



# UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Crane's Ford DAR Award

Next Meeting Dates

On March 10, 2018, our own vice-President Joanne H. Rajoppi will be the recipient of the "Women in American History Award" presented by the Crane's Ford Chapter of the DAR. This award is designed to recognize worthy women for their contribution to history, culture and society. Joanne is eminently qualified for this award. She is the first woman County Clerk in the 161 year history of Union County. She has been a Springfield mayor, a County Freeholder, and a New Jersey Assistant Secretary of State. She is the author of several books, including "Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War".

The next meeting of the Society will be at 2 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, in the Hanson House. Arrangements have been made for an interesting program to be presented at the close of the meeting, and it will feature Paul Salomone of the Elizabeth Resolutes in a discussion about early amateur base ball dating back to 1866.

However, the meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup> will be our annual dinner meeting, which will be at the Garden Restaurant on Magie Avenue in Elizabeth at the border-line with Union. A program will be presented, and very little, only necessary business will be conducted. This event will start at 2 PM.

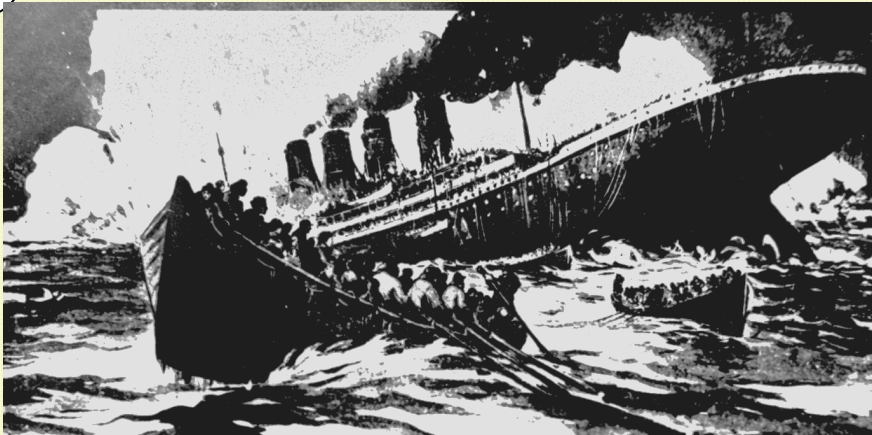
The price of the dinner is \$30, as it has been for the past several years, and it must be paid in advance. In order to maintain this price we must have at least thirty guests in attendance. A menu, order blank and envelope are enclosed for your convenience. Please send in your order early to the treasurer and relieve the minds of the committee.

## Winter Weather

Business in our Cranford office was suspended during the last couple of weeks of the year of 2017 because of the holidays, and the first weeks of the new year of 2018 suffered because of the weather. Snow and ice made driving dangerous and the office staff members wisely decided to stay at their homes instead of risking an accident. However, any necessary work was accomplished at home during those weeks. We regret any inconvenience our absence caused to any hardy individual who hoped to find us in our office.







### Pictures From Our Files

It is almost exactly one-hundred five years ago that one of the greatest disasters at sea occurred, when the Royal Mail Ship "Titanic" hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean and sank two hours and forty minutes later. Pictured above is an artist's conception of the sinking, with some survivors escaping in lifeboats. This picture is from a lantern slide, once used in a neighborhood movie theater in Elizabeth, shortly after the disaster.

The story of the "Titanic" is well-known, having been told in many books and in motion pictures. The ship left from Southampton on April 10, 1912, on her maiden voyage, headed for New York City. She never made it.

At 11:40, ship's time, on April 14, 1912, she struck a glancing blow against an iceberg, which ripped an underwater gash, perhaps 300 feet long in her side. In sinking, she caused the deaths of 1514 members of the 2224 persons on board.

The ship carried lifeboats for only half that number. No need for more: this ship was unsinkable, or so it was said. Events proved it wrong.

Through the years many thoughts have been made about raising the sunken wreck, but none have been

attempted. A well-known author of ship salvage once wrote a book of fiction about the raising of the ship, and even a movie was made from that book, but explorations years later have proved such an event to be impossible. The wreck lies more than 12,000 feet down, and has broken in two, possibly at the moment of sinking. Survivors have reported the sound of heavy crashing as the stern was raised out of the water. Underwater exploration done in 1985 has found the remains and photographs reveal that the bow section is somewhat intact, but the stern is almost completely flattened and destroyed

### Hospital Report

Bill Frolich, our treasurer reports that he has just survived another session of a week in the hospital in Elizabeth. During that week he was checked over, x-rayed several times and repeatedly had his blood pressure taken. Friends of Dracula appeared around four o'clock in the morning for a bit of blood, and injections took place at any time. However, the medical service was excellent, as were the nurses.

Food and meals were a different matter, with considerable discussion of the menu, and delivery of food neither ordered nor

desired. A meal in bed is not the thrill that it is thought to be.

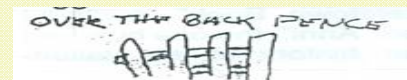
### Trading Cards

There is still an adequate supply of trading cards at the historic sites of the county's "Four Century in a Weekend" program, so be sure to look for them whenever you visit one of the sites. Although in short supply and absent at some sites in October, more have been printed and new cards have been added to the program and distributed to the various sites.

The printing and adding of these cards to the sites by the county is an on-going effort to stimulate an interest in the history of this area, which goes back to 1664.

Once known as the Elizabethtown Tract, the area of Union County was the start of English history in New Jersey, and now contains twenty-one communities, each with its own part of that history.

The trading cards are meant to increase interest in that history, featuring the lives of men, women, and activities which originated here.



Bob Abbott asks, "Who wants to help him restore this 1903 Orient Buckboard?"

