Localizing Dewey for Long Island Use

Faster, More Effective & Practical Access to Local Histories & Records on Public Library Shelves
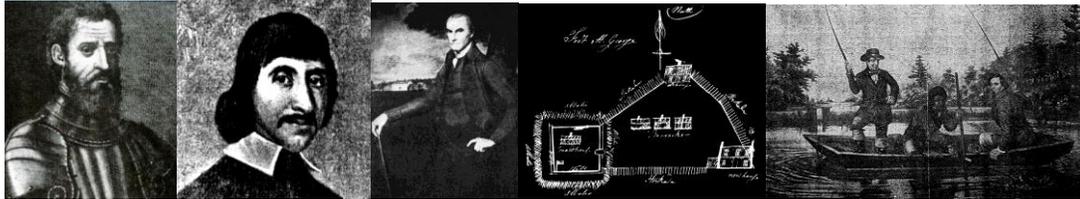
Giovanni da Verrazano   John Winthrop, Jr.   Wm. Floyd, Signer   Fort St. George   Daniel Webster & the Demon Trout

A Guide to the Geographic Subdivision of Four Key L.I. Dewey Decimal Numbers

Adopted by the Celia M. Hastings Local History Room, 2001; Revised & expanded, as of 1/24/2012
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Reviewed & honed, in cooperation with PML's Cataloging Administration & Staff

4 Subject Areas Affected (&Their Dewey Decimal Numbers)

- **974.721** - **Long Island**   [regional histories, bi-county & 4-county]
- **974.724** - **Queens County** [histories prior to Nassau County's separation]
- **974.7245** - **Nassau County** [after separated from Queens, in 1899]
- **974.725** - **Suffolk County** [earlier, the East Riding of Yorkshire]

BASICS OF THE REVISED SHELF REORGANIZATION

CODE	TYPE OF HISTORIES
R-LI –	**L.I. *Regional* Histories**
	• **R-LI-2** = Nassau & Suffolk (bicounty studies) – Long Island *proper*
	• **R-LI-4** = adds Kings & Queens Counties – the entire island, including NYC boroughs
CO-	**L.I. *County* Histories**
	• Followed either by **SUFF**[olk] or **NASS**[au]
	• [**Aside:** Most Kings & Queens Borough Histories are located in PML's **NY REF Collection**]
I-	**L.I. *Outer Island* Histories**
	• Histories of the smaller, *"satellite" islands,* surrounding most of Long Island
	• E.g.: Gardiners [**I-GRDNR**], Fire [**I-FIRE**], Fishers [**I-FISH**], Robins [**I-ROBN**] Islands
T-	**L.I. *Town* Histories & Records**
	• E.g.: Brookhaven Town [**T-BROO**], Islip Town [**T-ISLP**]
	• **Note:** In NYS, Towns are large geographic & political segments of Counties
V-	**L.I. *Village* Histories & Records**
	• Individual villages, whether incorporated or unincorporated; + 2 cities in Nassau
	• E.g.: Amityville [**V-AMITY**]
VGP -	**Customary L.I. *Village Groupings* & Their Histories**
	• Three Village area, Five Towns, The Islips, The Moriches, The Hamptons

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Why We Bothered

For local history purposes, the ordinarily helpful, *Dewey Decimal Classification System failed to identify anything smaller than a county*. It made no distinction between two basic varieties of L.I. regional works – bi-county (i.e., Nassau-Suffolk), & 4-county (i.e., Suffolk-Nassau-Queens-Kings) – and we receive requests emphatically for only one version, and not the other. Worse, histories and records of individual towns, villages and L.I.'s outer islands were jumbled together, without distinction. Their traditional arrangement on the shelves was not geographic, but mainly by author, further compounding the scatter. Most of our books (in the 4 areas identified on the previous page) refer to a specific *geographic area or locale.* When the computer catalog was down…well you get the picture. As people often ask for everything we have on a particular town, village, island, cluster of villages / region of the County (customarily known by a single name), shelf scatter does not promote rapidly getting down to work, or efficient, effective use of the collection, whether the purpose is for historical or genealogical research, curriculum expansion, a student project (ranging anywhere from the elementary to graduate levels), a news report on deadline, a scholarly or general article, background for a novel, or following a line of one's own interest or expanding one's horizons.

