inches. It is to be a log fence.”

“The 27th of the 3d month, 1647. This day it is agreed between the Townsmen of Totokett and John Edwards of Wethersfield, of Connecticut, that the said John Edwards hath agreed to pay all the charges that have arose within the said Totokett from the beginning of the plantation unto this present day, with equal proportion with each man according to estate he gave in both for himself and his son and that as well in respect of joyning the preaching of the word of God as all other common charges that have occurred to this plantation.”

Many domestic matters were very carefully regulated, the most explicit rules being adopted in the town meetings. If, for instance, a man wanted to own a gun, he had to secure the town’s consent. December 31st, 1718, “Charles Tyler asked for that liberty, but the town thought it would not be safe and voted in the negative.”

A demand having been created for various products of the town, their shipment was regulated. February 6th, 1717, the town votes that none should be allowed to cut staves on the town’s land without special permission from the town. About this time (1717) the town had to regulate the gathering of “bayberries.” These small, waxy balls, found on bushes, were useful in making wax. This wax entered into the manufacture of several very useful articles – especially of blacking and salve. It continued to be an article of trade in Branford down to within the last fifty years. In 1717 the town forbid the gathering of these berries on the highways and common before September 15th. A fine of ten shillings was exacted for each violation of the law.

A deed from the Indians for all the lands in Branford bounds was secured in 1685, and February 16th that year the town received its patent from the colony. It was signed by Governor Robert Treat, and was granted Mr. William Rosewell, Ensign Thomas Harrison, William Hoadley, Samuel Pond, Edward Barker, William Maltby, Lieutenant Eleazer Stent, John Frisby and John Tayntor, representing all the settlers. Both instruments were properly recorded July 13th, 1719.

Since the war for the Union among the first selectmen have been: John Bishop, David Beach, Henry E. Towner, Thomas S. McDermott, John Plant, George H. Page, J. August Blackstone, Richard S. Bradley, William R. Foote and Daniel O. Brien.

In the same period the town treasurers were: Elizur Rogers, Eli F. Rogers, and the past thirteen years, Henry H. Stedman.

John Plum was the first town clerk, and left papers which Eleazer Stent afterward copied. None of Mr. Plum's writings have been found. He died in 1648, and John Wilford was chosen in his place. Succeeding him the town clerks served until the years set after their names: Eleazer Stent, to 1705; William Maltbie, 1710; John Russell, 1712; Nathaniel Harrison, 1714; John Russell, 1721; Samuel Maltbie, 1746; John Russell, 1747; Israel Baldwin, 1748; John Russell, 1754; Nathaniel Harrison, 1758; Samuel Barker, 1775; William Monroe, 1776; Samuel Barker 1781; Edward Russell, 1794; Samuel Gould, 1798; Orchard Gould, 1818; Samuel Frisbie, 1824; John Barker, 1825; Samuel Frisbie, 1839; William Tyler, 1841; William R. Frisbie, 1843; Willoughby L. Lay, 1847; Orrin D. Squire, 1858; Samuel Beach, 1861; J.E. Russell, 1866; A.M. Babcock, 1867; Elizur Rogers, 1870; Eli F. Rogers, 1876; Henry H. Stedman, 1891, deceased the same year and was succeeded by Walter Foote.

The town hall at Branford is a large, two-story frame building, centrally located on the green. It was erected in 1857, thoroughly repaired in 1869, and placed in good condition since that time. In 1875 a fine safe, manufactured at Branford by James E. Russell, was placed in the office of the town treasurer.

The town prison or lockup was erected in the rear of the town hall in 1878-9. It is a small, strong stone building and cost \$1,100.

The town poor farm was purchased in 1874, at a cost of \$3,200. It was thereafter greatly improved.

By an act of the general assembly, January 15th, 1874, the town was divided into two voting districts—Branford and Stony Creek. In 1890 the latter had about one hundred voters, or about one-eighth of the whole number of polls cast.

