THE NEW JERSEY NEGRO IN WORLD WAR II

Contributions and Activities

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THE NEW JERSEY NEGRO IN WORLD WAR II

Contributions and Activities

Prepared for His Excellency

Walter E. Edge, Governor

by the

Urban Colored Population Commission

N.J. Commission on the Urban colored population.

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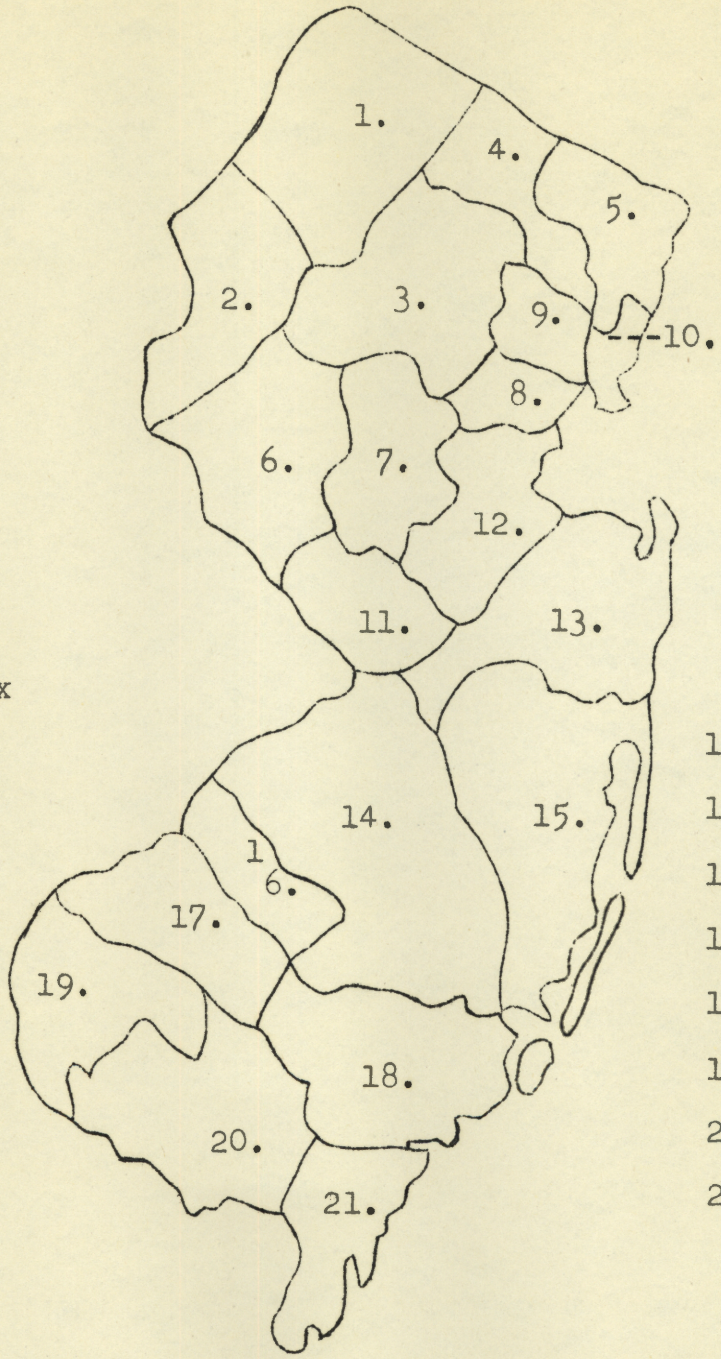
NEW JERSEY POPULATION 1940

Counties

1. Sussex
2. Warren
3. Morris
4. Passaic
5. Bergen
6. Hunterdon
7. Somerset
8. Union
9. Essex
10. Hudson
11. Mercer
12. Middlesex
13. Monmouth



14. Burlington
15. Ocean
16. Camden
17. Gloucester
18. Atlantic
19. Salem
20. Cumberland
21. Cape May

Total Population 1940	4,160,165
Negro Population 1940	226,973
Negro PerCent of Population	5.5

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Census 1940

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR

November 9, 1945

Dear Rev. Coleman:

At the direction of Governor Walter E. Edge, I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Urban Colored Population Commission of the findings on the activities and contributions of the Negro in New Jersey, During World War II. The report includes the records of the New Jersey Negroes' activities, giving conclusive evidence of the valuable contributions made by this group of minority citizens toward the winning of the war.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward M. Gilroy
Secretary to the Governor

Rev. R. W. Coleman, Chairman
The Commission of the
National Baptist Convention
Box 5255 Station B
New Orleans 15, Louisiana

EMG:APR

BIOGRAPHY

GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY

WALTER EVANS EDGE, VENTNOR

Governor Edge, recalled from private life by the people of New Jersey last November to serve as their Chief Executive during World War II, brings to the office of the Governor the experience acquired during many years of active participation in public and private affairs. Governor Edge was this State's Chief Executive during World War I. He served as United States Senator from 1919 to 1929, and as Ambassador to France from 1929 to 1933.

