

FLASHBACK JUNE 1921 100 years ago

Birthday of Flag to Be Celebrated

Somerset Democrat, June 3, 1921, page 1

Flag Day, June 14, the anniversary of the birth of the Stars and Stripes, will be celebrated in Somerville this year far more extensively than ever before if the plans being formulated by Somerville Lodge, No. 1068, B.P.O.E., are carried to a successful completion.....**The American Flag having flown officially for the first time in Somerset county** and this county being the scene of much important action during the year of the flag's adoption 144 years ago [1777], the Somerville Elks are of the opinion that the biggest celebration should take place at the county seat.

In speaking of the proposed celebration, a member of the order stated....that there were more American troops in Somerset county at the time of the adoption of the American flag than at any time in its history before or since. It was also stated that the troops which had crossed the Delaware and fought at Trenton and Princeton, later passed within a few feet of the flag staff on the Court House green. *[Ed: The DAR later marked this spot.]*



First USA flag, 1777



Nurses Graduating Exercises

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The commencement exercises of the Somerset Hospital Training School for Nurses, held in the Second Reformed Church last Friday evening, was largely attended by people from all parts of the county. The exercises were very interesting. The playing by Carl Oberbrunner and the singing by Miss Margaret Disborough were both heartily applauded. The address by Mayor T.A. Flockhart was very appropriate and showed he had given thought to his subject. President Charles C. Kenyon presented the diplomas and administered the Hippocratic oath. At the same time he made some very interesting remarks to the graduates...

The graduates were Miss Clara Brokaw, of Plainfield, and Miss Catherine Kochen, of Dunellen.

There were 18 nurses from the hospital present at the church, wearing their full uniform. They looked very pretty as they ushered their guests up the aisles of the church. Mrs. Helen Smith, of Somerville, and Mrs. Koechlein, of South Bound Brook, graduate nurses, took care of the patients at the hospital during the exercises.

Six Whiskey Thieves Rounded Up Quick

Somerset Democrat, June 17, 1921, page 1

Joseph Ramponi, William Ramponi, Charles Comalot, John Saley, John "Shin" Miller and Daniel Robbins, all of New Brunswick, are locked up in the county jail at Somerville, along with James F. Mills, a soldier, who is held as a material witness in the case. The men are held under \$10,000 bonds on each of two charges, one that they broke and entered into the house of John Krilla, on the road from Middlebush to Blackwell's Mills and stealing a barrel of whiskey valued at \$2,000 and \$2,465 in money and property. In addition to these charges are those of impersonating an officer.

John F. Mills, a soldier at the Raritan Arsenal, was sent to New Brunswick Monday afternoon by the camp authorities with a military truck which he was to have repaired. He was standing with [the truck] on Livingston avenue when the two Ramponis, Comalot and Saley appeared, exhibited badges, stated that they were revenue officers, and ordered Mills to place the truck at their disposal. He went with them to a road leading from Middlebush to Blackwell's Mills, where they broke into an old barn on the Ruppert place, now occupied by John Krilla, and took out one barrel of "applejack," loaded it on the truck and drove to New Brunswick [where] the liquor was taken to the Ramponi saloon on the corner of Lee avenue and Suydam street. Mills was dismissed and given \$25, \$75 less than they had agreed to pay him for the use of the truck.

In the meantime, Somerset county authorities had been reached. The Ramponi saloon was raided at about 3 o'clock and Saley was found there guarding the liquor with a 45 army automatic. William Ramponi and Comalot were found at Ramponi's home by Detectives Totten and David and [were] arrested. Joseph Ramponi was picked up on the streets at about daybreak. Robbins was apprehended the following day. Yesterday morning Sheriff Conkling and Detective Totten brought all of the recovered liquor to Somerville, where it is being held in the county jail.