



**Final Report on the
Restoration of the WPA Mural, *Citizenship*,
by Maurice Compris,
at Newton North High School**

Presented to Newton Community Preservation Committee,
8 May 2018

excerpts from documents establishing the Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown Trust Fund

This INDENTURE OF TRUST made this 17th day of January, A. D., 1936, by and between EUGENIE STAFFORD BROWN of Newton, Middlesex County and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereinafter called the "SETTLOR", and the NEWTON TRUST COMPANY, a Banking Corporation duly established under the Laws of the said Commonwealth and having its usual place of business in said Newton, hereinafter called the "TRUSTEE".

W I T N E S S E T H:

That the SETTLOR has this day transferred, assigned and set over unto the said NEWTON TRUST COMPANY, securities as per the attached schedules marked "Exhibit A".

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same and any other securities and property of any kind which may be added by the SETTLOR with the consent of the TRUSTEE hereunder, to the trust herein created, as evidenced by the receipt of said TRUSTEE, but IN TRUST NEVERTHELESS for the uses and purposes and subject to the powers and duties hereinafter set forth. All property so accepted and held shall be designated as - "The Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown Fund" - in memory of Stafford Leighton Brown, deceased, son of the SETTLOR.

. . .

SECOND: The TRUSTEE shall set aside from the principal of the fund the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and shall apply said sum to the purchase of the materials required for the completion of a Memorial Mural in the Newton High School Library. The aforesaid sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) shall be applied for the purposes set forth above as, if and when the Works Progress Administration undertakes the execution of said Mural in accordance with plans submitted by Maurice Compris. In the event said Mural be not undertaken within five (5) years from the date of this instrument, then my TRUSTEE is empowered to expend said sum for a suitable memorial to the said Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown to be selected by the said TRUSTEE.

. . .

THIRD: After the setting aside of the said Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), the net income of the balance of the Fund shall each year forever be applied by the Committee hereinafter provided for, to assist needy and deserving boys of said Newton who are graduates of the Newton High School, in obtaining a college education. The Committee, in its own uncontrolled discretion, shall

. . .

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

**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 Chairman of Art Committee

Maurice Compris The Artist

SPEAKERS

Paul E. Elicker Principal of Newton High School

Julius E. Warren Superintendent of Newton schools

George H. Fernald Chairman of Newton School Committee

GUEST OF HONOR

Eugenie Stafford Brown Donor of Brown Scholarships

Music by Newton High School Ensemble

NEWTON TRADE SCHOOL PRESS

THE NEWTON GRAPHIC.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1936
Newton H. S.

Parents' Evening

Wednesday evening, Dec. 2, Newton High School held a special parents' evening, from 7 to 9:30. This gave parents, especially the fathers, an opportunity to meet and confer with the teachers. Special school exhibits were shown in the English laboratory, in the Art and the clothing departments. At nine o'clock, the mural to the memory of Lt. Stafford Leighton Brown was dedicated. His mother, Mrs. Eugenie Stafford Brown, has donated a \$50,000 scholarship fund to Newton High School.

The program of dedication was opened by Acting Principal Raymond A. Green. The speakers were Principal Paul E. Elicker, Superintendent of School Julius E. Warren, and Mr. George E. Fernald, Chairman of Newton School Committee. Mrs. Brown was the guest of honor. Other guests were the artist, Maurice Compris, who painted the mural, and Margarita W. Ells, chairman of the Art Committee. Music was furnished by the Newton High School ensemble.

Mrs. Irving O. Palmer addressed

from December 2, 1936
DEDICATION PROGRAM

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, 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 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 the 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 the country. In addition to murals and decorative panels for public buildings, he is notably successful as a portrait painter.

Maurice Compris mural, *Citizenship*, in its original location, Newton High School Library, date unknown but probably in the 1940s (photos supplied by Newton School Dept 2013)



Commerce

Industry

Education





INSPIRING LINES FROM THE ATHENIAN OATH
Murals in Newton high school's library contain the famous line:
"That We May Transmit Our City Not Less But Greater, Better
and More Beautiful Than It Was Transmitted to Us." This
library is large, well equipped and popular with the students.

Caption from photo at left, which ran in the Newton High School student newspaper, 1 June 1941.

