
David L. Robbins

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.suffolk.edu/suhistory

Recommended Citation
https://dc.suffolk.edu/suhistory/9

This Pamphlet is brought to you for free and open access by the Suffolk University Publications at Digital Collections @ Suffolk. It has been accepted for inclusion in History of Suffolk Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Suffolk. For more information, please contact dct@suffolk.edu.
Acknowledgments

The sketches in this pamphlet are the work of several different hands. That on Frank J. Donahue was prepared by Michelle Finnegan, a Heritage Project research assistant; "Dorothy M. McNamara," by P. Richard Jones, University Archivist; and "Donald W. Goodrich," by Associate Dean Joseph H. Strain. Professor Arthur J. West and Archivist Jones collaborated to produce the sketch of Robert S. Friedman. Assistant Law Librarian Patricia I. Brown wrote "Edward G. Hartmann," while "Charles Law" and "John E. Fenton" were contributed by University Director of Public Relations Louis B. Connelly. To their work, the Heritage Editorial Board and I have made relevant additions and corrections. The essay on John Griffin is mine.

I gratefully acknowledge the aid, enthusiasm, and research assistance of Carla Berardi, Richard Robert Caprio, and Michael Gustafson. Invaluable information, advice, and personal recollections have been provided to the Heritage Committee by interviews with Dorothy M. McNamara, Donald W. Goodrich, John Griffin, Edward G. Hartmann, and John C. Cavanagh. College Librarian Edmund G. Hamann, Law Librarian Edward J. Bander, and University Archivist P. Richard Jones have called numerous materials to our attention and made them available to us. Special debts of gratitude are due to President Daniel H. Perlman and to President Emeritus Thomas A. Fulham, for making relevant portions of the Trustee minutes available to us. William C. Amidon, Director of Alumni Programs for the Law School, has been an unfailing source of aid and advice. Louis B. Connelly, Director of Public Relations, and Karen DeCilio have both provided much timely assistance. As usual, a difficult job has been done with dedication, wit, and insight by the members of the Heritage Project's Editorial Board: Ann D. Hughes, John C. Cavanagh, Edward G. Hartmann, Stanley M. Vogel, and Patricia I. Brown. James Rue designed this pamphlet, and Bernard Martin oversaw the printing. Finally, aid without which this pamphlet would have been unrealizable has been given us by the Boston Public Library; the Suffolk University Libraries; the Suffolk University Archives; the libraries of the Boston Globe and the Boston Herald American; the Department of Journalism, School of Public Communications, Boston University; and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

David L. Robbins
Editor
Introduction

During seventy-five years, more people have contributed to giving Suffolk University its strength and its unique character than could ever be adequately acknowledged. Those whose lives and influence are sketched here have been chosen partly to indicate the remarkable variety of personalities, backgrounds, contributions, and efforts that have gone into making Suffolk University what it is today, and partly to recognize the magnitude — chronologically and substantively — of their service. Together, the eight individuals featured in this pamphlet compiled 274 years at the University, an average of thirty-four years each. Clearly, length of service does not by itself qualify a person to be considered a leader, but when the time factor is combined with a dossier of the achievements of these individuals while at Suffolk, there results a trustworthy indicator of each individual’s influence on the Suffolk University tradition.

What follows, then, is an attempt to indicate — through sketches of eight major architects of the University’s development — how multi-faceted contributions by many people of diverse personalities, temperaments and motivations have, over seventy-five years, blended to create Suffolk University’s heritage.

This pamphlet is the eighth in the Suffolk University Historical Pamphlet Series, and the seventh to be published as part of the Suffolk University Heritage Project.
Frank J. Donahue received his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Suffolk Law School in 1921, one year after he began evening study in what was normally a four-year program, and three years after his admission to the Massachusetts Bar. The brevity of his term as a student at Suffolk Law School does not seem to have detracted, however, from his appreciation of and enthusiasm for the institution. For the next six decades, Donahue never ceased his efforts to improve conditions and standards at Suffolk Law School, and to win increased respect and support for the school from its alumni and from the Boston community at large.

Born in Needham in 1881, Donahue — like many early Suffolk alumni — was the son of Irish immigrants. He attended Needham public schools, then studied journalism at Boston English High. Attracted to politics at an early age, he was elected in 1902 Needham’s Park Commissioner and Chairman of the local Democratic Committee. Young Donahue’s interest in journalism temporarily won out, however, and he became a reporter for the newly-formed Boston American. After three years, he left the paper to join the staff of a political magazine, Practice Politics, of which he eventually became managing editor.

His writing attracted the attention of state Democratic leaders, who soon reawakened his interest in a political career. In 1913, he became the first Democrat ever elected Massachusetts Secretary of State, and (at thirty-one) the youngest man ever to hold the position. He retained office for two years, then served between 1915 and 1929 as a member (and sometime chairman) of the Industrial Accident Board. After a year as Chairman of the Fall River
Board of Finance, he was chosen in 1931 as Democratic State Chairman — the pinnacle of his political success. Within a year, he abandoned politics for a judicial career, as a quarter-century earlier he had abandoned journalism for politics.

On May 25, 1932, Donahue was appointed by Governor Ely to the Massachusetts Superior Court — the highest judicial office for which any Suffolk Law graduate had yet been chosen. For the next forty-one years, he remained a Superior Court Associate Justice; and in 1938 he became the first sitting justice ever named to the Massachusetts Judicial Council (on which he retained a seat until 1955). In addition, he wrote and sponsored the legislative act which created the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. A hard-nosed, law-and-order judge, Donahue was for four decades outspokenly critical of any legislators, penologists, or occupants of the bench whom he perceived to be “soft” on crime. He dismissed lenient juries, chastised convicted felons with high fines and stiff sentences, and filled the Deer Island House of Correction with the members of his “Daddy-Owe Club” — men who had fallen behind on their child-support payments. Yet he was also a cultured and widely-read man, whose controversial decision in 1948 prevented *Forever Amber* from being “banned in Boston.” His forthrightness and trenchant wit earned Donahue a reputation as one of the state’s most colorful jurists, and he served a judicial tenure that was the longest in Massachusetts history.

The prestige of Judge Donahue’s position, his influence among Suffolk Law alumni, and his growing concern over conditions at his *alma mater*, combined with Suffolk University’s wartime fiscal crisis to bring about his election as a Life Member of the Board of Trustees in 1945. At a time when a growing bloc of Trustees was challenging the political, economic, and educational policies of President Gleason L. Archer, Donahue became a leader of the anti-Archer faction.¹ Elected Vice-Chairman shortly after joining the Board, the Judge was chosen Board Chairman a

---

¹ Other leaders of the anti-Archer faction were Hiram J. Archer, the founder’s brother, and David Stoneman, proprietor of the Bretton Woods Hotel. Suffolk University would never have survived World War II had it not been for the forbearance of Thomas F. McNichols, Manager of the West End Branch of the First National Bank of Boston, which held the mortgage note on the University Building.
Board of Finance, he was chosen in 1931 as Democratic State Chairman — the pinnacle of his political success. Within a year, he abandoned politics for a judicial career, as a quarter-century earlier he had abandoned journalism for politics.

