

# A PLACE CALLED WHIPPANY

## The history and contemporary times of Hanover Township

by LEONARDO A. FARIELLO

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## INDEX

1. Highlights of Whippany
2. Colonial History— Local History
3. Aboriginal History of Whippanong
4. Namesake of Whippany
5. Township of Hanover, New Jersey
6. Copy and Transcript of Court Minutes— Hannover 1720
7. Old Maps of Whippany and Hanover, NJ
8. Villages of Hanover, New Jersey
9. Whippany, circa 1676
10. Monroe, circa 1715
11. Malapardis, circa 1735
12. Cedar Knolls, 1913
13. Whippanong Library
14. Whippanong Burying Yard
15. Contemporary Times of Hanover Township
16. The Book— *A Place Called Whippany*

Link to [Whippany.net](http://Whippany.net)

*for additional history and photo gallery of old and new photos of Hanover, NJ*

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and a few subchapters of *A Place Called Whippany*.

The word "Whippany" is written in a large, elegant cursive script. The letters are black and have a classic, flowing style with prominent loops and flourishes, particularly in the 'W' and 'y'.

Cursive type face of Whippany  
from the last letterhead of the Whippany Paper Board Co.

The first colonial settlement in the wilderness of north-central New Jersey occurred along a gentle, meandering river known as "Whippanong" (a name given to us by the Native Americans who first inhabited this land). As colonists settled the area they referred to the land as "Whippeny." Eventually the proprietors of the new-found province delineated a vast unsettled territory and named it "Whippenny Township." The township predates its home county of Morris and actually defined the general boundaries of land that eventually became Morris County.

Whippenny Township or Hanover Township, as it came to be called, is the predecessor of all 39 municipalities of Morris County. Originally approximately 500 square miles during colonial times, Hanover Township has been whittled down to its present size of 10.8 square miles. Whippany, as it is now called, is a district within the Township of Hanover with a land area of 6.9 square miles. Cedar Knolls is another district within Hanover Township and it has a land area of 3.9 square miles.

- Whippany was the first settlement of Morris County (half a century before Morris County was established).
- Whippany hosted the first church in what came to be Morris County.
- Whippany established the first school in Morris County.
- Whippany has the oldest public graveyard in Morris County.
- Whippany (Whippenny) Township was the original name of the entire area of land that came to be called Morris County.
- Whippany revolutionists formed the first military company in Morris County.
- The French Army and Continental Troops marched and camped in Whippany during the American Revolution.
- General George Washington, "the Father of our Country" was known to have visited Whippany during the American Revolution.
- Whippany made world history with the first television broadcast from Whippany to New York City in 1927.

Whippany was once a provincial community that has recently developed into a sprawling suburb. Let future historians note that it was during the last half of the twentieth century that Whippany was transformed from a sparsely populated village of farms, forests, fields, and meadows to a thriving suburban municipality.

*See [A Place Called Whippany](#) for more information about Whippany and Hanover Township.*

*The 2nd Edition is available at the Whippanong Library and the Morris County Library.*

A reference copy is available in the author section of Morris County Library.

or go to <http://whippany.net/>

# Colonial History

## Local History

The first recorded history of “Whippany” is found in a parchment document dated 1724. It is a deed referencing “a place called Whippano” which traces the land back to 1676. The year 1676 is now generally accepted as the date of the “discovery” of Whippany.

Before New Jersey was a state, it was a royal province divided as East Jersey and West Jersey. “Whippano” was considered part of West Jersey, although until a permanent division line was established and for some years that followed, it wavered between East Jersey and West Jersey. In 1682 it was located in East Jersey and in 1688 it was located in West Jersey. In 1719 the official boundary line was established and it was finally accepted as East Jersey.

Whippany was first settled in 1685. At that time it was commonly called “Whippeny,” although it was also known by a number of other similar pronunciations of its aboriginal name. An iron forge was built on the banks of the Whippanong River in 1715. A church was built in the village of Whippeny in 1718 and a “burying yard” was established along the Whippanong River. “Whippeny” was the first settlement in the vast unsettled wilderness of north central New Jersey and it was the first village within the boundaries of what is now Morris County. Likewise, the iron forge now known as the “Old Iron Works” was the first industry in what came to be Morris County, the church known as the “First Presbyterian Church” was the first church in Morris County, and the “burying yard” was the first colonial cemetery in north central New Jersey.

In 1681 the West Jersey proprietors established Burlington as the capital of West Jersey and in 1694 the proprietors established Burlington County. Within the boundaries of Burlington County the proprietors established a township by the name of “Whippenny,” otherwise referred to as “Whippanong,” which was situated between the Passaic, Pequannock, Pompton, and Musconetcong Rivers. Whippenny Township encompassed approximately 500 square miles of land and it defined the general boundaries of what eventually became Morris County. At that time Whippenny was one of the largest townships in the province of New Jersey.

In 1714 the provincial government of New Jersey divided Burlington County to create Hunterdon County. (Hunterdon County was named after General Robert Hunter, Governor of New Jersey when Hunterdon County was established.) At that time Whippenny Township fell within the boundaries Hunterdon County. During that time, Hunterdon County was a vast area that included all the land that is now Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

In 1720 Whippenny Township was renamed “Hanover” by order of the Hunterdon County Court. The name “Hanover” was designated to honor King George I of the

House of Hanover, a name undoubtedly held in high esteem. The name "Whippenny" was a derivative of the aboriginal tongue, and "Hanover" of German origin; albeit one and the same place, Whippenny Township ceased to exist and Hanover Township was established. At that time, the boundaries of Hanover included all 39 municipalities that now make up Morris County. (It is interesting to note that Whippenny and Hanover Township actually predate Morris County, as well as Sussex and Warren Counties which were all yet to be established.)

Hanover Township was divided into two separate townships in 1720. Most of the land north of the Rockaway River was named Pequannock Township. (The name "Pequannock" is a Lenape word that means "the water that flows clean.") All the land south of the Rockaway River retained the name of Hanover Township. At that time, Hanover continued to be one of the largest townships in the province of New Jersey.

In 1739 Hanover and Pequannock (originally one township known as Whippenny), along with Wallpack Township (which was established in 1731), and Greenwich Township (established in 1738), were separated from Hunterdon County and combined to establish Morris County. Morris County was named in honor of Lewis Morris, the Royal Governor of the province of New Jersey. (At the time Morris County was 1,365 square miles, encompassing all of what is now Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties.)

In 1740 Hanover Township was again divided, this time to create the Township of Hanover, Township of Morris, and Township of Roxbury; the Township of Pequannock remained intact. (This is the source of some confusion because although 1740 is the date the Townships of Hanover, Pequannock, Morris, and Roxbury were officially established within Morris County, Hanover and Pequannock Townships were actually established twenty years earlier in 1720 in Hunterdon County.)

