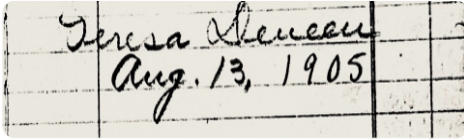


Branch 7 of 7

8. Teresa Deneen

August 13, 1905—August 6, 1979

Great Grandaunt



Just three years after Fran's birth, and twenty years after their firstborn, Julia and Patrick welcomed their youngest child, Teresa, on August 13, 1905. Teresa was not a traditional name in the Deneen lineage. It is highly likely she was named after Thérèse of Lisieux, the French Carmelite nun whose 1898 autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, was very well

known and popular in the Catholic world.

Known affectionately as the "Little Flower," Thérèse pioneered a spiritual path of humility—knowing she was too frail to perform grand deeds, she focused on doing "*little things with great love*." This namesake proved prophetic. While her older sister Fran boldly seized the loud, independent freedoms of the Roaring Twenties, Teresa embraced a quieter, deeply traditional path, anchoring her life in family, faith, and local community.

Growing up, her daily life revolved around school and Church activities. Her relationships with her sisters spanned a wide generational bridge. Older sisters like Jo (who was 20 when Teresa was born) served as strong, maternal role models. Fran, just three years her senior, was her close childhood companion, confidante and giggle partner.

Teresa attended St. Mary's Parochial School, which offered a robust curriculum blending standard public-school academics with rigorous Catholic doctrine, moral instruction, and a practical focus on domestic skills. Teresa's formative years were marked by a rapid succession of historic upheavals, which heavily contributed to her deep, lifelong need

for stability and routine.

When Teresa was eleven, a terrifying polio epidemic swept New York State. Centered in Brooklyn, it claimed thousands of children's lives and left many permanently disabled. Panicked, wealthy urban families fled to rural hubs like Corning for safety. With transmission a mystery, towns enforced strict quarantines and hosed down public streets.

Soon after, the U.S. entered WWI. Teresa's brother Jack enlisted in the Navy, deploying aboard the U.S.S. North



Teresa and Frances Deneen
circa 1908

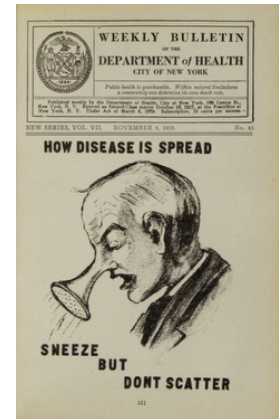


L to R: Jo, Teresa, possibly Fran & Anna, and Catherine Deneen
sisters circa 1918

Family Branch: DENEEN | KEOHANE

Carolina. Back home, her sister Mary worked at the local newspaper, The Evening Leader, bringing home stark daily updates from the front lines, while sister Anna worked as a stenographer. Amidst this wartime anxiety, the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic brought a secondary wave of masks, sudden school closures, and quarantines.

In 1920, at age 14, Teresa faced her greatest personal disruption when her father, Patrick, passed away. While the loss of a household head typically brought immediate financial ruin, the Deneen women rallied. Her mother, Julia, maintained the home's steady routines, while Mary and Anna contributed their local wages. Jack eventually returned from naval service, staying at the family home at 245 W. Second Street before relocating to Buffalo for work. Though insulated by her family's resilience, adapting to life without her father was a profound emotional milestone for young Teresa.



Educational attainment steadily progressed through the generations of Deneen children, moving from an eighth-grade exit for the eldest (Jo) to full high school completion for the youngest. Teresa graduated from Corning Free Academy in 1923, and 1940 census records confirm she completed all four years of high school.

Following in Fran's professional footsteps, Teresa chose a career in dental hygiene. Seeking training closer to home, she graduated from the Rochester School of Dental Hygiene in 1926. After a brief, adventurous year working in Miami, Florida, she returned northward to Buffalo, New York.

Following her mother's death in January 1929, the 1930 census finds Teresa living at 171 Villa Avenue in Buffalo with her older sister Catherine (Kate) and Kate's husband, John "Jack" Kelly. While working locally for a Buffalo dentist, Teresa grew incredibly close to Kate and fiercely doted on her young niece, Julia, and nephew, James.

On August 2, 1930, a 24-year-old Teresa married 33-year-old Harry Joseph Walsh, marking a major celebratory high point for the entire Deneen family. Harry carried his own quiet history of resilience. Born in Oswego, New York, his father died when he was just two years old, right before his younger sister was born. Raised by his widowed mother and extended family in Oswego and later

Buffalo, Harry graduated from Holy Angels Parochial School and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute. Deeply devoted to his family, he proudly listed his mother and sister as dependents on his WWI draft card.