On May 25, 1932, Donahue was appointed by Governor Ely to the Massachusetts Superior Court — the highest judicial office for which any Suffolk Law graduate had yet been chosen. For the next forty-one years, he remained a Superior Court Associate Justice; and in 1938 he became the first sitting justice ever named to the Massachusetts Judicial Council (on which he retained a seat until 1955). In addition, he wrote and sponsored the legislative act which created the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. A hard-nosed, law-and-order judge, Donahue was for four decades outspokenly critical of any legislators, penologists, or occupants of the bench whom he perceived to be “soft” on crime. He dismissed lenient juries, chastised convicted felons with high fines and stiff sentences, and filled the Deer Island House of Correction with the members of his “Daddy-Owe Club” — men who had fallen behind on their child-support payments. Yet he was also a cultured and widely-read man, whose controversial decision in 1948 prevented Forever Amber from being “banned in Boston.” His forthrightness and trenchant wit earned Donahue a reputation as one of the state’s most colorful jurists, and he served a judicial tenure that was the longest in Massachusetts history.

The prestige of Judge Donahue’s position, his influence among Suffolk Law alumni, and his growing concern over conditions at his alma mater, combined with Suffolk University’s wartime fiscal crisis to bring about his election as a Life Member of the Board of Trustees in 1945. At a time when a growing bloc of Trustees was challenging the political, economic, and educational policies of President Gleason L. Archer, Donahue became a leader of the anti-Archer faction.¹ Elected Vice-Chairman shortly after joining the Board, the Judge was chosen Board Chairman a

¹ Other leaders of the anti-Archer faction were Hiram J. Archer, the founder’s brother, and David Stoneman, proprietor of the Bretton Woods Hotel. Suffolk University would never have survived World War II had it not been for the forbearance of Thomas F. McNichols, Manager of the West End Branch of the First National Bank of Boston, which held the mortgage note on the University Building.
year later. His rapid elevation was evidence of both the escalating severity of the University’s financial crisis and the rising militancy of the Trustee rebellion against President Archer. Donahue retained the Chairmanship from 1946 until 1948. Then, after President Archer’s resignation, Donahue assumed in 1949 — and held for twenty years — the pivotal day-to-day responsibilities of University Treasurer.

His first priority as Treasurer was to restore solvency and to liquidate the University’s heavy debts. To do so, he clamped an iron hand on the school’s finances. No payment, he insisted, was to be made or contracted without his scrutiny; no purchase — not even of library books — was to be made without his authorization; and no University check was to be valid without his personal signature. Donahue’s tight management of University funds allowed him to use rising post-war tuition receipts from G.I. Bill-funded veterans in order to reduce the institution’s onerous indebtedness, to see the University through what otherwise might have been a fatal financial crisis during the Korean War, and subsequently to accumulate the capital that ultimately made University expansion in the 1960s possible.2 When the time came for that expansion, it was Judge Donahue who handled every aspect of the operation — from locating the site and acquiring the land, to supervising the construction of the new building, which opened its doors in September 1966. Appropriately, the new edifice was designated in 1971 the Frank J. Donahue Building.

 Appropriately, too, the Donahue Building in the mid-1970s became the home of Suffolk University Law School. Frank Donahue served Suffolk University, but his first — and abiding — love was Suffolk Law School. His policies as Treasurer reflected this priority, permitting the Law School to remain throughout his tenure the “most favored” of the University’s academic units. For twenty-seven years (1948-75), Judge Donahue chaired the Board’s powerful Law School Committee, which exercised a nearly autonomous oversight of Law School affairs.3 Simultaneously, he rebuilt, reorganized, and led the Suffolk Law Alumni Association — both for the increased financial support it could

2. Treasurer Donahue also established a Suffolk University Endowment Fund in 1949, and served as one of its three Trustees until his death thirty years later.
provide for the Law School and for the fillip it could give to the development of pride in Suffolk Law School among its graduates. As long-serving chairman of the Trustees Honorary Degree Committee, as well, Donahue sought to increase public and professional awareness of Suffolk University by honoring each year leading members of the political and legal communities, in Massachusetts and nation-wide.  

Finally, Frank Donahue made himself a proud advertisement for his *alma mater*. At a time when many Suffolk graduates were less than forthcoming about where they had obtained their education, he set himself the task of personifying — both to alumni and to the outside world — the achievements, eminence, and respect to which Suffolk Law School training could lead. For his efforts, Judge Donahue came to be nicknamed, and remained until his death in 1979, “Mr. Suffolk.”

**Dorothy M. McNamara**

When Dorothy M. McNamara joined Gleason L. Archer’s office staff in 1927, Suffolk Law School was at the peak of its prosperity — the largest law school in the world. She served for twenty-one years under Archer’s leadership, then for another twenty-six under the Donahue and Fenton regimes that succeeded him. Her career provides a common thread that ties together these eras of Suffolk University’s history, and which binds many alumni from each of them loyally to their *alma mater*.

---

3. Donahue also served extended terms on the Finance Committee (1945, 1948-76; Chairman 1969-75), the Business School Committee (1965-75), and the By-Laws Committee (1949-65), as well as shorter stints on the Nominating Committee, the Endowment Fund Committee, the Development Committee, the New Building Committee, the Committee to Acquire Property on Beacon Hill, and the Committee to Investigate Administrative Operations at Other Academic Institutions. In addition to his University duties, he was a Trustee of the Boston Public Library from 1948 until 1956.

Dorothy Margaret McNamara was born in 1910 in Roxbury, and lived there until 1971, when she moved to the West End near Suffolk University. After attending Mission Hill Grammar School, Roxbury High, and Fisher Junior College, she came to Suffolk Law School in 1927 as a stenographer. In 1935, she was promoted to Law School Recorder; then six years later was named Bursar by the Board of Trustees. She served twenty-five years in that capacity, during which time she acted not only as Treasurer Donahue’s most trusted lieutenant, but also as a buffer between him and many financially beleaguered students. Her humanity provided a counterweight to Judge Donahue’s fiscal stringency; and she managed for years after the fall of the Archer regime to preserve in practice the Archer era’s leniency toward student tuition delinquencies. In so doing, she won for herself the lasting affection of countless graduates — and for Suffolk a lasting reputation as “the school with a heart.”

