

## FLASHBACK 150 YEARS AGO APRIL 1872

### Events from the first week of April 1872 in the pages of the Unionist Gazette

**A Novel Exhibition** – an exhibition of the manner of extinguishing fires without water, will be given on Thursday evening at some point on the Lottery Field. The Engine employed will be that known as “Gardner’s Extinguisher,” and the exhibition will take place under the direction of the Board of Commissioners. The extinguishing material is carbonic acid gas, which is generated in the machine.

**Two Mails a Day** – On Monday next, April 1, the additional way mail between New York and Easton, via the Central Railroad, will commence, leaving Easton at half-past 6 a.m. and New York at 4 p.m. Mr. J.R.D. Stott, of Bound Brook, has been appointed route agent for this mail. This arrangement was...demanded by the rapidly increasing business.

**The Millstone Y.M.C.A.** held a community night Thursday evening. The special feature was the exhibition of motion pictures, under the auspices of the County Committee.

## 100 YEARS AGO APRIL 1922

### Historic House Willed *Somerset Democrat, April 7, 1922, page 6*

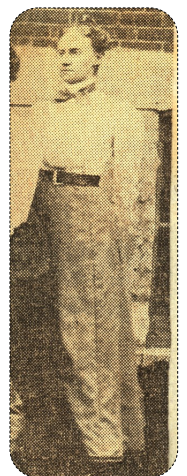
The old house in Pluckemin where tradition says George Washington wrote an account of the Battle of Princeton shortly after the fight and which was owned by John Fenner, Jr., who died recently, is left in his will, just probated, to Mrs. Depew Fields, his housekeeper. When Mrs. Fields dies, the house will go to the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church ... as lodging for travelers at cost prices. Mr. Fenner lived in the historic house, which was built in 1750, for 36 years. During the last 24 years he never locked the doors and kept a room ready and bed ready for any passing stranger...in need of shelter. In front of the historic house is a stone marker placed by the Morristown Chapter D. A. R. to mark the route taken by General Washington on his way from Princeton to Morristown. ... In this house in Revolutionary times, a number of British prisoners were held.

### Americanization School Work Has Been Great Success *Somerset Democrat, April 28, 1922, page 1*

The first year of Americanization Schools held at Manville under supervision of the County Y.M.C.A. terminated in a wonderful show of spirit and good will at Manville on Friday evening. The Manville Theatre ... was packed with five to six hundred of Manville’s foreign-born residents. ... Miss (Elizabeth) Craig has been very successful in teaching a large class in English. She told of her class of nine nationalities. Other teachers were Miss Anna Wilhousky, Albert Reddinger, John Dumont, and Rev. Andrew Kosa, all of whom have given one or two evenings a week without pay in this capacity ...There were 150 registered students.

### Miss Miller Entertains Former Students *Somerset Democrat, April 21, 1922, page 1*

One of the most delightful affairs...ever held in Somerville took place last Saturday evening, when Miss Anna R. Miller gave a reception for the graduates of Somerville High School during the period of her membership on the faculty...1892 to 1919. Graduates from near and far came to honor their former teacher and the numbers of those present testified something as to the love and esteem in which the former principal of the high school is held. With the graduates came their husbands or wives, and fully 250 were present... Assemblyman Frederick A. McCullough...as chairman of the evening...called upon each of those who were to participate. **Paul Robeson**, a graduate of Somerville High School, who has won fame for himself and his alma mater in the world of study and athletics, a graduate of Rutgers College and now a student in his senior year at Columbia Law School, New York,... paid a glowing tribute to the work of Miss Miller in the high school, told of her untiring effort and patience in the interest of its student body in years gone by, of her years of accomplishment and service and of her assistance and inspiration to him. ...in her remarks, Miss Miller reiterated her oft expressed love for the high school and the students....The balance of the evening was devoted to dancing and ... music by Ebel’s Orchestra.



*Image: Miss Miller in 1901, English teacher at Somerville High School*

### Real Treat for Immigrants *Somerset Democrat April 28, 1922 page 8*

Immigrant struggles with American food on Ellis Island reached a climax when Commissioner Wallace introduced plates of ice cream to the 1,700 diners ... to give the immigrants a real treat on their reaching the land of promise. What happened was a marvel to witness. The first persons served were a Balkan native and a native of East India. The East Indian took a lick and liked it. He ... saw that the Balkan opposite him had a bigger piece. Greedily he grabbed for it. Then the fight began. Both got well smeared in the face with the food. The other diners ... thought they knew the trick. The stunt was to smear the cold substance on your neighbor’s face...Then someone tasted the ice cream and with a whoop announced it was manna too precious to be wasted on countenances. The head steward said the same thing in the eight languages he speaks. The face smearing ceased abruptly. But the final experiment was yet to be made. The real genius of the meal took up his knife and a piece of bread and spread the new butter tenderly over it. He started the fashion with a bang and all the rest enjoyed their ice cream that way. (–New York World)