Wallpack Township and Greenwich Township were separated from Morris County in 1753 and combined to establish Sussex County. (Morris County retained 478 square miles of land which was approximately the original territory of Whippanong.) In 1824 Greenwich Township was separated from Sussex County to establish Warren County.

In 1776 American independence was declared and the American Revolution was underway. Morris County became the military capital of the Continental Army from 1777 to 1780 when General George Washington made Morristown his headquarters and Morris County the winter quarters for his troops. During the Revolutionary War, Hanover Township was host to many famous men of history. The guests at Tappins Hostelry in Whippany included General George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Benedict Arnold, and Generals Rochambeau and Lafayette (1780 and 1782). James Monroe traversed Monroe and Thomas Jefferson traveled through Malapardis on what is now known as Jefferson Road. Continental troops and French allies camped in Whippany, but battles were not fought in Whippany.

In 1798 the Township of Hanover was again incorporated, under the new authority of the State of New Jersey, in the fledgling United States of America.

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**Please note:** The establishment of Morris County is referred to as both 1738 and 1739. The confusion lies in the fact that Morris County was created under the Julian calendar in 1738, but the present use of the Gregorian calendar, adopted in 1752, records it as 1739. The County of Morris now chooses to recognize its official date as 1738.

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# Aboriginal History of Whippanong



Bronze Bust of Lenape Native American, by the Township of Hanover  
Photo by Manfred Saul

## The Original People

The indigenous people of the east coast referred to themselves as “Wapanachki,” which means “people at the rising of the sun,” or “easterners.” They were part of a union of tribes known as the “Algonquian” nation that stretched from what is now Virginia, through New Jersey, and into Canada. (The Algonquian should not be confused with the Algonquin or Algonkin tribe of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.) The Algonquian nation was a linguistic union of eastern woodland natives bound together by similar languages.

The inhabitants of what is now known as New Jersey called themselves “Lenape” (*Lenah-pay*). The name Lenape has several interpretations, among which are “ordinary people” and “original people.” Many European settlers, including historians today, refer to the Lenape as “Lenni Lenape,” which has a redundant meaning, as if to say “first, original people” or “ordinary, common people.” The settlers eventually renamed the original people of New Jersey “Delaware Indians.” The tribe of “Lenape” and “Delaware” are synonymous, the former being of native tongue and the later of English language, named after the English nobleman Lord De la Warr, for which Delaware and the Delaware River were named.

Lenape territory extended along both sides of the Delaware River from what is now northern Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania, and throughout New Jersey. They called their territory “Lenapehoking,” which means “land of the Lenape.” They called the Delaware River “Lenape Wihittuck,” which means “river of the Lenape,” and they called New Jersey “Scheyichbi,” which means “land between the waters” (the Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Delaware River to the west). They called the

river in Whippany “Weypenunk” and the land we call Morris County, they called “Mackseta Cohunge.”

The Lenape were held in high esteem by the other eastern woodland tribes of the Algonquian nation. They were respectfully known as the “Grandfathers”—elders of the eastern woodland tribes. Their noble status eventually declined after they were displaced from their homeland. When they became a tribe in exile, their “Iroquois” neighbors ultimately slandered their good name by calling their warriors “women.”

The Lenape were a union of many sub-tribes divided by their physiographical regions, temperaments, and language dialects. They referred to themselves and each other by clan names and each clan was identified by an animal “totem” of their forest environment.

The tribe that lived in the northern region of Lenapehoking (which included northwest New Jersey) called themselves “Minsi,” which means “people of the stony country.” They were also called “Munsee” and also known as the “Minnisink” tribe. The Munsee were members of the Wolf Clan. They were fierce warriors and guardians of the Lenape territory. They had a violent disposition towards the neighboring Iroquois Confederacy and the European settlers. The French referred to them as “les Loups,” which means the wolves.

The “Unami,” which means “people down river,” lived in the northeastern and central region of New Jersey which included the area that is now Whippany and Morris County. They were members of the Turtle Clan and like their animal totem, they were generally gentle, peaceful, and friendly. As members of the Turtle Clan they apparently had an affinity for the abundant population of turtles that once roamed in and around New Jersey. Some Unami natives were known to paint or tattoo the symbol of a turtle upon their chests.

Lenape communities were often identified by the areas they inhabited. The Unami that lived in the river valley along the banks of the Whippanong River were referred to as “Whiponong Indians” by the early explorers and settlers of Whippanong.

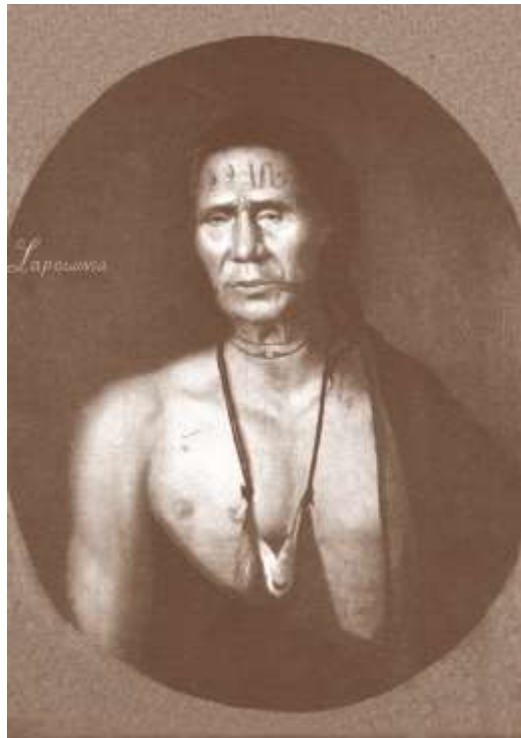
The “Unalachtigo,” or “people near the ocean,” lived in the southern region of New Jersey. The Unalachtigo were members of the Turkey Clan. The Unalachtigo were also known as “Una-lachta,” and they were also generally peaceful and friendly.

Besides the Wolf, Turtle, and Turkey Clans which have been documented in history, it is said that there were also numerous other clans, among which were the Deer Clan and Bear Clan. The deer and the bear were also powerful totems of eastern woodland natives; deer and bears, of course, were an important source of food and clothing and bears were also respected for their power. Animal totems were also used to identify Lenape bands and family lineage.



During Lenape reign, “Scheyichbi,” which came to be called New Jersey, was virgin forests, meadows, and vast wetlands. Different kinds of animals used to inhabit New Jersey—many have long since been removed, they include wolves, mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, mink, beaver, otter, and elk.

