

## Sarah “Sadie” Farley Allan (1878-1923)

### *Scranton Designer and Commercial Artist*

By Thomas W. Costello

Sarah Farley Allan, a remarkable designer and commercial artist, worked in Scranton for 12 years in the early 1900s illustrating advertisements and program covers for the Poli Theater, newspapers and fraternal organizations.

She attended the prestigious Art Students League in New York City, where she learned figure and portrait drawing, sculpture, cartooning, drawing from life, and landscape painting. Kenyon Cox, renowned figure illustrator and mural painter, was one of her instructors and a primary influence.

Allan’s repertoire of skills extended well beyond commercial art. She was a poet, essayist, singer, violinist, teacher, orator, gardener and environmentalist.

#### **TITUSVILLE, NJ, WARWICK, NY** ***A Particular Favorite***

Sarah Leona Farley was born on April 18, 1878 in the historic village of Titusville, Mercer County, NJ, near the southeastern border of PA. The oldest of five children of Howard N. Farley and Jennie A. Trimmer,

she was called “Sadie” by her family and friends.

Sarah attended public grammar school in Titusville. In middle school, at the Moravian Academy for Girls in Bethlehem, PA, she developed a strong foundation in liberal arts and music.

In 1893, the Farley family moved to Warwick, Orange County, NY, where her father worked as a dispatcher for the Lehigh & Hudson River Railroad.

At the highly regarded Warwick Institute, Sarah’s courses included Advanced Drawing and Writing. In her senior year, she wrote a poem, *Class of 1896*, put it to music and

sang it at her commencement. The Warwick Advertiser described Sarah as “a particular favorite” at the Institute, where “she made many friends by her bright and winsome ways [and] versatile talents.”

In her 100-page hiking journal, she wrote eloquently about her love for nature. Dogs and horses were favorite subjects of her drawings. Sarah, her father and her wolfhound, Ned, often went on long “tramps,” as Sarah called them, in the mountains around

*Cont. on pg. 4*



***Sarah Leona Farley, 1905***

## A Word from the President...

*Hello Everyone,*

*We finally did it! We got through another winter in NEPA which seems to become more of a challenge each time it happens to us. Spring has arrived by looking at the calendar, and I for one am pleased. This is a time of renewal and starting over, making plans and looking forward to them.*

*You can join in by looking in this newsletter and reading about the many activities and programs soon to take place. Our staff and volunteers have worked hard to plan and produce these upcoming events. Some are new and untried while others are annual traditions. Of significance this year is the 15th Annual Civil War Ball, an evening of period dancing with style and elegance. It attracts participants from here in Lackawanna County and others from neighboring states.*

*In closing, I encourage you to read further to find out what the Lackawanna Historical Society has to offer. I would also like to invite you to share with us any ideas or thoughts you have for new programs.*

*Watch for the many changes Spring brings to us and enjoy them all.*

*Stay Well and Be Involved,  
Michael Gilmartin*

### Don't forget to renew for 2019 !

**About Membership...** *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter. Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to:*

The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

#### LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

|   |       |           |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student          | \$10  | NAME      | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual       | \$35  |           |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family           | \$45  | ADDRESS   | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing     | \$75  |           | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining       | \$150 |           |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate | \$250 | TELEPHONE | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate   | \$500 | EMAIL     | _____ |

### The Lackawanna Historical Society 2019

#### OFFICERS

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and membership dues. Regular hours are Tues. - Fri. 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays noon to 3 pm.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841. Address questions to [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$35 and up for Individuals, \$45 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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# At the Catlin House...

## "Kid Makes Good"

Society volunteer intern, Ruxiao Jiang is an international student at the University of Scranton who will graduate in May. Ruxiao is from Chengdu, Southwestern China and initially came to university as a Chemistry major. However when she later became interested in Art Conservation, Ruxiao switched to an Individualized major, which allows a student to build a curriculum to create a degree in fields not offered by the university. In order to be more experienced in the Conservation field, Ruxiao started volunteering at the Lackawanna Historical Society in the Fall of 2016, working with LHS Trustee and Curator Ella Rayburn on collections management. Her work included preparing an exhibit of Catlin family silver currently displayed in the Dining Room and cataloguing a collection of Welsh pamphlets. Last December, Ruxiao informed the Society that she has been accepted at Durham University to continue her studies in Conservation in Archaeological and Museum Objects. We are very excited for her and wish her much success on her journey to Northern England to continue pursuing her profession.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Individual