Teresa holding her niece Julia who was 11 months old.
August 1926

Family Branch: DENEEN | KEOHANE

Deneen-Walsh

Miss Teresa Dolores Deneen, of Buffalo, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Deneen, of 245 West Second street, Corning, and Harry J. Walsh, also of Buffalo, were united in marriage this morning at 9 o'clock at Holy Angels' Church, Buffalo. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Andrew Kuntz, who also celebrated the nuptial mass which followed.

They were attended by Miss Frances Deneen, of New York, sister of the bride, and Ruth Horton, of Buffalo.

The bride was charming in a gown of powder blue chiffon made in princess style. With this she wore a matching hat and blue lace mitts. Her slippers were of matching blue and she wore nude colored hose. The bride's bouquet was of roses, baby's breath and larkspur.

Her maid of honor wore peach chiffon with hat, slippers and lace mitts to match. She carried an arm bouquet of roses.

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served the members of the wedding party at the Hotel Statler. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh then left by motor for a wedding trip through northern Canada.

For traveling Mrs. Walsh wore a black and white crepe ensemble with hat and slippers to match.

Mrs. Walsh is a graduate of St. Mary's Parochial School and Corning Free Academy. She completed her education at the Rochester School of Dental Hygiene and practiced her profession in Miami, Florida for a year and then went to Buffalo where she has been practicing for the past three years.

Mr. Walsh is a graduate of Holy Angels' Parochial School and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute of Buffalo. He is employed by the Buffalo, Niagara and Eastern Power Corporation. Upon their return from their wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Walsh will reside at 300 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo. Included in the out-of-town guests present were Miss Mary Deneen and Miss Anna Deneen, of 245 West Second street, this city, sisters of the bride.

There are no surviving pictures from the 1930 Wedding — these are merely AI representative images from the description in the announcement which appeared in the Corning Leader (no doubt thanks to big sister Mary Deneen!).

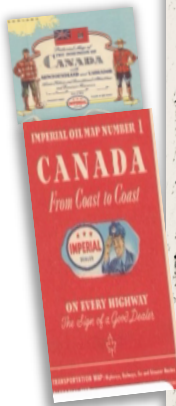
Their wedding was an elegant early-1930s fashionable affair. Teresa wore a princess-style gown of powder blue chiffon, accessorized with a matching hat, blue lace mitts, matching blue slippers, and nude hose. Her sister Fran stood by her side as the maid of honor, looking lovely in peach chiffon. The couple exchanged vows at Holy Angels' Church in Buffalo, hosted a grand wedding breakfast at the prestigious Hotel Statler, and departed by automobile for a scenic honeymoon through northern Canada.

Throughout the financial hardships of the Great Depression, the couple remained securely employed. Harry worked as a dedicated clerk for the Buffalo, Niagara and Eastern Power Corporation, while Teresa continued her hygiene practice. By the 1950 census, the couple relocated 100 miles northeast of Corning to Harry's birthplace: Oswego, New York.

Oswego was a historic port town sitting right on Lake Ontario, famous for its major rail lines, coal exports, and notoriously brutal winters. Sweeping across the warm lake waters, cold arctic winds regularly dumped historic, massive walls of lake-effect snow onto the city, making it one of the snowiest places in the United States.

The city was steeped in profound military and social history. Evolving from an 18th-century colonial stronghold, the fort famously served as the Safe Haven Refugee Shelter from 1944 to 1946. It was the only shelter established in the United States to house victims of the Nazi Holocaust, providing a temporary home to nearly 1,000 European Jewish survivors.

Oswego was also home to the Oswego Primary Teachers' Training School (founded 1861), which later evolved into Oswego State Teachers College. After WWII, a massive influx of veterans utilizing the G.I. Bill flooded the campus, triggering a severe local housing crisis. While the college erected temporary Quonset huts on campus, local residents stepped up to house the overflow.



Family Branch: DENEEN | KEOHANE

Teresa and Harry opened their large doors to the community. The 1950 census reveals an incredibly bustling household: alongside Harry's 88-year-old aunt, the couple took in 15 female boarders, who were almost certainly students training to be teachers. Long before moving into the smaller home that family members would fondly visit in the 1960s and 70s, Teresa was already practicing her philosophy of doing little things with great love on a grand, communal scale.

