

Bringing the mighty power to a small rural town

BRANFORD - At the turn of this century, smaller towns such as Branford became interested in establishing water and electric service to their communities.

The Branford Electric Company was founded in 1895 and the company's name was changed to The Branford Light and Water Company in 1901. The principal party involved in the founding of utilities and trolley service in Branford was A.M. Young, a summer resident of Pine Orchard.

Water to homes came from the Queach Brook with a pumping station at East Main Street about where the CL&P substation stands today. The laying of pipes throughout the town was completed in 1903 under the direction of superintendent Frank Golding.



PICTURES OF THE PAST
Jane Peterson Bouley

The local newspaper, *The Branford Opinion*, kept the public updated on the progress during construction as written in the March 18, 1899 issue: "George Fiondelli better known as John the Shantyman is running a boarding house for the gang working at the water works at Mill Plain."

There was a Branford branch office at 229 Montowese St. managed by Lewis H. Warner for many years until it closed about 1970. There were many consolidations of the various utility companies.

The Branford firm was sold to a large subsidiary of the New Haven & Hartford Railroad, which was eventually absorbed by the New Haven Water Company in 1923. The New Haven Water Company is



Photo by Harry O. Andrews/courtesy Branford Historical Society
City water became available in Branford by 1903. This scene shows water pipes being laid along Montowese Street.

one of the oldest such firms in the country, founded in 1849. By 1982, the company owned 250 acres in Branford, including Lake Saltonstall and

Pisgah Brook.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is town historian for the town of Branford.