

# GAR memorial is impressive monument to patriotism

**B**ranford has many monuments dedicated to the military service of its citizens, but none as impressive as the GAR monuments between Town Hall and the Congregational Church.

More than 200 men from Branford served during the Civil War, most in the 27th Connecticut Volunteer Regiment, Company B under Capt. Calvin Ely. In 1881, they formed the Mason Rogers Post No. 7 GAR (Grand Army of the Republic), named for a Branford native who died of disease during the war. Calvin Ely was the first commander.

The Mason Rogers Post and the town raised \$5,000 to erect a lasting memorial to the men who died during the Civil War.

On the committee were chairman John Hutchinson, Thorvald F. Hammer, James W. Lay, Samuel Beach, John P. Callahan, Joseph Curtiss and Edward F. Jones. The 30-foot monument was



PICTURES OF THE PAST

Jane Peterson Bouley

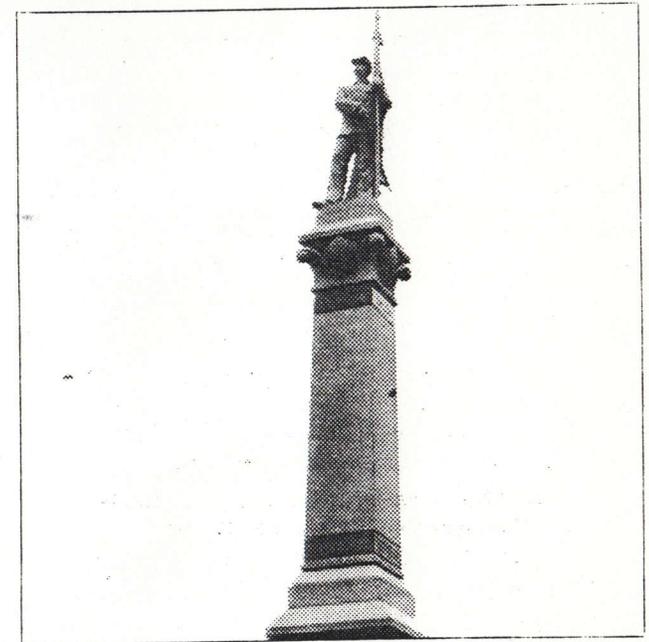
made of granite with a figure on the top standing 7 feet 4 inches. Carved on the base are the major battles Branford men participated in: Antietam, Shiloh, Newbern, Vicksburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville and Port Hudson.

The contract was awarded to the Smith Granite Co. of Westerly, R.I., and a dedication took place Oct. 20, 1885.

Many dignitaries were on hand for the ceremony, including the state governor.

An additional 3-foot granite base was added to the monument in 1916. The GAR monument remains one of the impressive structures on the Branford Green and is a lasting memorial to the patriotism of our citizens.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is town historian for the town of Branford. The photo at the right was taken by Harry O. Andrews.*



Courtesy of Branford Historical Society

*The GAR monument on the Branford Green, above, was dedicated in 1885 at a cost of \$5,000.*