Editor's Acknowledgment

THIS sketch attempts to present a brief but accurate picture of Somerset County. A flood of facts was needed. And to assemble them it was necessary to resort to the information and data laboriously collected by others. It is to these persons that the writer desires to express his deep gratitude and sincere appreciation, not only for their valued assistance, but also for the kind and willing spirit of that cooperation. It is the writer's pleasure to acknowledge such courteous help from Mr. Richard Whitney, former United States Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Senator Dryden Kuen, Mr. William S. Woodruff and the Regional Planning Ass'n, Inc., of New York; from the newspapers, banks and industries of Somerset County; from all Somerset County officials, and the Borough, Township and Town officials of the County; from the New Jersey State Highway, Library and Public Utility Commissions, and the State Departments of Agriculture, Health, Institutions and Agencies, Labor and Industry, and Banking and Insurance; from the Trenton office of the United States Weather Bureau and from Chester Van Tine.

M. M.
DEDICATION

BEING long conscious of the urgent need for an honest and straightforward exposition of Somerset County's outstanding advantages of location, natural resources, beauty and wealth, the Board of Chosen Freeholders ventured upon the task. And what an array of alluring superiorities it revealed!

Somerset County is included in the area of the New York Regional Plan. It has rich soils...healthy climate. It has excellent transportation facilities...throbbing industrial communities...humming business centres. And the beauty of its hills bedecked with magnificent estates of the wealthy is probably unmatched anywhere in America.

And now that this brief but comprehensive pen and picture description of Somerset County has been brought to a successful completion, the Board of Freeholders with great respect dedicates it to the sturdy, industrious and patriotic people of Somerset County. And hopes that it will further a continuance of their progress and advancement.

FRANK W. REMSEN, Director
Chairman, Freeholders Book Committee.
Looking from the Air at Somerville — The County Seat
The camera was pointed ESE, showing busy Main Street and the trees-shaded residential district surrounded by industries.
Population

The 1930 census has revealed Somerset as one of the most rapidly growing counties of New Jersey. Its present population of 65,261 shows an increase of 36% in the past ten years, whereas between 1910 and 1920 there was only a 23.5% increase.

Rate of Growth: The first authoritative record of population appeared in 1790 and showed the County to have but 1,009 persons. The County's growth from then until the beginning of the present century was rather slow but steady. But from 1900 on the increase has been ever swifter and heavier, as revealed by the following figures: from 1900-1910 the increase was 19%, from 1910-1920 it was 23.5% and from 1920-1930 it was 36%.

Population Centers: Sixty per cent. of the County's total population is centered in six communities. They are North Plainfield with 9,074, Somerville with 8,245, Bound Brook with 7,178, Manville with 5,442, Raritan with 4,851 and Bernardsville with 3,377.

Classification: It speaks well for the County that about three-fourths of its people are native born whites, a great proportion of whose ancestry extends back to the early pioneers. About 22% are foreign born white and the balance colored.

Vital Statistics: In 1929 the birth rate was 18.32 per 1000 population and the death rate 12.65, while marriages were 6.14 per thousand.

Though Somerset County has shown rapid forward strides in the past twenty years its real growth is only beginning.
North Plainfield—the most populated Borough in the County. A community of beautiful homes.
Physical Features and Climate

Location: The County of Somerset is located in the very center of the heavily populated northern half of New Jersey. Somerville, the County Seat, is in the center of the County and but 36 miles from New York, 36 miles from Easton, 29 miles from Trenton and 64 from Philadelphia. The County is bounded on the north by Morris County, on the east by Union and Middlesex counties, on the south by Middlesex and Mercer counties and on the west by Mercer and Hunterdon. The Raritan and Passaic rivers with their tributaries form a considerable portion of the County's boundary line.

Size: It is one of the smaller counties of the State, having a total area of 302.02 square miles or 195,713 acres, of which 248 acres are water surface.

Topography: Sweeping up from the lower undulating Coastal Plain region in the southern part of the County, where the elevation is about 100 feet above sea level, the ground rises and folds itself into the picturesque hills of northern Somerset County, where it becomes part of the Piedmont Plain formation. From these hill tops which range from 300 feet to 800 and 900 feet above sea level are to be had wide and distant views of New Jersey's "Garden County." The highest point in the County is located northwest of Bernardsville near the Morris County line and has an elevation of 837 feet. The unique formation of the two high, curving and parallel Watchung ridges gives added variety to the scenery and topography of the County.

Climate: Weather conditions that are most conducive to health prevail. Winters are cold and the summers moderately warm, mean temperature being 36°F for the winter months and 71°F for the summer months. Extremes below zero or above 100°F are seldom reached. The sunshine percentage is 50, rain falls an average of 42.5 days each year and the average annual rainfall is 47 inches, being slightly greater during July and August than the other months. Snowfall is not heavy enough to obstruct traffic. The prevailing winds are south-west in summer and northwest during the remainder of the year.

Streams: Somerset County is well drained by the Raritan and the Passaic Rivers and their tributaries. They flow south and southeast, discharging their waters into the Atlantic Ocean. The Raritan is the principal river of the County, being formed by the union of its North and South Branches whose principal tributaries are the Lummington and Millstone Rivers and Rockaway Creek.

Geology and Soils: Submerged at least once under the waters of the Atlantic, the County's area has passed through several cycles of erosion and deposition. Consequently, there are a great variety of soils, all of which are light in color and generally fertile. The Red orBrunswick Shale soils are the most extensive in the County and derive their color from red oxide of iron. They are sedimentary in origin, are stratified, have a uniform dip to the northwest and are of Tertiary argillaceous formation. The trap rock ridges are greens of volcanic origin. Stone for roads and buildings, iron ore, copper and lime rock are the principal mineral resources of the County.
Bound Brook from the Air, Looking West—Where three railroads and the canal converge, making of Bound Brook the County's greatest center of industry.
Transportation and Communication

QUICKER transportation — quicker communication save time, lengthen life. They make for more wealth, happiness and leisure. And Somerset County, keeping abreast of the times, is equipped with every facility for the swift conveyance of persons, thought and things. Railroads, electric, bus and motor freight lines; highways, canals and waterways; provisions for flying and complete mail, telegraph, telephone and radio transmission systems are available.

Railroads: Five major railroad systems—the Central Railroad of New Jersey, Philadelphia and Reading, the Port Reading, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Lehigh Valley—connect the thirty passenger and freight stations in the County and offer rapid transportation to and from all parts of the nation. They have adequate schedules and carry thousands of commuters to and from New York each day.

Electric lines: Connecting the population centers of the County, they run on frequent schedule from Raritan, through Somerville, Bound Brook and Manville, to Plainfield and New Brunswick.

Roads: The County has a modern, 806.62-mile road system, which is composed of coordinated, hard surfaced concrete main highways, secondary roads and streets. They form a perfect network which ties in and makes accessible every remote part of the County and connects with the thorough routes of the excellent State Highway system.

Buses and Motor Freight: Four local, five Inter-County and three Inter-State bus lines provide excellent passenger service in the County, State and to the metropolitan cities which encircle the County. An ample number of motor freight lines are constantly available.

Waterways and Canals: The Delaware and Raritan Canal makes possible cheap water transportation, especially for raw materials. This particular feature gives to industrial establishments a distinct advantage.

Via Air: A landing field within the County and others in adjacent territory are but a beginning of the County's air-transport development.

Mails: There are 31 United States post offices and 14 rural free delivery routes for handling the mails expeditiously in the County.

Telephones, Telegraph and Radio: The telephone in addition to performing its own direct and indispensable service also has become the medium for telegraphic and radio communication. Whereas the first central telephone office in Somerset County was established in 1881 and as recently as 1900 there were in Somerville only 130 telephones, today there are about 9,000 telephones in the County efficiently operated by the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. The service is everywhere a hand. And one of the world's largest radio transmitting stations is located in the County.
Agriculture

LONG recognized as the leading County of New Jersey in the production of purebred Holstein cattle, Somerset has been counted among the thirty-five leading counties of the United States in this respect. Its combination of fertile soils, rolling topography, many streams and long 181-day growing season are ideal for the production of dairy cattle, poultry and general crops. For the past three consecutive years the County has won the State Corn Cup for the best corn exhibit at the annual State-Wide Corn Show.

Principal Products: Milk, eggs, hay, grain and fruit are the principal farm products. The County ranks well up toward the top of the list in the production of milk, eggs and general farm crops in spite of the fact that a considerable portion of the County’s area is the non-agricultural region of the Watchung and Neshanic mountains; that the northern part of the County is given over to large estates and that a great variety of products is raised. In 1923 the value of crops was $1,231,817; value of livestock—$1,178,610; dairy products—$707,870, and eggs—$646,661. All farm land and buildings were valued at $14,027,785.

Farms and Acreage: There are at present 1,248 farms in the County of which about 73% are operated by the owners. They comprise a total of 100,225 acres or 1.4% of the County’s area and average 80.5 acres per farm. In 1924 there were in crops 43,660 acres or 27% of the County’s total area. Of this acreage 47% was in hay, 31% in small grains and 22% in corn.
Marketing: Marketing conditions are exceptionally good. The best markets in the world are located at the very doors of the County. New York, Newark, the Great Resorts, Trenton, Philadelphia and Easton are but a few of the congested communities which surround the County and are an insatiable market for the milk, eggs, fruit and crops of the County. At Bell Mead a group of the farmers have combined themselves into a cooperative association for the advantageous purchase of materials. The County Grange, led by E. E. Cooper for the past fourteen years also renders the farmers great aid in the marketing of their products.

Extension Service: The farmers throughout the County receive valuable assistance from the office of Cooperative Extension Work, located in the Court House. This office acts as an educational bureau for promoting better farming, better farm home life and better living conditions among the rural residents of the County.

The County Agricultural Agent, Mr. R. W. Gardner, and Home Demonstration Agent, Miss Charlotte Embleton, working in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey College of Agriculture and the County Board of Agriculture have been able to improve practices throughout the County. Consequently products of higher quality have been grown, per acre yields have been increased, livestock improved, farm home-life modernized and a healthy interest in farming and home making developed among the boys and girls of the County.
Industry

WHAT an increasingly pleasant story the County's 100 major industrial establishments are writing for themselves! Eight and one-half million dollars paid out in wages during 1929 . . . one-tenth of the County's entire population working in their plants . . . the wealth of the County increased by millions of dollars each year through manufacture . . . happy industrial families . . . sanitary working conditions . . . and humane management are but part of that encouraging story. And the story is only begun. The industrial future of Somerset County
is a happy picture. Even today, two of the industries are international in the scope of their operations and are constantly expanding their local plants.

