

Class of 1915 Profile¹

Name	Age at graduation	Birthplace	Highest level of education completed ²	Occupation/industry before law school	Occupation/industry after law school
George W. Ayer	31	New Hampshire	High school	Newspaper industry	Law ³
Andrew Bickford	38	New Hampshire	Grammar school	Business	Photography ⁴
Edgar R. Breed	26	Mass.	College	Teaching	Law ⁵
Harry E. Burroughs ⁶	25	Russia			Law
Frank L. Carey	23	Mass.	High school		Law ⁷
Isaac S. Collins ⁸	41	Mass.		Plumbing	Plumbing
James H. Currin	29	Mass.	High school	Watch business	Watch business
Charles A. DeCoursey	25	Mass.	College	Stenography	Law ⁹
Charles A. Donahue	24	Mass.	High school	Clerical work (law office)	Law ¹⁰
James C. Fitzpatrick	28	Mass.	College	Clerical work	Insurance ¹¹
Richard R. Flynn	40	Ireland	Grammar school	Engineering, electrical work, MA Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions	MA Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions ¹²

¹ All information taken from 1911 Suffolk Law School admissions applications, unless otherwise noted. George Ayer, Frank Carey, James Currin, Charles Donahue and Harry Seligman all applied in 1912.

² Some of the applicants' responses are unclear or incomplete on their applications, but these statistics are as accurate as can be determined. The statistics also refer to education that was completed, and many students attended schools from which they did not graduate.

³ 1923 Boston Business Directory

⁴ World War I Draft Registration Card.

⁵ World War I Draft Registration Card.

⁶ All information from World War I Draft Registration Card.

⁷ World War I Draft Registration Card.

⁸ All information taken from 1910 Census Record and World War I Draft Registration Card.

⁹ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹⁰ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹¹ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹² World War I Draft Registration Card.

Joseph E. Granahan	31	Mass.	Grammar school	Bookkeeping, mail service	Mail service ¹³
John F. Haley					
Joseph B. Hammond	26	Mass.	High school	Engineering, RR industry, leather business	Telephone service ¹⁴
Thomas V. Jones	41	New Jersey	High school	Shipping, janitorial work	Janitorial work ¹⁵
James T. Kirby	32	Mass.	High school	Construction	
William McCarthy	61	Ireland	Grammar school	Teaching, bookkeeping	
Joseph A. Murphy	28	Mass.	Grammar school	Business	Insurance ¹⁶
William F. O'Donnell, Jr.	20/21 ¹⁷	Mass.	High school	Clerical work	Law ¹⁸
William Owens	34	Mass.	Grammar school	Machine work	
Leopold F. Quinn	26	Mass.	High school	Telephone service, clerical work	
Harry G. Seligman	21	New York	Grammar school		Law ¹⁹

Statistics²⁰

Number of students admitted to the class of 1915: 67

Number of graduates in the class of 1915: 22

¹³ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹⁴ 1920 Census Record.

¹⁵ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹⁶ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹⁷ William F. O'Donnell, Jr.'s admissions application lists his birth date as August 29, 1894, but his WWI Draft Card lists it as August 29, 1893.

¹⁸ World War I Draft Registration Card.

¹⁹ World War I Draft Registration Card.

²⁰ Information was not available for all graduates, so statistics are based on available information.

Demographics (birthplace):	Massachusetts – 14 graduates New Hampshire – 2 New Jersey – 1 New York – 1 Ireland – 2 Russia – 1
Oldest graduate:	William McCarthy (61)
Youngest graduates²¹:	William O'Donnell, Jr./Harry Seligman (20 or 21)
Average age at graduation:	31
Occupations/industries of students before law school:	Business Clerical work Electrical work Engineering Newspaper industry Plumbing Stenography Teaching
Highest level of education completed:	Grammar school – 7 graduates High school – 9 College – 3
Number of students who had studied law before enrolling at Suffolk Law School:	3

²¹ Because of the discrepancies between William O'Donnell, Jr.'s draft card and admissions application, it cannot be determined who the actual youngest graduate was. If O'Donnell was born in 1893, he was the youngest graduate at age 20, but if he was born in 1894, Harry Seligman was the youngest graduate; he would have turned 21 before O'Donnell did.

**Occupations/industries
of students after law school:**

Business
Engineering
Insurance
Janitorial work
Law
Mail service
Photography
Plumbing
Telephone service

**Number of graduates who
practiced law:**

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Summary

The 22 men in the class of 1915 were mainly from the northeast region of the United States, with the exception of 2 graduates from Ireland (Richard Flynn and William McCarthy) and 1 graduate from Russia (Harry Burroughs). The majority of the graduates (14) were from Massachusetts. More than half of the 1915 graduates had completed high school, and three had completed college. Many of them continued their studies after leaving grammar or high school, several informally by studying on their own and several formally by taken courses at local institutions such as Bryant and Stratton Commercial College and the Boston YMCA. Two graduates had studied law before enrolling at Suffolk, both at law offices. A third graduate, James Currin, had previously studied law at Suffolk Law School for one year, but it is unclear when he first enrolled or why he left. At least 5 of the graduates were admitted in 1912 and completed their studies in 3 years. The graduates came from a variety of industries, including business, engineering, plumbing and teaching. Their occupational industries after graduating also varied and included engineering, insurance, law, mail service and photography. Richard Flynn served as Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. At least 8 graduates practiced law. Thomas Vreeland Jones, who was born in New Jersey and was of African American descent, now has a Suffolk University Law School scholarship given in his memory from a fund set up by his family and friends to provide financial assistance to deserving minority law students.

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