

A Bell for Cranford: Cranford Central RR Ferry Boat Bell



The Society received in January (1985) a large bronze bell, forged in 1848, which hung between the ferry slips of the Central Railroad at Liberty Street, New York.

Presented by Bernard J. Minetti, former Chief Engineer of the company, it will soon be mounted for all to see. Mr. Minetti made this gift "In memory of the Railroad officers, employees, and commuters so that their dedication to the Railroad's service will forever be remembered". We are fortunate and proud to become custodian of this unique piece of memorabilia, especially because the development of our town was directly affected by the coming of the railroad

We are grateful to Edward Murphy, Manu Patel, Robert Maiberger, and other Township personnel for transport of the bell to our custody. We are pleased that townspeople are supportive of our efforts to collect and preserve things that are part of, or have affected the development of Cranford. In addition to the visually dramatic pre-Civil War bronze, Mr. Minetti has presented to the Society a leather-bound book titled Record of the Ceremonies Attending the Formal Opening of the Newark Bay Bridge of the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, and dated November 27, 1926. This is available for viewing in the Museum. Mr. Minetti's generosity, trust, and understanding of our purpose are deeply appreciated.