Maurice Compris mural, 21 August 2015,
unrolled on the floor of Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium
for examination by conservators bidding on the restoration project



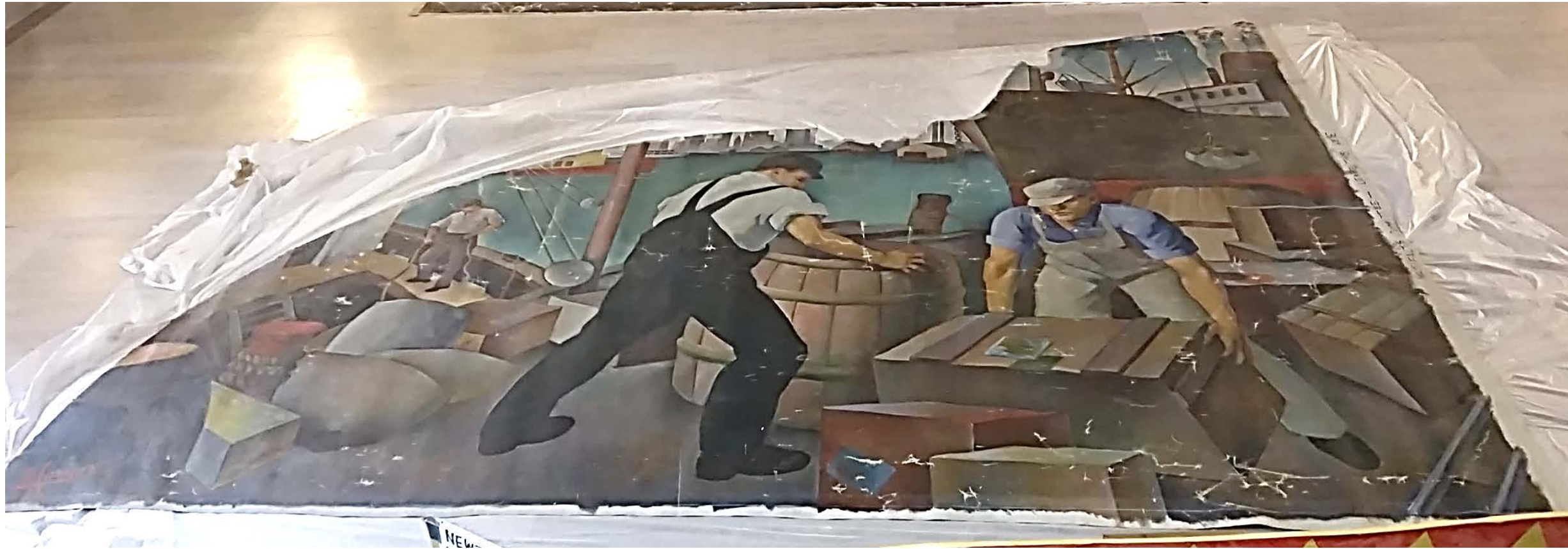
Maurice Compris mural, 21 August 2015, unrolled on the floor of Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium for examination by conservators bidding on the restoration project



closeups from center panel



Maurice Compris mural, 21 August 2015, unrolled on the floor of Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium for examination by conservators bidding on the restoration project



Maurice Compris mural, April-June 2016
shipping & diagnostics - Hartman Fine Art
Conservation Services, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