Principal Products: The diversity of manufactured products is great. It is even difficult to group them, and the following is but a partial list: asbestos products, roofings, brake-lining, pipe coverings and packings; paint, chemicals, dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals and cements; crushed stone, terra cotta, floor coverings, machinery and castings; and textiles, silk, rubberoid products, lace, garments, dressed fur, fuel oils and rubber.

Industry has and is playing a vital part in the growing prosperity and welfare of Somerset County. Whereas the eight and one-half million dollar payroll each year means contented workers and busy merchants, to the management it is an entirely different story. To them it means heavy cares and responsibilities. They must keep production costs low. They must step high, wide and fancy to sell the mountains of manufactured products against keen competition. They must get back the money to assure another eight and one-half million dollar wage year, so that it can circulate locally and keep every one happy. In addition, management must provide a huge sum toward local government expense—that is taxes, which make possible modern schools, roads and liveable environment for the people of the County. What a headache even these problems of industrial management would be to most of us, but the various managing groups are not content to stop there. Voluntarily, they concern themselves and are active in the interest of the health and individual welfare of their workers. Medical service, recreational facilities, educational courses and personal interest in the individual are offered.

It is therefore not unusual that Somerset County takes a pardonable pride in her benefactors, the growing industries. And with such an excellent group of industries as a nucleus, with such nearness to principal markets, and such perfect transportation facilities, it is a certainty that the industrial growth of the County is only just starting.

The industries are concentrated in and around Bound Brook, South Bound Brook, Manville, Somerville and Raritan, where they take advantage of the excellent transportation facilities of the canal, the concrete roads and the converging of three railroad lines.

To present a more intimate picture, brief descriptions of but a few of the County’s leading industries follow.
Not only is the J.M plant at Manville the largest industrial establishment in Somerset County, but it also is the biggest of all the 13 Johns-Manville factories, which are scattered throughout the United States and two foreign countries.

It was about 18 years ago that the international organization came to the County. Its then rapidly expanding business at Brooklyn made enlarged production facilities immediately necessary. A thorough search of the New York area for a new plant site revealed the outstanding industrial advantages which a location in Somerset County offered. The site at present day Manville on the Raritan and on three railroad lines was selected...and in 1913 the first unit, the Magnesia building, was set in operation. From then on until the present, building after building has been added until now there are nine huge factory units, an administration building, a big power house and six other structures...and still the construction program at the Company's 212 acre Manville plant is not at an end. Plans are under way for the manufacture of Asbestos Rigid Shingles and Transite, also for a plant hospital.

Manufacturing almost 200 separate items of textiles, packings, brake-lining, fire felts, pipe coverings, cements, paper, magnesium products, roofings, coatings and rock wool, the production activities at the Manville plant stagger the imagination. A fleet of 22 big trucks is constantly in operation...600,000 gallons of water are used per hour...7,300 phone calls are completed daily...300 tons of coal are burned each day...at average of 288 carloads of materials is handled weekly...two miles of concrete road and three miles of railroad track, built about the plant, are constantly in use...and more than 7,700 men and women are employed, who receive $3,000,000.00 annually in wages.

And though all this vast organization, extensive equipment and many plants are necessary to assure the $3,000,000.00 payroll and steady employment for the workers, the interest of J.M management does not cease at that point. The safety, welfare, health and advancement of the 1,700 employees is made a matter of much importance. Thought, time and money are expended in this direction. An up-to-date first aid room is in charge of a trained nurse...a doctor on call...the library...physical examinations...group life insurance at nominal cost...athletic activities...and free training courses tell the story of human relationship between workers and management. Three-eights men have been in service for 20 years or more, of whom 16 are members of the Quarter Century Club.

The present officials of the Company are: Lewis H. Brown, President; L. R. Hof, Vice-President; S. A. Williams, Vice-President; E. M. Voorhees, Secretary and Treasurer; G. E. Halliday, Manager; and A. R. Fisher, Assistant Manager of the Manville plant. To this official group the people of Somerset County give grateful recognition as benefactors of the County at large.
The North Jersey Quarry Co.: Deep down under the earth's surface, in Nature's laboratory where the heat is intense and the pressure terrific, trap rock was first created which forms the unusual ridges of Somerset County. Nature played its part, and now at Bound Brook and at Millington the North Jersey Quarry Company and its subsidiaries complete the task of converting this fine natural product into high quality rock stone for man's use. From the solid rock-mass of the hillsides huge boulders are blasted . . . ponderous steel crushers reduce the boulders to hard, durable road stone of various sizes . . . and then, after careful screening and grading, it is shipped out to make the solid railroad beds and the smooth hard roads over which we ride in comfort and ease.

The company's quarry at Bound Brook is the largest crushed stone operation in the State of New Jersey . . . the only trap rock plant located on this division of the Central Railroad of New Jersey . . . and the only trap rock property available for direct railroad delivery in this territory. It produces more than 350,000 tons of stone annually and employs approximately 80 men.

The Millington plant, located on the D. L. & W. Railroad, has an output of about 200,000 tons annually and employs more than 40 workers. It supplies the nearby railroad divisions with ballast and Somerset and Morris counties with road stone. F. R. Upton, Inc., of Newark, are selling agents for part of the company's output.

The Millington property is located the asphalt plant of the North Jersey Amiante Company, which also is affiliated with the parent Quarry organization. The principal product of the Amiante Company is bituminous concrete for paving construction and repairs.

From a modest beginning the North Jersey Quarry Company has grown until it today leads the State in its particular field. The success attained may be attributed to production of only high quality stone, to constant adherence to a policy of fair dealing and to the general honesty and integrity of the founders and present official group. Being one of the County's major industries the Company represents a vital factor in the prosperity of Somerset County.

The officials of the North Jersey Quarry Co. are: I. W. Wortman, President; F. W. Schmidt, Jr., Vice-President; C. W. Toe, Secretary and Treasurer; C. V. Higgins is the Local Manager of the operating Company at Bound Brook, and F. N. Tafl is in charge of the operation at Millington. They constantly display a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of Somerset County and cooperate in all undertakings for progressive development.
The Calco Chemical Company, Inc.,

"Calco" is an example of what American initiative and realization of an opportunity can accomplish—enriching Somerset County by bringing money from all over the world to be distributed in wages, salaries and dividends—differing vastly from businesses which send money out of the County to pay for articles made elsewhere.

A mere industrial infant in 1915, it is today a gigantic creature of steel and concrete—spreading over 400 acres on "the banks of the Raritan" at Bound Brook. And what a huge—healthy—and useful creature it is! Spitting flames from its furnaces and puffing smoke and steam from its stacks... an army of almost 1,000 is needed to feed it—to keep its internal machines working efficiently—to handle its magically created chemical products. Into its yawning maw are fed thousands of tons of raw chemicals—from its inards of steel and iron come the finest quality of chemicals, dyes, etc.—intermediates and pharmaceuticals for the world to use. To the army of workers, it yields a comfortable livelihood and a contented existence.

Under the leadership and inspiration of its creator, a Somerville man, assisted by a loyal and efficient managing group, the infant grew, was given character and reared to a pride industrial creature of its separate buildings. And last year it climaxd its successful career by joining interests with the American Cyanamid Company, another industrial giant, and is today a pride of Somerset County.

Quality foremost—has always been the motto of the Company. In the extensive research and analytical laboratories, a staff of highly trained scientists is always busy striving for greater excellence in every department of activity. Ever are they seeking to further improve the high quality of their products and add new ones, so that today "Calco" is synonymous with the highest standard in chemicals for use in the manufacture of dyes, rubber, soap, leather and essences—and dyes, etc.—for the fabric, leather, paint and paper trades—acids for the chemical, agricultural and metallurgical industries. Cinchophene and Tulsian for the medical profession are also among the uniformly excellent productions of "Calco."

The interest of the management in the quality of its products, is equalled only by its interest in the welfare, safety and happiness of its family of workers. Up toward two million dollars in wages and salaries were paid in 1929. Much thought and expense have been devoted toward safeguarding the employees against accidents, toward providing the most modern sanitary and healthful working conditions and toward encouraging the individual advancement and welfare of each. Lockers, rooms, bathing facilities, a restaurant with low prices, completely equipped and manned. And the Company office provides for the health and safety of employees in the plant.

Furthermore, the men of the managing group project their interest beyond the gates and into the "very homes of their industrial family. Cooperatives looking toward economy and saving for the home is offered. Free group life insurance, contributory aid for additional life insurance and sick benefit and educational training are available. And, as a tribute to the humane spirit and a further expression of full confidence, a good proportion of the employees are made themsevles the opportunity to participate in Calco Chemical's profit sharing purchase of Company shares. A fine spirit of harmony exists between employer and employees.

The officers of the Company are: President, R. C. Jeffcott; Vice-Presidents, A. A. Berry, E. M. Fargn, Jr., J. O. Hammatt, A. Moro and E. Merz; Treasurer, C. E. Roane; Secretary, J. H. McMuray, Dr. V. L. King and R. M. Taylor. They have made the Company an important element in the prosperity of Somerset County, more particularly Bound Brook, Somerville and Raritan—and always take an active interest in share in all projects for the general community good.
The Cut-A-Lap Company at Somerville—produces felt-base floor coverings beautiful in design. Homeowners everywhere in America are gratefully aware of and protected by these coverings. This million-dollar company pays out nearly a quarter million dollars annually in wages and interest management and employees form a part of the County's happy industrial families. Always displaying a fine interest in all County welfare activities, the Cut-A-Lap officials are as follows: W. H. Lowe, president; George Prifeld, vice-president; and Walter W. Bart, secretary and treasurer.

Atlanta: Terra Cotta Company at Rocky Hill—produces terra cotta (one of the world's oldest building materials) largely used in all modern buildings. It is one of the best planned and equipped terra cotta plants in the country, and has an annual payroll of approximately one-half million dollars. Established in 1902, it has played a leading part in the growth and progress of the County. The officers are: William H. Jewell, president; Clement R. Salsby, vice-president; Philip G. Burbank, plant superintendent.
SURE, wealth is not everything—but it does indicate the foresight and intelligence of a people. And in Somerset County it spells in big letters; Industriousness, Thrift and Enlightenment for her people. Wealth is accumulated earnings—intelligent provision for a rainy day—the stepping stone to fuller, happier existence. In a sense it is the measure of a community’s higher civilization. And the people of Somerset County wish to have their record tell its own story.

