

## 100 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1922

### ***Murdered Clergyman and Woman Summoned by Telephone before Tragedy*** *Sept 18, 1922, Courier News, pages 1,11*

While the police have not as yet been able to unravel the mystery which still shrouds the murder of the Rev. Edward W. Hall, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, of New Brunswick, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, 32-year-old wife of James Mills, sexton of the church, which was disclosed by the finding of the bodies by school children just outside of New Brunswick, under an apple tree on a farm in Somerset County, on Saturday (*Sept. 16*), the theory advanced today is that the minister and the woman were lured Thursday night by telephone messages from the slayers to the place where they were murdered. Both Mr. Hall and the woman were shot in the head. There was no indication of a struggle. [The authorities...have been unable to establish the time, place, or motive for the crime... Mrs. Mills is known to have received one telephone message and Mr. Hall two on Thursday evening.] ...The Somerset and Middlesex County officials ... now believe that the double murder took place in Middlesex County and the dead bodies were removed to the place where found in Somerset County.



Rev. E.W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills *image: nj.com*

### ***Somerville Jailer Waits in Vain for Hall-Mills Murderer*** *Sept 20, 1922, Courier News, page 1*

Though the jailer at Somerville kept the jail open last night under instructions, the promised arrests were not made. Apparent differences are reported among some of the more active investigators... Among the **new clues** found are a pistol and six letters written by Mrs. Mills to the clergyman. These letters were in his study. [Somerset County Prosecutor] Beekman said they are more important than notes found near the bodies ... The shells found near the bodies were .32 calibre, short, for an automatic. ...

### ***Murder Mystery Still Unsolved*** *Sept 21, 1922, Courier News, page 1*

Officials at New Brunswick... intimated today that they know more than they have told about two automobiles that were seen racing away from near where the bodies were found about the time shots and screams were heard last Thursday night. ... They have added kidnapping to their theories... It appears to be generally accepted now ... that the murder took place in or near the old Phillips farmhouse.

### ***A Weak-Willed Man and a Jealous Woman*** *Sept 26, 1922, Courier News, page 8*

It was a weak-willed man, prompted by a jealous woman, that killed the Rev. E. W. Hall and Mrs. James Mills, the leader of the choir of his church, St. John the Evangelist, of New Brunswick, the authorities now believe. The bodies of the minister and the chorister were found lying side by side, under an apple tree, on the Phillips farm, just outside of New Brunswick, one week ago last Saturday. Since the finding of the bodies many theories have been advanced: they have been investigated and have been abandoned, but no arrests have been made. ... The police of New Brunswick are working on this case; so are the detectives of two counties...

### ***Charlotte Mills Appeals to Governor to Help Find Slayer of Her Mother*** *Sept 28, 1922, Courier News, page 1*

The voice of a child cried for vengeance today on the murderers of the Rev. Edward [Hall] and Mrs. James Mills, whose bodies were found on the Phillips farm near here two weeks ago. Charlotte Mills, 15-year-old school girl, sent a plea to Governor Edwards that he do all in his power to find the murderers of her mother and the pastor. "Mother never did anything wrong," said the daughter today...

Prosecutor Strickler [of Middlesex County] ...plans to exhume the body of Mrs. Mills to determine how many bullets were fired into her body as assassins surprised her and the millionaire minister... It was announced today that the courts would be appealed to for permission to exhume the Rev. Mr. Hall's body.

### ***Action Taken in Effort to Solve Slaying of E. W. Hall and Mrs. Jas. Mills*** *Sept 30, 1922, Courier News, pages 1,9*

The Somerset County Board of Freeholders...voted to offer a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the murderer of Rev. E. W. Hall and Mrs. James Mills ... Dr. William Long of Somerville, County Physician of Somerset County, states he made no autopsy on the bodies of the murdered victims because he was not directed to do so by Prosecutor Beekman. ... Preparations are going forward today for the autopsy to be performed upon the body of the Rev. Hall. The order for exhumation was mailed last night to Supreme Court Justice Wasservogel in Manhattan for his signature. ... Startling revelation of an autopsy today started authorities on new clues in the search for the murderers ... Examination of the body of Mrs. Mills, which was exhumed, showed that she was the victim of ferocious attacks. The woman...had been shot three times in the head and her throat cut from ear to ear. This removed all doubt...as to the motive for the crime. Hatred and perhaps jealousy caused the slayers to take the lives of the millionaire pastor and the woman ... The fact that no blood was found in the vicinity of the crab-apple tree on the Phillips farm where the bodies were discovered two weeks ago led to the conclusion that the couple were surprised and murdered at some place other than where they were found.