### Historical Society of Pennsylvania



**Lapowinsa Lenape Chief**  
Portrait by Gustavus Hesselius 1735

*This is the image copied to sculpt the Hanover Bronze Lenape Bust*

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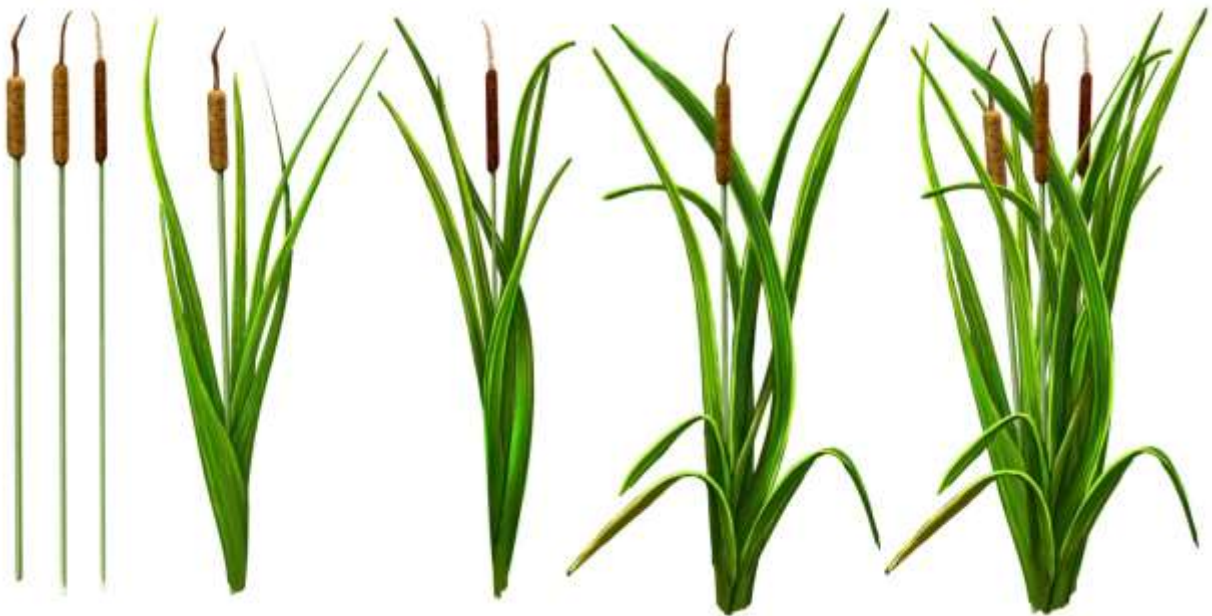
Contact Information: Len Sunchild Publishing Co., [Len@whippany.net](mailto:Len@whippany.net), 973-539-5355

For more information about “The Way the Native People Lived” and “The Peaceful Departure of the Natives of Whippanong,” see *A Place Called Whippany*.

# Namesake of Whippany

The musical name of Whippany was given to us by the Native Americans who first inhabited this land. It is derived from the aboriginal word “Whippanong,” taken from the Lenape dialect of the Algonquian American language.

The name was used by the Native Americans to identify the meadowlands surrounding the river that flows through the area. It has been interpreted to mean “place of the arrow wood,” reference to a plant that the Lenape Americans used to craft shafts for the arrows for their bows. Some have imagined that the Lenape “arrow wood” is the native black willow tree, but the author of *A Place Called Whippany* suggests that the “arrow wood” refers to the straight, tall cattail stalks that grow so abundantly in the meadowlands along the river. The pre-colonial sight of millions of cattails as far as the eye could see from Black Meadows to Troy Meadows and through Lee Meadows would have been a noteworthy landmark. The Lenape would have characterized the area by dominant land features or plant species, in this case, the “place of cattails.”



Images of cattails —Modera / shutterstock

Perhaps the translation of the word “wood” is a bit confusing but back in primitive times, wood was not used to craft arrows and certainly not made from the crooked and flimsy branches of willow trees. The stalks of cattails and cane of reeds were the ready-made arrow shafts used by the Lenape.

The musical name of Whippanong was adopted by the colonists, first as a settlement along the river and eventually to identify a vast, unsettled territory in north central New Jersey.

# Township of Hanover



## **Whippany is the predecessor of the Township of Hanover**

Ultimately the American name of “Whippenny” was replaced by the German name of “Hannover” in honor of the royal King of England (1720). Through the years, the landmass of Hanover Township has dwindled as municipalities formed and ceded from the township.

Whippenny Township—or Hanover Township, as it came to be called—is the predecessor of all 39 municipalities of Morris County. Originally approximately 500 square miles during colonial times, Hanover has been whittled down to its present size of 10.8 square miles. Whippany, as it is now called, is a district within the Township of Hanover with a land area of 6.9 square miles. The district of Cedar Knolls has a land area of 3.9 square miles.

When the Township of Hanover was established and Whippenny Township ceased to exist, the name Whippenny, or “Whippany” as it came to be called, was retained as a district within the Township of Hanover at its original settlement and place of origin, the “place where the arrow wood grows.”

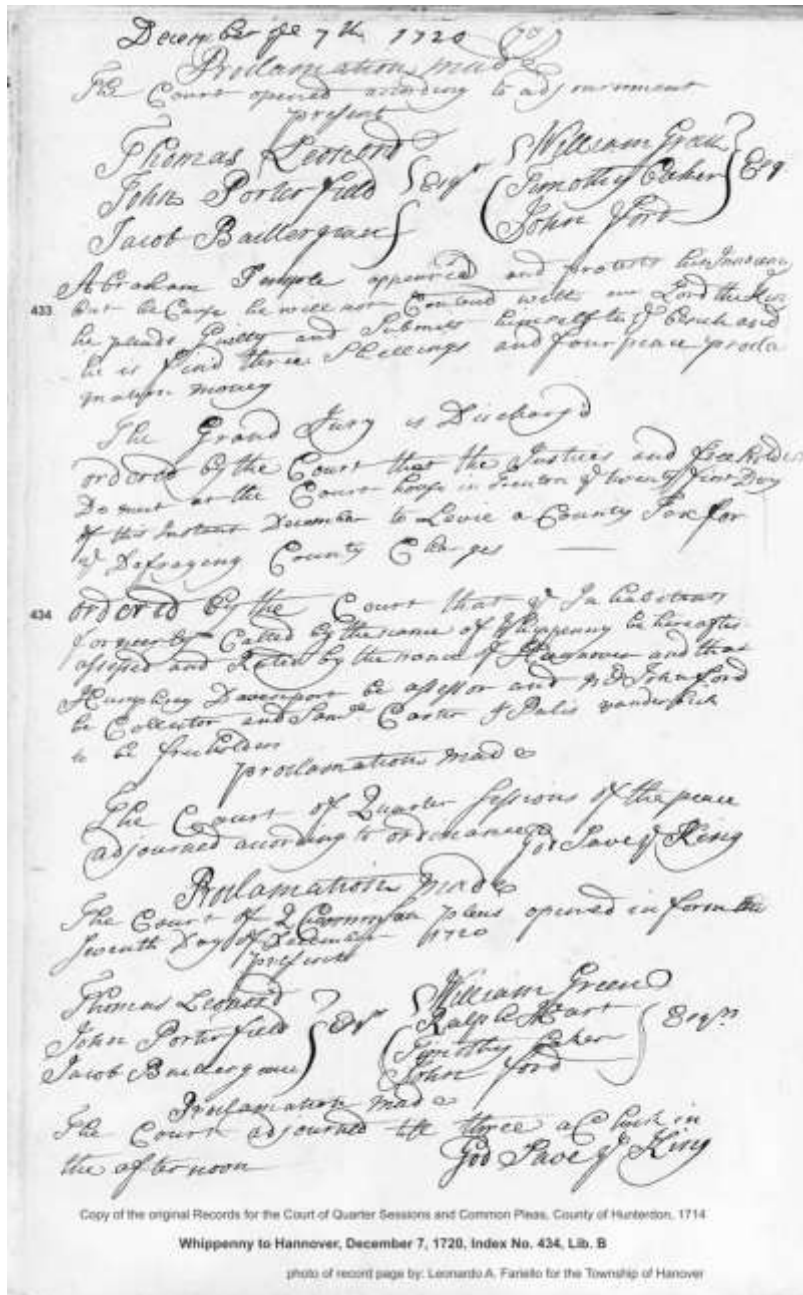
The Township of Hanover once contained scores of villages, hamlets, and districts within its boundaries. As time passed, the township diminished in size as villages seceded to form their own townships, municipalities, or districts of municipalities. Most of the historic villages that were once within Hanover are now identified within new municipalities. Hanover Township can now claim only three historic villages within its boundaries—Whippany, Malapardis, and Monroe.