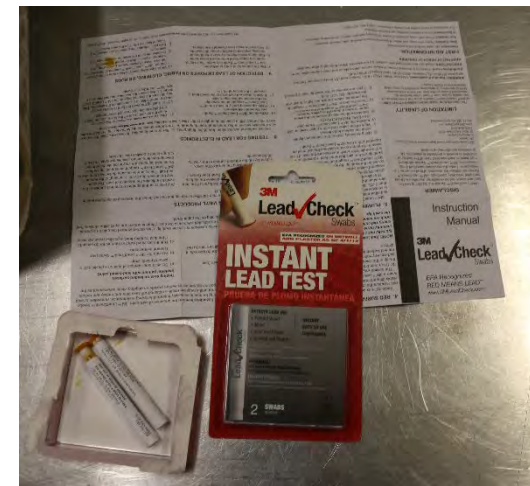


raking
light

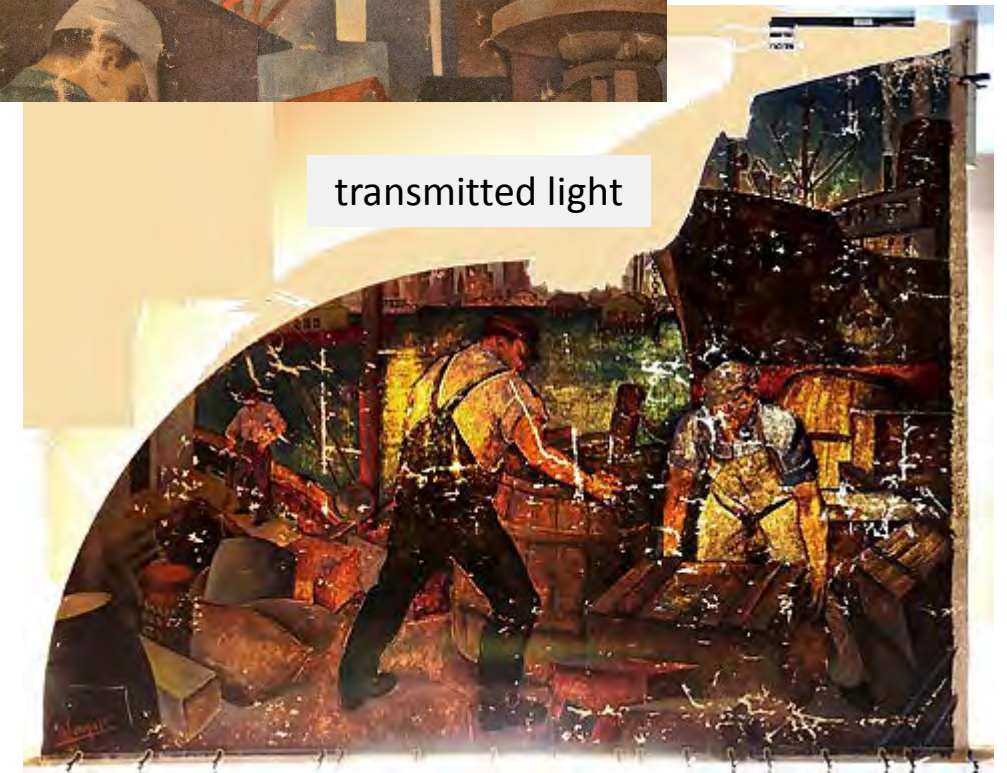
edge damaged during
removal from 1936 mounting



panels suspended from their straight edges for diagnostic photography

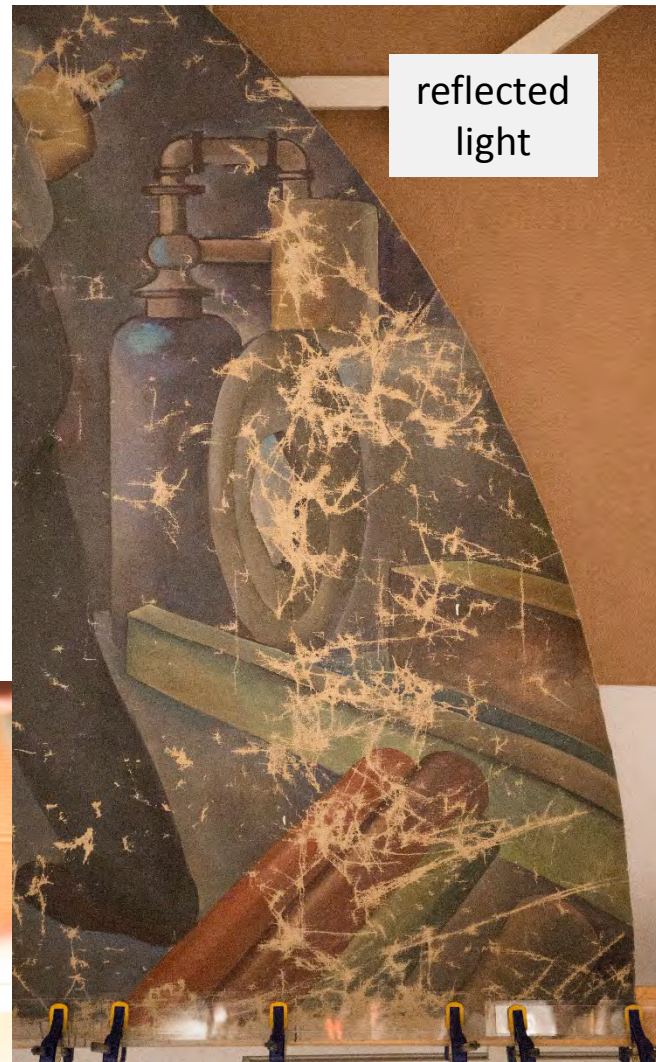


adhesives on back tested for
lead (lead not found)