An act of the general assembly, July 25th, 1867, authorized the incorporation of Branford village as a borough, and the matter of organization was placed in the hands of John R. Holcomb, Samuel E. Linsley and Elizur Rogers. A board of officers was elected the following September, but the organization was soon dropped. In 1883 the privileges of the act were revived and another election was ordered to be called by Samuel E. Linsley and T.F. Hammer. But this, like the former movement in this direction, was also void of practical results.

The affairs of the town are carried on at a yearly outlay of about \$17,000, about one-seventh of that amount being used for the maintenance of the poor. There was, in 1890, a debt of \$31,470.97, \$30,000 of which was bonded. The grand list of the previous year was \$1,581,618, and the rate of taxation 12 mills.

The Branford Probate District was established in 1850, when it was set off from the Guilford district. The first court was held July 8th, 1850, Levi S. Parsons being the judge, and Ebenezer B. Barker the clerk. The subsequent judges have been the following: 1853, O.D. Squire; 1854, John J. Bartholomew; 1863, J.E. Russell; 1869, Edward R. Landon, of Guilford, acting judge; 1870, Eli F. Rogers; 1879, Henry H. Stedman.

It has been stated that when the proprietors laid out the land they usually made allowance for roads, but evidently there were no fenced roads for many years after the town was settled. Fences were gradually made, as different persons found it needful to have them. They did not always conform to the highway, as laid out; they often encroached, and thus much land is now held by individuals that really belongs to the town as highway. Most of the roads, before the year 1800, were only cart paths to peoples' houses and fields. In most instances they were called lanes, and often received some outlandish names. Many of the people of the town were opposed to the location of general highways, and it is said that the petition of the people of "North Parish," in 1741, for a road to connect them with Guilford, was pending several years before it was granted and other roads to points outside of the town shared a like fate.

The town has had no turnpikes, but the Shore road following, in a general way, the old "Totoket path" of the very first settlers, has generally been improved to an easy condition. In the past thirty years nearly all the principal highways, whose courses in many places have been modified over the original layout, have been graded and made hard and smooth by covering them with paving material found in abundance near Cherry hill. In the main, all the principal roads are now well improved.

The streams of the town being narrow, it has been a small item to maintain the bridges. One of the most important is the stone bridge at the foot of Montowese street, which was built in 1869 and provided with tide gates. In 1874 a part of it was swept away, but was substantially repaired, and is now an attractive structure. The pile bridge, next below, was built in recent years.

The railway through the town was got in operation in the summer of 1852. A station was first located at Branford village, later another at Stony Creek, and still later, the third, at Pine Orchard. The first two have become important points on the Shore Line railroad.

The wants of the early settlers were supplied by several mills, erected on the streams of the town, among the first improvements of the kind being a tide mill, near where is now the Branford Point bridge. Later the Bartholomews and others built a mill higher up the stream, at Mill Plain, and mills have been there continued until the present time.

The town united with New Haven in granting liberty to set up iron works at Saltonstall lake, at that time called the Great pond, and later known as Furnace pond, voting aid to encourage the

enterprise, from 1655 until 1658. These were the pioneer iron works in the state. The power has ever since operated some kind of machinery, a small feed mill being at present kept up. On Beaver brook, above this point, William Rosewell built a saw mill about 1672. On other small streams machinery was set up, as the wants of the town demanded, but the operations were on a small scale.

The Branford Lock Works rank as one of the oldest and the leading industry in the town. They are the outgrowth of small industries established in the early part of the century. About 1809 Orrin D. Squire became a resident of the village, and as a skillful blacksmith carried on a shop in the rear of the "Hayes Garden." Near the same time L. D. Hosley and Daniel Nichols has a small foundry on the brook, above the village. They united their interests and established a new plant, where are now the works, removing some of their old building to that place. At that time the "hollow" was a part of a wood lot, being full of trees and stumps. They engaged in a general foundry business and made fine castings and stoves, which had a good reputation. Subsequently the variety of products was increased and changes of the firm occurred.

