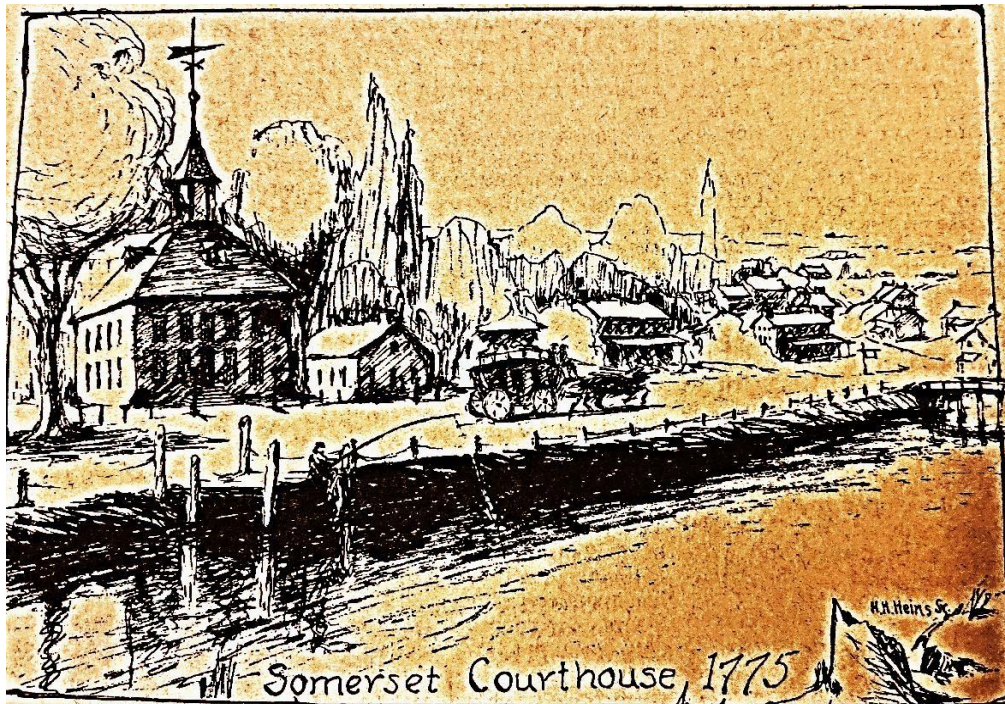


Rolling Toward Revolution...

July, 1772: A peaceful summer in Somerset County begins...



News of the burning of the Gaspee made few ripples if at all in rural colonial Somerset County.

- ❖ Public events were concerned primarily with the month to month running of the County. By act of the General Assembly of New Jersey, the amount of 450 pounds had to be raised by Somerset and Middlesex Counties to complete construction of the Raritan River Crossing at Landing Lane. The Somerset townships to benefit from this infrastructure project were assessed:
 - Hillsborough, 10 pounds; Bridgewater, 13 pounds; Basking Ridge, 7 pounds.
 - Local reaction to this levy is not recorded in Snell's History of Somerset County (Montgomery Township was not formally established until 1772).
- ❖ The circuit court met at the County courthouse in Millstone, where the records list the following circuit justices in 1772:
 - John Perrine, Jacob van Ostrand, John Brokaw (who also served as Clerk of the elected Freeholders until 1776.)
 - John Baptiste Dumont also served as a Freeholder.