On January 1, 1930, the County had:

Sixty-eight million dollars in assessed value of real property—churches, schools and public buildings excluded ($67,643,678 exactly).

Twenty-six million dollars as the resources of its ten banks ($25,830,021.80 exactly).

Close to sixteen million dollars in savings accounts alone ($15,726,553.28 exactly). An average of $613.57 for each of the 15,140 individual savings accounts, which means two for every five persons in the County, men, women and children included. It is an amazingly high average and represents a tremendously large reserve purchasing power on a per capita basis.

Nearly four million dollars as total resources of the nine Building Loan Associations ($3,728,912 exactly). They have a total of 5,154 share-holders.

One passenger automobile for every five persons in the County (13,316 exactly).

The people of Somerset County may well be proud of this most commendable record.

Banks: To the County’s ten modern banking institutions is due much of the credit for having instilled into the citizens this enviable spirit of industry and thrift. The first of these banks was chartered in 1864. By 1900 four more had obtained charters, and since then five others have been added to meet the ever-increasing needs of the County.

They are significant in the life of the County. Not only do they serve as guardians of the people’s money, but they also act as friendly advisers to them in all financial matters. Offering every modern banking service, through the years they have opened the doors of the County to many new industries; they have conducted educational campaigns to encourage thrift; and have encouraged the establishment of the highest standards of business morale. And all faithful to their trust, they have been and continue to be active factors in the growth, wealth and prosperity of Somerset County.

Strategically located throughout the County, the ten institutions make banking service readily available to everyone. They are as follows:

**BERNARDSVILLE:**
Bernardsville National Bank

**BOUND BROOK:**
Bound Brook Trust Company

The First National Bank

**GLADSTONE:**
Peapack—Gladstone Trust Company

**MANSFIELD:**
Mansfield National Bank

**RARITAN:**
Raritan Savings Bank

Raritan State Bank

**SOMERVILLE:**
Second National Bank

Somerville Savings Bank

Somerville Trust Company

[17]
Education

Our immortal Abraham Lincoln said of popular education: “I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can engage in.” Fully conscious of its importance, Somerset County has equipped itself with a modern system of public education and schools, which provide ample facilities for the education of every child in the County. The high importance given by the people to education is gleaned from the fact that 40.5 cents of each County tax-dollar goes to the local public school system.

Public Schools: The present high standing system of 68 grade and four high schools, with its staff of 440 teachers and 12 supervising principals and helping teachers is under the able supervision of Robert G. Sanford, County Superintendent of Schools. He is responsible for the educational and business administration of the County’s entire system and the certification of all public school teachers. With his cooperation each of the 20 local Boards of Education prepares its budget, prescribes the required course of studies and provides adequate and suitable school facilities. Each civil division of the County, except Raritan and Bernardsville, constitutes a school district and elects its own local school board. Mr. Sanford has imbued the entire system with the spirit of harmonious cooperation.

During the 1928-29 school year an average of 12,158 students was daily enrolled, of whom 1,840 attended high school. The attendance: averaged 11,203 daily. A system of free transportation affords modern education to the remotest sections. And an average of 1,800 pupils was transported to and from school each day at an average cost of $60.78 per high school student and $37.87 for each grade student during the school year.

Private Schools: Prior to 1831 when a State amendment provided a system of common schools, all schools were privately supported. They were housed in crude structures and the earliest one dates back to the year 1725. Of the present private schools in the County, six are parochial, the one in North Plainfield being a new modern structure. The other private schools are few in number and provide elementary courses of study.

Libraries: In July 1930 the County Free Library, recently established by popular vote, began operation. And together with the municipal libraries of Bound Brook and Somerville and the four privately supported community libraries at Bernardsville, Basking Ridge, Gladstone and Harsin, Somerset County now can offer free library service to every one of its inhabitants and schools.

These municipal and community libraries alone, have approximately 30,000 books and last year circulated 181,177 volumes. And they are housed, “Among the best in the State, in the service they give to the people,” by Sarah B. Askew, Librarian of the New Jersey Public Library Commission. The present library at Basking Ridge, established in 1889 carries its history back to 1804 and is thought to be the oldest in the County.
Busy industrial town of Rahiten as seen from the air. It is distinctly adapted to the needs of industry and practically merges with Somerville, its neighbor, to the west.
The County Library Commission in charge of the New County Library is giving its best efforts to the work and is opening stations in every school and community now without library service. The library is housed in a County building at Somerville and has a specially built book car equipped with shelves, a veritable library on wheels. In this car the County Librarian visits each community once a month and with a large stock of new books offers the people in the district being served a wide choice. Between her visits, books may be obtained by written request to the County Library at Somerville. The Commission expects to establish 150 stations in the County and have free library service at everyone's disposal.

News paper: Screaming yellow journalism has no place with the seven newspapers of Somerset County. There is no searching in the gutter for news. Printing "all the news that is fit to print," they have been a most active factor in maintaining and in bringing to high position the moral and financial development of the County. Each of the seven is published weekly and has a long interesting history. The oldest is the Somerville Messenger, which dates back to 1844-45, when it was known as the "New Jersey Intelligence." Below are listed the newspapers, their locations and editors:

- The Somerville Messenger—Somerville on Wednesday. G. Wallace Conover, Editor
- The Unionist Gazette—Somerville on Thursday. Charles H. Betsman, Editor
- The Somerset Democrat—Somerville on Friday. C. Stewart Hoagland, Editor
- Bound Brook Chronicle—Bound Brook on Friday. W. B. R. Mason, Editor
- State Center Record—Bound Brook on Friday. Daniel D. Clark, Jr., Editor
- The News—Bernardsville on Thursday. C. H. B. Trumbull, Editor
- Peapack Gladstone Exponent—Peapack on Thursday. F. R. Shampson, Editor

The County is noted for its journalists and literary lights, many of whom have attained national prominence.
Bernaerdville nestled in the charm of the Sunnenet hills
History

By WM. S. WOODRUFF

Somerset County Historical Society

BREVITY being desirable, the writer has passed quickly over the eras of antiquity and tradition, fixed quickly upon the earliest definite period of record, developed the formative years and brought this story to little more than an introductory completion.

There were no permanent settlers in Somerset County earlier than 1681. The discovery and development of the County was concurrent with that of the State. Although the first white man stepped foot on New Jersey soil in 1524, the first settlement in the State did not occur until 1650. When Peter Stuyvesant became governor of New Netherlands, his dominion included the then known part of New Jersey and extended at least as far west as Boundary (Bound) Brook or Peter’s (Peter Stuyvesant’s) Brook in Somerset. There had been English settlers along the Millstone River as early as 1642, probably the earliest in all Somerset, but they later joined the colony at Philadelphia. By 1660, the Dutch secretary of the New Netherlands had visited the Raritan Valley or had heard that “The district inhabited by a nation called Ratzanega is straited on a fresh water river that flows through the center of the lowland which the Indians cultivate... THE HANDIESTEST

AND PLEASANTEST COUNTRY THAT MAN CAN BEHOLD.” In 1665, the line dividing the colony into East and West Jersey passed through

Somerset County, west of Raritan and southwest of Somerville.

It was under the 24 proprietors to whom East Jersey passed in 1682 that Somerset began to be permanently settled and they continued to have land set off to them for the 20 years of their government. From the patents and purchases of the proprietors and others of similar nature, there were divisions and subdivisions in increasing numbers. Highways of a primitive nature were laid out for the convenience of settlers. Churches were erected at convenient gathering points. Taverns appeared at crossroads. Mills were erected at points along the Raritan and its branches. Villages sprang up here and there until, by the beginning of the Revolution, Somerset County was thoroughly although sparsely settled.

East Jersey was first divided into counties in 1683, Somerset being set aside May 22nd, 1688. Its western boundary was the same as at present, though the others have been frequently changed. Parts of all counties bordering on Somerset have at one time or other been embraced within it. In 1693 the various counties were divided into townships, but Somerset being sparsely settled remained as one. At that time Picataway in Middlesex included large sections of the present southeastern part of Somerset. In 1741, Somerset was extended to include a part of Essex, Union not yet having been formed. In 1749 the line was fixed between Somerset and Morris, the latter having been formed in 1739. It was not until 1850 that a triangle of land in the southeastern section of the county was a part of Union and Somerset.

[ 22 ]
Although created as a separate county in 1688, the courts of Somersett continued to be administered by Middlesex until 1714. In that year the Legislature provided that court houses and jails should be established in counties having none. The site selected for the county seat of Somersett was at Six Mile Run, now Franklin Park. The exact time of construction is not known. The building was destroyed by fire in 1737 together with the early records of the county. Provision for a new court house and jail was made in 1738, but the records for 26 years thereafter have been lost or destroyed and no official mention of a court house is found until 1772, when it was at Millstone. The second court house was destroyed during Simon’s Raid in 1779 and courts continued to be held in Hillborough until 1784. There was need of a court house and jail and it was decided that a building should be erected near Young’s Tavern at Raritan (Somerville). Land was purchased for a jail and it was erected in 1872 on the north side of what is now East Main Street east of Mechanic. It was a square frame building painted brown with three rooms on the first floor and a jailer’s room on the second. It stood until some 40 years ago, when it was removed for the construction of two residences.

In making a change from Millstone to Somersett, the First Reformed Dutch Church and the county authorities agreed to erect a building suitable for both court and church purposes. It was built in 1873 and was a frame structure, standing somewhat to the southeast of the present building and practically in the center of what is now East Main Street. From the first term of court in April 1874 until 1799 the building was used as a court house but only for one year as a court house and church. It was sold in 1879 and moved to the corner of Mato and Warren streets. The next and fourth court house was of brick with a jail attached and was erected in 1879 on the site of the present edifice. In 1889 it was raised one story and a portico added. The first building for the offices of the County Clerk and Treasurer was erected in 1804. In 1841 offices were provided in separate buildings. A new jail was erected in 1879 and the present one in 1909. The present court house was authorized in 1903 and completed in 1909.

