

**Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings
Long Hill Historical Society
917 Valley Road, Gillette, New Jersey**

by Carole Flatley, Mary-Jo Solomon & Marianne Totaro

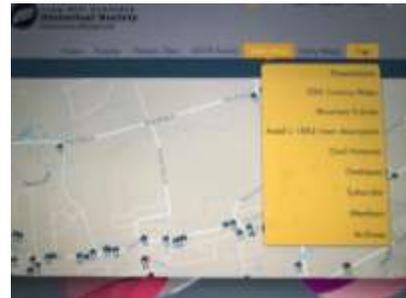
Long Hill Township is located in the southeast corner of Morris County. Founded in 1866 as Passaic Township, the name was changed in 1992. The approximately 12 square miles of the Township include the towns of Gillette, Homestead Park, Meyersville, Millington, and Stirling. The Township is bounded by the Passaic River and the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.



The Long Hill Township Historical Society was established in 1965. Its mission is to actively preserve, promote and bring to life the history of Long Hill Township. The active members of the LHTHS present many topical and interesting monthly presentations using professional speakers and members of the LHTHS. An interesting program highlighted the maps of Long Hill, titled "Who lived here before you?" done in conjunction with the Long Hill Township Library. Programs are on the second Sunday of the month. Check the LHTHS's terrific website www.longhillhistory.org for the details of each program.

Diane Stanley, the Archive Coordinator, gave us a tour of the LHTHS Archive, located in the spacious, well-appointed Long Hill Township Public Library, located at 917 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ. The Archive is open from 1 to 3 pm on Wednesdays and also by appointment in the Tech Room of the Library. A wonderful, growing collection of documents, files, maps, photos, postcards, newspapers and histories are to be found there. An especially unique file is titled "Interesting People" and highlights the accomplished, notable and sometimes "quirky" people of Long Hill who have or had lives of civic, social or historic note. Finding Aids are in place for many of the resources. There are detailed local history files for many early families including: Boyle, Cooper, Cook, Cornish, Corey, Hudspeth, McGrath, and Nash. A special feature is the Box Collections of documents, deeds, photos, and records pertaining to a specific family, such as the Cooper/Cook Family.

The Archive also includes 30 tapes of Oral Histories recorded by local Senior Citizens. There are records of Long Hill Township businesses, schools, including yearbooks, notes and stories from an 1889 Board of Education Minutes from the old Stirling School, a 1937 Gillette School scrapbook, and an Obituary file of local people with notices from the Mountain Echoes and Echoes-Sentinel newspapers. Special collections contain information on Boucher, Kirchheim, Palmer, Stine and Torrey among others. Background information on local industries such as, the Stirling Silk Mill, the Millington TIFA Asbestos Company, and the Gillette Clay Pits are to be found with many other titles.



The LHTHS www.longhillhistory.org website has listed 336 historic sites with photos and histories of the house, store, or school that is located there and sometimes information about the original owners. The location of each place is shown on the township map.

The 1845 Littell map shows the original property owners. The history of each of the five villages of Long Hill Township is online with the names of the founding families. The special search feature helps you in finding your family names.



The library and the archive have the books *Family Records or Genealogies of the First Settlers of Passaic Valley (and vicinity) Above Chatham* by John Littell and *Passaic Township – A short history published in connection with the New Jersey Tercentennial 1664-1964*.



The *Images of America Book of Long Hill Township* by Mary Lou Weller has been indexed by the MAGS Indexing Group. You can search for your ancestors in these books via the MAGS Public Website: Search, Books.

Visit the *Special Projects* page at <https://mags-public.weebly.com/> to read the fifteen previous spotlight articles and to view the compiled inventories. If you know of a local repository that the SPG should visit, or one that you wish to cover with us for a future article, please contact the Special Projects Group Committee at maryjosolomon@gmail.com