The main problem area was confined to the 4 Dewey Decimal Numbers identified above. ***It became obvious that something original needed to be developed to improve speed of access to these materials. The solution was a way to regroup the books under a system of geographic codes; and within these, the use of a set of abbreviated place names that would fit on a spine label, and sound like the place they were.*** The **result** was the reorganization of the collection using ***the method below***, & ***faster, more efficient, more effective library service, in local history***.

Ongoing Method & Purpose: Celia M. Hastings Local History Room staff continue to work with the PML Cataloging Department, to ensure consistent application of this organizational scheme, to occasionally add a new place name abbreviation, *to generally promote improved access to geographically-oriented Local History material:* (a) for patrons' greater research convenience, freeing more of their time for study, (b) to permit ease of browsing and continuous service, even when the library catalog is down, and (c) when a librarian relatively unfamiliar with the collection is on duty.

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Place Name Abbreviations (A Few Quick, Helpful Things to Know)

- **Every Suffolk & Nassau County place name** in use, is **assigned an abbreviation**
- Assignment of abbreviations is *somewhat arbitrary,* somewhat following old library codes
- Place name abbreviations are ***mnemonic* (i.e., they "sound like" what they represent**; e.g.: BABL = Babylon)
- Place names on the shelf, are ***fairly alphabetic***, variations being due to the (not strictly alphabetic) shorthand used for places, needed to fit them easily on a the spine label of a book. *Look* on the shelf *under the initial letter* of the place, *and you should find the place name you seek fairly quickly.*   If not, a **complete list of place name abbreviations** appears in the *Main Geographic Directory* (below).
- **Place name abbreviations appear on a book's spine label,** *below the Dewey Decimal Number, immediately after one of the Geographic Codes*, (listed above): *E.g.,* **T-BROO** means the **Town of Brookhaven**, while **V-BRKHV** means the **village of the same name.**
- **Defunct historic place names are generally avoided, in favor of current place names;** e.g., **Lindenhurst** (**V-LNDNH**), the current name is used, instead of its pre-WWI name, *Breslau* (discarded well before WWI's local anti-German riots); the Fourier utopian community name, *Modern Times,* is discarded in favor of the modern village name, **Brentwood** (**V-BRNTW**).

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The Main Geographic Directory

- **REGION-wide** [4-County & Bi-County] **(R-LI-)**
    - **R-LI-2** = works about the **Suffolk-Nassau** Region
    - **R-LI-4** = works about the **Suffolk-Nassau-Queens-Kings** Region, i.e., all of Long Island (including its 2 NYC boroughs)

- **COUNTY-wide (CO-)**
    - Suffolk County, N.Y.   [**CO-SUFF**]
    - Nassau County, N.Y.   [**CO-NASS**]
    - **Note: Works solely about Kings &/ or Queens are in *N.Y. REF*.**

- **TOWN-wide** [10 towns of Suffolk; 3 towns of Nassau]   **(T-)**
    - **Note: In N.Y.S., towns are large geographic subdivisions of counties, governmental entities, including incorporated & unincorporated villages, & occasionally cities.**

    - The 10 **Towns of Suffolk County**:
        - Babylon   [T-BABL]
        - Brookhaven   [T-BROO]
        - East Hampton   [T-EHAM]
        - Huntington   [T-HUNT]
        - Islip   [T-ISLP]
        - Riverhead   [T-RIVR]
        - Shelter Island   [T-SHIS]
        - Smithtown   [T-SMTH]
        - Southampton   [T-SHTM]
        - Southold   [***North Fork*** filed here]   [T-SOHD]

    - The 3 **Towns of Nassau County**:
        - Hempstead   [T-HEMP]
        - North Hempstead   [T-NHEM]
        - Oyster Bay   [T-OYBY]

- **ISLANDS (I-)** (Long Island's Adjoining Islands)

