

## **Diary of the Jandzinski Sisters: Dorothy and Mary Ann**

Digital copy available at: <https://archive.org/details/diaryscrapbookof00jand>

### **The Diary**

The Diary, or Scrapbook, of Dorothy Jandzinski was found and donated to the Hatfield Historical Society when the Jandzinski homestead at 88 Bridge Street, Hatfield, Massachusetts was sold. The diary contains handwritten entries from 5 November 1927 to 17 March 1933, about daily life in Hatfield. This includes notes about the weather, working the farm, local deaths, weddings, shopping trips, school activities, etc. The diary also includes random poems and news clippings from 1930-1964, with the majority of the clippings from the 1930's about school activities and obituaries of family members and friends. Upon close examination, it appears that the handwritten sections of the diary had two different authors: Dorothy Jandzinski and her younger sister Mary Ann Jandzinski. So, the "Diary of Dorothy Jandzinski" might best be labeled the "Diary of the Jandzinski Sisters: Dorothy and Mary Ann."

### **The Diary Authors**

#### *Dorothy Jandzinski*

Dorothy Jandzinski was born in Hatfield on 9 November 1912, the daughter of Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski. She made her first entry in the diary shortly before her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday as she undertook her freshman year at Smith Academy. Dorothy continued writing in the diary throughout her years at Smith Academy, including her 1931 graduation, the first one to be held in the new Hatfield Town Hall. While Dorothy had four older siblings, she was the first of her siblings to graduate from high school, and the only Polish girl to do so in the class of 1931.

Following graduation, Dorothy obtained work at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. However, in January 1932, Dorothy and one of her older sisters, Julia, left Hatfield and went to Boston, MA to attend the Training School for Attendant Nurses, conducted by the Household Nursing Association, located at 222 Newbury Street. The Household Nursing Association was initially created by a number of prominent Boston society women to address a nursing shortage during World War I but also to help provide jobs for women and deliver in-home healthcare and housekeeping services for those in need. The Training School required that applicants have at least a grammar school education, but preferably at least two years of high school. The tuition was low; it did not cover all expenses, but community donations helped offset the costs. Loans were available for some students.

When Dorothy and Julia attended the training program, it consisted of several months of classroom training at the Newbury Street location followed by a year of on-site hospital instruction, and then six months of supervised practice. The classroom topics included household management, cooking, physiology, and nutrition. The hospital instruction included bedside training at an affiliated hospital.

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Dorothy and Julia Jandzinski were both assigned to the Winthrop Community Hospital for their practical training; they graduated together on 19 October 1933 in a class of 59 nurses in a diploma ceremony held at the Copley Methodist Church, Boston. Following graduation, Dorothy and Julia remained in the Boston area. The school, in addition to training, helped in placement. Julia was initially assigned a position in Cambridge and Dorothy in Boston.

Dorothy Jandzinski spent twenty years or more working as a nurse in Boston. Sadly, there are no records or diary entries that describe her schooling or work as a nurse during that period. It would have been fascinating to hear about the adventures of Dorothy and Julia as they underwent nurses training or work in the “big city” of Boston, but sadly Dorothy’s entries in the diary end with her departure to Boston in January 1932.

Eventually, Dorothy returned to her home in Hatfield at 88 Bridge Street where she lived out her remaining years. She died on 17 December 1973 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.

### *Mary Ann Jandzinski*

Mary Ann Jandzinski was born on 16 October 1916 in Hatfield, MA, the seventh child of Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski and the youngest daughter. From January 1932 on, Mary Ann is the primary author of the diary entries. The key pieces of evidence that she is now the author are: the change in handwriting; the entries reading “Julia & Dot went to Boston to train for nurses” and “Clem and I started for Boston to visit Julia & Dot;” and a newspaper clipping reporting that Clementine and Mary Ann Jandzinski had left for Boston to visit Julia and Dorothy Jandzinski.

Mary Ann in her diary entries continues describing life in Hatfield, activities at Smith Academy where she was now a member of the class of 1935, and family outings. While the handwritten entries end in 1933, the diary contains newspaper clippings of Mary Ann’s 1935 graduation from Smith Academy.

Following graduation, from 1937 to 1941, Mary Ann worked and resided at 57 Bridge Street, Northampton, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen L Butler. Most likely, Mary Ann was a domestic worker for the family. Mr. Butler was the treasurer and eventually chairman of the board of the Northampton Cutlery Co.