As the youngest sibling, Teresa seamlessly became the logistical and emotional glue that kept the aging Deneen brothers and sisters connected. Her personal correspondence from the early 1960s highlights her fiercely protective, nurturing nature.

In a warm letter dated October 3, 1961, Teresa wrote to her sister, brother-in-law, and niece, managing family updates like a compassionate commander:

"Golly wasn't it a dirty shame Mary had to fall... Ordered Jo's shoes for her... Want to dash Fran a line... I'll keep you informed as to how Mary is... We sure enjoyed your visit with us... I don't think Anna should know about Mary's fall for awhile - do you? It may interfere with her surgery..."

That very same week, her sister Anna was at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center awaiting surgery. Anna penned a deeply grateful, witty note back to Teresa, highlighting the comfort Teresa's care packages brought to dark times:

"Thanks for the candy cupboard - the wolves have made it look sick, but I'm saving some for the doctors... The Philco [radio] is wonderful, Teresa - thought I had mentioned that in one of my bulletins."

Great-niece Katie Kelly's memories from 1973 offer a field-level, humorous, and deeply endearing glimpse into Harry and Teresa's daily life during their golden years in Oswego. Because Teresa never learned to drive, Harry would pick Katie up from her SUNY Oswego dorm, or she would catch a local bus to their home.

Katie fondly recalls that while Teresa was not much of a cook, her heart was limitlessly generous. She would constantly pack snacks—packaged cheese-and-peanut-butter crackers and brownies—for Katie to carry back to her college dorm.

Teresa's entire existence was fiercely devoted to Harry. Her every thought and action seemed completely anchored to his comfort. Harry was a quiet, particular man of absolute habits. Even indoors, he would sit with a cloth windbreaker zipped up all the way to his chin, completely absorbed in television baseball games. His diet was famously specific: he enjoyed his daily canned cling peaches and graham crackers, rarely sitting down with Teresa and Katie for a traditional, structured meal.

Living in the snowiest city in America naturally brought its own chaotic adventures. Katie vividly recalls one winter evening when the couple insisted on driving her back to campus during a brutal Oswego blizzard:



S.U.N.Y. OSWEGO

Lake Ontario top of picture—that's how close the campus is to the lake

Family Branch: DENEEN | KEOHANE

"He ended up on the walkway at college – it was a really wide sidewalk, but it wasn't for cars. Luckily, he hit no one and we didn't end up in the lake! It was insane. The windshield was frosted over (why he ended up on a sidewalk) and I was in the back trying to tell him how to turn on his defroster."

Teresa beautifully embodied the mid-century ideal of the traditional housewife by entirely centering her world around her husband. This unwavering attentiveness was famously captured during a family gathering around 1975. Harry and Teresa traveled to Batavia, New York, to visit her sister Catherine, brother-in-law Jack, and niece Julia. Catherine and Jack's son, Jim, was also visiting with his family.

Jim's daughter, Meg, remembers the family sitting together in the living room, caught up in a lively conversation about old acquaintances. Mid-sentence, Harry glanced at the clock and flatly noted the time: *"Teresa, it's 2:00."*



Without a second thought, Teresa replied, *"Oh, of course,"* and quietly stepped out of the room. She returned moments later carrying a small bowl filled with canned cling peaches and a side of graham crackers. Promptly at 2:00 PM every single day, no matter where they were or who they were visiting, Harry required this exact snack.

From across the room, Catherine raised her eyebrows in sheer disbelief at her younger sister's absolute compliance. Catching the look, Jack turned to his wife Catherine and joked, *"Well clearly, I married the wrong sister."*

Without missing a beat, Catherine shot back, *"Yes, you did."*

To an outside observer, Teresa's accommodating nature might have seemed mild or submissive. But within the grander arch of her history, this strict routine and unbreakable order provided an immense sense of safety. Having survived the frantic panics of the polio epidemic, the disruptions of the Spanish Flu, the anxieties of World War I, and the sudden, grounding loss of her father at age 14, Teresa built a life where the world could no longer surprise her.

She and Harry were the perfect pairing—as complementary and classic as cling peaches and graham crackers.

Harry passed away on January 20, 1978. Teresa lived just another year and a half. She passed away on August 6, 1979, at the age of 73. She left behind a legacy of absolute sweetness, remembered always for the quiet brilliance of her thoughtful actions. She lived her life in perfect lockstep with the words of her holy namesake, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux:

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."

Children: None.

*I told you -
Bye for now - hope all are
well and write soon -
Love to all from me*

