

*A Self-Guided Tour of the*

**CELIA M. HASTINGS LOCAL HISTORY ROOM**

*at the Patchogue-Medford Library*



Local History Room, picture windows, "Patchogue Library" sign, door to the Room, and its sign

**(1) Just before you enter, look** up to your left, at the carved wooden sign, "PATCHOGVE LIBRARY," over the picture windows, which originally hung over the Carnegie Library's Reference Desk (at 10 Lake Street, a short walk away) between 1908-1981. The 4 picture windows below it, and the door to the room, to the right, with its dedication to Celia M. Hastings, contain changing exhibits on local, town, county, Long Island regional, or N.Y. State history, documents, themes, and on the Library's history.

There, you'll also find occasional announcements of local history lectures, meetings, events, competitions, awards, recognitions, or opportunities posted, as well as samples of the Library's own local history publications (in print and online). **PML's main local history URL is @** <http://history.pmlib.org>, with connections (in the left hand column) to a series of related web pages (ranging from the NYS to local level, and on various themes) along with a user's guide (in the right hand column). **Room Hours** are posted in the picture window nearest the door. Please be aware that **everything in the Room is non-circulating Reference Material, to be used only in the Room**, with a librarian present, in case additional assistance is needed. We take our role as stewards of this material for the community, for the long term seriously. (Note that circulating copies are sometimes found PML collections outside the Room. Check the Library Catalog.



Spinning free publications rack LI Ref. and NY Ref. (far right) book collections

**(2) As you enter** feel free to sign our Guest Book. On a free-standing cabinet in the middle of the room, you'll see a spinning rack containing free local history publications. Public seating is available at two new

tables (to your left as you enter the room), during posted hours, or by prior appointment. Tables may also partly contain displays – esp. during Archives Month (Oct.) and NYS History Month (Nov.) – that can be temporarily moved for you, if more workspace is needed. Just ask. Looking roughly straight ahead as you enter, is the **Local History Reference Desk**. Feel free to ask the Librarian on duty during posted hours, for a general orientation, reference questions, guidance and suggestions in using the Room's collections, help locating material on topics in which you're interested, useful contacts and leads to information, or for a room tour (if it's not busy). Tan desk (center) is the Local History Ref. Desk



*Part of the NY Ref. Collection, with its distinctive blue & gold spine label stickers*

**(3) Stepping forward into the Room**, just past the door, to your immediate right, is the New York Reference Collection (identifiable from its NY REF stickers, containing a blue map of the state on a gold background [state colors]). This 1 ½ bookstack section represents only about ¼ of the total NY REF collection. The rest is in NY REF Storage, due to spatial limits of the Room. Both parts of the collection are recorded in the Library Catalog. Material here includes selected State, NYS regional, NYS county, NYC (county, borough and neighborhood) studies, reprints of historic documents, as well as books and pamphlets on various themes in the history of the State (arranged by Dewey Decimal Number).

**(4) Just before the State Histories** are multicolored (in greens, gray, black, blue, and white) volumes of the **Long Island Forum, 1938-2004**, now defunct, but still a popular Long Island Local History magazine, for which there is an online cumulative index, 1938-2003 @ <http://www.history.pmlib.org/forumindex>, searchable at home or in the library.



*The LI REF Collection runs from the bookstacks behind and left of the Ref Desk, to the section of green books on the right.*

L.I. genealogy is mainly in the corner section, on the right side

**(5) The Long Island Reference Collection (LI REF)** comprises the largest section of the Room's shelving, behind and wrapping around to the right side of the Reference Desk. This represents ½ the total **LI REF** collection, the rest being in LI REF Storage. These collections are also listed in the Library's Catalog. The 920's is the most heavily used, as they contain most of our L.I. genealogies. A classified bibliography of our L.I. genealogical holdings is available free of charge (while supplies last). Another very heavily used section is concerns the L.I. Region, its counties, towns, villages (incorporated and unincorporated), customary village groupings, and L.I.'s outer islands. Dewey lumps anything smaller than a county, under the county, then proceeds to systematically scatter it by author, which doesn't suit the practicality of making this material accessible to the public. So, our collection has been reconfigured to be grouped alphabetically by region (2-county [LI-R-2] and 4 county [LI-R-4] studies), county (Co-Nass; Co-Suff), individual town (T-), village (V-), Customary Village Group (VGP-), and Outer Island (I-), vastly improving access and speeding research and service. The organization scheme we adopted is known as, A Guide to Localizing Dewey for Long Island Use., it has been adapted for use by a gradually increasing number of Suffolk County libraries, and was created as part of PML's central library local history services. A short mnemonic (sounds like what it is) abbreviation is used for each place: e.g., T-HUNT = Town of Huntington; V-PATCH = Patchogue; VGP-3VILL = 3 Village Area; I-FISH = Fishers Island.