Somerset County played an important part in the War of the Revolution and there is scarcely a foot of its ground which is not hallowed by some memory of the struggle for independence. Almost from the outset it was the home of patriotic activity. With that question, Washington spent more time in Somerset County than in any other to which the activities of the conflict called him. Immediately after his appointment by Congress as Commander-in-Chief, he set out to take charge of the forces at Boston, passing through Philadelphia to Trenton, in, out and across the southern boundaries of Somerset from Trenton to New Brunswick and on the Cambridge. He was at New Brunswick and again in and out of Somerset in November and December 1776, with headquarters near Rutgers College. Crossing to Pennsylvania, he returned for Christmas at Trenton and January 3, 1777 at Princeton. He withdrew up the Millstone River through Griggstown, Millstone, Pinedene, Somerville, Plainsboro, New Brunswick and Morristown for the winter at Morristown, where he remained until May 1777. During this time there were skirmishes at Bound Brook and Middlebrook between the forces of the American General Lincoln and the British Commander Cornwallis, whose headquarters were at Somerset Heights in New Brunswick. Washington came from Morristown to the Heights of Middlebrook, met with Bound Brook, to be more closely in touch with the operations of the British at New Brunswick, and remained there during May and June 1777. It was while encamped there, only in touch with the Congress at Philadelphia, that the newly adopted American Flag was first officially used.

Rockingham House, Rocky Hill, headquarters of General Washington from August 28 to November 10, 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary War. It was here that he wrote his farewell address to the army and here that he received the final larger presented to the Congress of the American Revolution, by whose consent this illustration is used.
Suffice it to say that the progress of Somerset has been steady and unbroken. The Central Railroad reached Plainfield in 1896, Somerville in 1899, and the first concrete road in 1918.

Religion

The Dutch, English, and Scotch pioneers who first permanently settled in the County were God-loving, reverent people. They recognized the right to independent form of worship, and as early as 1700 churches were erected at central gathering points to serve their religious life. Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian churches were among the first organized. Until 1709, Guiliam Bertholf was the only Dutch preacher not only in the County but in all New Jersey. In 1720 came Theodore Jacobs Frelinghuyzen to settle over the churches in the County.

A few of those earliest days until the present the churches of the County have steadily expanded and grown. The ministers of every religious faith have ever displayed an active and helpful interest in civic matters. They have and still exert a most beneficial influence in the building of high moral standing, righteousness and good citizenship among the reverent people of Somerset County.

Saying the County's religious life are 89 churches of 20 varied sects and denominations. And the people are strong through their love of God and freedom from religious bigotry.
Government

INTERNALLY, Somerset County is governed and its affairs managed by a Board of three Chosen Freeholders, by a Sheriff, by a County Clerk and a Surrogate. Each is elected by the people of the County and administers the business of his respective office in accord with state regulations.

Externally, the County’s affairs are regulated by State Legislation and the County has a voice in the New Jersey State Legislature through one Senator and one Assemblyman. In the United State Congress it is directly represented by the House of Representatives member from its Congressional district. Each of these is also an elected officer. The Court officers are appointed by State Officials.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders

Composed of three members chosen at large by the people, it is the recognized governing body of the County. They control and manage affairs for the people from the County Seat at Somerville. One member is elected each year at the general fall election for a term of three years, thus the Board is never without the services of at least two experienced members. On January 2d of each year the Board meets and organizes. One of its members is elected Director of the Board and all necessary appointments for the year are made. Following that, the newly elected Director appoints each member, himself included, to chairmanships of the committees into which the activities of the Board are divided. Each committee is composed of the Board’s three members.

After the first meeting, regular Board meetings are held each Friday at the Court House in Somerville. The budget for the year is prepared and adopted early in the year.

The members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Somerset County for 1930 are:

Frank W. Remsen, Director, of East Millstone—Chairman Auditing and Finance Committee and Legislative Committee;

George R. Layton, Bedminster—Chairman Bridges Committee, Buildings, Grounds and Jail Committee and Printing and Stationary Committee;

Clarence I. Smalley, North Plainfield—Chairman Road Committee, Charities and Corrections Committee and Insurance Committee.

Director: He is the presiding officer of the Board. He calls all meetings of the Board to order, guides the official procedure of its business, preserves order and appoints committees in accordance with the by-laws. Frank W. Remsen, the present Director, was re-elected to the office for the twelfth time and is now serving his eighteenth year as Freeholder. Experienced in the duties of the office, he has brought esteem and respect to the Board and himself through his able direction of the Board’s business.
Directly serving the Board and among the first appointments made by it are the Clerk of the Board, the Treasurer, Counsel and County Engineer. They are known as Board officers.

Clerk of the Board: All official and business matters of the Board are cleared through this officer. He prepares the minutes of all meetings; handles all official Board correspondence and is custodian of the County Seal. The work requires an intimate knowledge of all official procedure and has been efficiently handled by Chester Van Tine of Somerville, the present Clerk.

Treasurer: As financial officer of the County, the Treasurer holds a position of great trust and responsibility. Acting under heavy bond, he handles almost a million dollars annually as custodian of all money received by the County, supervises the banking of it and as disbursing officer signs all checks. Equipped with a technical knowledge of banking, Edwin Garretson, of East Millstone, the present Treasurer has given meticulous care to the exacting duties of the office.

Counsel: He advises and acts for the Board of Chosen Freeholders in all legal matters pertaining to its official business. He functions to guide the Board legally and protect the interests of the entire people of Somerset County in County law suits, contracts, legal methods, etc. The responsibilities of the office are manifold and the County is most ably served by Clarkson A. Cranmer of Somerville, present County Counsel.

Engineer: He serves the Board in an advisory and supervisory capacity in all matters requiring technical engineering knowledge and skill. He prepares plans and specifications for all County new construction and supervises the work, which consists largely of building new roads and bridges. Oscar Smith, Jr., Peapack, is the County Engineer and has brought to the office high standing engineering knowledge and efficiency.

Other Board Appointments: They are as follows: County Physician, Dr. George L. Mack of Bound Brook, whose activities are similar to those of a coroner. He performs all necessary autopsies and post mortem examinations and issues death certificates after determining the cause or causes.

Supervisor of Roads, F. H. Ludlow of Peapack; Supervisor of Bridges, P. Herbert Van Cleef of Millstone; Auditor, John W. Wehman; Jail Warden, James P. Major of Somerville; Jail Physician, Dr. A. L. Stillwell of Somerville and Custodian of the Court House, William Moore of Somerville.

In addition, the Board appoints a Sinking Fund Commission of five members, who in 1930 are as follows: John S. Amerman, President, of Neshek; Edwin Garretson, Secretary, of East Millstone; L. Vernon Ludlow, of Far Hills; H. B. MacDonnell of Watchung and E. W. Remsen of East Millstone. They see to it that the proper sum of money is set aside each year toward the amortization of the County Court House bonds, all of which will be retired in 1936, and completely liquidate that debt.

A County Free Library Commission of five members is also appointed and they are as follows: Robert G. Sanford, Chairman, of Somerville; Mrs. Edna McVickers of North Plainfield; Rev. John N. Harper of Gladstone; Miss Marie Houglund of Griggstown and Dr. Walter H. Whiton of Neshanic Station.

A securation and description of the functions and accomplishments of the Board of Chosen Freeholders follows under the divisions of Committee activity.
Auditing and Finance—Legislative Committees.

Director Frank W. Remsen is Chairman of these committees of the Board and his long experience accords to the necessity of the County.

Auditing and Finance: The Board of Chosen Freeholders has jurisdiction over 2.5 cents of each County tax-dollar, and even 40% of that amount is consumed by mandatory State legislation. Supervision of the County's finances is an exacting duty. All bills presented for payment and requiring the authorization of the Board must be audited; a large amount of money must be borrowed on tax anticipation notes, and all books required by law to be audited by the Board must be audited. Bank accounts and balances, expenditures and debits are constantly checked and certified to assure accuracy and safety. Scrupulous attention is given to this work by the Committee, which is considerably aided and assisted by County Treasurer Edwin Groaton, with his assistant, William Groaton, and County Auditor, John W. Wehman. The propriety of all County expenditures is checked, the proper authority for all disbursements is certified and care is taken that funds are available for the payment of them.

The condition of the County's finances is regarded as excellent. County Banks have high standing in the financial world and normally yield an attractive premium when offered for sale. And Messrs. Hawkins, Delfield and Longello, Attorneys of New York City, are the auditors in this field who render approving opinions as to the legality of bond issues. The healthy condition of Somerset County's finances is shown by the statement of the Auditor as of December 31, 1926, when—

The County had—

| Cash | $51,475.50 |
| Accounts Receivable | $20,013.78 |
| Cash and Investments (Sinking Fund) | $12,800.37 |

The County owed—

| Temporary Notes | $44,081.65 |
| Bonds (Court House, Roads and Bridges) | $360,944.00 |
| Accounts Payable | $20,931.99 |
| $666,679.65 |

Less total assets | 244,081.65 |
| Net Debt | $422,597.40 |

This net debt amounts to 2.99 per cent of the County's average net valuation of $67,769,016 on which County, State and School taxes are assessed. The County Tax Rate for 1930 is 94.2 cents per $100.00 of the average valuation and is comparatively low, showing an increase of only 3.1 cents over the 1929 rate. This excellent financial record is commendable. The Burroughs Adding Machine Co. equipment is in use.

Legislative: Freeholder Remsen, as Chairman of this committee, is the County's delegate or voting member to the Association of Chosen Freeholders of New Jersey. It is a non-political organization that includes all the members of the twenty-one Boards of Chosen Freeholders of New Jersey. Each county, irrespective of size, is limited to one "voting member" and the association functions to impartially and justly consider any proposed State Legislation affecting County Government, to encourage the enactment of laws best meeting the needs of the various counties and through interchange of thought and discussion to meet each member with his own local County problems. Having been honored with the trust of the leadership of that association, Director Frank W. Remsen attended its meetings regularly and protected and advanced the interests of Somerset County in its efforts to carry out Legislation. His unceasing selection as Director of the Board and Chairman of its Finance and Legislative committees is a true and fine testimonial of his high ability and the exactitude with which he fulfills the duties of his office.
Bridges—Buildings, Grounds and Jail—Printing and Stationery Committees.

Freeholder George R. Layton is Chairman of the Bridges; the Buildings, Grounds and Jail; and the Printing and Stationery Committees which demand his constant thought and attention.