    - Ball Island   [I-BALL]
    - Big Crow Island   [I-BCROW]
    - Black Banks Island   [I-BLBNK]
    - Captree Island   [I-CAPTRE]
    - Clam Island   [I-CLAM]
    - Fire Island   [I-FIRE]
    - Fishers Island   [I-FISHR]
    - Gardiners Island   [I-GDNR]

- Gids Island   [I-GIDS]
- Grass Island   [I-GRASS]
- Great Gull Island   [I-GTGUL]
- Oak Island   [I-OAK]
- Plum Island   [I-PLUM]
- Robins Island   [I-ROBN]
- Shelter Island
     See   Towns → Shelter Island
- Star Island   [I-STAR]
- Water Island   [I-WATR]
- West Fire Island   [I-FIREW]

VILLAGE GROUPINGS (VGP-)
- Note: Here, you'll find histories of **villages (or regions with a county), customarily clustered under a common name**; *see also under* names of individual villages, below

- Deer Park-Wyandanch (formerly W. Deer Park)   [VGP-DPWYAN]
- Eastport-Speonk-Remsenburg-Westhampton   [VGP-ESRW]
- Five Towns   [VGP-5TWN]
- The Hamptons (same as South Fork)   [VGP-HMTN]
- The Islips   [VGP-ISLPS]
- The Merricks   [VGP-MRKS]
- Middle Island-Coram-Yaphank-Ridge   [VGP-MICYR]
     See also under names of the individual villages
- The Moriches   [VGP-MRCH]
- Three Village Area   [VGP-3VILL]
- Westhampton & Westhampton Beach   [VGP-WHAM]

VILLAGES (V-)
- Under these headings, you'll find histories of individual **Incorporated & Unincorporated Villages, & the 2 Nassau County Cities**; *see also under* names of customarily grouped villages **VGP's,** above

- Amagansett   [V-AMAG]
- Amityville   [V-AMITY]
- Aquebogue   [V-AQBOG]
- Asharoken   [V-ASHRK]
     See also   V-EATON

- Babylon   [V-BABLN]
- Baiting Hollow   [V-BTGHL]
- Bald Hills   *See*   [V-FRMVL]

- Baldwin [V-BALDW]
- Bay Shore [V-BYSHR]
- Bayview [V-BYVW]
- Bayport [V-BYPRT]
- Bellmore [V-BLMR]
- Bellport [V-BLLPRT]
- Belle Harbor [V-BLHRB]
- Belle Terre [V-BLTER]
- Bethpage [V-BTHPG]
- Blue Point [V-BLUPT]
- Bohemia [V-BOHM]
- Boomertown *See* [V-STJAS]
- Brentwood (*formerly* Modern Times) [V-BRNTW]
- Breslau *See* Lindenhurst [V-LNDNH]
- Bridgehampton [V-BRIDG]
- Brightwaters [V-BRIGHT]
- Brookhaven [V-BRKHV]
- Brookville [V-BRKVL]
- Bungtown *See* [V-CSH]

- Carle Place [V-CARLE]
- Cedarhurst [V-CEDAR]
- Center Moriches [V-CMOR]
- Centereach [V-CREACH]
- Centerport [V-CPORT]
  - *See also* Greenlawn [V-GRNLN]
- Central Islip [V-CISLIP]
- Cherry Grove [V-CHERY]
- Cold Spring Harbor [V-CSH]
- Commack [V-CMMK]
- Copiague [V-COPG]
- Coram [V-CORAM]
  - *See also* [VGP-MICYR]
- Cove Neck [V-COVNK]
- Cutchogue [V-CUTCH]

- Deer Park [V-DEER]
- Dix Hills [V-DIXH]
- Dering Harbor [V-DERGH]

- East Farmingdale [V-EFRMDL]
- East Hampton [V-EHAM]
- East Islip [V-EISLIP]
- East Meadow [V-EMDW]

