

Sarah Wey Tompkins Legacy Society

Sarah Wey Tompkins (1867-1929) was a prominent Elmira citizen and a community minded woman who took a special interest in Arnot Ogden Memorial Hospital.

Sarah was the daughter of Dr. William C. Wey, a notable Civil War surgeon, when Arnot first opened its doors in 1888 Dr. Wey had the distinction of being its first manager. Dr. Wey traveled the region to perform surgical procedures, and served as a medical officer at the Confederate prison in Elmira during the Civil War.

Sarah married Ray Tompkins in 1893. Ray was a graduate of Elmira Free Academy and Yale University. During their 25 year marriage he was the president of Elmira Water Light and Railroad Company and then the president of the Chemung Canal Bank. Both Sarah and Ray were incredibly generous.

In 1924 a successful building campaign resulted in the setting of the cornerstone, Sarah was asked to participate in the ceremonies, with a silver trowel in hand; Sarah along with Miss Elizabeth Falck spread the mortar and helped settle the cornerstone for the building. The facility opened on February 20, 1928. Sarah endowed the entire second floor of the new Arnot Ogden surgical wing (the current location of the NICU, and Sleep Center) in memory of her father and brother.

Sarah Wey Tompkins died during a trip to Cannes, France in 1929 at the age of 62 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. At her funeral she was eulogized for her magnificent gifts to the hospital. Sarah's benevolence and her commitment to the well-being of others continued after her death when she bequeathed 1.2 million dollars from her estate to Arnot Ogden Medical center.

In keeping with the rich history of Elmira and Sarah Wey Tompkins we decided to name the Arnot Legacy Society in her name. The Sarah Wey Tompkins Legacy Society was established in 1996. Over the years members have expressed their commitment to Arnot Health Foundation through an important form of financial support.

Membership requires no dues, obligations or solicitation, but allows us to thank you and recognize you for the plans you have made, and will inspire generosity in others.

Benefits of joining The Sarah Wey Tompkins Legacy Society

- Recognition in publications
- Annual luncheon
- Invitations to special events and seminars

The most important benefit you will receive from joining "The Sarah Wey Tompkins Legacy Society" is the satisfaction from making a lasting contribution to Arnot Health's long term success.