Bridges

Bearing in mind that it is the bridge which spans the stream, river and lake, and overcomes those natural barriers to land travel . . . that Somerset County, surrounded by busy metropolitan centres, lies in the path of exceedingly heavy traffic . . . and that each year the traffic is becoming heavier and denser . . . is it a wonder that the County's bridge problem each year becomes greater and more complicated?

At present there are about 8,000 bridges and culverts in the County, under Board of Freeholder jurisdiction. The problem is being handled in scientific and efficient manner by the Bridge Committee, with the expert and able support of County Engineer Oscar Smith, Jr., and Bridge Supervisor P. Herbert Van Cleef. Work is intelligently planned and carefully carried out. And costs are kept to the lowest point possible.

New Bridges: In the construction of new bridges, adherence to tried and proven policies has yielded excellent results. All new bridges are of permanent type—structural steel encased in concrete and re-enforced concrete—and each is planned only after careful study. They are built not only to meet present, but also future traffic requirements. On all main highways they have a minimum paved roadway of 33 feet and in or near towns they have sidewalks and provisions for lighting equipment. Without sacrificing strength or increasing costs, beauty and artistry of bridge structures have been achieved. Antiquated and unsafe bridges, built in the days of the horse-drawn vehicle, are being replaced with structures of the above type as rapidly as finances permit.

In 1919 there were built or brought near completion; a three span, plate-girder bridge with sidewalk, at South Branch, which replaced the last covered bridge in Somerset County; one single span, I-Beam re-enforced concrete structure; seven single span bridges of re-enforced...


Hunter's Bridge near Puckemim, as it was being constructed by the County's own bridge force.

Lloyd Bridge, above Bernardsville — built by Howard & Guffeber Construcion Co. of Basking Ridge.

Hoagland Bridge, north of Rocky Hill.
concrete and a three span steel bridge was repaired—at a total cost of $102,339.46. The principal contractors who satisfactorily completed this work for the County are: Henry E. Terrill, Linden; Arthur E. Smith, Plainfield; Snook Bros., Neshanic, and Howlett & Gutleber, Basking Ridge.

Bridge Maintenance and Repair: The constant inspection, maintenance and repair of the County's 2000 bridges and culverts is in itself a huge task. To affect savings and reduce the costs of this work, the County has its own bridge maintenance and repair organization. Bridge Supervisor P. Herbert Van Cleef, operating under the direction of Freeholder Layton, Chairman of the Bridge Committee, and with the technical advice of County Engineer Smith, is in charge of that organization. In systematic fashion all bridges are regularly inspected and needed repairs are reported and given instant attention. The force consists of three key men or foremen, who oversee the work and operate equipment for their respective crews. In spring and summer at the height of the work, the entire bridge force is about 18 men, which, however, is greatly reduced in winter. Equipment consists of three gasoline pumps, four concrete mixers and four one-ton trucks. An adequate amount of supplies and small tools is kept constantly on hand. Attesting to the efficient operation of this phase of the Committee's activity is the fact that the total cost of the work in 1929 was $48,098.38, or $3,750.00 less than anticipated.


Buildings, Grounds and Jail

The excellent condition and clean, new appearance of the beautiful Court House and jail, in their setting of ancient trees and trim and spacious lawns, tell louder than words of the constant care and attention they receive. Inmates of the jail, under the surveillance of the Warden and Custodian, do most of the cleaning and general work, at practically no cost to the County.

Immediate attention is given to needed repairs, painting and improvements, thereby reducing maintenance costs. For a stitch in time saves more than nine.

The Court House: An imposing, Ionic type structure of Alabama white marble, it was completed in April, 1909 and completely furnished at the remarkably low cost of $292,515.61. Three floors high, its 46 offices and rooms open into a beautiful pillared rotunda, which extends from the ground floor to a stained glass dome in the roof. Within the past two years, the Court House has been completely renovated, the court room redecorated and its acoustics perfected, a new vault built in the basement to preserve obsolete records of the
Stronghold—the beautiful estate of former F. Dryden, is the hills of Somerset above Barnardville, formerly the home of the late United States Senator, Col F. Dryden.
County Clerk’s office and a case placed in the rotunda for the display of historical relics and documents which were donated largely by the Somerset County Historical Society.

Plumbing repairs were attended to by H. F. Moosbrugger Co., Somerville; electrical installation by A. G. Koehler, Somerville, and general alterations, painting and repairs by Wm. Pankey, Far Hills. Supplies were obtained from Somerville Hardware Co., Somerville; Wm. S. Vroom, Somerville; Harold Genert, Somerville; S. J. Galpin Inc., Somerville; James A. Staats, Somerville; Consumers Supply & Coal Co., Somerville; Frank Gallagher Co., Raritan; Fletcher L. Fritts, representing the General Fireproofing Co., New York.

Jail: Built in 1906 at a cost of $52,000, the rectangular, white-brick jail structure, is located on the lawn directly back of the Court House and harmonizes splendidly with it. Trim and clean appearing, the jail is so well used for that it shows but little sign of deterioration or obsolescence despite its 24 years of use. It contains 32 modern type cells, arranged in four separate barred blocks of eight cells each and has provision for the erection of sixteen more cells. Male and female prisoners are kept separated and a finger print and photographic record is made of each person committed.

### During 1929 the average number of prisoners per day was 20, being highest during early fall and lowest in the winter months. The average for the first half of 1930 was 21.8 prisoners per day. The average cost per day during 1929 for each prisoner committed was 33 cents, excluding 1,472 persons confined over night.

Under the able control of Warden James P. Major, the prisoners themselves keep the place exceptionally clean. In fact the jail is so well managed that the State Department of Institutions and Agencies wrote a special letter of high compliment about Mr. Major and the splendid conditions in the jail. He has a unique record as Warden, having never been away from the jail a single night during his entire 21 years of continuous service and being widely known for his humane treatment of the unfortunate.

Foodstuffs were obtained from: William Wheeler, Somerville; W. M. Hoey, Somerville; John Schaaf, Raritan, and supplies from: Honeyman & Quick, Somerville; Rochester Germicide Co., New York.
Court House Annex: A recently acquired property adjacent to the Court House, has been improved to house the County Library and provide space for relief of congestion in the Court House.

It is current opinion, that in time it will become necessary to purchase the entire block to provide for the expanding County business.

Printing and Stationary

Stationery, business and record forms, public notices and advertisements, having been approved as to form and structure are ordered printed. In the case of public notices and advertisements, publication is ordered in the newspapers as prescribed by law and effort is made to distribute printing work equitably throughout the County.

Freeholder George R. Layton must be given considerable credit for the efficient and businesslike manner in which the functions of these Committees are dispatched and their duties performed.
"Nalier" at Far Hills—One of the many beautiful estates in the hilly section of northern Somerset County.
Freeholder Clarence I. Smalley is Chairman of the County Roads, the Charities and Corrections and the Insurance Committees of the Board and gives the work his constant, careful attention and best efforts.

Roads

Just think what would happen if, suddenly the 806 miles of roads and streets in Somerset County did not exist! What a deadening stoppage to everyday life! What appalling confusion! What terrific hardship! Stupendous cost!

Roads are vital to very life. They affect every business, economic and social interest in the County. It is therefore reasonable to expect that County Roads are a major interest and most important activity of the Board of Freeholders. The New Jersey State Highway Department says of the County's roads, "it has a higher percentage of improved roads than the State average of 50 percent, in that Somerset's 806.62 miles of road have more than 415 miles improved." Six State Highway Routes, with a total of 90.628 miles of modern concrete road enter the area of the County.

More than 155 miles of road are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board and represent a cost of millions and millions of dollars and years of planning and work. This total of 155.359 miles under Board control is composed of:

- Portland cement, concrete, permanent type: 20,858 miles
- Bituminous concrete on penetration base, permanent type: 5,716 miles
- Penetration macadam, permanent type: 35,572 miles
- Water-bound macadam, semi-permanent type: 54,240 miles
- Oil or tar treated gravel: 2,270 miles
- Gravel: 40,413 miles

The Roads Committee under the direction of Chairman Smalley, assisted technically by County Engineer Smith, has the responsibilities of planning and constructing New Roads and Maintenance, Repair and Snow Removal on the entire County system. Further aiding the Committee are Road Supervisors Frank H. Ludlow, in charge of the County's big road force and an engineering staff of three trained men.

A curve on the Washington Headquarters-Rocky Hill Road before construction.

And now a hard-surfaced concrete highway, built of Somerset County stone and Portland Cement.
In the planning and constructing of new roads, several major policies have been established to assure economy in construction and safety to traffic, to meet present needs and to provide for future requirements. Dangerous curves and steep grades are eliminated. Ten degree curves and seven percent grades are set as the maximum. Thirty-three feet is the minimum graded width and twenty feet the minimum paved width. Permanent drainage structures are installed when conditions demand. And preliminary traffic studies assure road structures of the size and type to provide for the future and coordinate with the existing State and County highway systems. Each road is built by the most economical methods consistent with plans and policies.

During 1929 the County authorized the construction of a total of 404 miles of new, hard surfaced, Portland cement concrete road, at an average cost of $27.001.62 per mile for a total of $1,898,880.74. The Chimney Rock Road, completed in 1929 and a 1.3 mile stretch of 6-inch deep concrete with storm sewers, is one of the best au most solidly constructed roads in the State. It was built for the County by Joseph Kintzley Co., Inc., of Hackensack. The County has received from the State for each of the past few years $51,672.00 as aid for road maintenance work. The Millstone River and the approaches between the two Millstones are being spanned by a modern type bridge and causeway, a long needed improvement which will prevent the ever recurring blockade during high water. It is a unique engineering feat and its cost of $110,320.00 is an excellent investment.

In addition, 247 miles of new Portland cement concrete road have been built along Easton Avenue between South Bound Brook and New Brunswick, by the Utility Construction Co., of New Brunswick, and the Hoffman Construction Co., of Bernardi, also satisfactorily served the County, while engineers' supplies and instruments were supplied by J. Harmat, of Trenton, and Bufl & Bufl Mfg. Co., of New York.