- East Moriches   [V-EMOR]
- East Northport   [V-ENPRT]
- East Norwich   [V-ENRWC]
- **East Patchogue**   **[V-EPATCH]**
- East Quogue   [V-EQUOG]
- East Rockaway   [V-EROCK]
- East Williston   [V-EWLST]
- Eastport   [V-EPRT]
- Eaton's Neck   [V-EATON]
  - *See also*   Asharoken   [V-ASHRK]
- Edgewood   [V-EDGWD]
- Elmont   [V-ELMNT]

- Fair Harbor   [V-FRHRBR]
- Farmingdale   [V-FRMDL]
  - *See also*   East Farmingdale [V-EFRMDL]
- Farmingville   [V-FRMVL]
- Flanders   [V-FLNDRS]
- Floral Park   [V-FLRLPK]
- Flowerfield   [V-FLWRFL]
- Fort Salonga   [V-FTSLNG]
- Freeport   [V-FREPRT]

- Garden City   [V-GDNCT]
- **Glen Cove**   (city)   [V-GLNCV]
- Glen Head   [V-GLNHD]
- Glenwood   [V-GLNWD]
- Good Ground   [V-GDGRND]
- Gordon Heights   [V-GDNHT]
- Great Neck   [V-GTNK]
- Great Neck Estates   [V-GTNKE]
- Great River   [V-GTRIVR]
- Greenlawn   [V-GRNLN]
  - *See also*   Centerport   [V-CPORT]
- Greenport   [V-GRNPRT]
- Greenvale   [V-GRNVL]

- Halesite   [V-HALSIT]
- Hallockville   [V-HALKVL]
- Hampton Bays   [V-HMBY]
- Hauppauge   [V-HAUP]
- Head of the Harbor   [V-HDHBR]
- Hempstead   [V-HMSTD]
- Hewlett Bay Park   [V-HWBY]

- Hicksville   [V-HICKS]
- Holbrook   [V-HLBRK]
- Holtsville   [V-HLTSVL]
- Huntington   [V-HUNT]
- Huntington Station   [V-HUNTS]

- Inwood   [V-INWD]
- Islandia   [V-ISLNDI]
- Islip   [V-ISLIP]
- Islip Terrace   [V-ISLPTR]

- Jericho   [V-JRICHO]

- Kings Park   [V-KGSPK]
- Kismet   [V-KSMET]

- Lake Ronkonkoma   [V-LRONK]
- Lake Success   [V-LSUCS]
- Lattingtown   [V-LATTWN]
- Laurel   [V-LAUREL]
- Lawrence   [V-LWRNC]
- Levittown   [V-LVTWN]
- Lindenhurst (*formerly* Breslau)   [V-LNDNH]
- Lloyd Harbor   [V-LLYDH]
- Lloyd Neck   [V-LLYDN]
- Locust Valley   [V-LOCUS]
- **Long Beach**   (city)   [V-LGBCH]
- Lynbrook   [V-LYNBR]

- Malverne   [V-MALVR]
- Manhasset   [V-MNHST]
- Manor Haven   [V-MNRH]
- Manorville   [V-MNRVL]
- Marconiville   [V-MRCNI]
- Massapequa   [V-MSP]
- Massapequa Park   [V-MSPPK]
- Mastic   [V-MSTC]
- Mastic Beach   [V-MSTCB]
- Mattituck   [V-MATT]
- **Medford**   **[V-MEDF]**
- Melville   [V-MELVL]
- Merrick   [V-MRICK]
- Middle Island   [V-MIDIS]
  See also   [VGP-MICYR]

- Mill Neck [V-MILNK]
- Miller['s] Place [V-MILRPL]
- Mineola [V-MNEOL]
- Modern Times *See* [V-BRNTW]
- Montauk [V-MONTK]
- Mooney Ponds *See* [V-FRMVL]
- Mount Sinai [V-MTSNI]
- Muttontown [V-MUTTN]

- Nesconset [V-NESCN]
- New Hyde Park [V-NHDPK]
- New Suffolk [V-NSUFK]
- Nissequogue [V-NISQG]
- North Babylon [V-NBAB]
- North Bellmore [V-NBLMR]
- North Haven [V-NHVN]
- North Hills [V-NHILS]
- North Hills Estates [V-NHILE]
- North Massapequa [V-NMSP]
- **North Patchogue** **[V-NPTCH]**
- North Smithtown [V-NSMTH]
- Northampton [V-NHMTN]
- Northport [V-NPRT]
- Northville [V-NVIL]
- Norwich [V-NRWCH]
- Noyac [V-NOYAC]

