



*THE PORTRAIT of James Blackstone hangs in the Branford library built in his memory.*

Pictures of the Past

## Library named in memory of prominent local citizen

### James Blackstone

James Blackstone, son of Timothy and Margaret (Goodrich) Blackstone, was born in Branford in 1793. Throughout his life he lived on Pine Orchard Road and worked on his farm every day past the age of 90. He was a prominent citizen of Branford and served as a representative to the general assembly and as state senator in 1842. He was a town assessor, selectman, and a member of the Congregational Church. James Blackstone was also captain of the Connecticut militia and served with the Coast Guard during the War of 1812.

James and his wife Sarah Beach of

Branford were married in 1814 by the Rev. Gillett and had six children who lived to adulthood - George William, Mary Ann wife of Samuel O. Plant, Lorenzo, Ellen wife of Henry B. Plant, John Augustus and Timothy Beach. The youngest child Timothy was a very successful businessman and a pioneer in the building of railroads in the Chicago area. His help was solicited by the town of Branford in their efforts to raise money to build a new library. Timothy Blackstone provided all the funds and the James Blackstone Memorial Library was dedicated June 17, 1896.

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