University Life Trustee John Griffin, a Board member since 1937, recalls the

many, many successful alumni through the years who have told me that they would never have reached their positions in life if Miss Mac hadn’t intervened when personal problems made them ready to quit school. Through her warm personality, she kept more people at Suffolk than any of our high-priced so-called experts.

When the Bursar’s duties were taken over in 1964 by a professional accountant — Donahue’s newly-appointed Assistant Treasurer Francis X. Flannery — the mutual affection between Miss McNamara and many Suffolk graduates made her the natural choice as the University’s first full-time Alumni Secretary. In that capacity, she remained a friend, counsellor, and advocate for both students and alumni. Even her retirement in 1974 did little to sever the bond between “Miss Mac” and the three generations of Suffolk alumni she had served.

5. Judge Donahue taught part-time in the evening division at Suffolk Law School from 1921 until 1926; then served as a Visiting Lecturer between 1943 and 1957. He received two honorary degrees from Suffolk University: a JD in 1942, and then in 1952 the University’s first LLD degree. He was also a recipient in 1976 of an Outstanding Alumni Award from the Suffolk University General Alumni Association.

6. Interview with Dorothy McNamara, May 1, 1979.

7. Interview with John Griffin, June 18, 1979.
With her sister Evelyn (McNamara) Reilly, Dorothy McNamara endured many “payless paydays” during the difficult days of World War II. Her loyalty to the school and its students, however, saw her through this crisis, as it also saw her through the trauma of founder Gleason Archer’s ouster in 1948. When most members of Archer’s official “family” were turning their backs on Suffolk University out of loyalty to the fallen President, Miss Mac stayed on out of loyalty to the institution to which most of his life — and hers — had been dedicated. The administrative knowledge which she had gained in her wide-ranging duties as Bursar provided continuity of procedure and purpose (which might otherwise have been lacking) from the day-to-day operations of the Archer era to those of the Donahue regime.⁸

While serving as Bursar, Miss McNamara also oversaw Law School office and Bookstore activities. She became Veterans Coordinator when the G.I. Bill was enacted; was responsible for all payrolls, financial reports, equipment ordering, health and insurance benefits programs. Occasionally, she even helped place students and alumni in jobs. As Alumni Secretary after 1964, she organized and staffed the new office, played a key role in the ensuing Building Fund drive, and continued to develop alumni activities until her retirement ten years later.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Dorothy McNamara was lionized by all segments of the University community. There was hardly a gathering in which she wasn’t publicly recognized — through a citation, trophy, plaque, bouquet, or standing ovation. Yearbooks were dedicated to her, and the Suffolk Journal never tired of writing features and editorials about her. The all-male Wig and Robe Law Society named her its first female life member, and undergraduate leaders inducted her into the Gold Key Honorary Society.

In 1954, the Board of Trustees awarded her an honorary Master of Arts degree, and two years later, at the University’s Golden Anniversary celebration, Suffolk’s founder Gleason L. Archer presented her with a huge trophy from an Alumni-Student Committee to honor her as Jubilee Queen.

⁸ The dedication and self-sacrifice of administrators like Dorothy McNamara, Evelyn Reilly, and McNamara’s long-time assistant Alice DeRosa contributed much to the University’s success through the years. Their willingness, along with faculty members, to accept low pay, and voluntarily to place themselves on long hours permitted the institution to grow and prosper.
Perhaps most fittingly, in 1967 the Trustees established a Dorothy M. McNamara Scholarship, to be awarded annually to two students “who have made a significant, lasting contribution to the quality of life at Suffolk University.”9 The dedication and service to Suffolk students which Miss Mac provided for forty-seven years could thus be nurtured in a new generation.

**John Griffin**

In 1934, John Griffin was hired by Gleason Archer to assist him in establishing an undergraduate program which Archer envisioned as a “feeder” for Suffolk Law School. For the next four decades, Griffin’s service to Suffolk was to be closely connected with the growth of the several undergraduate colleges that issued from this initiative, and with the establishment of a harmonious and equitable relationship between the parts of the University created by the integration of these new academic units with Suffolk Law School.

When he was appointed Archer’s evening aide for undergraduate curriculum planning, Griffin was a Junior Master at Roxbury Memorial High School. Born in Roxbury, he had attended Dorchester High School and then gone on to Harvard, from which he had received a BS degree in 1925 and an MBA two years later.10 In addition to his duties at Roxbury High and as Archer’s aide, Griffin in 1934 was appointed to teach Economics at Archer’s newly-founded Suffolk College of Liberal Arts. He was one of the school’s original faculty members. Most of his colleagues were high school teachers; and, like them, he was able to serve on the Suffolk College faculty only because the fledgling institution offered instruction exclusively in the evening.

9. Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, February 6, 1974.
10. Interview with John Griffin, June 18, 1979. Griffin also received an MA degree in History from Boston University in 1936.
Griffin continued to teach in the College of Liberal Arts until 1937, serving also during this period as Student Advisor for Men (1935-37), and as Faculty Advisor on Athletics (1936-37). After the Liberal Arts school was upgraded from junior college status by issuance of a 1935 charter conferring the right to grant bachelor’s degrees, Griffin served for a year as the College’s first Registrar (1935-36). When he was succeeded as Registrar in 1936 by Carrola A. Bryant, Griffin’s liberation from most administrative duties freed him to undertake the formative work of adding a College of Journalism and a College of Business Administration to Suffolk’s undergraduate opportunities.

In 1936, Griffin played a key role in resolving the initial difficulties encountered by Dean Archer and Massachusetts Press Association Executive Secretary Paul A. Newsome in translating Newsome’s proposed Suffolk College of Journalism from the drawing board to operational status. A year later, Harvard MBA Griffin again played a central part in implementing plans and organizing a curriculum for a College of Business Administration. This time, however, the conception as well as the execution was Griffin’s. He was thus “in every sense the father” of the School of Management.¹¹

 Shortly after the incorporation of the three undergraduate “departments” and the Law School as Suffolk University in 1937, Griffin was elected to the University’s Board of Trustees by members impressed by and grateful for his multi-faceted exertions on behalf of the Colleges during the preceding three years. Although he gave up teaching in 1937 to become a full-time executive in the tobacco distribution industry, Griffin remained closely identified with the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Management during more than four decades of service as a Suffolk University Trustee.¹² He was an active member of the Board’s College Committee from its inception in 1938 until 1975, and retained in 1981 the Business School Committee membership he had held since that committee’s initial meeting.

¹¹ Resolution to honor John Griffin, Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, November 9, 1977.