- Oak Beach [V-OKBCH]
- Oakdale [V-OKDAL]
- Ocean Beach [V-OCNB]
- Oceanside [V-OCNSD]
- Old Bethpage [V-OBTHP]
- Old Field [V-OFELD]
- Old Westbury [V-OWEST]
- Orient [V-ORIENT]
- Oyster Bay [V-OYBAY]

- **Patchogue** **[V-PATCH]**
- Peconic [V-PECNC]
- Pine Valley [V-PINVLY]
- Plainview [V-PLNVW]
- Plandome Manor [V-PLNDM]
- Point Lookout [V-PTLKOT]
- Point O' Woods [V-PTOWD]

- Poquott [V-POQTT]
- Port Jefferson [V-PJEFF]
- Port Jefferston Sta. (Terryville) [V-PJEFFST]
- Port Washington [V-PWASH]

- Quogue [V-QUOG]

- Reeves Park [V-REVSPK]
- Remsenburg [V-REMSB]
- Ridge [V-RIDGE]
  See also [VGP-MICYR]
- Riverhead [V-RVRHD]
- Rockville Centre [V-RKVLC]
- Rocky Point [V-RKYPT]
- Roosevelt [V-RSVLT]
- Roslyn [V-RSLN]
- Roslyn Estates [V-RSLNE]
- Roslyn Harbor [V-RSLNH]

- Sag Harbor (The Un-Hampton) [V-SAGHR]
- Saint James [V-STJAS]
- Salisbury [V-SALSBY]
- San Remo [V-SREMO]
- Sands Point [V-SANDPT]
- Sayville [V-SAYVL]
- Sea Cliff [V-SEACLF]
- Seaford [V-SEAFD]
- Seaview [V-SEAVW]
- Searingtown [V-SRNGTN]
- Selden [V-SELDN]
- Shinnecock Hills [V-SHIN]
- Shirley [V-SHIRLY]
- Shoreham [V-SHRHM]
- Setauket [V-SETAKT]
- Smithtown [V-SMITH]
- Sound Beach [V-SDBCH]
- Southampton [V-SHMTN]
- South Hempstead [V-SHMSTD]
- South Setauket [V-SSETAKT]
- Southold [V-SHOLD]
- South Huntington [V-SHUNT]
- Speonk [V-SPEON]
- Springs [V-SPR]
- Stewart Manor [V-STEWRT]

- Stony Brook   [V-STYBRK]
- Syosset   [V-SYOST]

- Uniondale   [V-UNIOND]

- Valley Stream   [V-VLSTR]

- Wading River   [V-WDRVR]
- Wantagh   [V-WNTGH]
- Water Island   [V-WTRIS]
- Water Mill   [V-WTRML]
- Waverly   [V-WAVRLY]
- West Babylon   [V-WBABL]
- West Hempstead   [V-WHMST]
- West Islip   [V-WISLP]
- Westbury   [V-WBURY]
- Westhampton   [V-WHMTN]
- Westhampton Beach   [V-WHMB]
- Williston Park   [V-WLSTNP]
- Woodbury   [V-WDBRY]
- Woodmere   [V-WDMER]
- Wyandanch   [V-WYNDN]

- Yaphank   [V-YPHNK]
  See also   [VGP-MICYR]

Of Parts of L.I. in N.Y.C.:

- Works on **Brooklyn** [NYC Borough / Kings County, NY] are generally found in PML's *NY REF Collection*, under **974.723**
- Works on **Queens County** [also up to 1899, containing 3 Eastern Towns that broke away to become Nassau County, NY, when the rest of Queens became part of Greater NYC] are often found in PML's *NY REF Collection*, under **974.724**; though selected works do appear under the same number in the *LI REF Collection* as well (often emphasizing what would later become Nassau County)