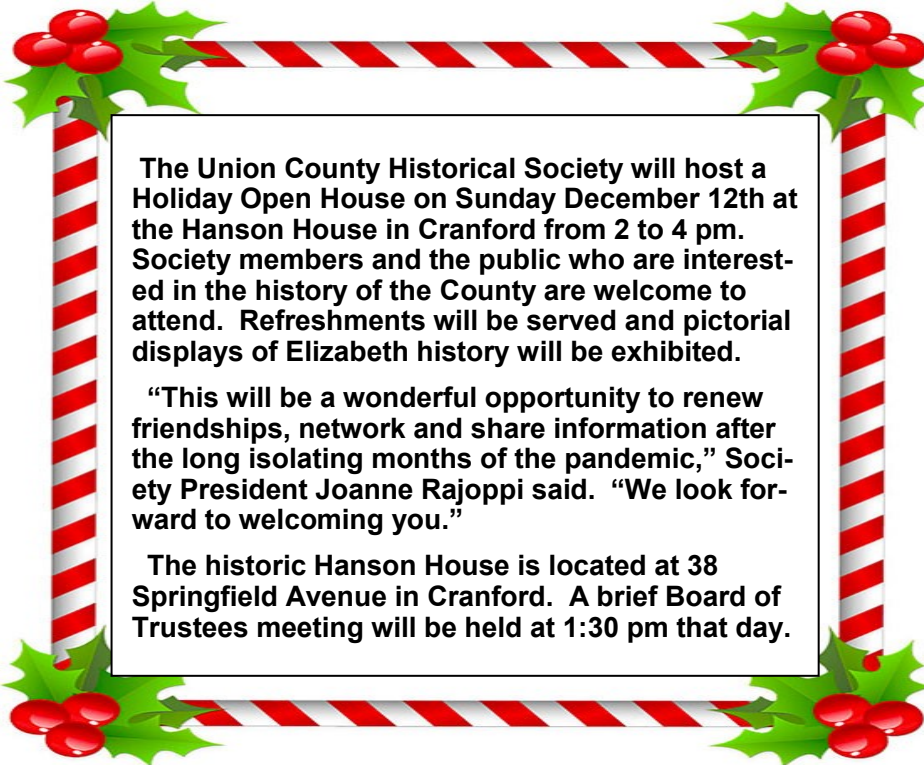




# UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Union County Historical Society will host a Holiday Open House on Sunday December 12th at the Hanson House in Cranford from 2 to 4 pm. Society members and the public who are interested in the history of the County are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served and pictorial displays of Elizabeth history will be exhibited.

“This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, network and share information after the long isolating months of the pandemic,” Society President Joanne Rajoppi said. “We look forward to welcoming you.”

The historic Hanson House is located at 38 Springfield Avenue in Cranford. A brief Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 1:30 pm that day.

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Roselle honored William "Bill" Frolich, Union County Historical Society's long time treasurer who passed away on September 30th at the age of 101, with a street naming ceremony recently. The block of East 4th Avenue between Chestnut Street and Walnut Street was honorarily designated as Bill Frolich Way in honor of Bill's chronicling the history of the Borough of Roselle throughout the decades and for inspiring a love of history in the generations following his own. Bill's family, town dignitaries and members of the Roselle Historical Society and Union County Historical Society attended the street naming on November 11th.

### NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER APPOINTED

The Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonny Rosser of Vauxhall to the Union County Historical Society Board of Trustees for a two-year appointment. Jonny is a founding member of the Vauxhall Historical Society in 2009 which initiated a Veterans Day Program as well as Black History Essay Contest for all 5th graders in Union Township.

A Vauxhall resident for more than 60 years and member of the Concerned Citizens of Vauxhall and Vicinity Civic Association, Mr. Rosser said, "I look forward to the opportunity of working on various topics including minority participation related to Union County History." "We are pleased that Jonny

Rosser has joined the Board," President Joanne Rajoppi said. "He brings a valuable and experienced point of view to history which will enhance our understanding of our culture and heritage."

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### Roselle's Tribute to Bill Frolich



Thoughts About the Last 100  
Years by Bill Frolich  
Continued

Most of the days of the weeks had specific duties on which to be performed. Monday was always wash day, when all of the clothes used during the week were gathered up and taken to the laundry wash tubs, usually in the basement. Here our old Thor Washing Machine got quite a workout. With a tub-load of clothes enclosed within and resting horizontally in its tank of hot, soapy water, this perforated tub was set into motion by the operator, revolving eight turns in one direction and then automatically turning eight turns in the other direction. After a reasonable length of time, Momma would stop this action, open the tub and using the attached wringer, feed the washed material into a wash tub of clean rinse water, repeating until the rinse water was clean. All of the soiled clothing got this same treatment, except for a few delicate pieces which were carefully washed by hand. The next step was to place the clean clothes into a basket and take them outside and using wooden clothes-pins, hang them to the network of clothes lines already set up to the poles in the backyard. A rainy Monday would up-set this routine only slightly, as the wet wash was then hung in the basement to dry.

Tuesday was ironing day, where all of the wrinkles were smoothed flat, using the collection of flatirons stored in the bottom of the cast iron, coal-fired kitchen stove. A padded ironing board was taken from a closet and set up a slight distance from the fired up stove and the irons were placed on its flat surface to get hot. When all was ready, a



Thor Washing Machine

piece of clothing was spread out on the board and a hot iron was used to smooth out any wrinkles. A couple of quick passes over a waxed pad might be used to help the iron do its work. When the iron had cooled too much to do its work, it was returned to the stove and another iron took its place on the board. As the hours passed, this work was completed, and finally the ironed and neatly folded clothing was placed in the bureau drawers, where it stayed until again needed.

Saturday was shopping day, when supplies needed for the coming week would be purchased from a variety of

stores downtown. We did most of our shopping on Morris Avenue, where the A&P store provided groceries. Meat was obtained from the butcher shop across the street, and freshly caught fish came from the seafood shop nearby. In all of these stores the clerk worked from between the long counter and the high, well-stocked, shelves of the wall. You gave the clerk a list of needed items and he took them from the shelves, using a special grasping pole if necessary, for items on the upper shelves.

When the complete order was laid out on the counter, the clerk pulled off a large sheet of brown paper from a thick roll, placed it on the counter, took a pencil from behind his ear, wrote the price of each item on the paper, and added up the total, which you paid. The clerk then used the paper to wrap everything into a bundle and tied it up with string from a nearby dispenser. In our family this bundle was usually labeled and set aside, to be picked up later by someone with a small wagon. (me)



OVER THE BACK FENCE

