Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society

THE BRANFORD POINT HOTEL, *as it looked around 1910.*

Pictures of the Past
Branford Point Hotel's history noted

The Branford Point Hotel

One of the earliest summer hotels along the shore was the Branford Point Hotel which was located at what is now the town public beach. It was originally the home of Obed Linsley, built about 1715, which would pass to his son Elnathan Linsley. It was a year-round home but was also used as a boarding house for summer travelers. The property included six acres of land, buildings, bathhouses and a wharf was sold in 1834 by the Linsley family to Hubbard Barnes of North Haven. Hubbard Barnes ran it many years as a summer hotel.

David M. King of Fair Haven, purchased the hotel in 1860 and built a large addition in 1879. The main building was three stories high with guest accommodations at each end. In between was a grand dance hall for which the hotel was quite famous with its wooden floors and mirrored ceiling. The hotel also had a bowling alley, archery range, grounds for croquet and a large horse stable. Daniel Beardsley of Harbor Street ran the livery at the hotel and picked up the guests at the Branford train station. The steamer "Margaret" also made daily stops in front of the hotel.

George Parker and his wife Alice Lanphier of Branford purchased the Branford Point Hotel in 1885. They did not run it themselves but leased the business to various proprietors. Sheriff Judah Swift, followed by his son Albert J. Swift, ran the hotel from 1887 until 1899. Another popular proprietor was William S. Crofut who managed the hotel until it closed in 1914.

Dr. Frank Parker, the only child of George and Alice, was a famous New York eye surgeon. He died in 1912 at the age of 41 and left the entire property to the town of Branford to be used as a public park. The hotel was torn down in 1915 and the stone entrance to Parker Memorial Park was built.

Jane Peterson Bouley