¹² After marrying Virginia Manning in 1936, Griffin became Treasurer, then President (1961), of his father-in-law’s business, the Joseph P. Manning Company. In 1969, he became President of the Virginia Investment Company of Boston. He also served for some time as chairman of the directors of the national and Massachusetts associations of tobacco distributors.
From these two positions, Griffin maintained a close scrutiny over — and exerted a steady influence upon — the growth and development of the undergraduate, graduate Business, and graduate Education curricula at Suffolk.¹³

Griffin, however, did not limit his concern to the development of the Liberal Arts College and the School of Management. From the time of his election to the Board, he was a determined and skillful advocate of University policies favoring closer integration of the several academic units and parity between the Law School and the rest of the University. Although not always successful in his efforts, Griffin often won the ear — and consistently the respect — of his fellow Trustees. In 1957, he was elected Clerk of the Corporation; and nine years later, upon the death of senior Trustee Hiram J. Archer, was chosen by his colleagues to fill Archer’s place as a Life Trustee of the University.¹⁴

A trusted advisor to every President of the University from Gleason Archer to Thomas Fulham, Griffin has been called “the conscience of the University.”¹⁵ For three decades, he chaired the Board’s Auditing Committee; served three separate times as chairman of the Finance Committee; and in 1975 was elected a Trustee of the Suffolk University Endowment Fund.¹⁶ It was certainly through his insistence on “fiscal integrity”¹⁷ that a professional accountant (Francis X. Flannery) was first appointed Assistant Treasurer in 1964, that professional management was introduced in the University Bookstore in 1965, and

---

¹³. Griffin also served a long term (1963-81) on the Building Committee, chairing it from 1973 until 1979. It was during his Chairmanship that the Fenton Building was opened for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and that the Ashburton Place Building was acquired to provide a new home for the School of Management.

¹⁴. Griffin served as Clerk until incapacitated in 1979.

¹⁵. Resolution honoring John Griffin, Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, November 9, 1977.

¹⁶. Griffin served on the Auditing Committee from 1951 until 1981, and chaired it after 1953. His years of service on the Finance Committee (1944, 1948-50, 1964-80; Chairman 1948-50, 1964-65, 1966-68) made him a natural choice to chair the Salary Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee when it was created in 1976. He also served on the Nominating Committee (1946-48, 1965-69; Chairman 1946, 1948, 1966-69), the Honorary Degree Committee (1969-75), the Endowment Fund Committee (1958-81), the Insurance Committee, the Accreditation Committee, and as Vice-Chairman of the Development Committee. He received an honorary DCS degree from Suffolk in 1952, and in 1979 the Suffolk University General Alumni Association designated him the recipient of an Outstanding Alumni Award.

¹⁷. Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, February 6, 1963.
that improved controls over the institution's marketable securities and Endowment Fund were instituted nine years later.

As an educational, business, civic, and Catholic lay leader, John Griffin has served the Boston community for over fifty years.\textsuperscript{18} His forty-four years on Suffolk University's Board of Trustees makes him the longest-serving Trustee in University history. During that time, he has worked tirelessly to make Boston a better place to live, and Suffolk University better adapted to serve Boston. In doing so, he has played a principal role in shaping Suffolk University's tradition, its present structure, and its sense of purpose.

Robert S. Friedman

When Robert S. Friedman was appointed Instructor in Biology at Suffolk in 1941, the department he joined offered only three courses and consisted solely of two part-time faculty members. In the succeeding three decades, the personal and financial contributions which this shy, modest, devout man was to make to the Natural Science program — and to the Biology department in particular — were to alter completely the scope, conditions, and approach of scientific instruction at Suffolk University.

Born in 1915 in Taunton, Massachusetts, he attended local schools until, after an accident following his freshman year in high school, he transferred to the Huntington School in Boston. He completed the three-year course in two, and went on to the University of Michigan. After two years, however, he left, because he lacked "purpose and

\textsuperscript{18} Griffin was President of the Jamaica Plain Cooperative Bank, a Corporator of the Faulkner Hospital, a Knight of Malta, Vice-President of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Chairman of the Tobacco and Allied Industries Division of the American Jewish Committee's appeal for Human Relations, and an active worker in the National Conference of Christians and Jews and in the Massachusetts Committee of Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.
orientation.” To support himself while trying to sort out his future career, Friedman became a Cape Cod boatyard apprentice. Finally, he decided to enter the teaching profession, hoping “to give others the guidance which [he] lacked.”

In 1936, he was graduated from Boston University with a BS degree in Education, and two years later B.U.’s Graduate School awarded him an MA in Biology. Even though his parents were financially quite well off, young Friedman insisted on playing in a band to pay for his own education. From B.U., he went on to Harvard, where he earned his second MA (1940) and a Ph.D. in Biology (1946). Meanwhile, he began to teach part-time at Suffolk.

When the U.S. entered World War II, Friedman tried to enlist, but his earlier injuries kept him out of the armed forces. Instead, he served the government by doing top secret work at the Radio Research Laboratory at Harvard. After the war, he received a full-time appointment at Suffolk University’s College of Liberal Arts, where he also served one harried year (1946-47) as Director of Admissions. In 1947, he became Chairman of one of the three Divisions (there were not at that time separate departments) of the Liberal Arts College: the Division of Natural Sciences, which included faculty members drawn from the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics.

The next year, when the Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions were reorganized into departments, Friedman’s aggressive advocacy was instrumental in assuring the same type of restructuring for the Natural Sciences Division. He was appointed Chairman of the Biology department, and held that post for over two decades. He remained on the faculty, however, until his untimely death in 1973. During his twenty-two years as Chairman, he succeeded in building a department seven times larger than it had been in 1948, in vastly improving the department’s laboratory facilities (after years of foot-dragging by the

21. In 1970, Friedman stepped down as Chairman to devote more time to the family textile business left by his late father.
administration), and in multiplying Biology course offerings from the three of 1941 to twenty-one in 1970. In 1960, he began a highly successful Medical Technology program, which eventually led to the establishment of affiliations between Suffolk University and six New England hospitals where students undertook a year of clinical work after completing three years of on-campus training at Suffolk. The Biology department he assembled and led produced a number of students who not only went on to earn Ph.D.'s in Biology, but also to become prominent scientists in their own right. Two Suffolk graduates, Arthur West and Beatrice Snow, even joined Friedman on the Biology faculty.  

During the 1950s, when the University's fiscal situation called for strict austerity, Friedman personally paid for needed supplies and equipment for the Biology department. Always insisting on anonymity, he set up a special fund to aid Biology students, and also established the Albert K. Sheldon Student Loan Fund. In 1965, the largest single contribution by any faculty member to Suffolk's Building Campaign was his. (“If anyone finds out about this, I'll revoke it,” he told the collector.)

