

## FLASHBACK

*100 years ago*

### Citizenship School for New Voters

October 22, 1920 [Bound Brook Chronicle](#), page 1

The final meeting of the series of four of the Citizenship School, conducted by the Bound Brook League of Women Voters, will be held in the auditorium of the Lafayette School this evening. The topic of the evening will be **“Women’s Relation to Government.”** Mrs. White, one of the officers of the Plainfield League of Women Voters, will discuss the question of **why women should enroll in political parties** and the League of Women Voters.



Image: Commemorative stamp, US Post Office, 2020

### Beer Bill Doomed

November 26, 1920 [Bound Brook Chronicle](#), page 6



Prohibition-era clambake near Chimney Rock, Bridgewater. Source: Somerville Fire Museum.

It is more than possible that among the first bills introduced at the forthcoming session of the legislature will be one for the repeal of the “2.75 beer” bill, passed last winter. Senator Elect W. H. Parry of Essex County believes the legislature should pass without delay a **prohibition enforcement act** to check the liquor flood in the state, and he may introduce both measures.

[Said Mr. Parry,] “In October 1919, before prohibition became operative, there were 72 arrests for drunkenness in the city of Trenton. In October 1920, under a dry law, there were 106 arrests for drunkenness. Men who have never been interested in prohibition before are now interested in the stopping with an effective hand of the operations of the band of whiskey dealers, who are not only showing an open contempt for the law, but are selling an inferior brand of liquor, which is poisoning the systems of the people who use it.”

### *255 years ago* **Rolling toward the Revolution**

#### 1765: Outrage over Stamp Act

In 1765, as the people of New Jersey strain under the “Intolerable Acts,” the Dutch clergy preach liberty from the pulpit.

Britain passed a number of measures designed to tax the colonies and put restrictions on trade, collectively known as the ‘Intolerable Acts.’ One of those laws was the Stamp Act, which put a tax on every document written or passed in the colonies. The rallying cry of the revolution became “no taxation without representation.”

The six and a half cent cost of a newspaper included a half-penny tax; a stamp showed the tax was paid.

*Cf Somerset County, Crossroads of the Revolution, W. A. Schleicher & S. J. Winter, Arcadia Pub., p 9.*

*Note from Flashback editors: every piece of paper was taxed according to its use and a tax stamp had to be affixed to each document or paper to show that the tax had been paid. Paper was essential, unlike its 21st century toss-away counterpart.*



image of tax stamps: allposters.com