

A Place Called Whippany

The history and contemporary times of Hanover Township, by: Leonardo A. Fariello

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Whippany

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.

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