

Suffolk University Archives
Early Graduate Research Project

Louis E. Pasco
Suffolk Law School 1914

Louis E. Pasco was born on February 17, 1878, in Baltimore, Maryland.¹ His father, whose name is unknown, was from Mexico, and his mother, Elizabeth (b. 1856), was born in Virginia.² He had two step-siblings.³ He attended grammar and high school in Baltimore, but left school without graduating at the age of 14 to go to work.⁴ He attended evening high school for six years at some point prior to 1910.⁵

By 1900, 22-year-old Louis Pasco was living at 7 Walnut Street in Brookline, Mass., with his mother, stepfather, James Matthews (b. 1858), grandmother, Eliza Diggs (his mother's mother, b. 1835), step-sister, Consuella (b. 1886), and step-brother, James (b. 1897).⁶ At this time, he was working at a bank.⁷ In 1901, he married a woman from South Carolina named Bertha.⁸ In 1910, he lived at 2 Vila Street in Boston, Mass., with his wife and four children, Elizabeth (7), Bertha (6), Alice (4) and Louis (an infant).⁹ He was still working at a bank, specifically the National Shawmut Bank on Water Street in Boston, as a statement clerk.¹⁰

In September of 1910, Louis Pasco applied and was accepted to Suffolk Law School.¹¹ Pasco, whose mother was black and father was Mexican, graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1914 as one of the first graduates of both African and Hispanic descent.¹² After graduating from law school, Pasco continued to work as a clerk at the National Shawmut Bank until at least 1918.¹³

In 1920, 42-year-old Louis Pasco and his family were still living on Vila Street in Boston.¹⁴ By this time he had a fifth child, a son named Wendell who was born probably in 1917.¹⁵ At this time Pasco was still employed as a bank clerk, probably

¹ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, September 26, 1910, Suffolk Law School Registrations 1908-1913, Application 27.

² United States Census 1900, Massachusetts, Norfolk, Brookline, Enumeration District 1023, Sheet 16. Note: The 1900 and 1910 censuses lists Pasco's father's place of birth as Mexico, but the 1920 census lists it as Maryland.

³ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.

⁴ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid.

⁵ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.

⁷ U.S. Census 1900, Ibid.

⁸ United States Census 1910, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 1539, Sheet 3B.

⁹ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.

¹⁰ U.S. Census 1910, Ibid.; Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid.; World War I Draft Registration Card 1189/1349, September 12, 1918.

¹¹ Suffolk School of Law Application for Admission, Ibid.

¹² Suffolk Law Alumni Directory, 30th Anniversary, 1936, p. 16. Note: The 1900 census lists Pasco as black, the 1910 census lists him as mulatto, and the 1920 census lists him as white.

¹³ WWI Draft Registration Card, Ibid.

¹⁴ United States Census 1920, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston, Enumeration District 369, Sheet 11A.

¹⁵ U.S. Census 1920, Ibid.

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at the National Shawmut Bank, although the 1920 census does not list a specific bank.¹⁶ No evidence has been found that he practiced law.

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¹⁶ U.S. Census 1920, Ibid.