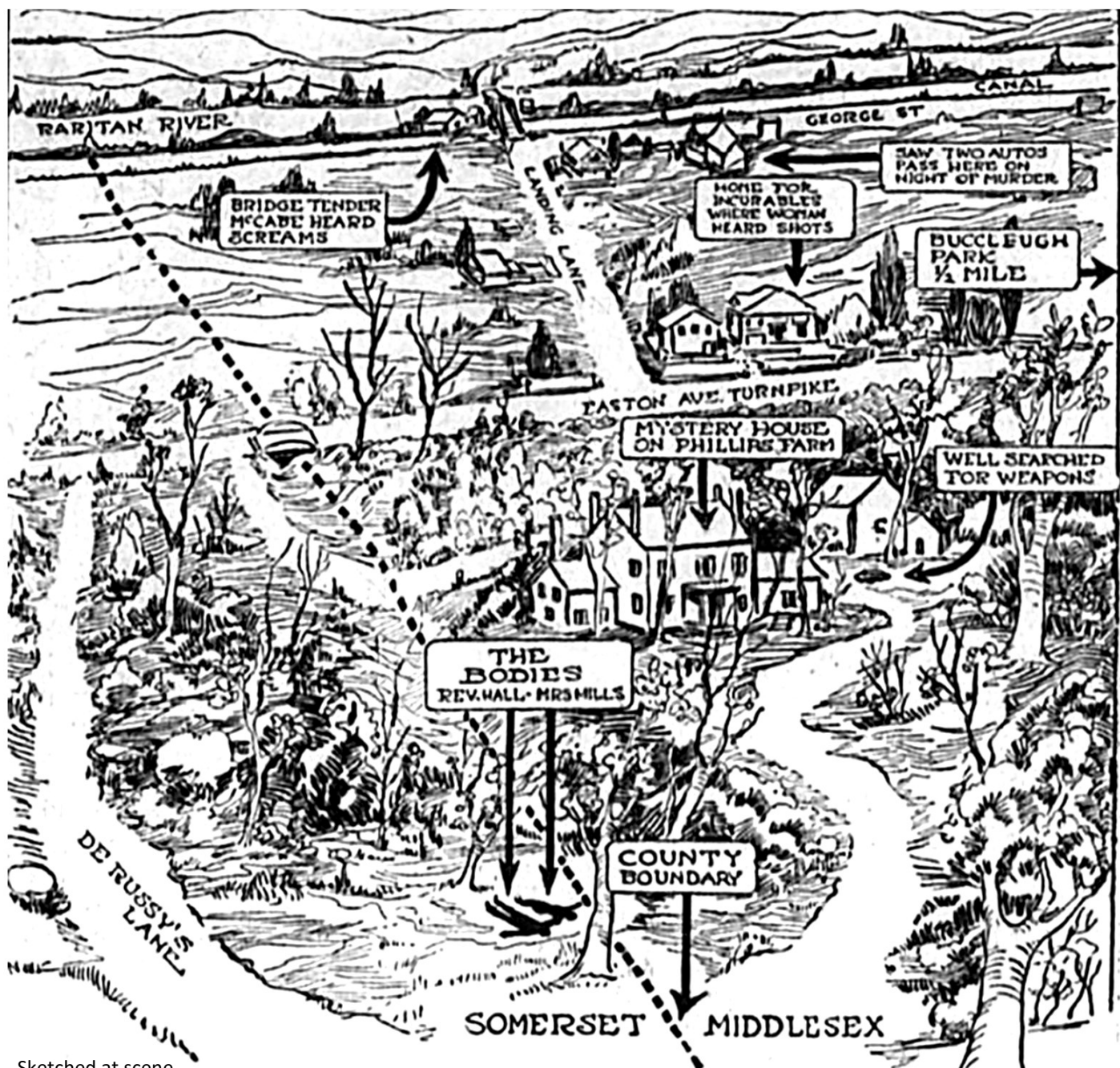
*Continued on page 2 ...*



## 100 YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 1922

*Continued from page 1*

### Diagram of the Hall-Mills Murder Scene



Sketched at scene

By E. R. Higgins for the Newspaper Enterprise Association <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=82113928>

#### RADIO PROGRAM TODAY

September 21, 1922

Courier-News, page 3

“WJZ” Station, Newark, N.J. (Tune 360 Meters) (Daylight Saving Time)

- 4:00 p.m. — baseball scores, women’s fashion news, closing prices on active stocks & bonds..., musical program
- 5:30 p.m.— agricultural reports, official weather forecast, shipping news
- 5:45 p.m.— “The proper use of belts and suspenders” by Vanity Fair
- 7:00 p.m. — final baseball scores
- 7:10 p.m. — “Jack Rabbit Stories” by David Cory
- 10:52 pm. — standard time signals from Arlington
- 11:01 p.m. — official weather forecast

Photo: Jupiterimages

