

100 YEARS AGO JUNE 1924

SOUTH SOMERVILLE TO BE CALLED ROYSTON *Courier-News, 14 June 1924, p 5*

Somerville. A land deed, given 216 years ago, may settle a controversy over what shall be the name of a farming community along the Lehigh Valley railroad, now known as Royce Valley, but formerly called South Somerville. The name, if the suggestion of the Public Utilities Commission is accepted, will be Royston, as that was the name specified in the deed conveying 1,740 acres to Philip Hedman from the estate of John Royce, who had acquired the land through royal grant. ... [T]he railroad, acting on a request of shippers who complained their shipments were going to Somerville by mistake, changed the name to Royce Valley. ... Mr. Burgess for the railroad previously made it clear that the railroad had no particular name it desired, only objected to South Somerville. Mr. Callaway (a gentleman farmer at Royce Valley), [then] told of the land deed, dated 1708, in which the execution of the estate of John Royce sold the land "between the Raritan and Millstone rivers, east of Roycefield, to Royce Brook," for \$5 an acre to Hedman. In the deed it is provided that the name of the land so conveyed should be Royston. However the name was never used. *

**Ed. Note: the name lives on as a residential section of Hillsborough, a condominium complex, the name of a golf course, and a swim club located in that area.*

TO HOLD TRIPLE CELEBRATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY *Bernardsville News, 12 June 1924, p 1* **Will Mark Opening of Concrete Road Through Community, Formation of Borough, and in Honor of Day.**

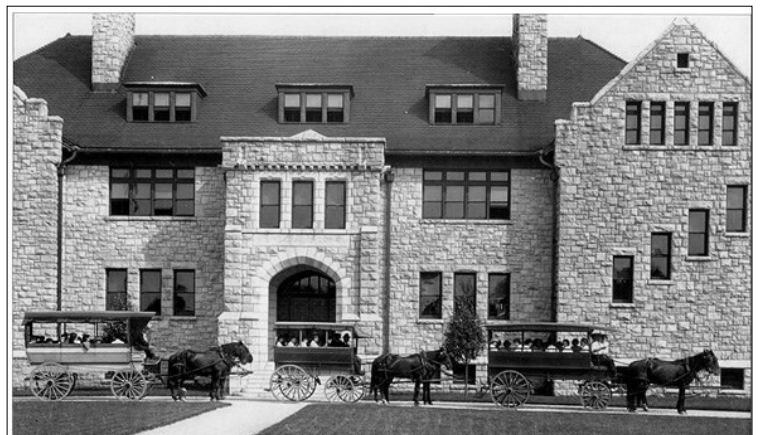
Bernardsville. At a mass meeting held in Bernards Inn on Monday night, plans were completed for a triple celebration on July 4th in honor of the day, the formation of the new borough and a welcoming of its new official family and the completion and opening of that portion of State Highway, Route 16, running through the borough center. The guests of honor will include Mayor George D. Cross, the new borough officials and Contractor Daniel Klockner, Jr., who is in charge of concreting the road through this community and his two foremen. It is proposed to have the town take on holiday attire for the occasion and arrangements are being made to have the business section decorated and illuminated from below the railroad station in Mine Brook road to Church street. Arches will be placed along this route and there will be a large display in Olcott Square. Prizes will be offered for the best floats and best decorated automobiles in a parade to be held in the afternoon. ... Following the parade speeches will be held in the square and then a reception of borough officials in Bernards Inn ... and in the evening there will be a display of fireworks near Lackawanna park and a block dance in Olcott square.

FINED FOR KEEPING DISORDERLY HOUSE *Courier-News, 28 June 1924, p 9*

Raritan. Anthony Guido and Anthony Soriano, both of this place, were arraigned before Judge Frank L. Cleary yesterday morning, charged with maintaining a disorderly house in the old Riverview Hotel on Somerset street, where, it is maintained, gambling was allowed. Both were placed on probation for a period of two years. Guido was fined \$100 while Soriano got off with half that amount.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING NEXT LOGICAL STEP *Bernardsville News, 12 June 1924, p 8*

Bernards Township. A new high school building is the next logical step in the improvement of the school plant of the Bernards school district, which district now comprises the Township of Bernards and the Borough of Bernardsville. ... The present Olcott building was not planned to accommodate modern curricula. It is equipped with an attic auditorium which can be used for pupil audiences only. It has no gymnasium worthy of the name. It is not equipped with adequate science laboratories, and even if rooms were available, is not constructed so that can be added. It has no domestic science rooms and no adequate manual training shop. ... The building is so congested that three 14x17 feet attic rooms with ceilings sloping to a height of 3 ½ feet are regularly used for classrooms. ... It has become necessary to use one cloak room for a science apparatus storage room and another cloak room for a lumber storage room. ... Any school building of today is not like a school building of twenty years ago, neither is the automobile like the horse-drawn vehicle.



The 9-room Olcott building (pictured here in 1908) served as the first high school in Bernards Township and also housed Bernardsville's elementary grades.

https://somersethillshistoricalsociety.org/news_items/bernardsville-olcott-avenue-district-approved-as-a-nj-state-historic-district/

LIBERTY CORNER NEWS

Bernardsville News, 19 June 1924, p 8

- ⇒ Very interesting prayer meetings are held in the Presbyterian Chapel on Wednesday nights at 7:45. All who attend enjoy them, but all don't go. When a small boy was asked if many were at prayer meeting his answer was "sure, there were almost as many women there as there were men on the store stoop."
- ⇒ This is a good bye week, the last week for several months that we shall see little and big boys and girls trudging through town. ... Last Saturday a little Italian boy from Lyons with brownish hair and the most sparkling black eyes you ever saw trudded to Liberty Corner to call on one of his grown up friends. It was a long, long walk and the little boy was very tired but also happy to feel that he could "walk as far as the bus can ride" and it certainly was thrilling to him to feel that when school closes he can still keep in touch with Liberty Corner, bless his heart.