On 22 December 1941, after the US entry into World War II, Mary Ann graduated from the Massachusetts Women’s Defense Corps (MWDC) school at a ceremony in Northampton, receiving a certificate for the mobile canteen corps. She joined the Easthampton, MA branch of the MWDC as a private. The corps was a group of volunteer women trained to assist local civil

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defense agencies in the commonwealth as drivers, air raid wardens, canteen workers, communications personnel, or emergency fire fighters during World War II.

In 1942, Mary Ann became a waitress for Sidney Edmonds of Northampton and resided at 55 Walnut Street, Northampton, the home of the Stanley Dusak family. Then, on 7 September 1943, Mary Ann enlisted as a private in the US Marine Corps. In January 1944, following training at Headquarters Company, Marine Corps Women Reserve Schools, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Mary Ann was assigned to Company "A", Women's Reserve Battalion, Quantico, VA, where she spent the remainder of the war working as a clerk or cashier at Hostess House. Mary Ann was discharged on 29 November 1945 and returned to the family home at 88 Bridge Street, Hatfield.

Following the war, Mary Ann worked as a waitress at the Howard Johnson's Restaurants in Northampton and in Hatfield. She was a life-long member of the Hatfield American Legion, often serving on the child welfare committee. Mary Ann died on 8 July 1997 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.

### **The Jandzinski Family**

The parents of Dorothy and Mary Ann Jandzinski were Ignace and Katherine (Wolicki or Walitzki) Jandzinski. Ignace, the son of Peter and Agnes (Duch) Jandzinski, was born in Przychojec, Poland, then part of the Austrian partition of Poland on 19 May 1871. He immigrated to the US, arriving on 24 May 1900, and went to Hadley, MA where he worked as a laborer on the farm of Rufus Smith. Katherine, the daughter of John and Sophia (Baj) Wolicki, was born around 1875, also in the Austrian partition of Poland. Katherine immigrated to the US around 1897 and went to Amherst, MA where she worked as a kitchen servant in the home of David Wentzell. Ignace and Katherine married on 26 January 1901, traveling to Chicopee, MA to be married in St. Stanislaus, the only Polish Roman Catholic church in the area at that time.

By 1902, Ignace and Katherine had settled in Hatfield, MA. It is here that they worked a farm together, raised a family, and lived out the remainder of their lives. Katherine died on 13 June 1935 at home in Hatfield. She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Northampton, since there was as yet no Roman Catholic cemetery in Hatfield. Besides her husband and children, Katherine's survivors included two sisters: Regina in Poland and Sr. Mary Symphoria in Bellevue, PA. The diary mentions Sr. Mary Symphoria visiting the family in Hatfield in 1930. Ignace died in Northampton on 20 October 1951. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield, MA. At the time of his death, Dorothy was still living in Boston, but Julia had returned to Hatfield. Besides his children, Ignace's survivors included his sister, Mrs. John Sulisz, nee Julia Jandzinski, of Easthampton. This sister immigrated to the United States from Przychojec in 1902. Upon arrival on 9 July 1902, she went to her brother Ignace who was already residing in

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Hatfield, MA. The diary includes several entries about the marriages of the Sulisz' daughters and about the two families visiting each other.

In total, Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski had eight children whom they raised in Hatfield on Bridge Street. Besides Dorothy and Mary Ann, they had three other daughters and three sons. They were: Clementine, Joseph, Agnes, Julia, Andrew and John.

- Clementine Jandzinski (1903-2003). Clementine was the oldest child, born on 26 September 1903 in Hatfield, MA. By the age of 16, Clementine had dropped out of school and worked on the family farm. Then, for many years she worked as a live-in servant for Dr. Justin Hanson in Northampton. Eventually Clementine attended the former Cooley Dickinson Hospital school of nursing and became a licensed practical nurse. She worked for many years as a nurse at Hampshire Care, retiring at the age of 70. Clementine is mentioned frequently in the Jandzinski Diary. She appears to be a "force of nature." In 1930, she got her license and, as mentioned in the diary, drove quite fast and drove often, even to the big city of Boston. In 1935, she even bought property from her father, a quite unusual feat for a single woman at that time. Like Mary Ann, on 22 December 1941, Clementine graduated from the MWDC school at a ceremony in Northampton and joined the Easthampton branch of the MWDC as part of the mobile canteen corps. However, unlike Mary Ann, Clementine was not just a private; she was a corporal. Clementine died on 11 September 2003 in Leeds, MA, two weeks before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was the firstborn of the Jandzinski children and the last to die. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.
- Joseph Jandzinski (1905-1968). Joseph was the first son born to Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski on 5 September 1905. By the age of 15, Joseph had dropped out of school and worked the family farm. In 1931, he began work as a road construction laborer. Eventually, he joined the Army and was stationed at Ft. Ethan Allen, VT at the time of his mother's death in 1935. He re-enlisted in the Army on 26 February 1940 and served in World War II until his discharge as a Master Sergeant on 1 October 1945. Following the war, Joseph resided in Northampton and worked as a janitor until his death on 22 December 1968. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge St., Hatfield. There are a few references to Joseph in the Jandzinski Diary. The most notable may be the 1928 one that says "they began to paint Joe's room." The Jandzinski house was a six room house with two bedrooms. With the two parents, five daughters, and three sons, it's unlikely the three sons had one of the two bedrooms; they most likely had to sleep somewhere else. Based upon this entry, one wonders if somehow the family configured a room in the house so that the 23-year-old Joseph could finally have his own room.
- Agnes Jandzinski (1908-1989) Agnes was born on 22 April 1908 in Hatfield, MA. She dropped out of school after the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She worked various jobs throughout her life, but none seemed to be the farm. For example, she worked as a waitress in a Tea