Patrick Ahern, Scranton  
Douglas Carvell, Mount Pleasant Mills  
Roseann Kebles, Dallas  
Maura Rose Pica, Scranton  
Jane Pivovarnick, Clarks Summit  
Krislyn Tanaka, San Francisco, CA

### Family

Madlyn Yuschovitz, Scranton

### Sustaining

Richard Jenkins, Wilkes-Barre

## 2019 TRUSTEE OFFICERS ELECTED

At the January 16 Trustee meeting the following slate of officers was elected: Michael Gilmartin, President; Don Frederickson, 1st Vice President/Solicitor; Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President; Douglas Forrer, CPA, Treasurer; Dalida O'Malley, Assistant Treasurer; and William Conlogue, Secretary. Thanks to all our Trustees for their continued dedication and service.

## LHS Receives Support



The Lackawanna Historical Society recently received a grant in the amount of **\$2766** from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The grant, which is administered locally through the Pocono Arts Council, will support Society programs.

The Society was also pleased to receive grant funding from the Lackawanna County Arts & Culture Community grant program in the amount of **\$20,000** this year. We are most grateful to the Lackawanna County Commissioners Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry Notarianni, and Laureen A. Cummings for their continued interest and support.



**Lackawanna**  
County  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Patrick M. O'Malley • Jerry Notarianni  
Laureen A. Cummings

*Cont. from pg. 1*

Warwick.

### **JERMYN, PA**

#### ***Influence of a Master Illustrator & Painter***

The Farleys relocated to Jermyn, PA, in late 1900, and moved into a home that was once the borough's oldest schoolhouse and site of its first election. Sarah was in her third year in art school.

It was reported that Sarah's mentor, Kenyon Cox, traveled to Jermyn to work with her, affirming his high regard for her potential as a young artist. Farms and woods around Jermyn were attractive settings for Cox to instruct Sarah in advanced elements of landscape painting.

### **SCRANTON, PA**

#### ***Twelve Creative, Productive Years***

In 1902, Sarah set up her art studio in two large rooms in the Odd Fellows Building at 209 Wyoming Avenue in downtown Scranton. For the next five years she continued to live in Jermyn, commuting to and from Scranton by train.

She offered services in advertising, illustrating, cartooning and cover designing, quickly securing commissioned work from The Scranton Times and local businesses. The Times published her cartoons and essays.

Sarah demonstrated her language and vocal skills when she sang in German at the Albi Korn Studio recital in 1904. A reporter for The Scranton Republican described her voice as "a round, rich contralto of wide range that she unites with rare dramatic ability."

A photo of her studio, published in the Scranton Board of Trade Journal in 1905, shows a large room lined with poster-sized illustrations, and seven white plaster sculptures of classical figures, some created during her years at the Art Students League.

The influence of Kenyon Cox, a proponent of Realism, can be seen in Sarah's historical drawings. Using pen & ink, she illustrated many annual program covers for the New

England Society of Northeastern PA, a local fraternal organization. She also created full-page illustrations for the book, *Dear Old Wales, A Patriotic Love Story* (1912).

Her strong interest in civic art inspired her essay, *The City Beautiful*, published in the April 1905 issue of the Board of Trade Journal, in which she persuasively advocated for the aesthetic and economic benefits of planting and preserving trees along Scranton's streets, in city squares and parks.

Sarah taught art classes at the YWCA and presented papers on art-related subjects at the Century Club. On multiple occasions, she exhibited her original pen drawings, book covers and oil paintings at the YMCA and Century Club. Landscape painter, John Willard Raught, and illustrator, P. W. Costello, also exhibited.

In September 1907, Sarah Leona Farley married James Angus Allan in the Farley home on Main St. in Jermyn. James Allan was a dry goods store manager and a skilled writer. The Allans purchased a home on Ridge Row, in a picturesque section of East Scranton, where Phillip and John, the first two of four sons, were born.

In 1908, Sarah decided to close her art studio and work from home. There she created some of her most impressive illustrations, including extensive work for Sylvester Z. Poli, owner of the ornate, 2000-seat Poli Theater on Wyoming Ave.

For three years, Sarah skillfully illustrated and lettered program covers and newspaper ads for the Poli's summer stock company productions, staged from May to September. She did the same for vaudeville, minstrel and comedy acts that filled the rest of the Poli calendar.

The Poli Players' show themes covered the spectrum - comedy, romance, drama, mystery and western. Sarah was tasked with creating a large ad for each show.

All of her Poli ads were drawn, brushed and lettered in black on heavy white board. Her

diverse illustration skills can be seen in a wide range of portraits, costumes and settings, and in her efficient use of space. Comedies gave her the opportunity to use her well-developed cartooning skills.

