

# Donated Foote portrait to grace Town Hall

The history of banking in Branford is most closely tied to the Foote family.

William R. Foote (1848-1938) and his son Wallace H. (1875-1966) were secretary and treasurer of Branford Savings Bank, founded in 1889. They were also among the founders of the Branford Trust Co., which was chartered in 1907. The Branford Trust Co. opened for business on July 17, 1911 and shared the office space with Branford Savings Bank at 204

Main St. at the corner of Harrison Avenue. It was the first time checking accounts were offered in Branford. The officers of the Branford Trust were Richard Bradley as president, Wallace H. Foote, secretary, and William R. Foote as treasurer. The relationship of the two banks continued until the 1950s when the State Banking Commission mandated their separation.



PICTURES  
OF THE PAST

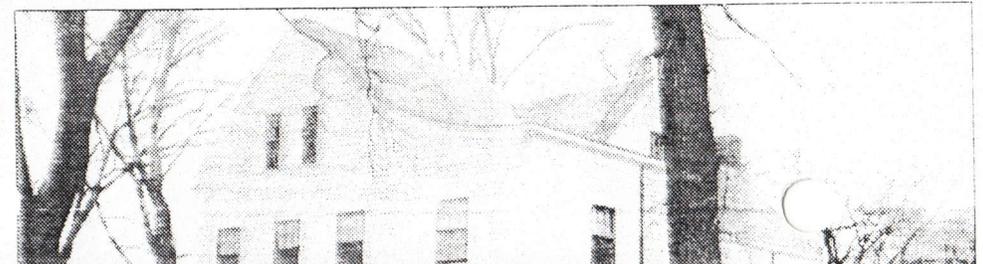
Jane Peterson Bouley

Wallace Foote purchased the Henry Averill house at 119 Montowese St. for the new office. The architect for the renovations was George Hall of Stony Creek with work by Rivolta Construction of Hamden. In 1964, Branford Trust was sold to the First New Haven National Bank, the oldest bank in the country. First New Haven eventually became First Bank and after a series of mergers Shawmut Bank now occupies the site at 119 Montowese St. The town has benefitted from the philanthropy of Wallace H. Foote whose bequest established Foote Park. A portrait of Wallace H. Foote by Earl Colter has been donated to the town of Branford by Shawmut Bank and will hang in Town Hall.



Photo by Lisa A. Lee

*A portrait of Branford philanthropist Wallace H. Foote by Branford residents Earl and Joyce Colter has been donated to the town by Shawmut Bank to be hung in Town Hall. Left to right are Patricia Anderson, of Shawmut Bank, Town Historian Jane P. Bouley, Eric Anderson, of Shawmut Bank, former director of Branford Trust Willian Cannon, who commissioned to have the portrait taken, and First Selectman Judy Gott.*





## PICTURES OF THE PAST

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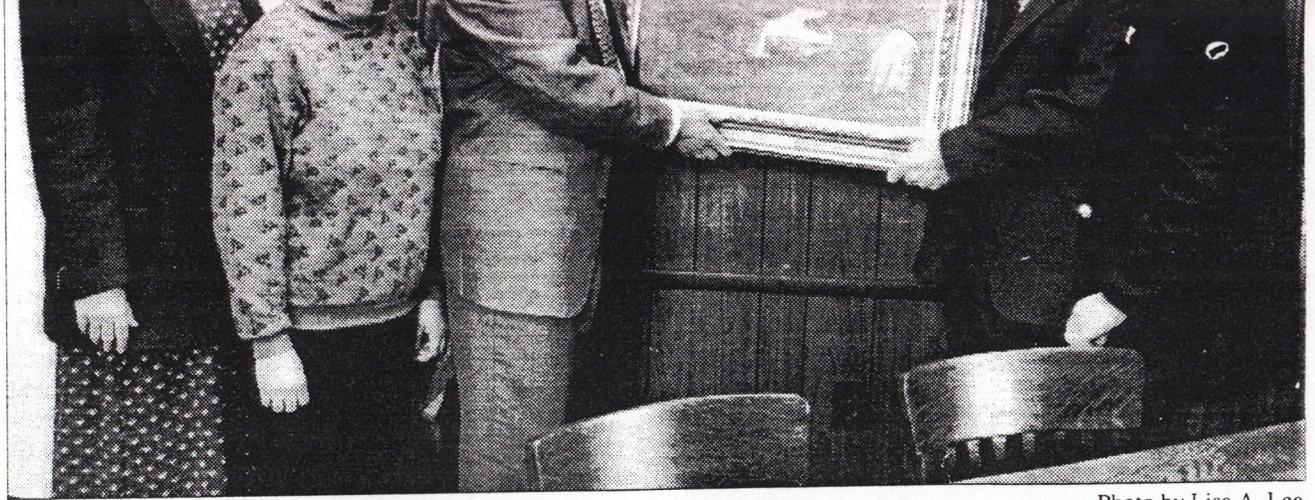