In 1852 the business passed to the "Squire & Parsons Manufacturing Company," which had among its members Levi Parsons, Lyman Squire and William S. Kirkham, and the manufacture of locks was extensively begun. After several years the company failed, and in 1862 the property passed to Thomas Kennedy, a practical lock maker of New York. He brought to his assistance skilled labor and improved machinery, much of which he devised himself, and soon created a vast business, which in 1865 he placed under the management of the present corporation, which was organized with a capital of \$150,000. Thomas Kennedy was elected president, and so served until his death, in 1880. John H. Royal was the first secretary, and was succeeded by E.F. Jones, who now serves in that capacity, and is also treasurer of the company. A.L. Runyan succeeded Kennedy as president; John J. Kennedy is the general superintendent and W.J. Powes the general agent of the works.

The plant is valued at a quarter of a million dollars and covers nearly five acres of land. Most of the buildings are brick, and afford a working capacity for 500 people. In addition, many of the operations are performed by machinery, peculiar to this establishment, making it possible to produce 500 dozen complete locks and knobs per day, some of them being very handsome in design and finish. About five tons of iron, brass and nickel are consumed daily, and this industry has contributed very much to the prosperity of the town.

The Branford Malleable Iron Fittings Company have extensive works opposite the railway depot, at Page's Point. The first improvement there was made after the building of the railroad, by Elizur Rogers, who built a dock and opened a coal yard, which are still continued. On the west, and having the facilities of the railroad and Branford river, the manufacture of iron articles was soon after begun by the "Totoket Company," which was incorporated in October, 1854, with a capital of \$16,000. Among the principal stockholders were William H. Perry, William S. Kirkham, F. Northrup, L.S. Parsons, John Plant, Samuel O. Plant, Henry L. Baldwin, William Blackstone, Gurdon Bradley, A. & E. Rogers, Eli F. Rogers, J. Henry Pge, Henry Rogers, David Beach and William Wadsworth. Operations were begun in 1855, on malleable iron, brass and wrought iron goods. Two years later Henry Rogers was authorized to sell the property of the "Totoket Company," and for several years Elizur Rogers and B.H. Hadley, as Rogers & Hadley,

carried on the business. In 1864 the present corporation took charge of the property and developed the business to its fine proportions.

The plant is one of the largest in the Union, devoted to this line of manufactures, which embraces fittings of every nature. About four acres are covered with substantially constructed brick buildings, a number of them being several stories high, and the main structure is more than 200 feet long. One foundry is also 200 feet long and two others are of less length. There are two large annealing rooms and other spacious buildings, adapted for the uses of the company. Power is furnished by ponderous engines, and every department is equipped with labor-saving machinery, but the works give employment, aside from these devices, to nearly 300 persons. A specialty is made of the manufacture of goods from semi-steel, which have proved excellent substitutes for drop forgings and gun metals, and all goods are manufactured on a basis of chemical analysis.

The company has since 1865 been officered by J.J. Walworth, president; E.C. Hammer, secretary and treasurer; T.F. Hammer, general manager at Branford; and R.E. Hammer, general superintendent. Under the direction of the Messrs. Hammer the business has become very prosperous and is continually increasing.

The manufacture of carriages was for many years an important industry at Branford, F.A. Holcomb & Sons being large builders, in the eastern part of the village, before their removal to New Haven. Another company had its works on Page's Point, where they were destroyed by fire and not rebuilt, when the business was wound up. At the old Dutch House wharf, in shops which are now idle, Alexander Van Wie at one time made carriage parts on an extensive scale. These buildings were occupied in 1874-9 by James E. Russell and others in the manufacture of large and small safes, patented by Russell.

Another abandoned interest is ship building, which, about eighty years ago, gave occupation to scores of people, and yards were maintained at various points on the Branford river, as high up as Mill Plain. At the latter place a vessel called the "Laura Hoadley" was built. The yard at Hubbard's bridge was occupied by various builders, and was used as late as 1875, when Captain Russell Pond built a small craft at that place. Here was built a vessel called the "Lottery," "which was cast away at Little Egg Harbor, and all her crew lost with her."

