

Stratford History - Always Amazing

By David Wright, Editor
Stratford Historical Society's
UPDATE

Prior to the summer of 1893, the train tracks were laid at grade (street) level. Beginning in 1893, the New Haven and Hartford line began raising the train tracks at all the street crossings through-out town. The old train station, which was located at King Street and Linden Avenue, was demolished and a new station was built at the current train station location.

Charles Hughes, a Bridgeport resident, opened a stone quarry business across the street from the old train station in 1880. No doubt, the motivation for Mr. Hughes to open his stone business in Stratford was the availability of stone located in the present day Roosevelt Forest. Unfortunately for Stratford, raising the tracks at the old train station meant Mr. Hughes could no longer operate his business, economically, in Stratford. Stratford lost its then largest employer.

The Newtown Bee
September 1, 1893
STRATFORD

TO REMOVE TO BRIDGEPORT.

The Stratford granite and marble works have moved their plant permanently, to Bridgeport. This they were obliged to do, on account of the difficulty experienced in getting stone unloaded from the cars. The raising of the railroad through the town, removed the side tracks, and it has been impossible for the past three months, for them to get any stock by rail. When the improvements are completed the road will probably put inside tracks for unloading freight, but they will be located so far away from where they were before, that it would be very inconvenient for the granite works if they continued in their old location, and would entail a heavy expense for carting, so it was thought best to give up their business here entirely. They have had an office and salesroom at No. 1 Lyon street, Bridgeport, opposite the railroad station, for the past three years, and have now leased the dock in the rear of their office and will carry on their cutting work there. The business has been established here, for the past 13 years, and from a small concern employing one to two men, has increased to the largest in Fairfield county, employing in the busy season from 18 to 20 hands. It is a loss to any town to have a flourishing business remove from it, but in this case no other course seemed advisable.



Boothe Brothers at the rock quarry in the present day Roosevelt Forest c 1900



Stratford Train Station c 1882 which was located at King Street and Linden Avenue