

HASSENFELD née GOLDMAN Dorota Dora (1898–1980), assumed name: Hankiewicz. Lawyer, city councillor, social and independence activist. She was born on 17th March 1898 in Częstochowa, the daughter of Perec (Paweł) Goldman (dec. 1927), merchant, and Sura (Salomea) née Steinhardt (dec. 1909). Her brothers were → Józef Joachim Goldman (1901-1944), → Leon Goldman (1894-1940) and Jakub “Janek” (1903-1942?).

In 1918, she graduated from the Wacław Chrzanowski Gimnazjum in Częstochowa (now the J. Słowacki LO). In 1917-18, as a freelance student, she studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University. From November 1918 until October 1919, she worked communally at the cultural-educational section of the school for illiterates, which was opened at the 27th Infantry Regiment in Częstochowa. On 15th July 1920, during the war with the Bolsheviks, she volunteered for the Polish Army, where she was entrusted as a clerk at the No.1 Military Hospital in Częstochowa. She also served as a nurse on the Cieszyn front. In 1923, she graduated from the Law Faculty at the University of Warsaw. During her studies, she supported herself as a tutor.

During this period, she became involved with the socialist movement. She participated in education campaigns organised by the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), conducting classes for the illiterate. She delivered lectures on labour law and family law, for the trade unions in Częstochowa.

After being entered onto the register of lawyers, she undertook the defence in trials of members of the Polish Communist Party. After lengthy efforts, she was permitted to undertake a free court apprenticeship at the District Court in Piotrków Trybunalski. After passing the judge’s examination, with good marks, she began her lawyer’s apprenticeship at the law office of → Jan Glikson. In 1929, she was entered onto the register of attorneys of the Bar Association in Warsaw.

In 1934, she and her husband, together, ran a law office. She was involved in many communal activities – the Women’s Civic Labour Union, the Association of Women with a Higher Education, the League for the Defence of Human and Civil Rights (where, in 1939, she was vice-president) and in the Union of Jewish Participants in the Fight for Independence.

When war broke out in 1939, as a nurse, she volunteered to defend Warsaw. In 1940, she returned to Częstochowa, where she continued her communal work – serving as an arbitrator, working in the hospital and looking after children.

From April 1941, she was forced to live in the ghetto. At the end of 1941, thanks to external help, she got out of the ghetto and hid near Koniecpol. In 1942, in Warsaw, under the surname "Hankiewicz", she taught secretly there. During the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, she was a nurse in Wawrzyszewo. After the fall of the uprising, she extricated herself from Warsaw and, together with her husband, she settled in Pocieszna Górka, in the Piotrków District. There, she organised secret education classes for the children from nearby villages.

In February 1945, she returned to Częstochowa where, together with her husband, she opened a law office (at II Aleja 32), which she ran until 1952. From 1953, she was an attorney at the No.1 Bar Association. She a member of a number of communal organisations:

- Democratic Lawyers Association,
- Friends of Children Association,
- Polish-Soviet Friendship Society,
- The Maritime League,
- The Women's league (she was a member of the boards at municipal, district, provincial and national boards),
- She belonged to the board of the Women's Council of the Municipal Retail Trade (MHD),
- She belonged to the board of the Society for the Development of the Western Land, and
- She belonged to the board of the Association of Women Lawyers.

In 1953–1957, she was a councillor on the Municipal National Council in Częstochowa, chairing its Labour and Social Assistance Commission. She was legal advisor to the MHD, as well as to the "Samopomoc Chłopska" District Union of Community Cooperatives.

She retired in 1970. She died on 6th March 1980 in Częstochowa and was buried in Kule Cemetery (section 111, row 5, grave No. 5). Her awards included Knight's Cross OOP, the Silver Cross of Merit, twice awarded the Medal of the 10th Anniversary of the People's Poland and the Gold Badge of PRL Advocacy (1978).

She and her husband, → Marian Hassenfeld, had no children. Together with her husband, she raised her niece Anna Goldman, a doctor, who is the main character in Hanna Krall's *Tajemnicą jest to...* (part four: *Białej Marii*, Warsaw 2013).

Sętowski, *Cmentarz Kule*, pp. 103, 104; *Żydzi polscy w służbie Rzeczypospolitej*, seria pod red. A. Kunerta i A. Przewoźnika, tvol I 1918–1939, p. 369 (biography and photograph); – *Corpus studiosorum* (E–J), p. 426. – Materials (incl. Marian Hassenfeld’s memoirs) in ODDC. – ORA in Częstochowa, Dorota Hassenfeld’s personal files. – Materials from the collection of her niece, Anna Goldman of Częstochowa.

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