



## History Resources in Rockland County

There are several cultural institutions and resources in Rockland County that are great for both amateur and seasoned researchers alike. Below you will find a list of places that may be able to further assist you in your research needs. For a list of hours, please visit the institution/group's website for the most up-to-date information.

1. Suffern Village Museum
2. Suffern Railroad Museum
3. Village of Suffern
4. Town of Ramapo
5. Rockland County Clerk/Archives
6. Historical Society of Rockland County
7. Genealogical Society of Rockland County
8. Rockland County Libraries (LARC)
9. Rockland County Historic Preservation Board
10. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

### Online Resources

1. Ancestry.com- Popular database that can assist in most of your genealogical research needs (In-house use only).
2. Ancestry.com New York Records- The New York State Archives has teamed up with Ancestry to give you the most relevant records for the state of NY.
3. Fold3-Database with documents relating to the Revolutionary War through World War II.
4. New York Heritage-History of NY state. Many old photographs of Suffern are available.
5. HRVH Historical Newspapers- Digitized newspapers focusing on the Hudson River Valley.
6. NYS Historic Newspapers-A wide range of historical newspapers from across the state of New York.

## Did You Know?

- The above image was a logo for the California Perfume Company which would later become the cosmetics juggernaut known as Avon. Avon played a vital role in employing Suffern residents for many years.
- The first five perfume scents created were: Heliotrope, Lily of the Valley, Hyacinth, White Rose, and Violet.



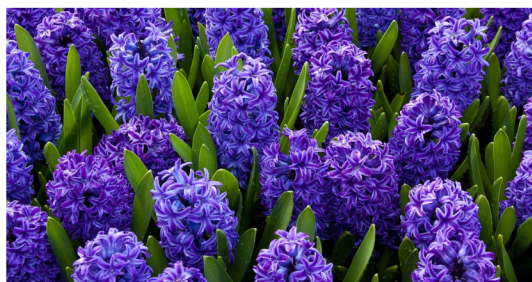
- Pictured above is Mrs. P.F.E. Albee, the very first Avon sales lady!
- See more about Avon in Collection Highlights section.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO AND RESOURCES  
ON LOCAL HISTORY



## Resources on Avon

1. ***Bud Hastin's Avon Collector's Encyclopedia*** by Bud Hastin 2008.
2. ***Avon: Building the World's Premier Company for Women*** by Laura Ann Klepacki 2005.
3. ***Great Oak: The Story of a Man Who Worked with his Heart as well as His Hands*** by Avon Products 1972.
4. ***Avon: Suffern 75th Anniversary*** by Avon Products, Inc.
5. ***Avon Family Albums*** (our collection is mostly the 1950s and 1960s).
6. ***Avon Products Inc. Newsletters*** (1957)
7. ***Avon Annual Reports*** (1990s)
8. ***Avon Times*** (1990s)
9. ***National Association of Avon Collectors***  
[www.findavon.com](http://www.findavon.com)
10. ***The Suffern Village Museum*** (located on the top floor of Suffern Village Hall)



## Collection Highlight Avon

This month's collection highlight belongs to Avon, one of the largest cosmetic companies in the world. Before it became the roughly 10 billion dollar business it is today, it had a much more humble beginning as a perfume company.

The California Perfume Company was created by a book salesman by the name of David Hall McConnell sometime in the late 1800s in his Manhattan apartment. And while the headquarters remained in Manhattan until 2016, the company's infancy was in Suffern, where in 1895 the first laboratory was built. McConnell lived in Suffern, with his family, and was an active member of the village community.

The original building was on the corner of Fair and Division streets, and was conveniently located next to the Erie Railroad. It underwent many, many additions as the company grew, and was demolished in the 1940s for a new building.

The current building (built in 2005), which houses the research and development

branches, is in the same general area as the original laboratories. Avon has grown exponentially since its founding days in Suffern, and now has branches all over the world including Mexico and Japan.

The name "Avon" actually came from McConnell's love of Shakespeare, and his visit to England's Stratford-Upon-Avon. Thus the name was changed in 1950 and has been the same ever since.

A recent article from The Journal News estimated that at one point Avon employed just under 2,000 people during its heyday.

Sadly, Avon will be shutting its doors in Spring of 2023, leaving its legacy with Suffern behind. Currently, it is unknown what will happen with the current Research and Development building.

While our Avon Collection here at the Suffern Free Library isn't large, it still holds many treasures that researchers may enjoy. Please see the side panel on Avon Resources that may be of interest.