

Pictures of the Past

Town's bands play on

To The Beat of the Drum

A number of organized marching bands have paraded the streets of Branford. The Branford Brass Band was organized in 1874 with 15 members, many of whom were Civil War veterans. The band leader was George Terhune followed by J. Paul Landerer. Dr. Calvin Ely, who was captain of the Branford Civil War company and the local dentist, was a noted cornet player. This group disbanded in 1978 due to lack of funding.

The Branford Military Band was founded in 1877, marched at town functions and also erected a bandstand on the green in front of Trinity Church for summer concerts. The group disbanded briefly when many of its members moved to Stamford to find work at the Yale Towne Lock Factory. The band was reorganized in 1904 with William Clancy, president, and J. Paul Landerer, leader. The Bran-

ford Military Band disbanded in 1908 and that same year the bandstand was torn down because it was in poor condition.

The Stony Creek Fife and Drum Corps was founded in 1886 and is one of Branford's oldest organizations. Six men met at a blacksmith shop on School Street and taught each other fifeing and drumming. For many years the ancient corps has practiced at Seaside Hall on Thimble Islands Road and has marched throughout the country winning many awards.

Today Branford's music heritage continues with the Stony Creek Fife and Drum Corps, the Totoket Ancient Fife and Drum Corps organized in 1967, the Branford High School Band and the Branford Town Band, organized in 1949.

Jane Peterson Bouley

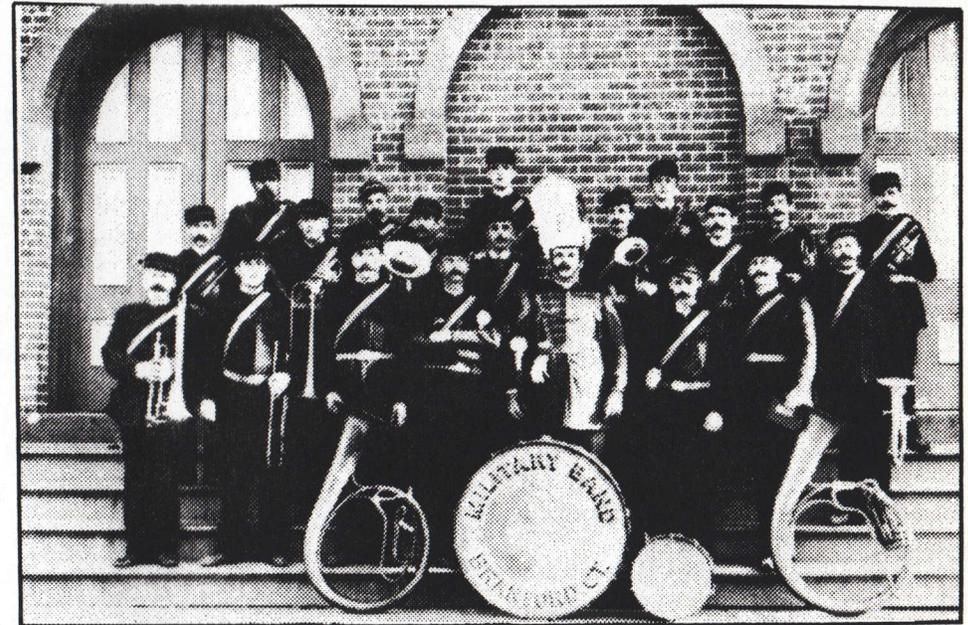


Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society

THE BRANFORD MILITARY BAND standing in front of the Congregational Church played at town functions and parades. The band was founded in 1877 and disbanded in 1908.