Governor Edge was born in Phliadelphia, Pa., on November 20, 1873. Coming with his family to Pleasantville, New Jersey at an early age, he graduated from the public school of that community at fourteen. This ended his formal education. Starting at scratch, he began carving out his own career and became a printer's devil on the Atlantic City Review.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Edge entered the employment of the Dorland Advertising Agency, a small business in Atlantic City. Later he became the owner of this enterprise and developed it into an international organization with offices in New York, London, Paris, Berlin and Moscow.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Edge began publishing his own newspaper, the Atlantic City Guest, and from it he created the Atlantic City Daily Press. Subsequently, he acquired the Atlantic City Evening Union, also a daily newspaper. These publications he actively directed for many years.

Governor Edge started his governmental career as a clerk in the New Jersey State Senate. His advancement in public life was rapid. He became successively Assemblyman, State Senator, Governor, United States Senator and Ambassador to France. In May, 1943, he was drafted by the Republican Party as its candidate for Governor. Unopposed in the Republican primary, Mr. Edge was elected by an impressive majority over his Democratic opponent in the 1943 general election.

As Governor during World War I, Walter E. Edge brought this State to a position of national leadership. He sponsored and put into effect a program of progressive and forward-looking legislation. Always an advocate of sound business practices in government, Governor Edge pioneered the "pay-as-you-go" policy in New Jersey's public affairs. He was responsible for the First Workmen's Compensation and Employer's Liability Law. He consolidated State penal and charitable institutions and re-

organized other departments to effectuate efficiency and economy in the administration of State affairs.

Also as Governor, Mr. Edge sponsored legislation which laid the basis for New Jersey's present State Highway system and for the construction of the Holland Tunnel and Delaware River Bridge.

During his ten years in the United States Senate, Mr. Edge was a leader in national affairs. As Ambassador to France he won the admiration and respect of the French people and was instrumental in negotiating important trade treaties. Governor Edge has been elected delegate-at-large to every Republican National Convention since and including 1920.

Governor Edge has four children. They are Lieutenant Walter E. Edge, Jr., 28, serving with the Army Air Corps, somewhere in the Pacific; Camilla S. Edge, 20; Mary Esther Edge, 17; and Loyal Howard Edge, 14. His wife is the former Camilla L. A. Sewell of Bath, Maine.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

August 9, 1945

Dear Mr. Bowser:

Governor Edge would like to help this Commission of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. in its endeavors to present a complete picture of the activities of Negroes in the present war.

Accordingly, would you please furnish the information requested direct to Mr. Coleman and return this correspondence together with a copy of your report.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward M. Gilroy
Secretary to the Governor

Mr. Joseph P. Bowser, Director
New Jersey Urban Colored Commission
1060 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

EMG:MAC
Enc.

DEMOCRACY IN NEW JERSEY

June 17, 1938 — Dr. Frank S. Hargraves, now deceased, Negro member of the New Jersey Legislature, from Essex County, was successful in having a temporary commission created to examine, report upon and recommend measures to improve the economic, cultural, health and general living conditions of the urban colored population of the State. An appropriation of $30,000 was made.

June 10, 1941 — The Legislature of the State enacted a law creating a permanent commission to examine, report upon and recommend measures to improve the econmic, cultural, health and general living conditions of the urban colored population of the State. This is known as the Hargraves Bill.

March 9, 1942 — Assemblyman Asa M. Stackhouse of Burlington County introduced a bill, which was approved on May 4, 1942, prohibiting discrimination in employment by industries engaged in defense work. During the war period, the energy of this Commission was directed toward this end.

April 6, 1945 — Assemblyman J. Otto Hill from Essex County, the only Negro members of the present Legislature, introduced a bill, which was passed on April 16, 1945, creating a "Law Against Discrimination". The State Board of Education was given the responsibility of enforcing this law and created a new division---The Division Against Discrimination.

FOREWORD

During the period of World War II, the New Jersey Negro, as well as other racial groups, responded to the call for support of the war effort that would ensure victory.

The most outstanding democratic trends were developed in the field of war-time employment. There were other marginal but significantly profound penetrations into the social and economic characteristics of New Jersey's ideological structure by liberal, democratic forces. The two outstanding evils, discrimination and segregation were continuously attacked with an unprecedented vigor.

Conditions, as they have existed in the past are contradictory to the basic principles of Democracy. Only the coming events of the post-war period -- the treatment of the critical social and economic problems will determine whether or not the gains made during the war emergency will be permanent.

In appreciation for the assistance rendered in compiling this data, we wish to express our sincere thanks for the invaluable assistance and cooperation extended by the organizations, making possible THE NEW JERSEY NEGRO IN WORLD WAR II.