



## A Brief Timeline of Suffern Free Library

- **1926** - Suffern Free Library is chartered and housed in the Suffern Woman's Club on the corner of Lafayette and Washington Ave.
- **1928** - New building is discussed, but by 1930 all plans are abandoned due to the Great Depression
- **1941** - Suffern Free Library opens new building on Maple Ave
- **1959** - the building on Maple Ave has its basement remodeled to house the children's materials
- **1968** - Maple Ave building is expanded into the adjacent lot
- **April 2000** - New, state-of-the-art library is opened on 210 Lafayette Ave
- **October 2022** - Ribbon-cutting ceremony for new patio, children's gazebo, and updated landscaping

## Did You Know?

- The above photograph was taken at Lake Antrim in July of 1937.
- The Suffern Free Library used to host children's story times at the lake in the summer.
- The reason the library is called the Suffern \*Free\* library is because it differentiated it from "subscription" libraries where users were required to pay a fee.
- The library has been housed in 3 separate buildings, the Suffern Woman's Club on Washington & Lafayette Ave, the Maple Avenue building, and it's current location at 210 Lafayette Ave.

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ON LOCAL HISTORY



## Collection Materials

- Original scrapbooks from the library's first few years
- Annual Reports (Starting from the 1920s to current years)
- Information regarding the building of the library's current home on 210 Lafayette Ave (including maps, advertisements, photographs, fundraising, etc.)
- Signatures from guests attending historical library events (such as dedication ceremonies and grand openings)
- Basic information about Ramapo Catskill Library System and the Library Association of Rockland County

## Updates

- A finding aid is now available for our little Avon collection! We are hoping to have all of our finding aids available online in the near future. Please inquire at the reference desk or in the Ramapo Room for assistance.
- Our new microfilm machine has arrived and we are awaiting installation.

## Collection Highlight: Suffern Free Library History

A new addition to the local history room is the *Suffern Free Library History Collection*. While it's one of our smaller collections, it is packed with tons of information about our library's history, and the many changes it has undergone in the nearly 100 years since its beginning.

While the collection was being processed, many gems were uncovered, including the striking image featured on the front of this month's newsletter. Lake Antrim was a popular destination in the summer months and the library held many events there in the early 1930s, including children's story time.

Also discovered were notifications from important historical events. For example, the library closed down for the day on April 9, 1968, as a sign of respect for the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral. In fact, the library's initial dedication ceremony occurred on December 7, 1941,

or the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked.

The Library also attempted to create its own local database in 1977-1978. The idea was to create a repository of information where people could research anything local about Suffern, such as restaurants, businesses, and much more. Part of that collection still exists today and is housed in our local history room.

While a finding aid is currently not available for this collection, one is expected to be finished within the next few months. If you have questions or would like to use the collection, please see our Local History Librarian.

The rich history of Suffern Free Library is all documented in this fun new collection, including many photographs from the library's multi-million dollar renovation in 2000. This is a collection that will most definitely continue to grow as the years pass, and will be an invaluable resource for Suffern staff and the community alike.