

Pieces of Suffolk University's History





Suffolk History Study Guide

Moakley Archive and Institute

www.suffolk.edu/moakley

archives@suffolk.edu

The history of Suffolk University can be gleaned from many sources. The following selection of documents were drawn from several collections including; the records of Suffolk University, Gleason Archer's personal papers and the Suffolk University Oral History Project.

Class Assignment:

- Review the documents at each station and answer questions in the class guide.
- After 15 minutes rotate to the next station to review the next set of documents and answer questions in the guide.
- Report back to class by giving a general description of the documents, use the guiding questions to help, you may also report any observations and thoughts about the documents.

“Pieces of Suffolk History” Resource List

Station 1: Gleason Archer, from MS108 Gleason Archer Papers

- Selections from Gleason Archer's personal Journal, 1917-1920
- Letter from Hiram Archer to Gleason Archer, 4/16/1899
- Radio Transcripts on “Suffolk University Scholarships,” 7/9/1939

Station 2: Hiram the Ram, from Records of Suffolk University and Suffolk Oral History Project

- Selections from the *Suffolk Journal*: vol. 5, no. 10, 12/16/1948; vol. 7, no. 12, 4/20/1950
- Photograph: Hiram the Ram onstage with Clifton A. Tatro, Michael Linquata, Charles Tsapatsaris, Charles Law, no date
- *The Beacon Yearbook*: 1967 and 1990
- Mike Linquata Oral History interview recording

Want to learn more about Suffolk's history? Consult the following resources:

- David Robbins's *A History of Suffolk University*
- University Photographs, University Archives
- University Publications, University Archives
- Suffolk University Oral History Project, University Archives

Station 1: Gleason L. Archer



Suffolk University's founder, Gleason Leonard Archer was born on October 29, 1880, in Great Pond, a remote outpost in northeastern Maine. The Archer family was poor so at the age of thirteen Gleason was sent to work in a nearby lumber camp. Eventually, Gleason was able to leave the lumber camp to attend high school and later college at Boston University.

In 1903, Archer struck up a conversation with businessman George Frost on a train bound for Boston. By the time the stagecoach reached the rail- way station, Frost had learned of Archer's dream to become a lawyer and offered to pay for his education. With Frost's support, Archer graduated from Boston University in 1906 with a law degree. In response to Frost's generosity, he started "Archer's Evening Law School", a law school for non-traditional students. The first class met at his apartment at 6 Alpine Street in Roxbury, Massachusetts, on September 19, 1906.

By December 1908 enrollment had increased enough that Archer could leave his law practice to devote all of his energies to the growing Suffolk School of Law now located in downtown Boston. The school further expanded with the formation of the College of Liberal Studies (1934) and the School of Business Administration (1937). Archer remained at Suffolk University until his retirement in 1948.

In addition to his career as an educator, Archer was a radio broadcaster for NBC in the 1920s, an amateur historian, focused on colonial New England history and his ancestry as a Mayflower descendant, and active in the Progressive political party. He wrote prolifically and on a variety of topics including law textbooks, the first comprehensive history of radio and books about history. In retirement Gleason Archer established a successful blueberry farm in Pembroke, Massachusetts, and was the director of the Pembroke Historical Society. Archer died of cancer on June 28, 1966.

Questions

1. According to the letter dated April 16, 1899, who is committed to helping Gleason Archer go to school and how?
2. In the radio transcript dated July 9, 1939, how much did Gleason Archer pay for a room in Boston in 1902? How does that compare to your room and board rates today?
3. In the radio transcript dated July 9, 1939, how do Gleason Archer's ideas about the necessity of a college education compare with those of today?
4. Read a little of Archer's journal. Why is he writing? What does he write about?

Station 2: Hiram the Ram



Just how did a Ram become Suffolk University's mascot? Read the following documents and answer the questions below:

Questions:

1. What is the ram's name? Who is it named after?
2. Name some ways the ram evolved over the years:
3. Describe how the live ram pictured above came to campus:
4. Who was the coach of the sports teams at that time?