Road Maintenance and Repair: This important and ever increasing work is done by the County's own road maintenance organization, under the immediate supervision of Road Supervisor Frank H. Ludlow. This permanent force of five men and 33 men is increased to about 100 men in summer, at the peak of the work. On concrete roads, seams are kept sealed to prevent water from seeping through and undermining the surface; drainage systems are kept in working order; and guardrails and shoulders kept in good condition. In 1929 the County road force itself built a total of four miles of road on four separate routes, at an average cost of $37,000 per mile. On macadam and other roads, holes are patched, surfaces dressed and kept smooth, and ditches and shoulders are maintained in constant repair. It is a big task, and being well done, it affects a large saving for the County. An idea of the task is given by the fact that in the county's own equipment employed and the huge quantity of materials consumed. The County owns: 15 five-ton, 8 one and one-half-ton, and 1 seven-ton trucks; 3 gasoline graders; 6 rollers; 1 motor truck crane and 7 mixers; and 5 business cars in addition to a sufficient number of snow-plows, small tools and overshoes. This equipment is stored in two County-owned buildings, one at Hackensack and one at Millstone, and three others at North Plainfield, Skillman, and Nezho, which are leased. And as to materials, in 1929 there were used 47,120 tons of rock, 10,805 tons of covering material, 2,952 tons of bituminous concrete and 276,231 gallons of refined tar and asphaltic materials. Every expense included, the entire system of County roads was maintained and kept in excellent repair for the low average cost of $40.06 per mile and a total of $1,400,000 for the year 1929.


Tar and oils were obtained from the American Tar Products Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., Rep. by W. G. McIlhah; Tar Asphalt Service, Inc., New Brunswick; The Texas Company, New York; Ashley Quarrier, North Plainfield.

Those, like most of the County's roads, are built of crushed trap rock, quarried in Somerset County, and the finest road stone known.
Signs and Signals: To guide and safeguard traffic and pedestrians, permanent directional and cautionary road signs of approved design and type are posted at crossings, curves and intersections. All signs are regularly painted and easily read. The system of road signs is 95% complete.

Snow Removal: During winter, all County roads are kept open and clear for traffic. Early in December of each year about 450 miles of snow fence are erected along stretches of road subject to heavy snow drift, and to each of the County's 19 five-ton trucks a snow-plow is attached. The road force becomes during winter a snow removal organization and like a group of fire fighters the men are trained to move out instantly, day or night, when storms continue after two inches of snow have fallen. Speed is imperative if snow is to be removed at reasonable cost. In 1929 snow removal costs were only $7.15 per mile.


The close supervision given to the work by Chairman Smalley and the experienced efficiency of Supervisor Ludlow's road force effect a big saving for the County and conserve County funds in this important Freeholder activity.

Charities and Corrections

The County provides aid for residents of the County who are sick, incapacitated or poor and unable or only partly able to pay for their provision and needed attention. Each case is investigated and ready help given in proportion as conditions warrant, though due care is taken to prevent deception and imposition on the County. In 1929 the County appropriated $3,000 to the Somerset Hospital toward care of the needy sick and $2000 to maintain a County Health Nurse, Miss Emma Redfern.

County Adjuster: Acting in his official capacity as agent for the County, Adjuster Clarkson A. Cramer, makes adjustments through the Courts for the care and protection of the mentally defective, the physically handicapped, the diseased, the dependents and the neglected of the County. They are established in City, County, State and private institutions and pay what they can toward their own maintenance. During 1929 a monthly average of 276 such individuals were maintained for a total of $7,082 patient-days and at a cost of $87,965.04, charging and medicine costing an additional $2,697.02. Effectively aiding in the humanitarian work are 22 organizations in the community of which the Somerset County Health Association and the Somerset Hospital, function with widest scope. The County Adjuster cooperates with these charitable agencies and has obtained most desirable results.

Insurance

To protect the County against loss as well as to protect the public at large and all employees of the County, ample insurance is carried on all County buildings and their contents against loss by fire; on all County trucks, tractors and automobiles against loss by fire, theft, property damage and liability; and on all County employees in respect to compensation loss. A substantial saving in costs without lessening the amount of protection has resulted through the use of a blanket policy on all insured County equipment. The following were insurance for the County: William D. Nolan Agency, Inc., Somerville; Garrett W. Van Cleef, Somerville; Remson-Wilmot Co., Inc., New Brunswick.

As Chairman of the Roads, the Charities and Corrections and the Insurance Committees, Freeholder Clarence I. Smalley gives to the County his long private experience in road materials and road construction and a business integrity which have proven of inestimable value in conducting these affairs of the County.

[38]
A massive caterpillar grader is in action—supplied by Ellis Tiger Co., Hackensack, N. J.

Heavy duty apparatus. This type of equipment is furnished to the County by Ellis Tiger Co., Galton Iron Works & Mfg. Co., Auto-Western Road Machinery Co., C. R. Hill & Co., Weed Hydraulic Hoist & Body Co., and others.

The County's newest truck—A GMC supplied by the Robbinsville, Somerville, N. J.

Just eleven of the County's fleet of 28 trucks and 5 cars. They were obtained from Joe Robbinsville, Hoagland's Garage, and Drum Motors Co. all of Somerville, N. J.; the Plainfield Motor Co. and Jersey Tire Co., both of Plainfield, N. J.; and J. H. Bennett, East Millstone, N. J.

Only Part of the County's Road Building and Repair Equipment.
Other County Officers

**Sheriff**

Elected by the people for a term of three years, he is chief peace officer of Somerset County and may not succeed himself in office. Iris E. Brokaw, the present Sheriff, executes all writs of any court, except the County District Court, so far as they affect residents of the County. He is legal custodian of all prisoners in the County jail and with Jury Commissioner Sanford W. Tunison selects and draws the grand and petit jurors. Assisting him are Under Sheriffs Ellsworth Brokaw and Marvin Sheets, each of whom is empowered to act as Sheriff in all respects, except the execution of deeds. Capably shouldering the responsibilities of the office, in 1929 the Sheriff returned to the County Treasurer, $11,028.43 as the total of fees collected, making the office self supporting. The Staats Taxi Service, of Somerville, serves the office.

**County Clerk**

Walter K. Crater, is the present incumbent and was elected to serve for a term of five years. His duties are many. He is the official recorder of all instruments affecting real estate and personal property, such as deeds, mortgages and conditional sales contracts. He is Clerk of the County Courts of Oyer and Terminer, General Quarter Sessions and Special Sessions, as well as Clerk of the Circuit, Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts. And as such keeps all records of their separate transactions. In addition, he serves in elections, in naturalizing aliens, in incorporations, and in other matters.

Within the past few years modern business systems have been installed to promote economy and efficiency. And the effective Russell Index System in particular, has reduced the cost of title searches. It “prolongs the life and improves the service of these records from which such a great proportion of the people share the benefit.”

As indicating the great bulk of work handled by the office and its operating efficiency, in 1929 there was recorded a total of 6,578 instruments besides the filing of a great number of documents, which are their own record. And $12,039.71 was turned in to the County Treasurer in fees collected, placing the office on a self-sustaining basis—that is with cost to the taxpayers, and to County Clerk Crater must go credit for this healthy condition and economical management. Deputy County Clerk Robert B. Bergen is direct assistant to the Clerk and has been associated with the office since December, 1927, during the incumbency of the present Clerk.

**Surrogate**

Serving his fourth consecutive term of five years each, Surrogate Calvin D. McMurtry ‘n filing the duties of his office, takes care of all papers and instruments required by law in settling estates of the deceased. He also probates wills, issues letters of administration, appoints guardians, oversees the settlement and distribution of estates and declares persons dead legally when conditions warrant. He is also clerk of the Orphans’ Court, judge and clerk of the Surrogate’s Court and custodian of all the records thereof. Records in the office date back to 1804.
"Pictureless"—The charming estate of John Slessor at Far Hills. Of beautiful colonial architecture, its atmosphere is that of quiet refinement. In this picturesque scene reside a group of prominent New York families.
“Surrogate” is a Latin word meaning deputy or substitute, and its present use originated long ago when bishops of the churches in England appointed substitutes to act authoritatively for them in receiving last wills and testaments.

Mr. McMurtry’s long experience in the office has proven itself of great service to the people and during 1929 the office paid into the County treasury $10,754.17 as fees collected. John Zulauf is Deputy Surrogate.

The fee charged for each specific service in the offices of the Sheriff, Surrogate and Clerk are set by law and may neither be increased nor diminished.

Office supplies were furnished by Wm. F. Murphy’s Sons Co., of Philadelphia, Pa.

State Officials

State Senator

Elected for a term of three years, Senator Dryden Kaser represents the people of Somerset County in the New Jersey State Senate, which is composed of one member from each of the State’s 21 counties. Though one of the younger members of that dignified group, he brings to the service of the people a keen legislative intellect and the equipment of an extensive training, a broad education and a successful journalistic experience.

Assemblyman

In the general assembly of the State Legislature, the County is represented by Assemblyman Thomas A. Flockhart, elected for one year by the people.

For a long period the progressive and popular Mayor of Somerville, he now is serving the people of the entire County in similar capable manner as Assemblyman.

United States Congressman

Together with Mercer and Hunterdon Counties, which comprise the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey, Somerset County has representation in the United States House of Representatives through Charles A. Eaton, elected by the people of the three counties for a term of two years. A prominent journalist, an expert in industrial relations and now completing his third term, he has brought distinction and honor both to the office and to Somerset County.
Hamilton Farm—the estate of the late James C. Brady at Gladstone.
EXCLUDING the local justices of the peace and police officials, the judiciary of Somerset County is appointed by the Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate. The following judges preside over their respective courts, administer justice and determine matters of the law: Supreme Court Judge, Charles W. Parker; Circuit Court Judge, Rufil V. Lawrence; Juvenile Judge, John F. Reiger; and District Court Judge, James I. Bowers. Chosen on the basis of meritorious service, experience and general recognition of character and ability, they perform their respective judicial functions with a deep consciousness of their heavy responsibilities.

Terms of Court are second Tuesday in April and third Tuesday in September and December. Serving the Courts are Court Crier, John S. Bunn; Stenographer, A. L. Robinson; Clerk, David Bodine; Sergeant-at-Arms, William F. Greene, and Probation Officer, Lewis A. Bellis.

Prosecutor of the Peace: He is a counsellor-at-law appointed to use all reasonable and lawful diligence for the detection, arrest, indictment and conviction of offenders against the law. Francis L. Bergen is the present Prosecutor and John H. Beckman, Jr., Assistant Prosecutor. Investigators Joseph Hanlon and Charles Allegar further aid in the work of the office.

