

*The exhibit of the Sisters of Notre Dame was highly commended and at the close of the Fair, which lasted six months, a diploma and medal were awarded to fifteen of our houses in Massachusetts, Lowell's parish and day schools being among the favored ones. Pope Pius X., Columbus, Queen Isabella, and Leo XIII.,*

# Annals from the Archives

## St. Augustine's, South Boston, Class of 1913



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St. Augustine's High School  
Class of 1913  
SND New England Archives  
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—In my work, I come across hundreds upon hundreds of names as I research requests for information about sisters. Over time, many become familiar to me. I was looking through the old South Boston school records and saw the graduation photograph of the Class of 1913 from St. Augustine's school. On the back are penciled in the names of the graduates, which included Ruth Dorothea Furfey. Beside her name was a notation that she later entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. As I studied the photograph and the names of the graduates, I realized why her name was one I recognized. Between 1972 and her death in 1978, Sr. Dorothea acted the historian of the Massachusetts province and worked as caretaker of the archives in Ipswich.

There were nineteen graduates for the St. Augustine's Class of 1913. Of those, it seems that ten remained single and worked in a variety of fields. The remaining nine married and went on to have children. The Sisters of Notre Dame prepared the graduates well—all nineteen found jobs not long after leaving school. Most worked as bookkeepers and stenographers. One young woman, Ursula Hickey, was listed in the records as a comptometer at a railroad company. A comptometer was the first mechanical calculator invented in 1887 and Ursula Hickey was responsible for its calculations until she married Frederick Horton. Two of the graduates ultimately went on to have long careers, one in the field of business and politics, and the other in music.

Sarah T. Lydon was born in South Boston on Jan 20, 1896, the daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Maugan) Lydon. She had ten brothers and sisters. After her 1913 graduation from St. Augustine's, she worked as a stenographer for the city, eventually rising to become an office manager in 1940. This led to her moving to Newton where she eventually bought her own home. Sarah worked at the Dewell Company, a mail advertising firm located in Newton Center. Through those years, she served as the president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Notre Dame Alumnae Association. Sarah was also active in the Boston League of Women Voters and became involved in Newton's civic affairs and local politics. Sarah Lydon died in Newton on March 19, 1965.

Loretta Angland took another path after graduation. Loretta was born June 5, 1895, the oldest child of Maurice and Catherine Angland. Her mother died during her childhood, leaving herself and two younger brothers with their widowed father. No doubt, she had many years of music training with the Sisters of Notre Dame, because after her graduation, she began working as a music and piano teacher. Her name is listed in the Boston City Directory for any who were searching for a piano teacher. During those years, she was also the organist for the Boston Sanatorium or Consumptives Hospital located in Mattapan. The hospital remained in operation through the 1950s, eventually closing as the cases for tuberculosis declined dramatically. She remained active as a piano teacher and organist until her death in Boston in 1964.

The sole 1913 graduate from St. Augustine's to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame was Dorothea Furfey. She was born Dorothea Ruth Furfey in Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 16, 1896, the only child of John and Mary (Wellbrooke) Furfey. She alternated between using the name Ruth and Dorothea during her early years and while she attended St. Augustine's School in South Boston. Four years after her 1913 graduation, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame, taking the name Sr. Dorothea of the Sacred Heart.

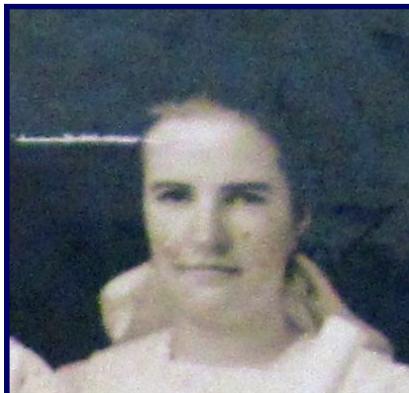
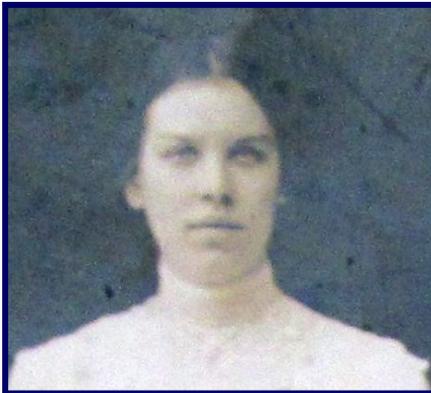
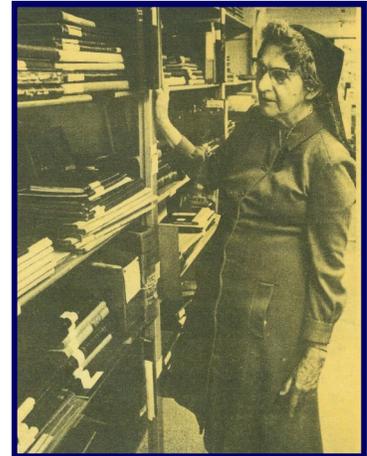
During her novitiate, she taught at St. Mary's in Lawrence. After her first vows, she was sent to St. Mary's in Lynn. From there she went to St. Mary's in Cambridge, Ascension High School in Worcester, and St. Mary's in Beverly. As many sisters did, she attended summer and weekend class at Emmanuel College and eventually earned her Massachusetts teaching certificate in 1933 and her Bachelor's Degree from Emmanuel in 1940. By then she was teaching in East Boston. During those years, she started work on her Master's Degree, which she completed at Boston College in 1952. Three years later, she began teaching Logic at Emmanuel College, and also served as the Assistant Librarian at the College.

In 1958, she went to Cardinal Cushing High School in South Boston and taught there until 1967 when she was transferred to Lynn. In 1972 she came to Ipswich where she began to serve as the resident historian for the province. She remained in that position until her death on September 2, 1978.



Left, Sr. Dorothea in 1959 with Emmanuel College students.

Right, Sr. Dorothea with archival records around 1973



1913 Graduates from  
St. Augustine's in  
South Boston  
Left, Ruth Dorothea Furfey  
Center, Loretta Angland  
Right Sarah Lydon  
SND New England Archives  
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#### Sources consulted for this article

- ◆ Sisters of Notre Dame Entrance Records.
- ◆ Boston Globe Archives, 1872-1980
- ◆ South Boston School Papers, SND New England Archives, 2013.63.
- ◆ Ipswich Community Papers, 2014.10
- ◆ Ancestry.com