At Page's Point a number of vessels were built, among them being the "Friendship," the "Ariel," and the "Mary Ann." The last was named for the daughter of Rosewell Sheldon, who presented the colors and a looking glass when she was launched. This vessel was also ill-fated, and was lost on Oyster Pond Point. At Goodsell's Point Harvey Frisbie built small vessels, and had the conveniences for "graving" vessels.

In this period of vessel building coastwise commerce was quite active, but has been very limited since the era of railroads. Quite a trade was carried on with the upper New England states in shipping thither dried fruit and other farm products, and bringing back fish and ship timber. Many of the young men led a seafaring life, and the young women and boys found occupation on the farm, picking juniper berries and wax berries, or sewed buckskin gloves or bound shoes for parties outside of town. The spinning of twine for shipment to the fishing coasts was much followed at one time.

The town also had some trade with foreign ports, and near the close of the last century Branford was made a port of entry. The harbor master lived at Dutch House wharf, and the building used for the customs service stood there many years after the port was abandoned. Some time after this Elnathan Linsley built a wharf at Branford Point, and that became the principal landing point. The water there at the highest is about 15 feet deep, and steamboats land there in summer. The place later became more important as a summer resort. Among the mariners of the town were members of the Blackstone, Harrison and Palmer families, who were also ship owners. Captain John Blackstone settled here after 1700, coming from Rhode Island. He prospered in his affairs and became a large landowner, at the place called "Blackstoneville," where some of the property is still held by descendants. Captain James Blackstone, of this family, became very aged, and has a long and varied experience as a seaman. Captain Farrington Harrison was in the West Indies trade, carrying cattle to those islands. He died in 1808. Captain Ammi Harrison was also a well-known mariner. Captain Edward Palmer was the owner of a good schooner, called the "Betsey." Only small vessels now ascend this river, the traffic by this means being very limited. But few seamen now reside in the town.

For more than a century of years many of the inhabitants found much subsistence in the sea food afforded by the Branford coast, and for some years oysters were an article of commerce. This extraordinary demand upon the natural beds exhausted them, and regulations for their protection were early found necessary. In 1789 the town voted to regulate the catching of oysters; and it was provided that from April 1st to November 1st of each year no bivalves should be taken, under a penalty of \$7 for each offense. From November 1st to the following April permits might be obtained to take two bushels in the course of 48 hours, one permit only being issued to a family. For many years the natural beds afforded delicious oysters, and the Branford river and other inlets were much frequented by fishermen. "In Branford Harbor no oysters are raised to sell, and the outside oyster grounds in town jurisdiction are, as a rule, too shoal for safe cultivation." (*Footnote: Harry H. Stedman, 1890.) In recent years the interest in this business has increased, and under a system of cultivation the oyster fisheries of Branford have become important industries. There are about 1,000 acres under the jurisdiction of the town, and more than 1,300 acres controlled by the state. In 1890 the town had 13 oyster planters, among them being Lewis Shepard, E.B. Beach, N.H. Bishop, N.C. Frink, Henry Hall, Oliver Knowles, C.C. Smith, G. Smith & Sons, and the Stony Creek Oyster Company. The latter corporation was organized after the late civil war, and in 1868 reported a capital of \$28,000, and a board of directors composed of Nathan C. Frink, H. Lynde Harrison, William H. Holt, T.N. Parmalee, William Blackstone and F.A. Holcomb. Henry Rogers was the president. In 1890 the capital was reported at \$42,000; real estate valued at \$9,500; and had personal property to the amount of \$7,500. W.J. Clark was the president of the company, and F.E. Smith, secretary.

Nearly the entire oyster business has been centered at Stony Creek, where it gives employment to a number of men. Five vessels are employed in the business. The oysters grown at Stony Creek are of superior quality, and are in demand beyond the supply. Even while yet confined to the natural beds they were much sought, and frequently parties from the interior would visit this place, encamping for several days, until a supply of oysters had been obtained.

On Indian Neck salt was made in limited quantities in the early part of the present century; and along Saltonstall lake an effort was made to manufacture peat fuel by a company organized for that purpose in 1871. The project was, however, abandoned before any satisfactory results were obtained.