Superintendent of Weights and Measures: Moving continually about through the County, the Superintendent, Melvin H. Cleaves, tests and inspects all weighing and measuring apparatus to protect the people against fraud, whether intended or deliberate. Those appliances found to be incorrect are adjusted or condemned. Somerset County was one of but two in the nation mentioned in the United States Bureau of Standards report, as having "the best equipment." Each year the sealer is expanding his work.

County Board of Elections: It consists of four members, two from each of the major political parties, who are appointed for two years each. They act to revise and correct the register lists and to institute honest elections in the manner prescribed by law. The present members are: Domenick Soriano, Chairman, of Raritan; J. M. Lamburskin, Secretary, of Somerville; P. A. Santomeni, of Bound Brook, and Daniel Hulick, of North Plainfield. Election equipment is supplied by the Pennsylvania Construction Co., of Marietta, Pa.

Board of Taxation: It is composed of three members, not more than two of whom are of the same political party, and a Secretary. They are appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate. It functions in the County, subject to the State Board of Equalization of Taxes, to equalize, revise, review and enforce taxes. It also has supervision and control of all County tax assessment officers.

Members of the Board and Secretary are: Edward E. Cooper of Warrenville, Robert Kay of Liberty Corner, R. C. Stryker of South Bound Brook, W. C. Linberger of Somerville, Secretary.
Boroughs, Townships and Towns

To facilitate local governmental control and preserve community individuality, Somerset County is divided into 22 civil divisions, of which 11 are boroughs, 2 are towns and 9 are townships. The boroughs and towns are small in area, the townships comprising the major portion of the County’s area.

In describing each individual division it is needless to repeat under each the facts heretofore presented regarding the unusually healthful climate, abundance of pure water, adequate transportation facilities, large number of churches and schools and modern systems for communication.

For the sake of brevity the following abbreviations will be used: pop.—population; N. V. T.—Net Valuation Taxable; T. R.—Tax rate per $100.00 of valuation; Twp.—Township; all population figures given are according to the 1930 Federal Census.

Boroughs

Each borough is governed by a Mayor and a Council of six members which meets at regular stated intervals. The Boroughs are the population centres, and the business, industrial and residential communities of the County. Their fire protection, police, lighting, water and sewage disposal systems are adequate for their individual requirements. For information in addition to that which follows reference may be made to Wm. S. Woodruff, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce, Somerville, N. J.
Bernardville: Originally styled "Veal Town," it was incorporated March 6, 1924 and formed from Bernards Twp. Its present name was adopted at the suggestion of Roderick A. Mitchell. Lord Stirling and Capt. John Parker were the original proprietors of the soil. Rich in Revolutionary history the borough is large in area and located in the picturesque Somerset Hills, which are dotted with costly residences and estates. It is at present a modern residential community, local shopping centre and health resort.

Present pop.—3,327; N. V. T.—$6,435,829; T. R.—$4,631; 1 bank and 2 hotels.

Bound Brook: It is the oldest settlement in Somerset County, the name Bound Brook occurring as early as 1666. Incorporated February 11, 1891, and formed from Bridgewater Twp. Until 1830 it was a small farming village, but with the coming of the canal and boat service to New Brunswick in 1836 and the Central Railroad in 1839, its growth became rapid. Today, with 4 railroad lines, the D. & R. Canal and the Raritan River, it is central New Jersey’s greatest transportation centre, and the County’s biggest manufacturing community. It contains many sites of historic interest and is developing most rapidly.

Present pop.—7,378; N. V. T.—$3,789,569; T. R.—$4,86; 2 banks and Chamber of Commerce.

Far Hills: It is one of the County’s newer and smaller communities, incorporated April 7, 1921 and formed from Bernards Twp. It is a distinctly residential community of remarkable beauty and attractiveness, having shown unusual growth. Within its confines are some of the most magnificent and beautiful estates and country homes in America.

Present pop.—560; N. V. T.—$1,380,916; T. R.—$2,93.

Manville: It is also of recent formation, having been taken from Hillsborough Twp. and incorporated April 1, 1929. It derives its name from the Johns-Manville plant, which is the major industry of the community and to which the borough really owes its existence. There were but few residents in 1912, when the company came here.

Present pop.—5,44; N. V. T.—$3,260,581; T. R.—$4,28 and 1 bank.

Milton: It was incorporated in 1894 and formed from Hillsborough Twp. Before 1779 it was the County seat and the most important place in the County. In 1779 during Simcoe’s raid the British burned the Court House in the town and a number of residences. Though once a transportation point other communities have usurped its prominent position.


North Plainfield: It is the County’s biggest population centre and is located in the extreme eastern part. It was set off from North Plainfield Twp., and incorporated 1885. It is distinctly a residential community with many attractive homes and is separated from the city of Plainfield by Green Brook, actually merging with that city. Its growth in recent years has been most rapid, almost phenomenal.

Present pop.—9,754; N. V. T.—$10,827,300; T. R.—$4,74.
Peapack-Gladstone: The borough was formed from two villages of Bedminster Twp., whence its double name, and incorporated March 28, 1912. The name Peapack is taken from the stream running through the village and Gladstone after the famous English statesman.

It is on the Lackawanna Railroad, boasts two post offices and is a local shopping and residential centre.

Present pop.—1,273; N. V. T.—$2,022,890; T. R.—$4,74 and one bank.

Rocky Hill: One of the oldest communities in Somerset, in 1683 John Harrison, one of the East Jersey Proprietors, lived there, it was formed from Montgomery Twp., and incorporated December 18, 1889.

Here George Washington had headquarters and wrote his farewell address to the Army. Located on a spur of the Pennsylvania Railroad and on the D. & R. Canal, its principal industry is the Atlantic Terra-Cotta works.

Present pop.—509; N. V. T.—$32,934; T. R.—$3,58.

Somerville: Known as Raritan till about 1800, it was formed from Bridgewater Twp., and incorporated April 16, 1909. Situated in the beautiful Raritan Valley and surrounded by a rich dairy and farming district, Somerville is the County Seat and the second largest borough

The modernly equipped Bound Brook Hospital—an urgent local need satisfied. In 1929, 26 charity cases were cared for.

A far-reaching view of the splendor in the estate region of Far Hills.
in the County. With superior transportation and shipping facilities, it is the County's biggest shopping community and largest banking centre. It also is a busy industrial and delightfully quaint residential district. It is here that the famous historical Wallace House is located. New State Highway routes pass through Somerville in all four directions, and the world famous Duke estate is adjacent to it.

The Chamber of Commerce has been an active factor in developing the borough. H. E. Durham is its Secretary.

Present pop.—8,244; N. V. T.—8,913,714; T. R.—8,483; three banks, two hotels, National Guard Armory; and civic, patriotic, social and fraternal clubs and organizations.

South Bound Brook: Known for many years as Blooming- ton, it was set off from Franklin, Twp., and incorporated April 11, 1907. At one time during the Revolution,

Townships

They are the principal geographic divisions of the County, and as compared to the boroughs are large in area. Agriculture is largely the activity of their people, excepting the northern townships where vast and sumptuous estates occupy the territory. Farms are well kept and carefully managed.

Each of the nine townships is governed by a township committee of three members which meets once a month at a designated place and time. Additional information regarding each township may be obtained by addressing Chairman of the Township Committee.
Bridgewater: It was in the charming valleys of this township that the pioneers of the County first settled. Granted by the Indians in 1681, the township was formed by letter patent from King George II, April 4, 1749. Thomas Codrington was the only proprietor under the grant to settle in the township. He built a house called "Rackawackhama" at the present site of Bound Brook and occupied it until 1750. Other early settlers were Lord Neil Campbell who came to Bound Brook in 1684, Richard Hall who took land at Middle Brook and Michael Van Vlegten who took the section at present Finkerton. There were four purchases from the Indians and the township originally contained about fifty square miles.


Bedminster: Also one of the early townships, it was formed April 4, 1749. The first permanent settlers were Scotch-Irish who were followed by German Palatines. Margaret Wooler made the first purchase of land in 1690, one thousand acres at the junction of the North Brach and Lamington rivers.


Bernards: Located in the northeastern corner of the County with an area of about forty square miles it was incorporated May 24, 1760. It was first actually settled between 1713 and 1720, though John Harrison bought three thousand acres in 1701 for the huge sum of fifty dollars. The township was probably named after Governor Francis Bernard.

Present pop.—2,339: N. V. T. —82,377,660: T. R. —83.4. Its principal settlements are Basking Ridge, the oldest in the township; Liberty Corner, once known as Azin’s Corner; Madisonville, once called “Coffee House”; and West Millington.

Branchburg: It was formed from Bridgewater Twp. April 5, 1845 and has an area of about twenty square miles. Title to these lands was obtained by the proprietors from the Indians in 1835 and 1857. Captain Jacob Ten Eyck was one of the notable early residents.

Present pop.—1,084: N. V. T. —81,465,615: T. R. —83.28. Its principal villages are North Branch, Burnt Mills and Woodfarm.

Franklin: Three of the twenty-four proprietors of East Jersey had dividends set off to them in Franklin Twp., which was incorporated about 1735. A year prior, John Jians and Company purchased from the Indians the "Ahunderhamock" tract comprising about one-third of the township's area. Not long thereafter other tracts were purchased. In 1820 the area on part of which is now located Rutgers University was set off to the city of New Brunswick.

[ 49 ]
Hillsborough: A large number of the early settlers in the County were among those who pioneered in this township, it being one of the first settled districts. As early as 1690 the Harlingen tract in the center of the Somers section was settled. It was incorporated May 31, 1771, originally including Montgomery. It is the most extensive township in the County, with about 59 square miles.

Present pop.—1,972; N. V. T.—$3,214,176; T. R.—$448. Its principal villages are Neshanic, Flagtown, Clover Hill, South Branch, Blakewells, Rock Mill, Roycefield, Montgomery, Frankfort, Wood Tavern, Pleasant View, Hillsborough, Hamilton and South Somerville.

Montgomery: It is the extreme southern township of the County and contains the interesting rock formations of "Roaring Rocks" and "Devil's Hall. The earliest settlers were the Beckmans, Dr. Henry Greenland, Thomas Hart and Walter Bentall. The township's early history is much the same as that of Hillsborough from which it was originally taken and incorporated about March 10, 1772.

Present pop.—2,657; N. V. T.—$1,678,370; T. R.—$4414. Principal towns are Harlingen, Belle Mead, Dutchtown, Fairview, Blawenburg, Stoutsburg, Plainville, Bridge Point, Skillman and Zion.

