

Suffolk University Archives
Early Student Research Project

**Robert Timothy Healey
Suffolk Law School 1910**

Robert Timothy Healey was born September 22, 1883 to Dennis (1850-1902) and Mary Healey (1855-ca. 1919).¹ He was the fourth of five children in a family of three boys and two girls.² By 1900 the family lived at 27 Belmont Street, Somerville, Massachusetts. Robert continued to live there until a few years after his mother's death around 1919.³ Dennis Healey listed his occupation as merchant in the 1900 census, but his death record in 1902 lists him as a machinist.⁴ Mary A. Healey was born in Ireland and immigrated to the U.S. in 1872 at the age of 27.⁵

In 1900, 15 year-old Robert T. Healey was employed as a clerk.⁶ Gleason Archer indicates that he enrolled in "Archer's Evening Law School" in the spring semester of the 1906-1907 school year.⁷ While he attended law school in the evenings he was employed as a machinist at an iron foundry.⁸ He graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1910.⁹ By 1918 Healey had opened a law office, R. T. Healey, at 6 Beacon Street, Boston.¹⁰

After his mother's death he became the head of the household in Somerville, living with his single siblings Mary (40), Rachel (38) and Arthur (30). By 1922 Healey married and by 1930 was widowed. He left the house in Somerville and bought a house on Sumner Street in Newton, Massachusetts. In 1930 he lived there with his sister Mary and his daughters Mary (7) and Alice (2).¹¹ He maintained his law practice at 6 Beacon Street through at least 1936.¹²

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¹ World War I Draft Registration Card 3347/1164, September 20, 1918; United States Census 1900, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Somerville, Enumeration District 950, Sheet 140A; United States Census 1910, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Somerville, Enumeration District 1010, Sheet 178A. Note: The 1900 census appears to erroneously reports his birth year as 1874.

² U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.

³ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid; U.S. Census 1910, Ibid. United States Census 1920, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Somerville, Enumeration District 440, Sheet 18B; United States Census 1930, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Newton, Enumeration District 9-388, Sheet 1B.

⁴ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid. Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910 From original records held by the Massachusetts Archives. Online database: *NewEnglandAncestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004. Note: Dennis Healey is reported as born in Massachusetts in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, but his death record and the 1920 and 1930 censuses list the Healey children's father as born in Ireland (1920) and Irish Free State (1930).

⁵ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid. Note: Healey's World War I Draft Registration Card lists her name as Mary M. Healey.

⁶ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.

⁷ Archer, Gleason L. *Building a School*. Boston: Gleason L. Archer, 1919, p. 52.

⁸ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

⁹ Suffolk Law Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p. 15.

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¹⁰ WWI Draft Registration Card, *Ibid.*; *The Boston Register and Business Directory: 1923*. Boston, MA: Sampson & Murdock Company, 1923, p. 686; Suffolk Law Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p.15.

¹¹ U.S. Census 1930, *Ibid.* Note: The Newton house's value is listed as \$8,000 in the 1930 Census.

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