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Room—quite likely the Grace Mullins Tea Room cited in the diary—and at Smith College in one of the dorms. There is very little mention of Agnes in the diary other than an outing to the movies with a brother and a 1931 incident where “Papa was on the warpath with Agnes,” with no explanation for the reason. At no time do Dorothy or Mary Ann mention doing anything with Agnes. It’s interesting to note that in 1940, all of the siblings were away; it was only Agnes who resided with her father at the home on Bridge Street. Agnes retired from Smith College in 1959. She died on 8 August 1989 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.

- Julia Jandzinski (1910-1984) Julia was born on 27 July 1910 in Hatfield, MA. Julia is mentioned frequently in the diary and often went on trips and adventures with Dorothy. Like her older siblings, Julia dropped out of school before graduating. She first worked at the Grace Mullins Tea Room in Hatfield, and then became a resident maid in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hemenway in Northampton, MA. Like her sister Clementine, Julia was a “modern woman” and got her driver’s license in 1930; in fact, she got it a few months before her big sister Clementine. In 1932, when Dorothy wanted to go to nursing school in Boston, Julia went with her and graduated with Dorothy in 1933. Julia then worked as an attendant nurse in the Cambridge and Boston area for many years. When she returned to Hatfield and the family home on Bridge Street sometime after the war, she joined her sister Mary Ann working as a waitress at the Howard Johnson Restaurant in Northampton until 1982. Julia died on 9 September 1984 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.
- Andrew Jandzinski (1912-1939) Andrew was Dorothy’s fraternal twin brother, born on 9 November 1912 in Hatfield. Sadly, there is very little reference to Andrew in the diary. The only references to Andrew are in two newspaper clippings: his mother’s obituary where he is listed as residing in Hatfield, and his own obituary where he is identified as a resident of Belchertown State Hospital. Andrew may have suffered from a severe illness since the census records indicate he did not attend school. Andrew died on 3 November 1939 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Bridge Street, Hatfield.
- John Jandzinski (1919-1962) John was the youngest child of Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski, born on 8 December 1919 in Hatfield. John is mentioned often and fondly in the written diary. The diary even includes a letter from a teacher thanking Mr. Jandzinski for an Easter gift, but also praising his son John for being a fine young man. John attended Smith Academy, playing on a championship soccer team. John graduated from Smith Academy in 1939 winning the George S Belden award for his “earnest work, manly bearing, and interest in athletics.” On 20 November 1939, John enlisted in the Army and served for the duration of World War II as a member of the 812<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron. During the war, on 15 February 1943, John married Gladys Pickunka Dusak in Northampton. Gladys was the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dusak of 55 Walnut Street, the same family with whom John’s sister Mary Ann

## Diary of the Jandzinski Sisters: Dorothy and Mary Ann

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had been living in 1942. Of all eight Jandzinski children, John was the only one to marry. He was discharged from the service on 3 October 1945 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. John and Gladys settled in Northampton where John worked at Kollmorgen. They had two sons. Sadly, John died at the age of 42 on 22 June 1962; he is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Northampton

### What's In a Name

We refer to one of the authors of this diary as "Dorothy Jandzinski." However, it turns out that Dorothy was not her official given, or first, name. Per the Hatfield, MA birth records, Dorothy was given the name of "Theodora." That is also the name under which she is listed in the 1920 Hatfield census. Theodora may seem unusual, but not when one considers the Jandzinski family history. Dorothy's father had a sister and a grandmother named Theodora. This branch of the Jandzinski family belonged to the Greek Catholic Church in Poland where they often named children after saints, and St. Theodora was a very popular saint in the Greek Catholic Church. So how did Theodora become Dorothy? Most likely when Dorothy went to school, the teachers "morphed" her name into a more common, English-speaking name with which they were familiar or could pronounce. This happened to many of the Polish immigrant children when they entered the school system in Hatfield. Often, whatever name the teachers called them became their name for life.