Most of Sarah's Poli News covers are Art Nouveau in style - two-colored, portraying sophisticated, theatre-going couples in various settings.

When the popular, six-day Automobile Show & Aeroplane Exhibition came to Scranton for the first time in 1912, Sarah was commissioned to create a large promotional poster and a pen illustration depicting the evolution of transportation in the United States.

### WEST LEBANON, NH

#### *An Exceptional Life Cut Short*

Unexpected change came in November 1913 when the Allan family moved from Scranton to White River Junction, VT. James Allan's elderly father, owner of a New England men's clothing store chain, needed help managing a store in Vermont. Two years later, the Allans moved across the river to West Lebanon, NH. There Sarah gave birth to two more sons, James and David.

Sarah got involved in the West Lebanon community. She wrote personal announcements for the local paper, played the violin in church concerts, served as president of the Audubon Club and directed a high school play. She also tended her garden and went on camping trips with her family.

In the spring of 1922, Sarah was hospitalized for a serious, but undisclosed condition. The following year, on September 2, 1923, she



*Poli ad by Sarah Farley Allan, 1911*

died after being stricken with a heart attack. She was 45. Her youngest son, David, was only three years old.

Sarah Farley Allan was a gifted illustrator who created an impressive body of art in a relatively short time in Scranton and won the affection and admiration of many, including, her artist colleagues. She once told a reporter: "Whatever success I may have achieved is...due to the cordiality and kindness of the Scranton people. I have them to thank for a great deal of friendly interest and encouragement."

**Author's Note:** *In researching the life and art of Sarah Farley Allan, I contacted several of her descendants, who generously provided family photographs and*

*copies of her original art. Virginia Goodrich, from the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, gave me access to their Board of Trade Journal archives. I appreciate their help, and that of the Warwick, Jermyn and Lackawanna Historical Societies, in reintroducing this extraordinary woman to the city where most of her art was created.*

*See page 10 for more images. A longer, more detailed version of this article, with more images of art by Sarah Farley Allan, will be published in a May-June special edition of the LHS e-newsletter, History Bytes.*

**About the Author:** *Thomas W. Costello grew up in the Hill Section of Scranton. He has a BA from the University of Scranton and MA from Seton Hall University. He taught English and Speech Communication for several years in a prep school in Milton, MA, then worked for thirty years in pharmaceutical sales and sales management for Schering Corp. and Johnson & Johnson. Tom has researched the life and art of his great-grandfather, P. W. Costello (1866-1935), renowned pen & ink art-*

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to introduce a new feature in its newsletter. *Nancy's Corner* will offer a glimpse into Lackawanna County's musical history to highlight a certain performer from the area or a visiting artist who made an impact. This feature is dedicated in memory of LHS member and friend Nancy Farkas who passed away last year, and to her family for their continuing support. Nancy was a true lover of the arts, especially music, and we hope that by sharing stories about our rich musical heritage, we will honor Nancy's memory and inspire others. Our first entry, a sample from the Society's DD Jones Music Scrapbook Collection remembers Scranton's answer to Shirley Temple!

## *Nancy's Corner*

**70 years ago** Scranton native Gloria Jean started her path to stardom





## A Civil War Sojourn: Ezra Ripple's Florence, 154 Years Later

*By Sarah Piccini*



*Ezra Ripple*

At the end of February, Society staff Mary Ann Moran Savakinus and I traveled deep into the heart of former Confederacy, to Florence, South Carolina, to visit the site of the former Florence Stockade, a Civil War prisoner-of-war camp. We went to meet with Dana MacBean, a historian and former curator at Parris Island Museum, who has been working to map the stockade site, now long abandoned and overgrown.

One of the best (if not the only) primary sources about wartime Florence available are the memoirs of Scranton native Ezra Ripple, who was a prisoner at Florence from mid-September 1864 until he was paroled on February 26, 1865. Ripple wrote memoirs of his time as prisoner, and worked with artist James Taylor to illustrate scenes from Andersonville and Florence prisons. Taylor's drawings were printed on glass plates for magic lantern projections to be used for public presentations. Since the Society holds Ripple's manuscript and the original glass plates, we were invited to join Mr. MacBean in commemorating Ripple's experiences.