*The Long Island Vertical Files (arranged by subject A-Z, with numerous subtopics)*

**(6) Make a Left** between the first table and the Reference Desk, & straight ahead you'll see a row of 6 labeled tan file cabinets, the **Long Island Vertical File (LIVF)**. These 24 file cabinet drawers contain articles, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, illustrations, photos, and a variety of other materials, all under a series of (Library of Congress) subject headings, on various aspects of Long Island history, arranged from A to Z. Most files are now subdivided, allowing greater precision and usually saving access time for everyone who uses it. Note: **The Medford files** are here.



*L.I.-Patchogue Vertical Files (right 2 files + left bottom 2 drawers)*

**(7) Pass the wire book truck** and on your right, behind another cabinet, you'll see 3 more tan file cabinets. These contain the **L.I. – Patchogue Vertical Files**, similarly organized to the L.I. Vertical Files, under subjects, from A-Z, with many subtopics. The smaller file cabinet also contains project material. That section is for librarians' use.



*Local History Room Photocopier*

**(8) Left of the L.I. - Patchogue V.F.'s** is a **photocopier** for public use, by researchers, in the Local History Room. It makes 8 ½" x 11" or 8 ½ x 14" black & white copies. Copies are 10 cents a page. Pay at the desk after making your copies.



*Map & Atlas Cabinets (Left) Top 2 Map Cabinet Drawers (Right)*

**(9) Left of the Photocopier** and Right of the LIVF are 15 large horizontal drawers of the Map and Atlas Cabinets. Patchogue and Medford maps are housed in the top two drawers. Other maps are designated by geographic area covered or theme. There are also copies of selected U.S. Coastal Survey charts (for the immediate area) and other maps in tubes and boxes; and a number of atlases in our Archival Collections (ask librarian). Above the Map & Atlas Cabinets are wooden framed Aerial Photos taken and

donated by Frank Mooney, Sr., former editor of the Main St. Press, of Patchogue. A number of Audiovisual Items and Oral Histories are to the left of the aerial photos, as is the former, now archival, Card Catalog File Cabinet of the local history room, for those interested in library history, or who have never seen one. Photographs tend to be primarily, though not exclusively, of a small area of Patchogue, centered on the "4 Corners" (junction of Main Street and Ocean Avenue).

**(10) Left of the Map Cabinets,** above the LIVF Cabinets is the main Archival Collection, which includes, atlases, scrapbooks, postcards, photographs, and library history.

**(11) Left of These,** Against the Front walls (backing the 5th window) is a small section of Local History Periodicals. In creating space for maps (below these two shelves), it became necessary to transfer some of the periodical collection to storage in Periodicals Plus, due to spatial constraints. A subject index to some of the earlier volumes of the Suffolk County Historical Society Register, prepared by staff, now accompanies the Princeton files of the Register. Long Island Historical Journal (Stony Brook University) was recently indexed, and is now available online courtesy of the Special Collections staff of the University's Melville Library, as is the LIHJ's successor publication (a free, public access site), Long Island History Journal.

**(12) Electronic Resources:** In addition, a variety of Local History Web Pages have been produced, ranging from the N.Y.S. to the very local levels, and including thematic material finding aids, other reference tools, and selected full text, searchable items, from our collection, and linking to many from other collections. Some of the Library's history-related subscriptions involve public use restrictions, by the publisher or distributor. These may be accessed only within the Library, but are available whenever the Library is open and there is a free terminal.

For more information or for a general or specialized tour of the Room and its resources, contact Mark Rothenberg, Head, Celia M. Hastings Local History Room, (631) 654-4700, ext. 240 or [mrothenberg@pmlib.org](mailto:mrothenberg@pmlib.org). That concludes the tour. Hope you enjoyed it and found it worthwhile. Hope to see you again.

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