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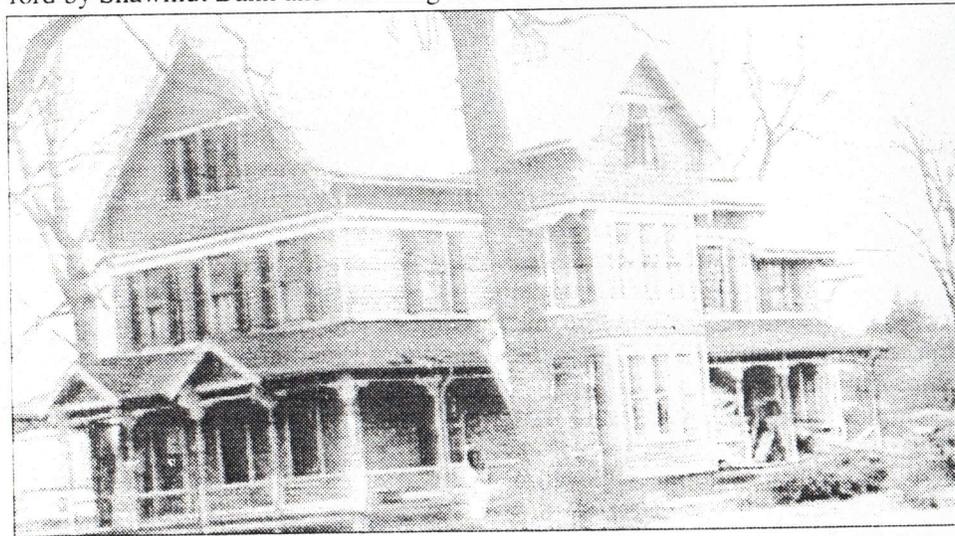


Photo courtesy Branford Historical Society

*The former Henry Averill house at 119 Montowese St. was converted into the Branford Trust Bank in 1954. It was later the site of First New Haven National Bank and First Bank and is now the local branch of Branford Savings Bank.*

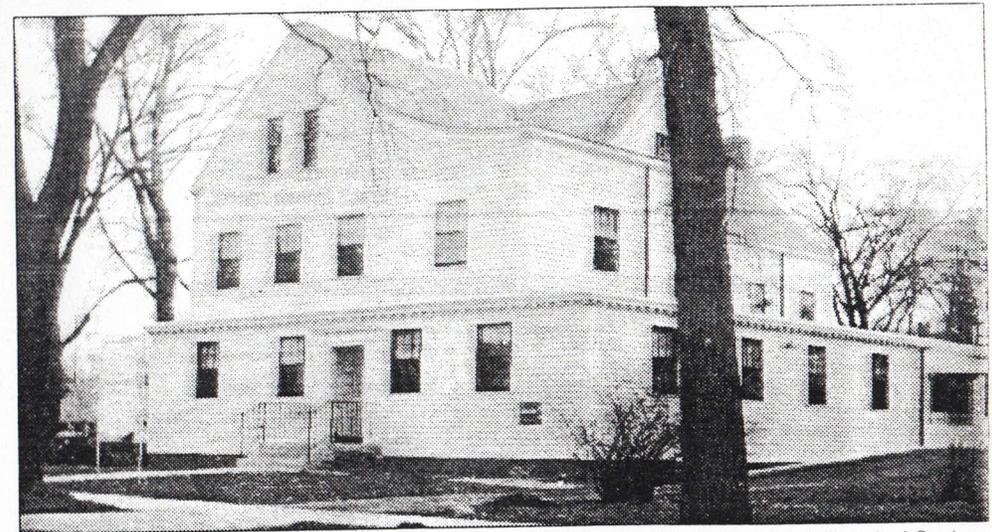


Photo courtesy Branford Historical Society

*Shawmut Bank now occupies the historic site.*