

Suffolk University Archives
Early Student Research Project

James T. Bergen
Suffolk Law School 1910

James T. Bergen was born around 1884 in Massachusetts to Canadian parents.¹ His mother, Honora Bergen, was widowed by 1910.² By 1910, 26-year-old James was living at 97 [Lauriat] Avenue, Boston, Mass., serving as head of a household that included his 60-year-old mother, his 28-year-old brother, Joseph, and his 23-year-old sister, Margaret.³ His mother had given birth to seven children, but in 1910 only four of them were living.⁴ By April of 1910, James was employed as a letter carrier for the United States Mail Service.⁵

Later in 1910, presumably after three years of study, James T. Bergen graduated from Suffolk Law School as one of ten in the school's second graduating class.⁶ By 1920, he had moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he lived in an apartment at 27 Palmer Avenue West and was employed as a lawyer.⁷ By this time 38-year-old James had been married for about two years, but his wife did not live with him.⁸ A man named William J. Topley, who was evidently James' business partner, did live with him.⁹

By 1930, James T. Bergen was still employed as a lawyer in Detroit and had bought a house at 10427 American Avenue.¹⁰ At this time, his wife, Mildred, was living with him, as was his 39-year-old sister-in-law, Esperance Lee, and his and Mildred's adopted daughter, Mary, who turned two in the summer of 1930.¹¹ By 1936, his law practice was located at 709 Hammond Building in Detroit.¹²

Copyright Information: Copyright ©2006 by the Suffolk University Archives, Suffolk University.

¹ United States Census 1910, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 1638, Sheet 9B.

² U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

³ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid. Note: The street name on the 1910 census is unclear, but appears to be Lauriat Avenue. Currently no street was found in Boston with that name

⁴ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

⁵ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

⁶ Suffolk Law School Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p.15.

⁷ United States Census 1920, Michigan, Wayne, Detroit, Enumeration District 81, Sheet 8A.

⁸ U.S. Census 1920, Ibid.; United States Census 1930, Michigan, Wayne, Detroit, Enumeration District 82-531, Sheet 5B.

⁹ U.S. Census 1920, Ibid.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1930, Ibid.

¹¹ U.S. Census 1920, Ibid.

¹² Suffolk Law School Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p.15.