

Branford Green History Hunt - Question and Answer Sheet

The Branford Green has been the center of the town's religious, civic and social life since the land was given to the town in 1699. It has seen many uses over the years from cow pasture and militia training to town carnivals, concerts and today's Branford Festivals. We hope that this hunt will help you learn a little about Branford's history and this special place.

Happy hunting!

Stop 1 – Town Hall and Branford History Sign

Town Hall was built in 1860 and has hosted many activities including voting, banking, dances, roller skating and boxing matches. An old stone jail stood behind the building from 1878 until the 1970s.

Question: What was the original name of the Branford settlement (meaning "Tidal River")?

Answer: _____

Stop 2 – Civil War Monument

More than 200 men from Branford served in the Civil War. This impressive monument was built by the Grand Army of the Republic (a Union Army veterans' group) as a lasting memorial to those who died.

Question: The monument recognizes eight Civil War battles where Branford men fought. What are the names of two of those battles?

Answer: 1. _____ 2. _____

Stop 3 – First Congregational Church

The history of the Congregational Church is the history of Branford, as the church founded the town. The land was owned and distributed by the church, and everyone in town was required to attend lengthy church services each Sunday.

Question: What year did the First Congregational Church first gather and start serving the community of Branford?

Answer: _____

Stop 4 – Corner of Main Street and Blackstone Avenue

Main Street was laid out by the earliest settlers and was part of what was known as the King's Highway. It has seen many changes over the years including several fires. The most recent fire happened in 1998 and destroyed the section of buildings across the street from this stop.

Question: What local arts organization has a gallery in the new Branford Town Center building?

Answer: _____

Stop 5 – First Baptist Church

This church, built in 1843, is the oldest church building of the Green. The church is built on a part of the green known as "whipping post hill" where in colonial days the stocks and pillory once stood.

Question: What time is Sunday worship at the First Baptist Church?

Answer: _____

Stop 6 – World War I Cenotaph (Memorial)

The cenotaph is a memorial to World War I servicemen who lost their lives in battle. It was designed by Branford resident J. Andre Smith, a WWI veteran and well-known military artist, who also created the design for the Distinguished Service Cross. The granite symbol in the center of the cenotaph represents the Distinguished Service Cross.

Question: What is the Latin phrase on the cenotaph?

Answer: _____

Bonus: The Branford 350th Time Capsule is located near the cenotaph. What year will it be opened?

Bonus answer: _____

Stop 7 – The Academy

The Academy is the oldest building on the Green and was built as a private school. This is the third location for the Academy. It originally stood where the Town Hall is now, was moved to the rear of the Congregational Church in 1860, and then moved again to this location in 1974.

Question: What year was The Academy built?

Answer: _____

Stop 8 – Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Church was formed in 1784 by town members unhappy with the Congregational Church. The bell of the current church building, built in 1851, served as the town's first fire alarm.

Question: What year was Trinity Church built in Roman numerals? (Hint: Look for the cornerstone)

Answer: _____

Stop 9 – Corner of Main Street and Montowese Street

Electric trolleys were a popular way of getting from place to place at the turn of the century. This corner of the Green is curved because trolley cars coming down Main Street made the turn onto Montowese Street here as they continued on their way to Indian Neck and Stony Creek.

Question: What famous school was founded near here in 1701?

Answer: _____

Stop 10 – Flag Pole

As you have seen, there are several memorials located across the Green. This granite marker was placed here in 1985.

Question: This memorial recognizes those who served in which three wars?

Answer: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Thank you for participating in the Branford Green History Hunt. For more information about Branford history, follow the **Branford Historical Society** on Facebook and Instagram.

Answers: 1 - Tokkeiti, 2 - Antietam, Shiloh, Newbern, Vicksburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville or Port Hudson, 3 - 1644, 4 - BACA, 5 - 10 AM, 6 - Pro Patria (Bonus: 2144), 7 - 1820, 8 - MDCCCL, 9 - Yale, 10 - World War II, Korea, Vietnam

Branford, CT, USA

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