

Suffolk University Archives
Early Student Research Project

**Thomas Vreeland Jones
Suffolk Law School 1915**

Thomas Vreeland Jones was born May 7, 1874, to Nichols (b. around 1853) and Harriet Jones (b. around 1855) in Paterson, New Jersey.¹ He was the second of five children in a family of three boys and two girls.² By 1880 the family lived at 75 Bridge Street in Paterson.³ In 1880, Nichols Jones was employed as a coachman, while Harriet Jones was a homemaker.⁴

Prior to the age of 15, Thomas V. Jones attended grammar school in Paterson.⁵ On June 3, 1896, he married a woman named Caroline (b. 1874 or 1885), who was also from New Jersey, and the two then moved to Cambridge, Mass.⁶ He got a job as a superintendent of the Second Society of Universalists office building at 28 School Street, Boston, Mass.⁷ On March 29, 1897, his son, John Wesley Jones, was born, and on November 3, 1905, his daughter, Lois Mailou Jones, was born.⁸ By 1910, he was still working at the Second Society of Universalists office building (where he also lived with his family) as superintendent.⁹ His wife worked from home as a milliner.¹⁰

At some point, Thomas V. Jones attended the Y.M.C.A. preparatory school in Boston, leaving the school at age 35.¹¹ In September of 1911, he enrolled in the evening division at Suffolk School of Law.¹² He received his degree in 1915.¹³ His daughter indicates that he entered the real estate field after graduating, but she also indicates that he was a superintendent for thirty years (until the late 1920s), so it is

¹ World War I Draft Registration Card 2503/1646, September 12, 1918; United States Census 1880, New Jersey, Passaic, Paterson, Enumeration District 154, Sheet 6; Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, September 29, 1911, SLS Registrations 1908-1913, no application number. Note: Jones' draft registration card lists his date of birth as May 7, 1874, but a biography written by his daughter, Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noel, for a Thomas Vreeland Jones Scholarship fund pamphlet lists it as April 7, 1874.

² U.S. Census 1880, Ibid.

³ U.S. Census 1880, Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Census 1880, Ibid.

⁵ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid. Note: Jones indicates that he attended grammar school in both Paterson, NJ, and Boston, MA, but he didn't move to Massachusetts until after he was married in 1896, so it is unclear to what school he is referring.

⁶ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, "Thomas Vreeland Jones," from the Thomas Vreeland Jones Scholarship Fund pamphlet, Suffolk University, n.d.; United States Census 1910, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 1350, Sheet 1B

⁷ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid.

⁸ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid.

⁹ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid., Note: The terms superintendent and janitor were probably used interchangeably because Lois Mailou Jones Pierre-Noel describes her father as superintendent, but the 1910 census and Thomas V. Jones' WWI draft registration list his occupation as janitor.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

¹¹ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid. Note: It is unclear why he was attending the school so late in his life.

¹² Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid.

¹³ Suffolk Law Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p.16.

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possible that he worked in real estate, possibly real estate law, on the side.¹⁴ His draft registration card from 1918 lists his occupation as janitor for the Second Society of Universalists.¹⁵

Thomas V. Jones died on December 7, 1934.¹⁶ Several decades after his death, his family, friends and the Black American Law Students Association at Suffolk University Law School established the Thomas Vreeland Jones Scholarship Fund at Suffolk Law to provide financial assistant to minority law students.¹⁷

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¹⁴ ¹⁴ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid

¹⁵ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid., WWI Draft Registration Card, Ibid.

¹⁶ Pierre-Noel, Lois Mailou Jones, Ibid.

¹⁷ Thomas Vreeland Jones Scholarship Fund pamphlet, Suffolk University, n.d.,