

Dedication of the Mural
in memory of
Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown

Class of 1915

Newton High School




For His Country He Sacrificed That
Which Was Most Precious
His Life

September 28, 1918

DEDICATORY PROGRAM

December 2, 1936



INTRODUCTIONS

Raymond A. Green

GUESTS

Margarita W. Ells
Maurice Compris

Chairman of Art Committee
The Artist

SPEAKERS

Paul E. Elicker
Julius E. Warren
George H. Fernald

Principal of Newton High School
Superintendent of Newton Schools
Chairman of Newton School Committee

GUEST OF HONOR

Eugenie Stafford Brown

Donor of Brown Scholarships

Music by Newton High School Ensemble

LIEUTENANT STAFFORD LEIGHTON BROWN, in whose memory this mural is dedicated, will be remembered throughout the years by boys of the Newton High School. In his name a \$50,000 scholarship fund has been set aside by his mother, Mrs. Eugenie Stafford Brown, to be awarded on the basis of character, leadership, scholarship, and need to boys who are graduates of Newton High School.

Lieutenant Brown was a prominent member of the Class of 1915, and among other activities in the school had an outstanding record as captain of the Tennis Team. He entered Dartmouth College, leaving in 1917 during his sophomore year to join the American Ambulance Field Service Unit in France.

After spending some months near Paris he served for a time in the vicinity of Verdun where there was much desperate fighting. During this period he passed through many thrilling experiences and had many narrow escapes from death. Later Lieutenant Brown was transferred to the famous Lafayette Escadrille, receiving his training at Tours and at Issoudun. He obtained many important photographs of enemy territory for the French government. His war record is that of a daring and resourceful pilot. He was killed in a fall from a Spad monoplane on September 28, 1918.

Boys of Newton may well take him as an example of character and leadership.

THE MURAL is a painting forty-five feet wide rendered in conservative modern style by Maurice Compris.

The theme of the painting, which is "Citizenship", is developed in three panels. The main and central panel symbolizes "Education" and the two smaller ones on either side represent the workers in "Industry" and "Commerce".

In the center panel, against a background of New England hills, on which appear the farm and early church, modern youth is symbolized in the various studies and activities of school life, such as Science, History, Art, Drama, Music, and Athletics. Here the school colors, orange and black, are skilfully woven into the scheme. Not of least importance is the central group, an everyday father with an everyday family standing on a foundation of rock in which is graven the seal of the City of Newton.

Just behind this group rise the inspiring upright lines of buildings of the "City of the Future".

The quotation, inscribed in gold under the entire width of the decoration, is from the Athenian Oath and well expresses the ideal which the mural should inspire: "We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public sense of civic duty that we may transmit our city not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us".

MAURICE COMPRIS, the artist, was born in Holland in 1885. He obtained his training at the Quellinns and the Royal Academy in Amsterdam, Holland. He has studied under Professors Alabee, Drake, Vanderwoay, and Jan Dunselman, and in England and Belgium.

Mr. Compris is an excellent draftsman and is versatile in both academic and modern manners. He has shown his work in the major exhibitions of this country. In addition to murals and decorative panels for public buildings, he is notably successful as a portrait painter.