Throughout most of his career at the Liberal Arts College, Friedman served without salary — consenting to accept only a small yearly honorarium.

Consistently an innovator, Friedman joined his Biology department colleagues in urging that Suffolk University offer a program in the new field of Marine Biology. To that end, a field-study site was chosen in the early 1960s on the shores of Cobscook Bay (an arm of the Bay of Fundy) near Edmunds, Maine. Again insisting on anonymity, Friedman purchased the land (twenty-two acres in 1968, eighteen more in 1971), on which a Marine Biology field research

22. The six hospitals affiliated with Suffolk's Medical Technology program were: the Newton-Wellesley Hospital (1960-81); the Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital, Gardner, Massachusetts (1964-81); St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut (1967-76); the Veterans Administration Hospital, Jamaica Plain (1968-76); the Cambridge Hospital (1971-81); and the Bon Secours Hospital, Methuen (1972-76). Besides Arthur West (BS '51, MA in Ed. '56) and Beatrice Snow (BA '62), alumni of Friedman's Biology department who went on to earn Ph.D.'s and recognition as distinguished scientists or scholars included Kenneth Sherman (BS '54, D. Sci. '79; oceanographer, ecosystems specialist, authority on plankton, and Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory), Joseph Geraci (BS '58; a widely-published authority on marine mammals, and Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Guelph, Ontario), and Frank O'Brien (BA '63; Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Biology department, Southeastern Massachusetts University, North Dartmouth, Massachusetts).

23. Interview with Arthur West, March 12, 1981.
station was to be constructed. When he died in 1973, the station was nearly completed; six months later, the facility was officially dedicated as the Robert S. Friedman Cobscook Bay Laboratory.

That dedication, along with the honorary Doctor of Science degree awarded him by Suffolk in 1965 and the Trustees' designation of him seven years later as the only Distinguished Service Professor in the University's history, acknowledged a debt of gratitude to Robert Friedman that could never be fully repaid. During thirty-two years as Suffolk University's professor-philanthropist, he laid the foundations for subsequent development of the Natural Sciences at Suffolk, and especially for development of the Biology department. Today, the quality and variety of courses and programs available in both Division and department may well have grown beyond even Bob Friedman's expectations — if not beyond the hopes of his far-seeing imagination.

Charles Law

When Charles Law came to Suffolk in 1946, the University had an athletic "tradition" spanning five years — all before the war, and with teams (tennis, golf, basketball, and baseball) composed primarily of law students. When he retired as Athletics Director thirty-two years later, what he had done defied all expectations. Even with the severe disadvantage caused by lack of on-campus athletic facilities, he had built up a strong tradition of undergraduate participation in intercollegiate athletics: his teams were consistently competitive,

24. Friedman was a member of numerous organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Technion Society; the Textile Research Institute; the American Friends of the Hebrew University; the Zionist Organization of America; and B'nai B'rith, where he was a charter member of the Dr. Joshua Loth Liebman Lodge. He was very active in the affairs of Temple Emmanuel in Newton, and served on the national board of the American Association for Jewish Education.
and frequently victorious. If Coach Law was not available to manage the 1969 Mets, it was only because he was busy performing bigger miracles back in Boston.

Born in Patrick, near Glasgow, Scotland, in 1913, Law grew up in Chelsea, Massachusetts. He was graduated from Chelsea High, where he played football, basketball, and baseball, then went on to earn a BS degree in 1935 from Springfield College. His small stature did not prevent him from lettering in football; nor did it keep him from making the basketball, lacrosse, and track teams. His first coaching job was at Melrose High, where he had charge of the football and basketball squads. He then moved on to Weston, and directed the high school basketball team to thirty-nine consecutive victories.

In 1946, Law was persuaded to come to Suffolk University by Donald Fiorillo, who was then a young member of the faculty. “I never regretted it,” Law later observed. “It not only presented me with a great challenge, but it also afforded me the opportunity to spend a career lifetime with down-to-earth kids and associates.”

Law’s early years at Suffolk were extremely challenging. His assignment as Director of Athletics was to build an undergraduate intercollegiate athletics program from the ground up. He began in 1946 with baseball, basketball (both of which he coached himself), soccer, and ice hockey; golf (which he also coached) and tennis were added in 1948, and sailing in 1949. Many of his athletes were former World War II G.I.’s, frequently older than Law himself. Law admitted that this made discipline a bit touchy, but “they accepted the fact that I was the boss, and I appreciated the fact that they were men who had fought a war.”

Without Law’s perseverance, it is possible that the undergraduate athletics program would not have survived those early years. Only through the energetic support of University President Walter M. Burse, Trustee Athletics

25. Law also received an Ed.M. degree from Boston University in 1955.
26. During one of Law’s seasons at Weston, his football team also went undefeated.
27. Interview with Charlie Law, June 10, 1975.
28. Interview with Charlie Law, June 10, 1975
29. Baseball, basketball, tennis, and golf were still varsity sports at Suffolk when Law retired in 1978.
Committee Chairman William F.A. Graham, and Treasurer Frank J. Donahue were even an anemic athletics budget and a token scholarship program extracted from the Board from year to year. Hockey, soccer, and sailing were dropped in 1953, during the enrollment decline that followed the outbreak of the Korean War; and football, which had received sympathetic consideration from the Trustees since 1948, was rejected by the Board because of insufficient funds and inadequate facilities.30

Lack of facilities never seemed to discourage Charlie Law, however. He took his basketball nomads to the Charlestown YMCA (1946-47), then to the old West End House on Blossom Street (1947-62), and finally to the Cambridge YMCA — which still served in 1981 as a home court for Suffolk basketball. His baseball squads, likewise, had to move from diamond to diamond in greater Boston. From 1948 until 1972, Athletic Director Law also had the responsibility of running a compulsory Physical Education program for Suffolk freshmen; even when that program was discontinued in 1972, it was dropped only on condition that it be replaced by a much-expanded program of voluntary intramural competition. Not until 1966 did Law get his first full-time Assistant Director: James Nelson, who succeeded Law as basketball coach in 1976, and became Athletic Director upon Law’s retirement in 1978. Despite major enrollment increases, it was 1972 before a second Assistant Director was added to supervise intramurals, and 1975 before a third — Ann Guilbert, for women’s athletics — was hired.31

Nevertheless, Law’s basketball teams won 295 games while losing only 258; and his last two teams were good enough to qualify for the NCAA Division III Regional Tournament. The 1974-75 squad reached the regional finals, and the 1975-76 quintet, with a 19-6 record, was ranked fifteenth nationally in their division.32