Interested in Doing Archival Research?

Types of Projects:

- Research papers
- Internships
- Honors thesis

Resources at the Moakley Archive and Institute:

(more info at: www.suffolk.edu/moakley)

Collection Information

- Congressman John Joseph Moakley Papers
- Moakley Oral History Project
- Jamaica Plain Committee on Central America Collection
- Frederick Wilkins Papers
- Margaret Collins Weitz Papers
- Enemies of War Collection
- Gleason L. Archer's Personal Papers
- Mary P. Burke U.N. Women's Conference Collection
- Harry Hom Dow Papers
- Suffolk University Oral History Project
- Records of Suffolk University

Research tools

- Bibliographies and indices
- Finding aids: a detailed guide to a collection with descriptions and folder lists.
- Research guides: highlight resources in our collections where you can find information on the following topics
- SMART Catalog: browse or search through our online catalog available at www.suffolk.edu/moakley/smart

Research Topics

Boston and Massachusetts Ninth Congressional District

- Economic Development (Big Dig, Waterfront, Taunton Industrial Park, etc.)
- Fair Housing - Anti-snob Zoning
- Forced Busing/Boston Public Schools Desegregation
- Historic Preservation (Dorchester Heights, Old State House, Faneuil Hall,

Feminism, France

Great Pond, Maine

History of Radio

History of Suffolk University

Human Rights

- Congresses
- France
- Moakley Commission on the Jesuit Murders in El Salvador
- U.S. Policy towards Cuba
- Immigration Issues

U.S.S. Constitution, Old South Meeting House, etc.)

Campaigns

- Grassroots activism
- State Representative
- State Senate
- Boston City Council
- Congress

Congressman John Joseph Moakley

- Congress, 1973-2001
- Massachusetts politics
- Constituent Services
- House of Representatives
- Leadership
- Rules Committee

Consumer Affairs/Health and Medical Research

- Fire-safe Cigarettes
- Food Labeling Act
- Organ Donation

Drama and theatre studies

- Eugene O'Neill Society
- Eugene O'Neill, 1883-1953

Environmental Issues

- Boston Harbor Islands
- Boston Harbor Clean-up
- Hazardous Waste sites

- Chinese Immigration
- Salvadoran Refugee Legislation

U.S. Foreign Policy

- Military Aid to El Salvador
- U.S. Policy towards Cuba

War

- Resistance movements
- World War, 1914-1918 – Women
- World War, 1939-1945 – France
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, French
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Underground movements – France
- World War, 1939-1945 – Women

Women

- Development
- France, bibliography
- French
- History, 20th Century
- International development
- World Conference on Women
- United Nations-- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

What is an Archive?

- It's the place
- It's the stuff

What are primary sources?

- Unique materials
- Necessary for original research
- First-hand account
- Un-interpreted data
- Correspondence, a memo or agenda
- Photographs, video or audio recordings

What is archival research?

- A way to improve critical thinking skills
- An opportunity to add new knowledge to existing scholarship
- An important addition to a resume
- Researcher draws his own conclusions from what he sees

What is different between archives and libraries?

Archives	Libraries
Unique materials	Published materials
Collections organized by creator	Collections organized by subject
Closed stacks	Open stacks
Non-circulating materials	Circulating materials
Primary sources	Secondary Sources



Archival collections:

- Represent the point of view of one person or organization
- Have a hierarchical structure
- Are described by finding aids
- Contain a variety of records, such as, correspondence, news clippings, objects/artifacts, photographs and audio/visual materials



How do I do Archival research?

- Do all secondary source research first; build a knowledge base about your topic
- Investigate what has been written about your topic
 - Use bibliographies
 - Consult a reference librarian
 - Search the Web
 - Use subject guides
- Call the Archives to set up a reference appointment
- Read a finding aid to learn more about a collection
- Search the SMART catalog (www.suffolk.edu/moakley/smart)
- Have an Archivist get you started on your research