We gathered on February 26, exactly 154 years after Ripple was paroled. Using Ripple's memoirs and Taylor's drawings, Mr. MacBean planned a walking tour to trace Ripple's steps, and read segments of Ripple's

words at each stop. After a bit of intrepid bushwhacking, we found the probable sites of the stockade's main gate and hospital, as well as the confederate camp that surrounded the stockade wall. A single piece of the original dirt berm still exists, although overgrown, near the Pye Branch, the small creek that flowed through the prison and provided fresh water for the prisoners.

Our tour took us to sites from Ripple's memoirs: near the stockade wall where Ripple played his violin to welcome back prisoners bringing wood into camp; where Ripple and others created a rudimentary campsite and cooked their allotment of beans; and the site where fellow prisoner John January lost both feet to gangrene. Most of the site is now wooded; however, some of the land is part of the Florence National Cemetery.

Our goal of this adventure was to spur preservation and restoration. However, there is little interest in the site from

the city – the site is almost unknown to locals, except as a little-used walking trail. Mr. MacBean hoped that additional research would call attention to the site and is working on a documentary and other educational tools to raise awareness. While I'm not sure how successful we were, it was a unique journey back in time., and a Scranton connection far from home.

*To get involved find more information about the Friends of the Florence Stockade at:*  
<https://sites.google.com/site/friendsoftheflorencestockade/>



*Site of the original stockade wall with James Taylor illustration*

## “You Live Here; You Should Know This!” Returns

Join us **Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m.** at the Slocum Hollow Bar at the Lodge at Montage Mountain for the return of the LHS local history game show!



Can last year's winners, the Lackawanna Historical Society, defend their title? Challengers are still coming to the table, but returning favorites include Sen. John Blake, Albright Library staff and the Riverside School District administration.

The games will continue in a fast-and-furious Jeopardy! style, testing contestants' knowledge of local people, places, and events. Winners will have exclusive bragging rights for one whole year of holding the status of Local Lackawanna History Legends of Lore!

## Vintage Accessory Sale at the Catlin House

*Looking to update your wardrobe  
with vintage pieces?*



The Society will hold a vintage clothing and accessory sale on **Saturday, April 13** at the Catlin House. The sale will feature deaccessioned items from the LHS collection, including women's shirt-waists and assorted clothing, bed and table covers, and accessories including gloves, stockings, and shawls. **Doors will open promptly at 11 a.m.**

Proceeds will be used to continue the preservation of the objects in the LHS collection.



# DINE LACKAWANNA



Enjoy a night out and help support the Society  
by dining out at these locations!

April 17: ***Pasquale's Pizzeria and Family Restaurant***  
485 Main St., Eynon (570) 521-4671

May 15: ***Backyard Ale House***  
523 Linden St., Scranton (570) 955-0192

June 19: ***State Street Grill***  
114 South State St., Clarks Summit (570) 585-5590

July 17: ***The Nyx***  
218 Depot St., Clarks Summit

August 21: ***Formosa*** (570) 585-1902  
727 South State St., Clarks Summit

September 18: ***Stirna's Restaurant*** (570) 343-5742  
120 West Market St., Scranton

*Special thanks to our media sponsor*



*Have a favorite restaurant?  
Let us know where  
you'd like to go next!*



# 15th Annual Grand Civil War Ball

In downtown Historic Scranton, Pennsylvania

## Save the Date!

### Saturday April 13, 2019

The Century Club

612 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, Pa.

Music by Spare Parts & prompting by Martha Griffin.

Special 15th Anniversary Victorian Supper!

Cost of Ball with supper is \$65 per person or \$120 per couple.

Tickets without supper are available. See website to purchase tickets & for all info.

### Ragtime Brunch & Tea Dance Sunday April 14, 2019

The Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel

Purchase Ragtime Brunch tickets on website.



Period dress and dress blues or greys greatly admired, but not required. Modern formalwear acceptable.



### Friday Evening Titanic Dinner!

Why not add on to your vintage weekend? Attend a Titanic-themed dinner at a mansion from 1910 in nearby Wilkes-Barre, Pa. on Friday, April 12.

Full dinner with cash bar and dancing to recorded music. Call Maureen at 570-332-4250 for more information and to make reservations. Check out the website of the Mary Stegmaier Mansion: <http://stegmaiermansion.com/>

**Full weekend of events! Check website at:**

**[www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com](http://www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com)**

**or phone (570) 344-3841**

Please note, all ticket prices are non-refundable.