30. Ice hockey was reinstated as a varsity sport in 1980.
31. In 1972, arrangements were made with the Boston YMC Union to provide facilities for indoor intramural competition. Cross country was introduced as a varsity sport in 1972. Assistant Director Ann Guilbert introduced varsity women’s tennis and varsity women’s basketball in 1977; four years later, a separate women’s cross country team was established.
32. Among the outstanding basketball players Law developed were: a pair of Division III All-Americans, Pat Ryan and Donovan Little; Jack Resnick of Boston’s West End; Art Mellace, now a well-known college basketball official; Bill Vrettes, whom Law called the best player he ever coached; Allan Dalton, a former Celtic draft choice; Jay Crowley; Kevin Clark; Chris Tsiotos; and John Howard.
Everyone in regional athletic circles knew Charlie Law. His quiet wit enlivened many a sports luncheon. By 1969, when he received a distinguished service plaque from the National Association of Basketball Coaches, he was the dean of New England’s basketball coaching fraternity. He was elected President of the New England Basketball Coaches Association in 1972; and three years later the Association voted him its highest award, the Doggie Julian Memorial Trophy, for his contributions to the sport.33

During his career, Law had a number of opportunities to move on from Suffolk. For twenty-two years, he served as an assistant football coach at Harvard. “But,” he reflected, “I guess I developed a love affair with Suffolk and its people — particularly the students. They worked a little harder than most students, and that kind of stuck with me.”34

Charlie Law worked more than a little harder than most Athletic Directors or coaches. His thirty-two years of persistence and extra effort gave Suffolk University an intercollegiate sports program and a tradition of undergraduate athletic competition where none had existed before.35

Donald W. Goodrich

When Donald W. Goodrich came to Suffolk University, the Board of Trustees and founder-President Gleason L. Archer were conducting their own private war, which periodically engulfed other segments of the University community. Enrollments had plummeted during the Second World War, and the Colleges had been kept open by the narrowest of margins. By 1946, registrations were rising again, but the very speed of their increase was threatening to reduce to chaos the Colleges’ skeletal and inexperienced administrative staff. In the midst of this turbulence, Goodrich took office as Registrar in February 1947.

33. In 1978, the New England Athletic Conference presented Law with a citation recognizing three decades of devotion and service.
Goodrich was born in 1898 in Brooklyn, where he grew up. After being graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1915, he entered Williams College, where he studied literature and the classics, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received his BA *cum laude* in 1919. A year later, he earned an MA in English from Harvard. For the next two decades, he held teaching and administrative positions at several private secondary schools — eventually serving as Headmaster at the Buckley Country Day School on Long Island, and then at the prestigious Calvert School in Baltimore.

Just before World War II, Goodrich returned to Harvard for graduate study. There, he met Lester Ott, a history doctoral student who was then teaching part-time across the river at the Liberal Arts College of Suffolk University. When the U.S. entered the war, Goodrich joined the army as a captain. During five years of subsequent service at the Pentagon and in Germany, he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Just before his discharge, Goodrich heard from his old Harvard friend Lester Ott. In 1945, Ott had been appointed Dean of the Colleges at Suffolk, where he was struggling both to reorganize what had been predominantly a part-time night school into a full-time undergraduate institution, and to cope with the flood of new students generated by the post-war G.I. Bill educational benefits. Ott was desperate for experienced help, and he begged Goodrich — a seasoned educational administrator — to join his staff as Associate Dean and Registrar. In February 1947, Goodrich began over two decades of service which was to help steer Suffolk University toward the mainstream of American higher education.\(^{36}\)

For the next two years, Registrar Goodrich was Ott’s principal collaborator in giving Suffolk University’s undergraduate programs — Liberal Arts, Journalism, and Business — the academic character and administrative shape they were to maintain into the 1960s and 1970s. A full-time (four-year) day undergraduate program was added to the

\(^{34}\) Interview with Charlie Law, June 10, 1975.

\(^{35}\) Charlie Law died in April 1981.

\(^{36}\) Goodrich was also appointed Professor of Humanities. In addition, he served as Director of Admissions from 1947 until 1949.
part-time (five-year) evening program. Full-time faculty members, many with doctorates, were hired, and organized into full-fledged academic departments. A faculty committee structure was set up, and a core curriculum adopted.

When in 1949 Ott’s Evening Division Director Robert J. Munce succeeded Ott as Dean, Goodrich continued in his role as Registrar and principal advisor to the Dean. Through Goodrich’s influence, Dean Munce continued the academic and administrative policies of his predecessor. At Goodrich’s accession to the Deanship in his own right in 1956, most of the basic features of the Colleges remained those established by Ott and Goodrich nine years earlier.\textsuperscript{37}

Not surprisingly, the major themes of Goodrich’s thirteen-year Deanship were not reorganization and redirection, but development and strengthening. Goodrich expanded the faculty and pressed for higher salaries to improve its quality.\textsuperscript{38} He supported facilities development, strengthened student services, improved library resources, and closer relations with College alumni. He endorsed the introduction of new courses and programs within the basic curriculum framework. He used and expanded the existing committee structure to involve the faculty in academic decision-making, while seeking to nurture a spirit of collegiality. To this latter end, Goodrich strove to know each faculty member personally, and for years made his home the scene of faculty social gatherings (for which there were no adequate facilities at the University.)\textsuperscript{39}

His tenure represented a period of almost unbroken prosperity and expansion for the Liberal Arts and Business departments. In 1966, a grateful Board of Trustees added to Dean Goodrich’s title that of University Vice-President.\textsuperscript{40} Three years later, on the occasion of his retirement from the

\textsuperscript{37} Dean Robert Munce was appointed Acting University President in 1954 to succeed Walter M. Burse. After he was formally designated as President in 1955, Munce retained the College Deanship as well. Only in 1956 was the Dean’s title removed from the President and added to that of Registrar Goodrich.

\textsuperscript{38} Interview with Donald Goodrich, June 27, 1979. A faculty tenure system and a TIAA-CREF retirement program were both introduced during Goodrich’s Deanship (1962).

\textsuperscript{39} As Professor Stanley Vogel pointed out at a testimonial upon Goodrich’s retirement from the Deanship in 1969: “[Goodrich] took the trouble to entertain the whole faculty, for many years at his own expense in his own house, and came to know each of us personally. Many of us will never forget the garden parties, cocktail parties, and dinners at One Boulder Brook Road. This was important for a college that had no campus or regular social gatherings for its faculty.”
Deanship, the Board also awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.\textsuperscript{41}

Those who served under Goodrich unanimously attested to his salient character features: loyalty, decency, courtesy, and self-restraint.\textsuperscript{42} He provided knowledgeable, sure-handed, and undramatic leadership that gained in effectiveness by its very contrast to the pyrotechnics of the late Archer era. His leadership style thus permitted him to cultivate Trustee confidence in the legitimacy of the Colleges in the post-Archer era; to foster faculty self-confidence, unity, harmony, and acceptance of the Colleges’ academic and administrative structures; and to build a willingness among the Trustees to take the risks and make the investments necessary to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the steadily-expanding student population of the 1960s.

