



# UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Annual Dinner Meeting

Our annual anniversary meeting of 149 years was held on April 8 in the Garden Restaurant on Magie Avenue in Union, near the Elizabeth City line. More than fifty members and guests were in attendance and enjoyed an excellent meal of their choice.

Our president, Charles Shallcross, conducted a very brief business meeting, during which he introduced a number

in Newark. He is the author of several books on legal history, military justice, and constitutional law, and he has lectured on several occasions at the United States Supreme Court.

His subject at the dinner was little-known facts about William Howard Taft.

## Award Program

At the Hanson House on March 6th the committee for

the Hanson House on May 20th, during that meeting.

## Weather

Once again the weather has interfered with the smooth operation of our office staff. The threat of a third nor'easter in two weeks on March 12/13, 2018 caused the cancelation of any work in our office in the Hanson House, as the staff members decided to remain at home, rather than risk traveling snow and icy roads. For those who might have thought that spring was near, be reminded that the famous "Blizzard of '88" took place exactly 130 years ago in this date.



of distinguished guests who were present.

the awards program chaired by Mike Yesenko, met and worked out the details of that program.

Letters will be sent to all of the principals of high schools in Union County, informing them of the existence of the awards, and of the need for any interested student to send a written application to the committee, including his/her interest in local history.

The final selection of the four winners will be made by the committee, and the presentation will be made in



The guest speaker for the occasion was Jonathan Lurie, a professor of history and a former Academic Integrity Officer at Rutgers University



At that time there were snow drifts six feet high in some places, and a railroad train was stalled in the middle of Broad Street in Elizabeth, blocking what little traffic was able to move. Train cars had to be uncoupled to allow for passage through the street. The famous "Arches of Elizabeth" had not yet been constructed at that time, and the tracks of the Pennsylvania and Jersey central Railroads crossed st street level then.





Pictures From Our Files

Meeting of March 4th

It was on a Fourth of July celebration in Roselle Park about 1960 when the visitors had a chance to work off their frustrations by using a sledge hammer on an automobile.

This was one of those “three shots for a quarter” deals and there were many takers. The first items to feel the blows of the hammer were of course the class windows and then the lights and side mirrors.

However, it was surprising how resistant the body of the car was to the heavy blows of the attackers. There were times when the hammer seemed to just bounce off, with almost no effect on the sides of the car. This lack of damage soon caused friendly competition among the crowd of hammer swingers, with each insisting that he would create bigger and better dents than his friend.

As this event of the July 4th celebration went on all of the afternoon and into the early evening, it was inevitable that the target finally received a considerable amount of damage. It was, however, still recognizable as having been a car when it was finally removed from the field.

It did not, however, drive off under its own power.

The meeting of March 4th was held as scheduled in the Hanson House. Business in the executive session which preceded the regular meeting consisted of committee reports and a discussion about our annual dinner, as well as plans concerning our student awards which will be held in the May meeting.

In the regular meeting a few announcements were made from the floor, including a reminder that our vice-President, Joanne Rajoppi was to receive an award from the Cranford Chapter of the DAR on the coming Saturday, the 10th of March.

The program for the afternoon was presented by Paul Salomone, who gave a



very interesting and detailed

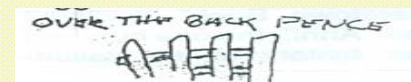
report about amateur baseball from the beginning around 1840 to the present time. Most of us were unaware of the existence and activities of the many ball clubs that he told us about, including games being played today using the rules of the 1890s. The rules seem to have been changed every couple of years, as the need became obvious.

He also told us about the early making of bats using hand-powered equipment, as well as the differences



between early and modern baseballs, from the insides to the covering.

In the early days there were no pitcher’s mound nor gloves worn by the players. Pitching was underhand, and a runner to first base dared not over-run the base as he might be tagged out.



An old tradition of our photographer, Bill Frolich, is that “If you shoot me, I shoot you” and this was carried out at our dinner.