Near the same time the Pine Orchard Granite Company was organized, with a capital of \$50,000, to develop the granite deposits in that section, but that project was also abandoned. The granite quarries at Stony Creek have been more successfully operated, there being several which are carried on extensively. The quarry near the railway station was opened by B.N. Green, and the one farther east by John Beattie. From the quarry at "Red Hill," on the north side of the railway, a stone is taken which closely resembles the red Scotch granite, and is susceptible of a very fine polish.

These interests are more fully noted in the account of Stony Creek.

Branford Village, long called Branford Center, is about eight miles east of New Haven, on Branford river, several miles from the sound. It has a very pleasant location, the principal part being on a considerable elevation, which also affords good natural drainage and sites for attractive homes. Until 25 years ago, the village was less important than at present, much of its growth having been made in this latter period, in consequence of prosperous manufactories and the desirability of Branford as a summer resort. These circumstances have also made Branford one of the most important stations on the Shore Line railroad, both the freight and passenger traffic for this point being heavy. When the road was completed, in 1852, the station was located at the foot of Montowese street, where was also the village wharf. A few years later Elizur Rogers began his improvements at Page's Point, opening a new street to that place from Main street, in the old village, and the depot was soon after located west of the Page Point wharf. In 1887 a very spacious and handsome station for passenger use was erected and has since been occupied. It is of brick and is one of the finest structures of the kind in the county.

The upper or older part of the village is built around the green – an irregular tract of land, nearly three-fourths of a mile in length, and coming to an apex at the west end. The east end is about 30 rods wide. For a long time it was much neglected, but has been made attractive by planting it with elms and maples. Upon it stand three church edifices (Congregational, Episcopal and Baptist), the old academy, the town hall and the soldiers' monument. On the north side is the principal business street of the village, which is also the main highway from New Haven east. Formerly that thoroughfare was chiefly on the south side of the "Green," to Montowese street, down to Hobart's bridge, thence east to Stony creek. On these streets were built the first good homes of the early settlers, and some of the old buildings still remain. The first house south of the cemetery, on the east side of Montowese street, was the Russell place, where were kept for several years the books which formed the nucleus of Yale library. Opposite was the Welford place. Lower down the street lived David Staples, father of Captain Enoch Staples, who is credited with commanding a privateersman in the revolution, and it is said that he lost his life while attempting to board one of the enemy's vessels. The building on the other side of the street is the Bradley place and is one of the oldest in the town. Nearer the river were the Hobart and the Captain Ammi Harrison places, both being well-known in their day. The railroad destroyed the former place.

On North Main street lived another cluster of Harrisons; William having his residence on the hill, Jonathan on the lot where is now the school house, and Captain Farrington Harrison where now lives Henry G. Harrison. This house remains much as it was built, in 1757. Others of the old-time residences have been modernized and in Branford, more than in some of the other shore towns is seen the handiwork of the architects of the present time.

Ezekiel Hayes, great-grandfather of the ex-president, built a house on the site of the present Totoket Hotel, in 1757. He was a toolmaker, having a shop on the brook in the rear of his garden. He there also made cow bells for the early settlers, in addition to his other work. In the course of time this house was taken and kept by Giles Barker as a tavern. He had previously kept a public house on the Nichols lot, which was burned down. Lorenzo Blackstone improved the Hayes house, enlarging it to a three-story building, and for some time the Totoket Hotel was favorably known. It is still kept as a public place, but with varying success.

A mile or more east of the village the "Half Way House" (midway between New Haven and Guilford) was kept many years by David Towner; and near the Guilford line Joseph Frisbie had another public house.

Among the traders and principal merchants of the village, after 1800, was Mason Hobart, at the end of Meadow street. In the same locality Nathaniel Johnson was a merchant, large landowner and shipbuilder. He erected a large house on the site of the present Fowler place, which burned down about 80 years ago.