Sponsored by The Confederation of Union Generals  
and the Lackawanna Historical Society

## Sarah Farley Allan prints courtesy of Tom Costello

### NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY of Northeastern Pennsylvania



Program cover illustration by Sarah Farley Allan - Dec. 1912  
John Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Colony



Poli Theatre Program Cover  
by Sarah Farley Allan - 1912

## Civil War Roundtable: The "River War"

The Scranton Civil War Roundtable will host living historian Robert Hanrahan on **Tuesday, April 23 at 7 p.m.** to give a presentation about the Civil War "River War."

The program will focus on the various military campaigns on the Mississippi River, which was a vital highway for troops and supplies, and both the Union and Confederate navies fought for control of the waterway and its access points.



## Public Scanning Day



Do you want to share your family history? On **Saturday, June 8, from noon - 3 p.m.** the Society will be hosting a public scanning day for "Lackawanna Memories: The

Early Years," a photo book to be published by the Scranton Times. The publisher is looking for photos showing Lackawanna County's history - local businesses, street scenes, community celebrations, local sports teams, school events, military service members, farming, hunting, fishing, and more.

# Mark Your Calendars...

## Monster Sized History: Reviving a Giant Stationary Steam Engine

Interested in heavy-duty industrial history? Join us on **Wednesday evening, May 22 at 7 p.m.** for a program by Mike Piersa of the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem.

Mr. Piersa, who recently worked on the restoration of the most powerful operating waterworks steam engine in the United States, will illustrate how this 35-foot long, 115-ton steam powered water pumping engine was transformed from a rusting hulk to a museum centerpiece. The nine-year project of relocating and restoring the engine will be detailed, showing how traditional skills and modern technology are coming together to bring the engine back to life for a public debut in June 2019. The program will also include a live-action demonstration of a model steam engine from the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Company in the Society's collection!



National Museum of Industrial History

## “Rooted in the Hill” A New Twist on the Historic Hill House Tour

The Society's popular biannual tour of homes will return on **Sunday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.!** This year, we are partnering with the Greenhouse Project to host “Rooted in the Hill,” a tour of historic homes and “secret” gardens in Scranton's Hill Section. Tour participants will have a chance to learn more about the city's architecture as well as expand their green-thumb skills with new ideas from home gardeners and the Penn State Master Gardeners.



Confirmed Properties include:

\*612 Clay Avenue

\*711 N. Webster Avenue

\*1217 E. Gibson Street

\*611 N. Webster Avenue

Plus a few surprises and several “*secret*” gardens!

A Pre-Tour Cocktail Party  
Join us to meet the tour site owners  
on Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m.  
More details including the location  
will be announced in May!  
The cost is \$45\* and reservations are required.

Tour tickets can be purchased in advance for \$25 or on the day of the tour for \$30.

\*Combo tickets for the cocktail party and the tour can be purchased for \$60. (Party only is \$45)

As always, free shuttle rides will be provided to all sites on the tour throughout the day.

Thanks to Cruz Control Transportation for donating this service.

Call us at (570) 344-3841 or stop by the Catlin House for tickets today!

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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SCRANTON, PA 18510

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## ***UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS***

- SAT., APR. 13, 11 AM** *VINTAGE ACCESSORY SALE* at the Catlin House (see pg. 8)
- SAT., APR. 13, 7 PM** *15TH ANNUAL GRAND CIVIL WAR BALL* at the Century Club (see pg. 9)
- SUN., APR. 14, 11AM-2PM** *RAGTIME BRUNCH* at Carmen's 2.0 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station (see pg. 9)
- WED., APR. 17** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Pasquale's (see pg. 8)
- TUES., APR. 23, 7 PM** *CIVIL WAR "RIVER WAR"* program at the Catlin House (see pg. 10)
- SAT., MAY 4, 6 PM** *YOU LIVE HERE; YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS!*  
Local History Game Show at Montage Mountain (see pg. 8)
- WED., MAY 15** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Backyard Ale House (see pg. 8)
- WED., MAY 22, 7 PM** *MONSTER SIZED HISTORY* program at the Catlin House (see pg. 11)
- SUN., JUNE 2, 1 PM** *JANE AUSTEN TEA* in partnership with Abington Community Library at the Catlin House
- SAT., JUNE 8, NOON-3 PM** *PUBLIC SCANNING DAY* (see pg. 10)
- WED., JUNE 19** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at State Street Grill (see pg. 8)
- FRI., JUNE 21, 7 PM** *ROOTED IN THE HILL* Preview Party (see pg. 11)
- SUN., JUNE 23, 11AM-4PM** *ROOTED IN THE HILL* House and Garden Tour (see pg. 11)

Visit [www.lackawannahistory.org](http://www.lackawannahistory.org) and like us on Facebook for up-to-date listings of all activities!

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