Malapardis and Monroe have long since lost their identities. Malapardis, along with the western quarter of Monroe, is now generally known as Cedar Knolls. The eastern portion of Monroe is now generally referred to as the Birch Hill section of Whippany.

Also a section of Malapardis became the subdivision of Countrywood, and part of the Horse Hill section of Monroe is now known as Trailwood.

Hanover Township now comprises four villages within its borders— Cedar Knolls, Malapardis, Monroe, and Whippany.

**Copy of original minutes of the Court of Quarters Session and Common Pleas— 1720**



Transcript of original minutes—Court of Quarters Session and Common Pleas

*December 7, 1720*

*Ordered by the Court that ye inhabittance formally called by the namce of Whippenny*

*hereafter attest and ruled by the namce of Hannover.*

*And that Humphrey Davenport be Assessor and John Ford be Collector and Samuel Carter and Palis Vanderpick to be freeholder.*

*Proclamation made*

*The Court of Quarter Session of the peace adjourned according to ordinance of lovely king.*

*Proclamation made*

*The Court of Common Forth Pleas opened in formally Seventh day of December 1720.*

*Prefect*

<i>Thomas Leonard</i>	<i>William Green</i>
<i>John Porterfield</i>	<i>Ralf A Hart</i>
<i>Jacob Baillery, Esq.</i>	<i>Timothy Parker</i>
	<i>John Ford, Esq.</i>

*Proclamation made*

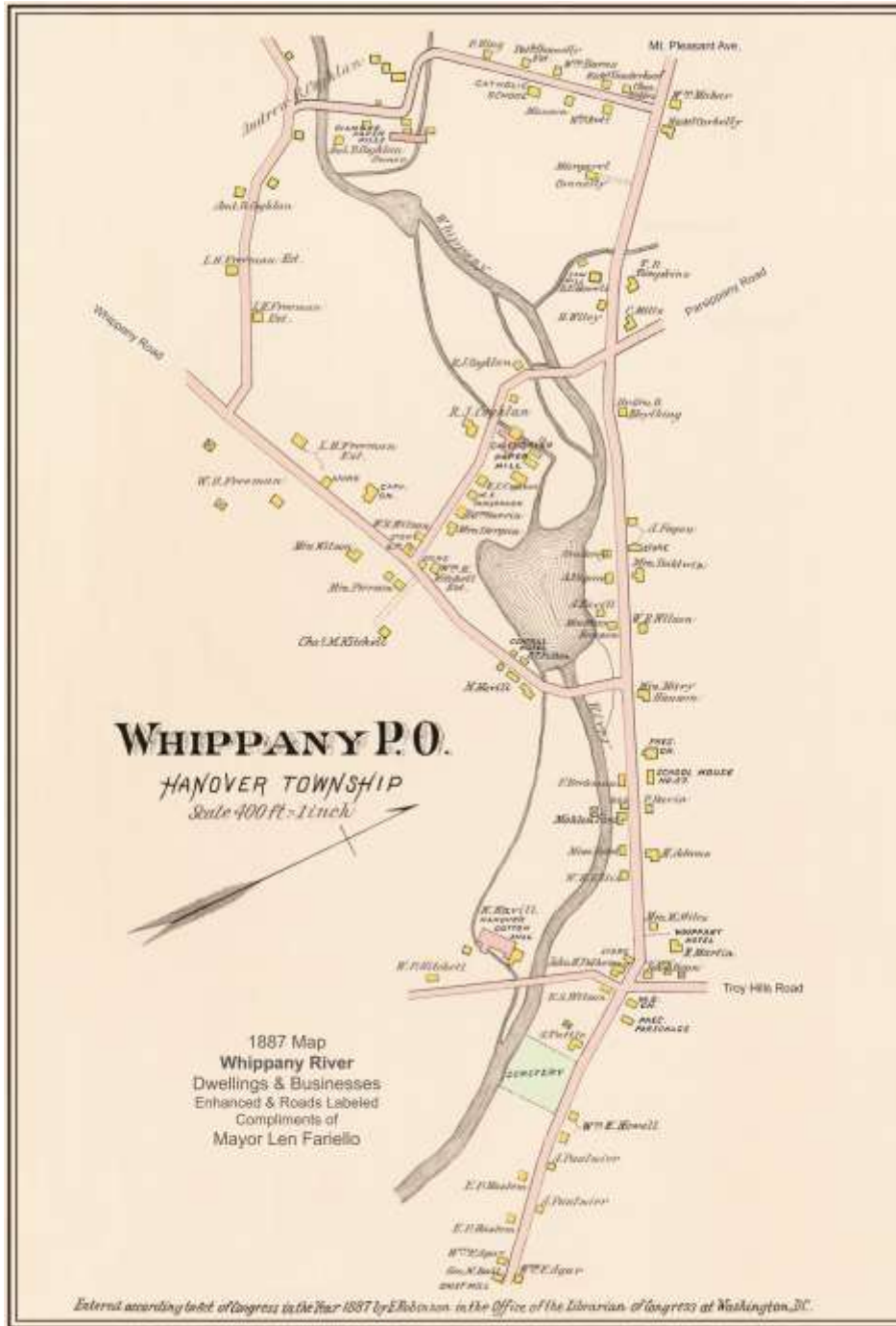
*The court adjourned till three o'clock in the afternoon God love of king.*