Dorothy's father, Ignace Jandzinski, had even more variations of names than Dorothy. Ignace was known by these names, as recorded in Massachusetts Land Records and other sources:

- Egnac Jandzinski
- Egnace Jandzinski
- John Jewski
- John Juski
- John Jandzinski

One can see how these names were derived. "Egnac" or "Egnace" is just another phonetic spelling of "Ignace." "John Jewski" and "John Juski" appear to be a "splitting apart" of the Jandzinski surname to create a first name "John" and a surname of "Juski." Then, John simply became a given name sometimes used to address Mr. Jandzinski, such as in the letter included in the diary from the teacher Mr. Harold Lord to Mr. Jandzinski.

In addition to these name variations, there were many misspellings of Ignace Jandzinski's names in US documents. These include, for example: Ignuts Jenjenski (1920 census); Egnacy Zandzinski (1930 census); and Egnacy Grudzinski (1940 census). It's surprising to see these misspellings given how long Ignace had resided in Hatfield and the fact that when he immigrated through New York, his name was spelled properly on the Hamburg and US Ship manifests. His name was not changed at the port of entry. What is interesting to note is that in Polish the "J" is

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pronounced like a “Y.” Jacob Jandzinski, a cousin of Ignace who also lived in Hatfield, eventually adopted an “English” variant of his surname and went by “Yanginski.” Ignace and his family, however, retained the original Polish spelling variation, with the exception of the youngest son John who eventually used the spelling “Jandinski.”

### **The Jandzinski Homestead in West Hatfield**

The home in which the Jandzinski family lived in Hatfield still stands today at 88 Bridge Street. Ignace and Katherine Jandzinski built this house and acquired the associated farmland in 1905 using in part a loan from Smith Charities. Their house is mentioned in Daniel White Wells’ book, “A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts in Three Parts,” F.C.H Gibbons Publisher, Springfield, Mass, 1910. In Part I, on page 325, when describing the houses on Bridge Street, Wells writes: “The next house was built by John Jewski in 1905. This is just before the mill swamp is crossed.” Per the 1 Jan 1906 Springfield Republican, John Jeuski (sic) paid \$2000 to construct this house in 1905.

Today, the Queen-style Jandzinski house is listed as part of the West Hatfield historic district. Per the Hatfield Assessor’s Database, the house, situated on one acre of land, has a total of six rooms, two of which are bedrooms, none of which are bathrooms.

The last owner of the 88 Bridge Street house was Clementine Jandzinski. Clementine sold the Jandzinski homestead in 2000, three years before she died.



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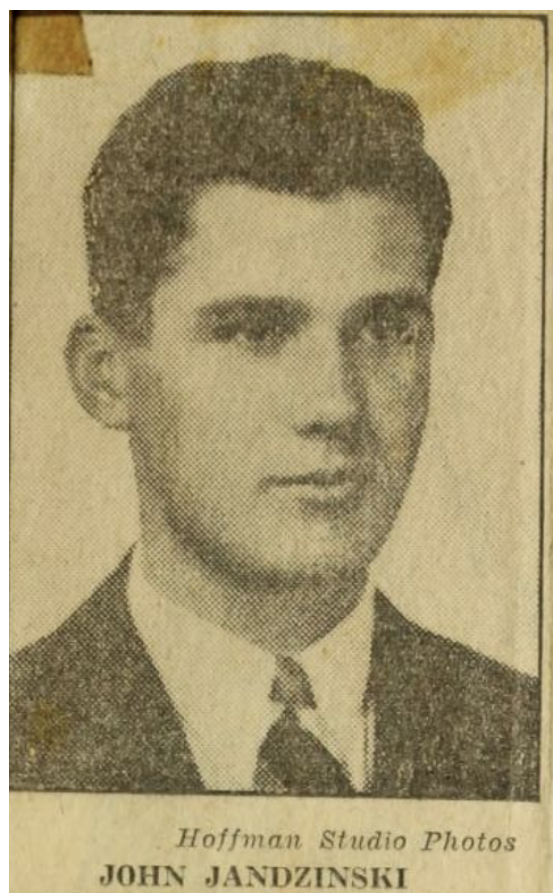
### Jandzinski Family Photos



Dorothy Jandzinski, 1931 Smith Academy

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John Jandzinski, 1939 Smith Academy