The dominant themes of his two decades of influence in the Suffolk Colleges were stability and development; and his skillful melding of the two proved a remarkable restorative after the hyperactivity of the late Archer era and the fiscal lethargy of the early Donahue regime.

\textbf{Edward G. Hartmann}

As academic and fiscal order was restored at Suffolk after World War II, the University turned its attention to winning accreditation for the Law School and the undergraduate departments. To attain that goal, improved Library collections and an "accreditable Librarian"\textsuperscript{43} were necessary. In September 1948, Edward G. Hartmann came to Suffolk University as Director of Libraries.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{Edward_G._Hartmann.jpg}
\caption{Edward G. Hartmann}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{40} When Goodrich became Vice-President in 1966, he gave up the Registrar's position — which he had retained, at least nominally, after assuming the Deanship in 1956. A separate College Registrar, Mary Hefron, was then appointed. Also in 1966, a new Deanship of the College of Business Administration was created — releasing Goodrich from his supervisory responsibilities over that academic unit, and permitting him to devote more time to his duties as Vice-President and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The new Business School Dean was Donald Grunewald.

\textsuperscript{41} Emerson College had already awarded Goodrich an honorary Litt.D. degree in 1958. After retiring from the Deanship, he continued to teach in the Humanities Department at Suffolk until 1974.
Hartmann was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in 1912. He attended Bucknell University, receiving his AB in 1937 and his MA in History a year later. His studies for a Ph.D. in History at Columbia University were interrupted by World War II. From 1943 until 1946, Hartmann served as Combat Historian for the 90th Infantry Division with General Patton’s Third Army, editing in the course of his duties a history of the 90th entitled Tough 'Ombres (1944) and another work, A Short History of the 357th Infantry Regiment (1945).

When the war ended, the young historian taught for a year at Wilkes College in his home town. He completed his Ph.D. at Columbia in 1947, and by the spring of 1948 he had also earned from Columbia a BS in Library Service. That fall, he took charge of the College and Law School Libraries at Suffolk University, where he was also appointed an Associate Professor of History.

Both Libraries were housed together throughout Hartmann’s tenure as Director. By working with academics and administrators from all quarters of the University, he was able to strengthen the law and undergraduate collections, and to gain Trustee approval for Library budgets that made possible attainment of accreditation standards. These exertions permitted the University to pass the critical library inspection portion of the New England Association visitation that granted accreditation to the Colleges in 1952, and the more rigorous scrutiny in 1953 that resulted in American Bar Association accreditation for the Law School.

During Hartmann’s ten years as Librarian, the law collection grew from ten thousand volumes to over twenty-five thousand — and was catalogued for the first time. Meanwhile, the College (Liberal Arts and Business) collection

42. Interview with Donald Unger, January 19, 1981. Always active in civic and professional affairs, Goodrich served as President of the Private School Association of Baltimore, and held memberships in the American Conference of Academic Deans, the National Education Association, Phi Beta Kappa, the State Club, the Schoolmaster’s Club of Massachusetts, the Publicity Club of Boston, and the Boston Rotary Club. He belonged to the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, where he served as a Deacon and as a member of the Religious Education Committee.

43. Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 13, 1948.

44. While working on his BS in Library Service at Columbia, Hartmann served as a lecturer in History and a Library Fellow at City College, New York.

45. Interview with Edward Hartmann, February 15, 1981.
expanded from five thousand volumes to nearly fifteen thousand. Perhaps most important, Hartmann trained a small professional Library staff, and imbued its members with pride in their work and in their Library. One of Hartmann’s assistants, Patricia I. Brown, even went on to become Assistant Law Librarian at Suffolk.

Hartmann resigned as Director of Libraries in 1958 to devote full time to his duties as Professor of History. From his arrival in 1948, he had insisted on Suffolk’s maintaining high academic standards. His appointment in 1956 as Chairman of the Colleges’ Academic Standing Committee added authority to his advocacy. He retained the chair for twenty years, while also vigorously supporting academic excellence as a member of the Suffolk chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (the national History Honor Society) and of the University’s Phi Beta Kappa Committee.

In the classroom, Hartmann challenged his students. He was quick to praise quality, and to chastise mediocrity, in their work. The lower range of his grading scale — F, double F, triple F, and the dreaded Q (for “quit”) — became a part of Suffolk folklore. On the other hand, it was widely rumored that an A in one of his courses was a ticket to Suffolk Law School. His students annually made him a leading candidate for the “Big Screw” award (bestowed in the mid-1970s by APO fraternity on the faculty member voted the toughest grader on campus). Many of them, however, also clearly appreciated his uncompromising demand for excellence: more than one Beacon yearbook was fondly dedicated to “Dr. Hartmann.”

During the 1950s and 1960s, he worked closely with John Colburn, long-time Director of Student Activities, and was frequently asked by student class officers to serve as class advisor. He kept long office hours, and he took the time to know his students — to learn their names, their likes and dislikes, their school problems, and often their personal problems as well. In order to assist students in adjusting to the academic challenges of college life, he wrote “Dr. Hartmann’s Study Tips for Freshmen,” a brief study guide which was distributed to incoming Suffolk freshmen for nearly twenty years.

46. It was Patricia I. Brown who, under Hartmann’s supervision, catalogued the law collection. The College collection had been catalogued as it was accumulated, beginning in the mid-1930s.
It was not only the Suffolk University community which recognized Hartmann’s achievements. His writings on immigration and ethnicity have been widely published and frequently cited; they include *The Movement to Americanize the Immigrant* (1948, reprinted 1967), *A History of American Immigration* (1967), *Americans From Wales* (1967, reprinted 1978), and *American Immigration* (1978), the first textbook on American immigration history for secondary school students.47 In 1966, he was awarded the Gold Medallion of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia for the contribution made by his works to the Welsh-American community. Subsequently, he also received the Hopkins Medal from the St. David’s Society of New York (1970), and the Welsh-American newspaper *Ninnau’s Citation* (1978).