North Plainfield: Located in the extreme eastern part of the County, it was set off from Warren Twp. and incorporated April 2, 1872. With a rough and broken surface of about 16 square miles, rock was first quarried here in 1864 by Wallace Vail. The earliest settlers being the Vail, Runyon, Boyce and Manning families. The French settled later.

Present pop.—341; N. V. T.—$455,385; T. R.—$4176.

Warren: Its area is hilly, and rough with several fertile valleys and is about 32 miles square. Incorporated March 1, 1806, Jacob Snalley was chosen Moderator at the first town meeting in the same year. The Allens, who settled in the Washington Valley about 1861, are thought to be the first settlers. Copper was mined here at one time.

Present pop.—1,399; N. V. T.—$1,282,171; T. R.—$3,84. The principal settlements are Warrenville, Union Village, Smalleytown, Mt. Bethel, Mt. Hope, Round Top and Coontown.
There are but two towns in the County, each being governed by a Board of Commissioners, which meets at regular stated intervals.

Like the boroughs, they have comparatively small areas and are closely populated communities, with their own systems for protection, lighting, water and streets.

East Millstone: Known as Johnsonville until 1855, the town was incorporated February 18, 1873. Located on the D. & R. Canal, it is the terminus of the Millstone and New Brunswick R. R. Today it is an industrial and residential town with a population of 364, but is not set up as a separate tax district.

Raritan: Located on the Raritan River contiguous to and southwest of Somerville, it was incorporated April 3, 1868.

In 1855 it contained but 4 houses and a grist mill, while today it is a thriving industrial community of 4,831 persons, offering excellent facilities for industry. Andrew Coe Steman was one of the earliest settlers. It also, is not a separate tax district.

Estate

For grandeur, vastness, charm and natural splendor, the beautiful estate region in the gently rolling hills of northern Somerset is probably without comparison anywhere in America. A palatial residence seems to crown each hill. Far-sweeping velvety green lawns, exotic shrubs and flowers, wooded knolls, and tree-lined roads are visible in every direction. And refined, exquisite taste and the hand of the artist is everywhere in evidence.

Here reside a colony of socially prominent and wealthy families. Here they enjoy peaceful privacy in the quiet of the verdant hills. Land is high in value and available only to those of means.

Golf and Country Clubs are located in every section of the County. And a magnificent polo field has recently been completed in the estate region.
New York Regional Plan Proposals for Somerset County

Somerset County is included in the area embraced by the Regional Plan of New York and its environs. That elaborate plan, the result of seven years of intensive study and costing millions of dollars, looks forward 25 to 50 years. Some of the Plan's proposals are already realities, others are nearing completion and Somerset County is already having growing pains. The extent of the County's brilliant future is difficult of prediction.

This super Plan proposes and layout for the area within a radius of 35 miles from New York, specific color and highways and transportation systems, parkways and parks, industrial areas and residential communities.

In the matter of transportation the D. L. & W. is being electrified and together with the Central R. R. of N. J., the Hudson Valley, the Reading and B. & O. gives to Somerset County the best Port Rail facilities. Traversing the County are highway routes 15, 16, R. B. R. C, the super municipal by-pass route, which afford ample vehicular and passenger car traffic facilities.

The Parks and Parkways, the "lungs" of the Region, are planned to take advantage of the physical characteristics of the County, particularly around Chimney Rock and along the Raritan River, where are proposed recreational parks for local needs.

The plan calls for an attempt to keep industrial land for industrial purposes and residential land for residential development. The areas in and about Bound Brook, Manville, Raritan, Somerville and Rocky Hill are designed as industrial areas. While the districts contiguous thereto are set up as residential—as also in many other localities in the County.

With the gradual fulfillment of these plans and the tying in of local community improvements to coordinate with these major plans, Somerset County will come into its own, prosper beyond expectation and have a greatly increased population.
The Future of Somerset County

By Richard Whitney, President, New York Stock Exchange

The future of Somerset County is not a task laden with the usual prophetical difficulties and likelihood of resultant errors. It merely represents the summing-up of authoritative opinions that were reached only after long and careful surveys and studies. The unanimous thought is that a period of great development, growth and prosperity lies immediately ahead for the people of Somerset County.

The New York Regional Planning Association includes the County in its metropolitan area... it conservatively estimates a 20% population increase for the County as a minimum in the next ten year period... and designates the region in and about Bound Brook Somerville, Marlboro and Raritan as an area for industrial expansion. A very recent survey revealed the fact that there is a savings account for almost every other person in Somerset County—men, women and children included—and the accounts total the comparatively large average of $621,77 each, representing a very considerable latent purchasing power. This fact alone, excluding the County’s $68,000,000 in assessed property valuation, a passenger auto for every four persons and $3,700,000 in Building & Loan Association resources—speaks the progressive industry and the intelligent thrift of the people of Somerset County. A successful past combined with a constructive present point to continued growth and satisfactory expansion.

Past experience is the sounding of all facts on which to predict the future... so with great certainty it may be said that Somerset County has a most promising—a most glorious future.

Richard Whitney, President New York Stock Exchange.

By New Jersey State Senator Dayton Rauer

Somerset County is in the process of a fundamental change in its character. The milk pail and the plow are being replaced by the factory; the farmhouse is giving way to the commuter’s home. These inevitable changes from the typically farming county of twenty-five years ago are the natural results of the extension of the metropolitan district of New York City. The growth of this district, which formerly comprised only those counties of New Jersey bordering on the Hudson River, has brought to Somerset County new problems which must be squarely faced by its citizens.

The history of Somerset County shows that in its government and its community life, its people have always strived for the highest ideals of American Democracy. In solving the purely material and economic problems of the future, it is important that these ideals be preserved.

We are on the eve of a rapid industrial advancement, but the true progress of the County will depend upon the intelligent interest and active participation of its citizens in its political and civic life, and upon the retention of those principles without which there is no true progress.

J. Dryden Rauer, State Senator.

By Former United States Senator Joseph S. Fealinghuyen

When one is asked to envision the future of his own County—the one in which his ancestors settled, the one in which he was reared, the one which always has held his deepest interest and love—the thought of painting too rosy, too brilliant a picture is exceedingly great.

But Somerset County needs no over-coloring. It is rich in its history and tradition. It is fortunate in its advantageous location at the doorstep of New York and its highly developed transportation facilities. It is happy in its agricultural and industrial prosperity. And its illustrious sons have brought honor and glory to the State and Nation. Blessed with such a heritage, the County’s future place in the sun is assured. Its future progress and growth are an absolute certainty.

Somerset County is destined in the near future to have a highly developed industrial area... a considerably increased population... added residential and shopping areas... and unrivaled transportation conveniences. These are predicted in the report of the New York Regional Planners after an exhaustive seven-year survey.

And when to this is added the natural charm and beauty of Somerset, it is realized that the County’s onward march to increased prosperity and happiness can not be halted. And, its intelligent and industrious citizenship will reap a much deserved reward.

Joseph S. Fealinghuyen, Former United States Senator.
Acknowledgment

To the following public-spirited residents, industries and business firms whose kind financial support made this publication possible, the Board of Chosen Freeholders in behalf of the people of Somerset County and itself, wishes to make grateful acknowledgment and express sincere appreciation.

Residents
Forrest F. Dyden, Bernardsville; Walter G. Ladd, Far Hills; John Shane, Far Hills; Joseph S. Freehlinghuyzen, Far Hills; J. Cox Brady Estate, Gladstone; Richard Whitney, Bedminster; Charles Engelhard, Bernardsville; Charles M. Chapman, Bernardsville; J. Dyden Kuey, Bernardsville; Frank Bergen, Bernardsville; Morgan Cowperthwaite, Esq., Bedminster; Charles Scribner, Jr., Far Hills; John Wyckoff Mettler, East Millstone; W. P. Bowman, Branchburg Twp.; W. Thor Kiesel, Bedminster Twp.; Dr. Richard Moldenske, Watchung; C. Frank Schweig, North Plainfield; Herbert W. Scheuer, North Plainfield; George T. Madison, Bound Brook; George B. Holzer, Bound Brook; Francis K. Stevens, Gladstone; W. R. Coddington, Millington; Henry Schmitzpaul, Bound Brook; Col. F. S. Tainter, Far Hills; Charles L. Roberts, Basking Ridge; Louis K. Hyde, Plainfield; Amos V. Norton, Somerville; William H. Page, Far Hills; W. K. Page, Bernardsville; Hugo Klotz, Plainfield; H. Otto Witschen, Bernardsville; Mrs. Emma C. Morehead, Somerville; Dr. Benjamin Borton, Bound Brook; W. Redwood Cross, Bernardsville; George D. Wilson, Somerville.


Industries

Firms doing business with the county
Attorneys: Hawkins, Delafield & Longellow, New York, N. Y.


Banks: Every bank in Somerset County.

Bridge Supplies: Allan Wood Steel Co., Conshohocken, Penna.

Bridge Contractors: Henry E. Terrill, Linden; Arthur E. Smith, Plainfield; Howlett & Gutleber, Basking Ridge; Snook Bros., Newfield.

Building Contractors and Repairs: Wm. Paarley, Far Hills.
Coat: S. J. Galpin, Inc., Somerville; James A. Staats, Somerville; Frank Galli-gher Co., Inc., Raritan; Wm. S. Vroom, Somerville; Consumers Supply & Coal Co., Somerville.

Electrical Contractors: A. G. Koehler, Somerville; Milton L. Van Nest, Somerville.

Engineers' Equipment and Supplies: J. Harnar, Trenton; Buff & Buff Mfg. Co., New York, N. Y.

Food Stuffs: W. M. Hoen, Somerville; William Wheeler, Somerville; John Schauf, Raritan.
General Merchants: Honeyman & Quick, Somerville.


Office Furniture, Equipment and Supplies: Wm. F. Murphy & Sons Co., Philadelphia, Penna.; Borruggs Adding Machine Co., Trenton; Harold Gernert, Somerville; Fletcher L. Fritts, Representing the General Fireproofing Co., New York, N. Y.

Paint and Hardware: Hartmann Hardware & Supply Co., Somerville; Somerville Hardware Co., Somerville; C. Wm. Krass's Sons, Inc., Plainfield; James C. Hanson, Plainfield; Willard C. Beach Air Brush Co., Harrison.


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