

# Susan A. Jones Diary Transcription

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## Collection Summary

**Identifier:** MA 44

**Title:** Susan A. Jones Diary Transcription

**Dates:** 1863-1870, 2006

**Extent:** 0.21 linear feet (1 Half-document case, Letter)

**Creator:** Jones, Susan A., 1844-1925

**Language:** English

**Repository:** South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

**Access Note:** Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

**Preferred Citation:** Title or description of item, date, MA 44, box number, folder number, Susan A. Jones Diary Transcription, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

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## Abstract

The Susan A. Jones Diaries document the early life of Susan A. (Sedgwick) Jones (1844-1925), whose writings provide insight into daily life in Massachusetts and Wisconsin during the mid-19th century. Born in North Adams, Massachusetts, Jones married Henry R. Jones in 1865 and later lived in Clintonville, Wisconsin, where the couple raised six children. After Henry's death in 1897, Jones and her daughter Jessie relocated to South Dakota in 1905 to homestead in Hughes County, while Jones continued to teach school in both Wisconsin and South Dakota. Her diaries reflect the experiences of a young woman during a period of social change, including references to the Civil War and community life in the years prior to and following her marriage.

The collection consists of transcriptions of Jones's diaries covering the years 1863 to 1870, completed in 2006 by her great-granddaughter, Virginia Vander Wal. The entries record daily activities, social gatherings, weather observations, religious events, work and family milestones. The transcription preserves original spelling and includes notes identifying illegible or uncertain text. Vander Wal also contributed genealogical information, commentary on the transcription process, and personal annotations. Supplementary materials include a photocopy of a portrait of Susan A. Jones and Henry R. Jones's military discharge papers. Together, these materials provide documentation of 19th-century family life and personal experiences in Massachusetts and Wisconsin.

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## Biography

Susan A. (Sedgwick) Jones was born on January 11, 1844, in North Adams, Massachusetts. She married Henry R. Jones on May 3, 1865, and the couple moved to Clintonville, Wisconsin, in 1866. They had six children: Clara, Lillie, Jessie, Stella, Bert, and an unnamed son. Henry passed away in 1897.

In 1905, Susan and her daughter Jessie moved to South Dakota, where they homesteaded in Hughes County. While Jessie worked to prove her claim, Susan alternated between residing on the claim and returning to Wisconsin during the winter months. During this time, she also taught school in both Wisconsin and South Dakota.

Susan Jones died on June 23, 1925, in Clintonville, Wisconsin.

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## Scope and Content

This collection consists of transcriptions of the diaries of Susan A. Jones, completed in March 2006 by her great-granddaughter, Virginia Vander Wal. The diaries, written between 1863 and 1870 while Jones resided in Massachusetts and Wisconsin, document her daily life, including social events, weather observations, work, and notable occasions such as funerals, religious milestones, and her engagement.

The 1863 diary, written prior to her marriage to Henry R. Jones, contains several references to the Civil War. The original materials vary in format, with some entries on fragile loose pages and others in small bound diaries with compact, often faded handwriting. Transcription challenges are noted in the text, including illegible sections marked with blanks and uncertain words placed in brackets. The original spelling has been preserved.

Virginia Vander Wal also contributed genealogical background, an account of the transcription process, and personal notes marked in boldface. Supplementary materials include a photocopy of Susan A. Jones's portrait and Henry R. Jones's military discharge papers. The diaries are incomplete, with gaps in daily or monthly entries across some years.

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## **Access Points**

### **Subjects**

- American Civil War (United States: 1861-1865)
- Women--Social life and customs

### **Names**

- Jones, Susan A., 1844-1925

### **Genre**

- Diaries
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## Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Diary Transcription	1863-1870