In 1978, after thirty years of dedicated service, Hartmann retired from teaching. As Emeritus Professor of History, however, he served as a member of the Heritage Committee’s Editorial Board, and regularly updated his “Tentative Bibliography of Publications by Graduates of the Undergraduate Colleges of Suffolk University” (which he first compiled in 1976). After three decades at Suffolk, his goal was still the same: to win acceptance, both inside and outside the institution, of the importance of academic excellence to Suffolk University.

**John E. Fenton**

John E. Fenton was graduated from Suffolk Law School in 1924. Twenty-five years later — in the stormy aftermath of the Archer era and in the midst of the University’s campaign for accreditation — he joined the Board of Trustees. After sixteen years on the Board, during which he served as Trustees’ Vice-Chairman, Board Chairman, University Vice-President, and Acting President, Fenton was elected in 1965 as Suffolk University’s fifth President.

At the time, Fenton was sixty-seven, and had just retired from the Massachusetts Land Court after twenty-eight years of service. A bemused Boston Globe reporter asked him why he would accept such a new challenge at an age when most men were retired. “Retired?” replied Fenton. “Why, I’m just beginning. The main reason I took this job was to do some good for future generations.”

Thus began the five-year Presidency of John Edward Fenton. Born in 1898 in Concord, New Hampshire, Fenton lived most of his life in Lawrence, Massachusetts. While a student at Lawrence High School (from which he was graduated in 1916), he worked as a bobbin boy and cloth carrier in one of the local textile mills. In 1920, he was graduated from Holy Cross, and while teaching at Lawrence High, began to attend Suffolk Law School in the evening. After receiving his LLB, Fenton served eight years as Northern Essex County Registrar of Deeds before his appointment in 1937 to the Land Court bench.

From the time of his election as a Suffolk University Trustee in 1949, he was one of the Board’s most active members. No other Trustee in the institution’s history has approached his record of long-term energetic participation on all of the Board’s key committees. Most Trustees contented themselves with serving on the Law School Committee, the College Committee, or the Business School Committee (after it was created in 1965). Throughout much of his quarter-century on the Board, Fenton served on all three simultaneously — plus the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee. He helped the fledgling Scholarship Committee (which he joined in 1949) build the school’s financial aid resources from virtually nothing to an impressive level by the mid-1960s, and he served as a Trustee of the Suffolk University Endowment Fund from its creation until his death twenty-five years later.

49. Trustee William F.A. Graham, a Holy Cross alumnus, had helped to win the election of Fenton to Suffolk University’s Board of Trustees. Fenton, in turn, worked successfully to win election to the Board — and ultimately to the Presidency — for two other Holy Cross graduates: Dennis C. Haley, Fenton’s predecessor as University President, and Thomas A. Fulham, Fenton’s successor as President.
Having shared power with Judge Donahue during the late 1950s and early 1960s, Fenton inherited it from him in the decade after 1964. Although, like Donahue, he came from a judicial background, he was better prepared — through his extraordinarily wide-ranging experience in civic affairs, fraternal organizations, charitable undertakings, and Catholic lay associations — to lead a Board which after 1960 was steadily being broadened beyond its traditional composition of lawyers and judges to include an increasing number of prominent Boston-area businessmen.\footnote{When Fenton stepped down as University President in 1970, the Board of Trustees reelected him to the Chairmanship that he had yielded in 1966 in order to assume the Presidency. He continued to serve on the Board’s principal committees until shortly before his death in 1974, and he maintained a campus office where he was on hand most days to confer with President Fulham and Vice-President Flannery. Thus, Fenton remained what he had been since the early 1960s: the predominant figure in the most dynamic era of growth in Suffolk University’s history. In a fitting final tribute, the Trustees voted in 1974 to name the newly-completed Liberal Arts building at 32 Derne Street — the capstone on a decade of expansion — in honor of John E. Fenton.}

When Fenton stepped down as University President in 1970, the Board of Trustees reelected him to the Chairmanship that he had yielded in 1966 in order to assume the Presidency. He continued to serve on the Board’s principal committees until shortly before his death in 1974, and he maintained a campus office where he was on hand most days to confer with President Fulham and Vice-President Flannery. Thus, Fenton remained what he had been since the early 1960s: the predominant figure in the most dynamic era of growth in Suffolk University’s history.\footnote{Interview with John Fenton, February 16, 1968.} In a fitting final tribute, the Trustees voted in 1974 to name the newly-completed Liberal Arts building at 32 Derne Street — the capstone on a decade of expansion — in honor of John E. Fenton.

\footnote{Like most of the University’s top leaders after 1948, Fenton came from an Irish Catholic background. He was a friend and advisor to both Cardinal Cushing and to Cardinal Medeiros; and he was a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Holy Sepulchre. The social and charitable applications of his religious convictions, however, were ecumenical; he worked easily with those of other faiths and backgrounds. He served in high regional, state, and national offices in the Elks, the Knights of Columbus, the United Fund, the Boy Scouts, the American Legion, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In addition, he was President of Bon Secours Hospital, Methuen; a Director of St. Ann’s Orphanage and Home; and Chairman of the Board of the Paul A. Dever School for Exceptional Children in Taunton.}

\footnote{Fenton held honorary degrees from Suffolk (1949), Holy Cross, Emerson, and Merrimack. He was also voted the Frederick A. McDermott Award in 1966 by Suffolk’s Student Bar Association, and the Administrator of the Year Award in 1974 by the University’s undergraduate student leaders.}
Bibliography


Archer, Gleason L. Fifty Years of Suffolk University. Boston: By the Author, 1956.


Archer, Gleason L. “Journal II” (1920-32) and “Journal III” (1932-34), personal journals, unpublished.

Archer, Gleason L. “Program for the Accreditation of Suffolk University (Special Report to the Board of Trustees, April 10, 1947)”.


Suffolk University Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1911-80.

Suffolk University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences catalogues, 1934-81.

Suffolk University College of Journalism catalogues, 1936-41.

Suffolk University flyers and pamphlets, 1907-81.

Suffolk University Law School catalogues, 1907-81.

The Heritage Committee

David L. Robbins, Professor of History, Chairman
William C. Amidon, Director of Alumni Programs - Law School
Louis B. Connelly, Director of Public Relations
John Griffin, Life Trustee, Suffolk University
P. Richard Jones, Director of University Archives
Alfred I. Maleson, Professor of Law
Joseph H. Strain, Professor of Educational Administration and Speech, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arthur J. West II, Chairman and Professor of Biology
Edward G. Hartmann, Emeritus Professor of History, Senior Editor
Patricia I. Brown, Assistant Law Librarian, Assistant Editor
John C. Cavanagh, Chairman and Professor of History, Assistant Editor
Ann D. Hughes, Assistant Professor of English, Assistant Editor
Stanley M. Vogel, Professor of English, Assistant Editor