**Original Minutes—**

Photographed and transcribed compliments of:  
Leonardo A. Fariello  
Hanover Township Landmark Commission, 2020

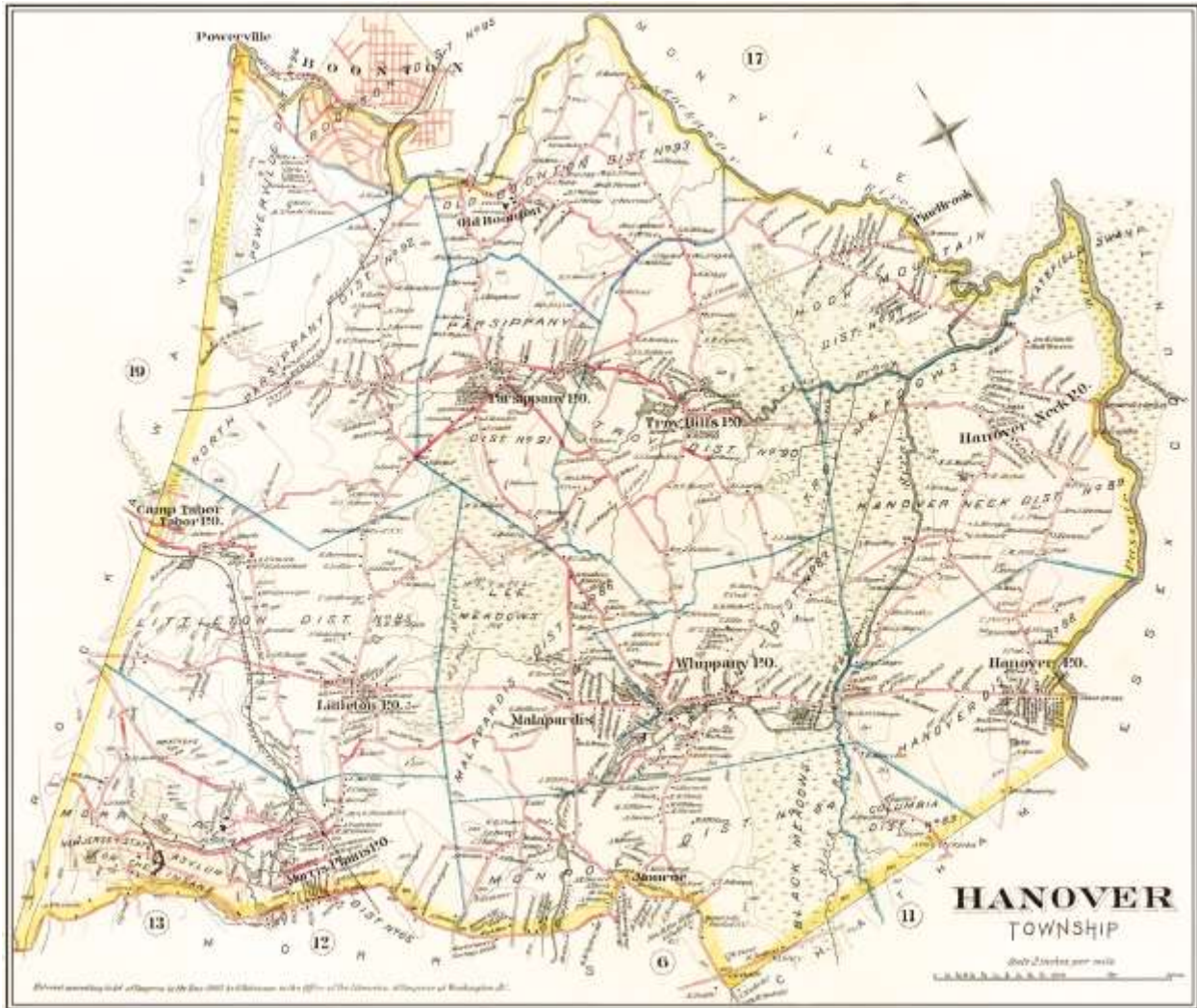
# Old Maps of Whippany and Hanover, NJ

Old Map of Whippany center, Mt. Pleasant Avenue (Route 10) & Whippany River



**Robinson's Atlas of Morris County, part of Plate 14– 1887**  
Area of Eden Lane, Legion Place, Parsippany Rd., Whippany Rd., and Route 10

## Map of Hanover Township— 1887



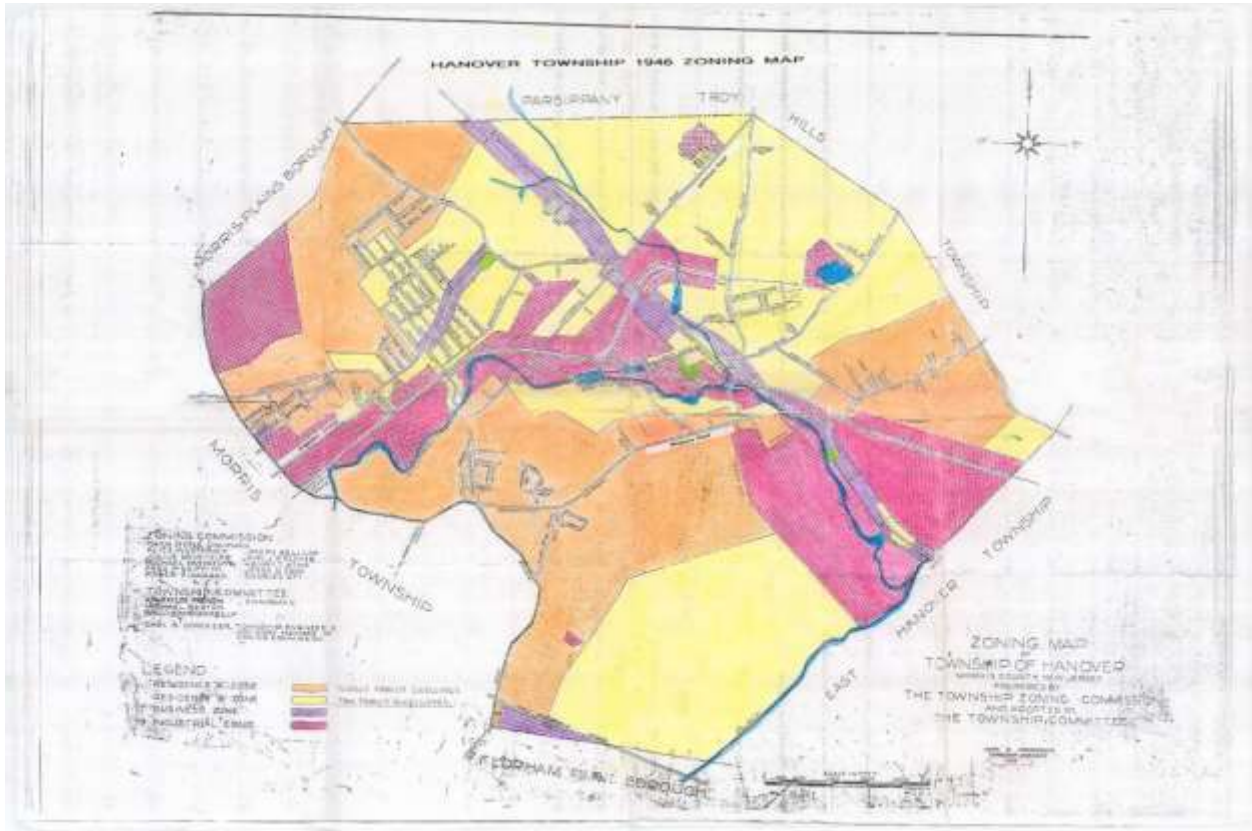
## Robinson's Atlas of Morris County, Plate 14— 1887

