

**Adams, Sarah Taylor**  
**(1869-1894)**  
**Artist**

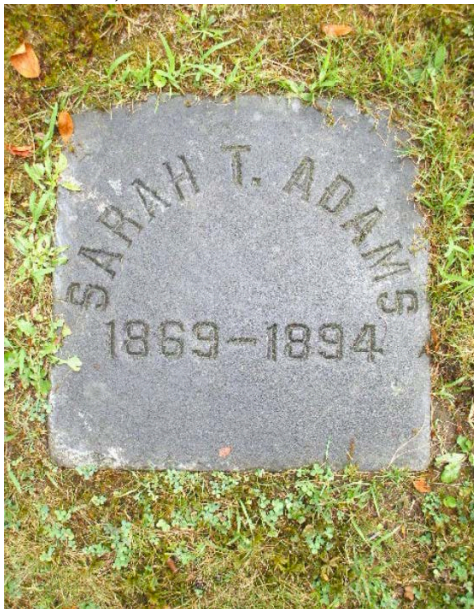


[left-Sarah Adams as a child from Story Sermons from Les Miserables, [1895], right portrait of Sarah Adams courtesy Rochester School for the Deaf Archives]

Born: 7 April 1869  
Hannibal, NY

Died: 23 Nov. 1894  
Farmington, CT

Buried: Forest Hills Cemetery  
Fredonia, NY



### Family of origin:

Father Rev. Edward Payson Adams\* (1883-1897) of Dunkirk, NY. Mother Charlotte Adalaide Stanley (1842-1902). Sarah had a younger brother (Charles) and sister (Emma). Became Deaf at 3 years of age.

\*note: The Adams Memorial Church in Dunkirk, NY was named in honor of Sarah's father. Later, it became the Adams Art Gallery and was closed in 2013/2014.

[[www.observertoday.com/news/page-one/2017/04/academic-revival/](http://www.observertoday.com/news/page-one/2017/04/academic-revival/)]

### Schooling:

1877-1880, 1885-1889?- Rochester School for the Deaf

1880-1885? Attended a girl's seminary in her home town (Dunkirk, NY) during these years

[note: Halpen (1936) reports that Sarah Adams attended school in Dunkirk for 3 years. However, the RSD school records and school daily paper suggests she was absent from the school for a longer period of time. In addition, it is unclear if Sarah ever graduated from RSD].

1887-1889: Took classes at Mechanics Institute (RIT)

-Free hand drawing under Prof. Colby and Mr. Robertson

1889: Arts Student League. NYC

-student of Augustus Saint-Gaudens

-student of Mr. Flagg

-student of Robert B. Brandegee

1890: studied painting at Miss Porter's School for Girls under the Art Department Head, Robert B. Brandegee

### Professional Experiences:

Taught art in at St. Margaret's Seminary/Academy (hearing) girls' school in Waterbury, Connecticut for three years

After she died, her artwork was published in Adams, E. P. (1895). Story-Sermons from Les Miserables (Illustrated by Sarah Adams). Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes: Rochester, NY.

### Personal Information/Involvement with the Deaf Community:

-among the original members of the Lambda Phi Phi organization at RSD, the master's circle, group of ten, and the Silent Workers. Was involved with dramatic productions at RSD and in the community.

### Other documents and photos:

Below two paintings done by Sarah Adams (now in the main building (Perkins Hall( at the Rochester School for the Deaf) of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Mozart.



Below 1880 census. The Tick in the middle column after Sarah's name 'at school' indicates she was "Deaf and Dumb." (via ancestry.com)

Household	Name	Sex	Age	Relationship	Occupation	Deaf and Dumb	Birthplace	Year	Year
41 43	James Edward	M	46		Minister		New York	762	767
	Charlotte	W	39	Wife	keeping house		New York	761	764
	Sarah J.	W	11	Daughter	at school	✓	New York	764	764
	Charles E.	M	6	Son	at school		New York	764	764
	Emma	W	1	Daughter			New York	764	764
	Winters Howard	M	12	Brother	at school		New York	India	761

No.	Name	W	F	M	Y	Age	Sex	Profession	Education	Other
41 43	Adams Edward	P	W	18	46		1	Minister		
	— Charlotte	W	F	37			1	keeping house		76
	— Sarah J.	W	F	11			1	at school		76
	— Charles E.	W	M	6			1	at school		76
	— Emma	W	F	1			1			76
	Whiteley Thurlow	W	M	12			1	at school		76

Deaf and Dumb

Other photographs (courtesy of the Rochester School for the Deaf Archives)





[Far left: Sarah in costume at a fair representing RSD]



[Sarah sits in the middle of this group of RSD students, her “Tens”]



Sarah Adams (courtesy the Rochester School for the Deaf Archives)

References:

Adams, E. P. (1895). Story-Sermons from Les Miserables (Illustrated by Sarah Adams). Rochester, NY: Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes.

Ancestry.com

Findagrave.com

Halpen, Rosa H. "Sarah Taylor Adams." History of the Rochester School for the Deaf: 1876-1936. Rochester: Rochester School for the Deaf, 1936. 57-8.  
Rochester, NY: Rochester School for the Deaf.

Various issue of the *Rochester Advocate* (previously the *Daily Paper for Our Little People*) from the Rochester School for the Deaf archives.