On the hill on North Main street, Rosewell and Jephtha B. Sheldon and Timothy Johnson merchandised in the early part of this century, and the buildings they occupied still remain: Levi Bradley was on the other side of Main street and Phineas Bushnell was in the western part of the village. Business now began to concentrate at the "hollow," where the proprietors of the foundry had stores. In 1825 Judah Frisbie built a store on what is known as the Rogers lot, where next traded Henry Taintor. Both removed, and in 1833 Eli F. Rogers there began merchandising and continued at that stand until 1868, when he built a business house on the north side of the street. In 1869 he was succeeded by Kimberley & Scranton, who removed to New Haven. This is now the J. Hutchinson & Co. stand. The village has a dozen other stores.

The Branford post office was long kept by Jonathan Barker at his house, where is now the residence of H.D. Nichols. In 1827 O.D. Squire had the office in a small building near the lock works, and the income that year was \$51.34, less than half the income of the Guilford office the same year. Sometime about 1845 the office was removed to the brick store kept by the company, and Lyman Squire was the postmaster. In 1849 Eli F. Rogers became the postmaster and continued until 1862. He was succeeded by Philo Hall, who served until 1886, when Henry D. Linsley was appointed and was the incumbent until January 13th, 1891, when B.B. Bunnell became the postmaster.

Branford is now a postal money order office. Six mails are received daily, and from this office is supplied the mail of the Short Beach post office, which was established in 1887, with Mrs. Ruth Clapp as the post-mistress. At Branford a new office has been occupied since April, 1891.

A few newspapers have been published in the village, the first being the *Branford Weekly Gleaner*. It was published in 1878, and later by Philo Hall and others, when it was merged with the *Shore Line Times*, of New Haven. Another paper, also of short duration, was published by Willis Hopson. Neither publication received the support it merited.

It is probable that Doctor Richard Gould was the first permanent physician in the town, coming after 1700 and residing here until his death, March 9th, 1746, 84 years of age. Contemporary in the latter years of his practice was his son, Doctor William Gould, who was also born at Oakhampton, England, in 1692 and who died in 1757. The latter had also a son William, who was a physician in the town, and who was born here in 1727 and died in 1805. In 1787 he was given permission to "set up for the inoculation of small pox for the space of one year, under the direction and terms of the government." He was the father of Doctor William Gould, born in 1752, who died in 1809, and of Doctor Orchard Gould, the last of this famous family of physicians to practice here. Doctor Orchard Gould was born in 1764 and died in 1819. His home was on the hill where is now the Elizur Rogers place. All these physicians are interred in the old cemetery.

About the time of the first Doctor Gould, Doctor Isaac Bartholomew was in practice some years, but removed to Middletown. He was a son of William Bartholomew, the miller. Later a Doctor Herpin was a practitioner, coming from Milford. He probably remained only a short time. In the latter part of the last century Doctor Joel Northrup was in Branford, and lived where is now the Congregational parsonage.

Doctor Willoughby L. Lay came from Lynn, Mass., and after many years of practice died in 1858. He lived in the house now occupied by his son, James W. Lay. His practice passed to Doctor H. V. C. Holcomb, who also died in the town some time about 1871. Doctor Newton B. Hall was a student of the latter, and after several years of practice in Branford also deceased.

As early as 1872 Doctor C. W. Gaylord (*Footnote: See biographical sketch in this chapter.) located in the village and continues in active practice. Near the same time Doctor E. W. Brainerd came from East Haven, and after some years was killed at Montowese street railway crossing, while on his way to Stony Creek. At the latter place the physicians have been Doctor G. P. Reynolds and E. C. M. Hall, none residing there in 1890. Doctor Isaac P. Leete, an eclectic practitioner, has been in Branford a score of years, and in the regular school of practice have been the past eight years, Doctor Walter H. Zink; and the past six years, Doctor A. J. Tenney.

In 1890 the attorney resident in Branford was Edmund Zacher, who also maintained an office in New Haven. In the same way Lynde Harrison lived in the village a number of years. Jay E. Russell was an attorney at Branford after the late war, but after several years removed to California. Edward H. Rogers removed to New York and William A. Wright to New Haven. The town has had but few resident attorneys.