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## First Zoning Map of current Hanover Township, 1946



### colored and compliments of Len Fariello

*Adopted April 29, 1946, Arthur Peach—Committee Chairman, William Polhemus— Township Clerk*

- Residential— single family dwellings
- Residential— Two family dwellings
- Business Zone
- Industrial Zone



# Villages of Hanover, NJ

## Whippany *circa 1676*

*The following Whippany village description is an abridged narrative from— A Place Called Whippany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition— Chapter 4— Villages of Hanover Township:*

Whippany was first recorded in 1676 and settled circa 1685. The first settlers arrived from New England, Elizabeth Town and Newark. They traversed westward over the Minisink Trail where they forded the Whippanong River and walked along its shore. There upon the gentle landscape above the river's edge they established the first settlement. The first dwellings were built between the Whippanong River and the Minisink Trail in the vicinity of what is now known as the colonial Whippany graveyard on Route 10. Whippany is said to be the earliest settlement of what is now Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties. "Whippenny" has the distinguished honor of being the original name of all the land now known as Morris County.

Not long ago Whippany was a sparsely populated community with an industrial heritage dating back to colonial times. The first industry in Whippany was an iron forge built in 1715 on Whippanong River, now known as the old iron works. For over two centuries Whippany boasted of many mills along its river and it was considered a "mill town." It's most prominent industries of the last century were the Whippany Paper Board Company that ran three paper mills in town, The Hanover Brick Company that mined clay and made bricks, and Bell Labs, a research and development laboratory that aired the first television broadcast in the world—televised from Whippany to New York City, pioneered radar, and invented new forms of telephone technology, the transistor, and solid state electronic circuitry.

Whippany is now known as a suburban, bedroom community with a mix of office parks, recreational parks, highly rated schools, homes, and safe streets. Whippany has a fire department, three schools, five churches, seven parks, and a scenic river.

Currently Whippany is without a post office since it was damaged by three feet of flood waters during Hurricane Irene, August 28, 2011. Residents of Whippany still have a mailing address and zip code, but unless and until other arraignments are made, Whippany's mail is sorted and delivered out of Morristown.

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*This description of Monroe is condensed versions from— A Place Called Whippany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition— Chapter 4— Villages of Hanover Township.*

## **Monroe** circa 1715

The first homesteads in what became known as Monroe were settled circa 1710. The first significant land transaction was in 1715 when John Ford and John Hayward purchased one square mile of land from West Jersey Proprietors. John Ford built a homestead at the base of what is now Ford Hill Road. The Ford family descendants eventually named the Ford settlement “Fordville.”

The nearly forgotten village of Fordville spread out along what is now Whippany Road. In 1820 the area that included and surrounded Fordville was delineated as School District 10 and named Monroe. Some years later the Monroe District 10 was delineated School District 84.

The Monroe School was first built in 1828 and was rebuilt in 1876. The school was located on Whippany Road next to where Monroe Chapel is now located.

Monroe was named in honor of James Monroe who was president in 1820 when the District of Monroe was established. James Monroe may have had some affiliation to Fordville while residing in Morristown in 1778. Monroe was a colonel in the Continental Army when he lived in Morris County, but eventually became a captain, a major, a Continental Congressman, Senator, Governor of Virginia, and the fifth president of the United States of America (1817–1825).

At the turn of the twentieth century a train station was designated along the Morristown and Erie Railroad line serving the village of Monroe and eventually the first inhabitants of Cedar Knolls.

The district of Monroe has long since lost its identity with the passing of time. Only Monroe Chapel and the neighborhood of Monroe Gardens carry the name of a place that was once located in the south section of Hanover, all the way from Horse Hill to the Black Meadow swamp.

Monroe is now obscured by the communities of Cedar Knolls, Trailwood, and certain neighborhoods in Whippany.

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*This description of Malapardis is an abridged narrative from— A Place Called Whippany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition— Chapter 4— Villages of Hanover Township.*

## **Malapardis** *circa 1735*

Malapardis was settled circa 1735. Its name is derived from the Lenape word “Malapahus” which is said to mean “place of the poor flint.” The first settlement in Malapardis was located along Stony Brook.

Malapardis was the next natural attraction westward from Whippany on the Minisink Trail. A large impound of water funneling down into a rushing brook made it a perfect site for an industrial settlement. Its proximity to the Minisink Trail, half-way between the natural resources to the west and the markets to the east also made it an ideal location to produce commercial products for trade.

The first industry in Malapardis was an iron forge built on Stony Brook, below Stony Brook Pond, now known as Lee Meadows (in the vicinity of what is now the Hanover Community Center).

In 1820 a school district was set up in Malapardis. It was first established as Hanover Township District 9, later delineated as state School District 86. A school house was built and later replaced by another school house in 1860. In 1955 the Malapardis School became the Hanover Township Hall. Through the years it expanded and fully enclosed the old school. In 2002 the town hall and the old school were razed and replaced by a new municipal building.

The district of Malapardis extends from Mountain Avenue, Elm Place, and Eden Lane, to upper Parsippany Road. It includes upper and lower Countrywood, Lee Meadows, and centers around the intersection of Route 10 and Jefferson Road, and extends all the way to the northern limits of the township.

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*This description of Cedar Knolls is a condensed narrative from— A Place Called Whippany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition— Chapter 4— Villages of Hanover Township.*

## **Cedar Knolls** *established 1913*

### **A Subdivision of Monroe**

Cedar Knolls was established in 1913, two centuries after Whippany, Monroe, and Malapardis were settled. Cedar Knolls was created when land within the districts of Monroe was subdivided and offered for sale. It originated when Menko H. Wolfe purchased and subdivided a 114-acre tract of land known as the Charles W. Ford Estate. A subdivision map was filed with the Morris County Clerk on December 16, 1913. The subdivision was laid out on the north side of Ridgedale Avenue which was then called Morristown Road. It ran from Fairview Avenue to Mountain Avenue and from Morristown Road to North Belair. The Cedar Knolls subdivision consists of three roads, six avenues, and 374 housing lots.