Since the completion of the railroad, in 1852, the sea shore of Branford has become very popular, and has been greatly improved for summer visitors and residence purposes. Along nearly its entire length may be found attractive cottages, hotels or pleasure grounds, and the

several localities, designated by the names of Short Beach, Double Beach, Lanfair's Cove, Branford Point, Pawson Park, Indian Neck, Blackstone's Cove, Pine Orchard, Point Pleasant and Stony Creek, all have advocates of their merits and claims upon those who love sea-side attractions. In area Indian Neck is the most extensive of the above localities. As its name indicates, it was a natural home for the Indians, and after the settlement of the whites they were encouraged to live there upon small tracts of land, some of which they cultivated, but subsisted mainly in fishing. Thus some of them lived on the "Neck" until a century after the coming of the whites. In the meantime, the town had purchased these lands of the Indians and set them aside for the support of the church. A tract for that purpose was purchased as early as 1685, and the acquisition continued until the First Society practically controlled the lands in that section. In 1770 the society began leasing these lands for a term of seven years, the rental being about \$200 per year, and continued that practice until 1860. After that period the rental was increased, and the lands netted the society about \$400 per year. In 1867 Samuel Beach secured a lease of Indian Neck for 99 years, with the privilege of sub-leasing, but under restrictions which strictly protect its morals; and from this time on the improvements for summer homes began. By the terms of the new lease, the First church society realizes about \$900 per year.

The extreme southwestern part of the "Neck" is known as "Jaffrey's Point," from Indians who had their lands at that place, and who, in 1702, sold some of their possessions to William Maltbie. East of this was the 34-acre farm of the Indian Pawson, some of which was high and attractive ground. This and other lands in that locality have been improved as "Pawson Park" – a very pleasant and well regulated day resort and picnic grounds.

On the main part of Indian Neck, Elias Pond made the first substantial improvement, building an English house. On the shore the Taunton Seine Company had leased lands for fishing purposes, and from this circumstance were derived the names Taunton Beach and Taunton island, off shore from that place. In the same locality are Clam island and Shumake island, the latter being first owned by Andrew Beach, the first of that name in this locality. On another part of the coast William Frisbie had a small fishery. Near the same place Captain Lynde Frisbie built a small house for the entertainment of visitors, which, with enlargements, became known as the Indian Neck House – a hotel kept by Eli Goodrich and others. After 1866 William Bryan built another summer hotel, called the Montowese House. Fine cottages were built soon after by Thomas R. Trowbridge, Thomas Gallaudet and many others, until the entire shore has been lined with artistic and pleasant cottages, owned by people in all parts of the state, who were attracted not only by the scenic surroundings, but by the security against objectionable elements afforded by the provisions of the lease exacted by the society.

At Short Beach the first house for summer entertainment was built about 1852, by Harrison Bristol, and at that time the place was a comparative forest. Here are now cottages for several hundred people, many of them being permanent residents, and the place has a village-like appearance, having a small chapel, a school building, a post office and a few business places.

At Branford Point Elnathan Linsley made the first improvements, which converted that locality into a public place. Others succeeded him and the present Branford Point House is owned by George T. Parker. It has enjoyed a large patronage. The groves at the point are pleasant, and there being a landing point for steamboats, the place is much visited some seasons.

On the coast eastward is Pine Orchard, so-called on account of the fine grove of pines near the sandy beach. The locality has afforded good fishing and clamming, and has been visited for that purpose with much regularity the past hundred years. In later years many of those who went there were entertained by Jerre Sheldon, who lived on the road from Damascus to Stony Creek. Truman Sheldon, a son, succeeded his father as a dispenser of public hospitality, and established a popular place, the fame of "Mother Sheldon" being widely known as a caterer. In still more recent years their sons, Edward and George Sheldon, established a very popular place, and Pine Orchard has become a favorably known resort. New roads have been constructed to this locality, and the railroad has established a station. A number of fine cottages have been built in recent years.