In 1914 the subdivision was sold to Bertha Wolfe who established the W-B Camp and Bungalow Company and opened a Cedar Knolls sales office at the Baldwin Real Estate Agency in Morristown to market the land. The company offered summer homes, camps, and bungalow plots of quarter-, half-, and one-acre lots starting at \$100. By 1916 the bungalow company had built and sold over 50 bungalows; 300 people were staying in Cedar Knolls during the summer, and 100 remained as permanent residents.

At that time the railroad was the most popular and efficient access to Cedar Knolls. Between 1914 and 1916 the W-B Camp and Bungalow Company urged the Morristown and Erie Railroad Company to change the name of the Monroe train stop to Cedar Knolls. In 1915 a passenger train station was built in Monroe. In 1918 the name of the Monroe Station was changed to Monroe-Cedar Knolls. In 1919 the Cedar Knolls Fire Department, Inc. was established and in 1923 the Cedar Knolls post office was established.

Prior to becoming Cedar Knolls, the Charles W. Ford homestead was informally known as “The Knolls.” In an effort to glamorize the subdivision, Menko H. Wolfe named it “Cedar Knolls,” presumably in observance of the abundance of cedar trees that had grown up on the fallow fields of the Ford farm. The W-B Camp and Bungalow Company advertised the area as “Cedar Knolls in the Mountains.”

Cedar Knolls is the highest and quietest community in Hanover Township. It is convenient to its own shopping center, post office, firehouse, first aid squad, beautiful churches, and highway access. It is primarily residential with attractive housing on small fertile lots.

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**Whiponong Hall Association Capital Stock, 1895**  
note the stock reads “Whiponong” and the seal reads “Whippanong”



This stock is on file with the Hanover Township Landmark Commission

## Whippanong Library

The Whippanong Hall Association established the first public library in Hanover Township in 1895. Its books were enclosed in glass cases and housed in a building known as “Whippanong Hall.”

Whippanong Hall Association incorporated in 1893 and purchased a tract of land on the corner of Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Parsippany Road in Whippany (known then as Dover Turnpike and Halseytown Road). In 1894 the association built Whippanong Hall, which opened in 1895. The “Hall,” as it was often called, served as a civic center for general public purposes. It functioned as a meeting place, township hall, post office, boys’ club, and public library. The library was called the “Roberts Memorial Library.” It

was established in honor of Mrs. J. W. Roberts. The caretaker of the hall served as the librarian and postmaster of Whippany. The library had 2,000 volumes of well selected books.

Unfortunately, in 1909 Whipponong Hall and the first public library in Whippany came to a sudden end. The building burned to the ground and many records and books were lost. At that time the loss was set at \$5,000.

In 1910 the Whipponong Hall Association incorporated the Whippanong Library Association as a sister organization with the same trustees serving both organizations. That year the Hall Association relinquished their land in a sheriff's sale and bought it back a month later as the Whippanong Library Association.

In 1920 the Hall Association made attempts to build a memorial hall in recognition of World War I. The memorial hall was never built and the associations maintained the site as the Whippany Memorial Park. Over the next several decades the Whipponong Hall Association and Whippanong Library Association remained inactive and the land remained vacant.

In the fall of 1954 the Whippany P.T.A. (Parent-Teacher Association) formed a committee to establish a free public library in Hanover Township. The P.T.A. donated \$100 to get the project started. In November 1955 the library committee incorporated as the Hanover Township Public Library Association.

In 1956 officers of the Hanover Township Public Library Association and officers of the long inactive Whippanong Hall and Library Associations held a meeting to discuss plans to establish a public library. At that meeting the new and the old civic corporations merged and trustees from each of the organizations were elected as trustees of the new association. Funds of the Whipponong Hall Association and legal title of the Whippanong Library Association became the assets of the merger and included one acre of land in the center of Whippany (the site of the old Whipponong Hall) and \$3,500.

In 1956 the community joined together to help make the vision of a local public library a reality. The teachers of the Whippany and Cedar Knolls Teachers Association donated \$402 which was raised from a basketball game held for the benefit of the library. Betty Welch Clemens School of Dancing contributed the proceeds of its annual dance recital to the library fund in the amount of \$394. Rowe Manufacturing Company donated \$50 and Sandoz Company (now Novartis) donated the same. The 1956 sixth grade of Whippany Public School donated \$31 and the Little League donated \$30.

Also in 1956, the library association made plans to build a 6,000-square foot building in the center of Whippany to house the Whippany post office and the Whippanong Library; plans were drawn, but nothing more materialized.

By 1957 the Whippanong Library Association had raised \$7,217. It wasn't enough to build a new library, but it was enough to operate one. That year the Whippany Fire Company consented to house the Whippanong Library under an agreement that the

library association pay its utility bills in lieu of rent. Books were loaned and donated to the library and purchased by the library association. The Whippanong Library officially opened on the second floor of the Whippany firehouse on April 6, 1957.

In 1958 the Hanover Township Committee began to include the Whippanong Library in their annual budget. The township's first contribution was \$5,000. Also that year the Rotary Club of Whippany donated \$200.

In 1958 the library contained 4,518 books; there were 290 adult members and 685 children, with a total circulation of 9,865 books. In 1959 there were 480 adult patrons and 921 children members with a circulation of 14,479 books, and library hours were increased. In 1959 the Township of Hanover funded \$6,000 to the library and in 1960 it funded \$7,500.

In 1961 the Whippanong Library Association sold its one-acre tract of land on the corner of Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Parsippany Road for \$16,000. The Whippany post office was built on the site. The proceeds of the sale were used to buy books and pay operating expenses.

In 1962 membership increased to 2,691 patrons with a circulation of 30,935 books.

Over the next two decades the township and the library continued to grow and the library had run out of space. In 1978 the Township of Hanover added a library wing onto the municipal building. It was completed in 1979 when the library moved to its present location. The library was expanded along with the rest of the municipal building in 2002 and opened a bigger, brighter library in August of that year.

The Whippanong Library is a great amenity to the residents of Hanover Township and although it is housed at the municipal campus and partially funded by the Township of Hanover, it is still run by the Whippanong Library Association. The Whippanong Library Association is made up of a Board of Trustees. There are eleven trustees; new trustees are selected by the board. The library currently has three full-time employees: a library director and two librarians, as well as nine part-time employees. Together with the Township of Hanover, the Whippanong Library continues to thrive.

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photo 2016, by Tori Petrillo

## Whippanong Burying Yard

The Whippany Burying Yard is the oldest graveyard in north central New Jersey. It contains the oldest dated colonial artifacts in Morris County. It was established in 1718, before the United States was conceived, before New Jersey was a state, and before Morris County was founded. Two of Morris County's first governing judges and many Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in this historic yard. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The land was donated by John Richards for a "meeting house, schoolhouse, burying yard, training field, and for public use." Mr. Richards was the first person buried here. The Burying Yard contains over 300 marked graves. One hundred fifty people rest in unmarked graves, memorialized by a monument "Known only to God."

The graveyard is legally, publically owned, but no particular entity or institution is named in the deed. The grantee is interpreted to be the "Christian friends and neighbors in Whippanong." It was formally maintained and administered by the Whippany Cemetery Association until its maintenance and administration was transferred to the Township of Hanover in 1976.



## ***Deed of the Whippany Burying Yard***

The Whippany Burying Yard is more than a cemetery—it is hallowed, public land. It was granted “for a meeting house, schoolhouse, burying yard, training field, and such like public uses.” No specific grantees were named except “neighbors, who shall covenant.” It was given for “all times forever hereafter to have, hold, use, occupy, possess, and enjoy . . . without any manner of hindrance, molestation, eviction, ejection, or denial of use.” It can “not be given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, exchanged, or leased.” No monetary or valuable considerations were given in exchange for the land—it was conveyed “in consideration of love, goodwill, and affection.” It was granted under “the reign of our sovereign Lord George, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, Ireland, King, Defender of the faith and etc.”

### The deed is as follows:

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, greetings and etc.

Know yee that I, John Richards of Whippanong in the County of Hunterdon in the province of New Jersey, Schoolmaster,

for which and in consideration of the love, good will, and affection which I have and do bear toward my Christian friends and neighbors in Whippanong, aforesaid.

And also for the desire and regard I have to promote and advance the public interest, especially of those who shall, or may, mutually covenant by subscription to erect, build, and place upon the land by these presents granted, a decent and suitable meeting house for the public worship of God,

have given and granted, and by these presents, do fully, freely, and absolutely give, grant, alien, convey, and confirm from me, my heirs, executors, and administrators forever unto these presents of my neighbors as aforesaid, who shall covenant by subscription and to their heirs and successors forever—

One certain piece or tract of land containing three acres and one half situated, lying and being in the Township of Whippanong on the part commonly called Parcippanong on the northwestward side of the Whippanong River,

beginning sixteen rods and a half distance above my house I dwell in; at a white oak tree standing by the path side near the river, marked on two sides; from thence . . . etc., etc.

To have and to hold the said hereby granted land with the appurtenances: only for public use, benefit and improvement, for a meeting house, schoolhouse, burying yard, training field, and such like public uses to those the said covenantors by subscription and their heirs and successors forever.

Furthermore, it is the true intent and meaning of the grantor and grantee in these presents that the said granted premises is not to be given, granted, bargained, sold, alienated, exchanged, leased to farm lot, or converted to the particular use or improvement of any person or persons, neither for public advantage or any other whatsoever or by any way of means whatsoever alienated or reverted from the public use and improvement as aforesaid,

and I, said John Richards, do for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, covenant, promise, and grant to and with the said grantees who have made themselves so, or hereafter shall make themselves so by their subscribing, their heirs and successors forever shall and may, from time to time, and all times forever hereafter have, hold, use, occupy, possess, and enjoy the above said land and promise to use above said without any manner of lot hindrance, molestation, eviction, ejection, or denial of use.

I, the said John Richards, my heirs, executors, administrators, or assignees, of, by, or from any other person or persons whatsoever by, from, or under us, or by any of our means, act privately, title, or procurement, in witness whereof,

I have hereto unto set my hand and seal the second day of September, anno 1718 and in the fifth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, Ireland, King, Defender of the faith and etc.

John Richards

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Joviah Buckingham and John Cooper.



***The Oldest Dated Colonial  
Artifact in Morris County, NJ  
Whippanong 1718***

Photo by Manfred Saul

# Contemporary Times of Hanover Township

As time passes from one century to another, Hanover Township remains an excellent place to live, work, and play. Hanover is a thriving community of houses, office, industry, warehouse, wholesale and retail establishments, and open space. It has a scenic river with forested plains and open meadows along its river valley and elevations reaching nearly five hundred feet. Most residents are proud to live in Whippany, Cedar Knolls, Countrywood, and Trailwood and there is an abundance of community spirit. Residents are endowed with many township services and amenities. The crime rate is low and residential neighborhoods are a safe place where children can play in the streets. The school system is excellent with neighborhood elementary schools in Whippany, Cedar Knolls and Countrywood, and a high school in Whippany.

The Parks and Recreation Department is second to none with over five hundred acres of municipal open space in the form of parkland located throughout the township. Part of the Morris County Arboretum is located in Whippany and the cross-county hiking/biking trail known as Patriots Path runs along the Whippanong River corridor. The Recreation Department sponsors many programs and activities for residents of all ages and recreation facilities include a community center and gym, a historic chapel and meeting hall, a municipal swimming pool, playgrounds, basketball, bocce, volleyball, and tennis courts, baseball, softball, and soccer fields, horseshoe pits, fishing ponds, ice skating ponds, and picnic areas.

Hanover Township has two fire departments, a police department, a first aid squad, and a public works department that maintains, sweeps, and plows roads and collects garbage, grass clippings, leaves, and recycles papers, plastic, glass, and metal. Hanover has a museum, an airport, two libraries, an interstate highway and a state freeway running through it, two shopping centers, and a mix of condominiums, townhouses, ranch houses, bi-levels, split levels, capes, colonials, and "Mc Mansions," with conveniences of natural gas, electricity, cable TV and internet service, city water, a sanitary sewer system, and township roads complete with storm drains and Belgian block curbs.

Hanover Township has a broad base of industrial/commercial ratables that help provide residents with some of the lowest property taxes in Morris County. Industrial and corporate campuses are usually built in park-like settings. Retail establishments are pleasantly void of offensive commercialism and obtrusive neon signs as seen in surrounding areas. Unlike neighboring municipalities that are now built to urban proportions, Hanover remains a suburb. With careful planning, it will retain its suburban integrity for many years to come.

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# A Place Called Whippany

*A Place Called Whippany* contains the indigenous, colonial, industrial, agricultural, and early modern history and contemporary times of Hanover Township, as well as a description of its character and how and why it has changed.

It takes the reader from a time when Whippany was a prehistoric wilderness, through its colonial times, to its present status as a busy suburban community, including accounts of local politics, government, points of interest, and community institutions, organizations, and activities.

It is 340 pages and contains over 150 photos of Hanover's colonial past, its agricultural and industrial heritage and scenes of the township as it appears today.

*The 2nd Edition* is available at the Whippanong Library and the Morris County Library.

A reference copy is available in the author section of Morris County Library.

or go to <http://whippany.net/>