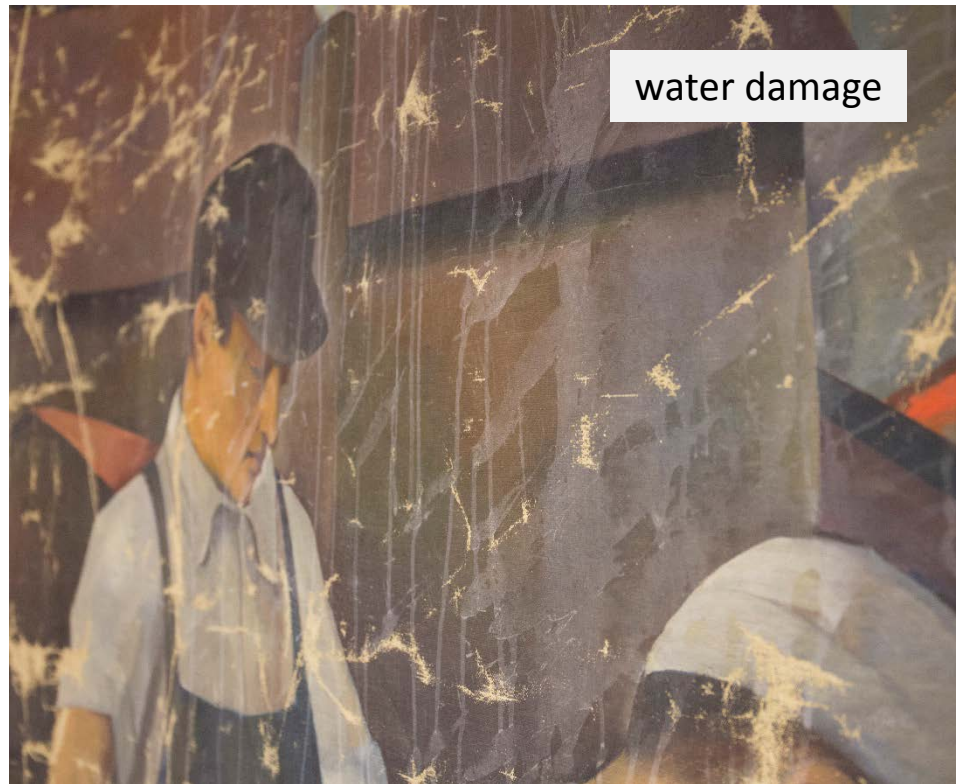


transmitted light

Maurice Compris mural,
April-June 2016
shipping & diagnostics -
Hartman Fine Art
Conservation Services,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania



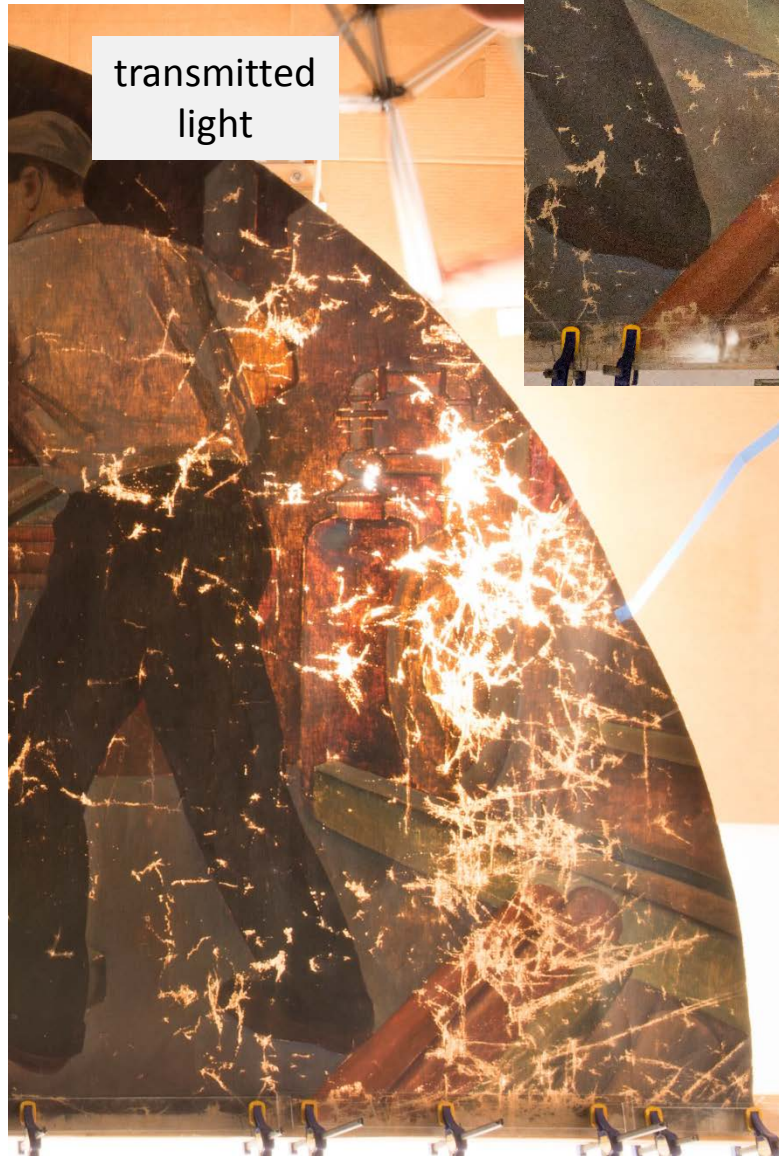
reflected
light



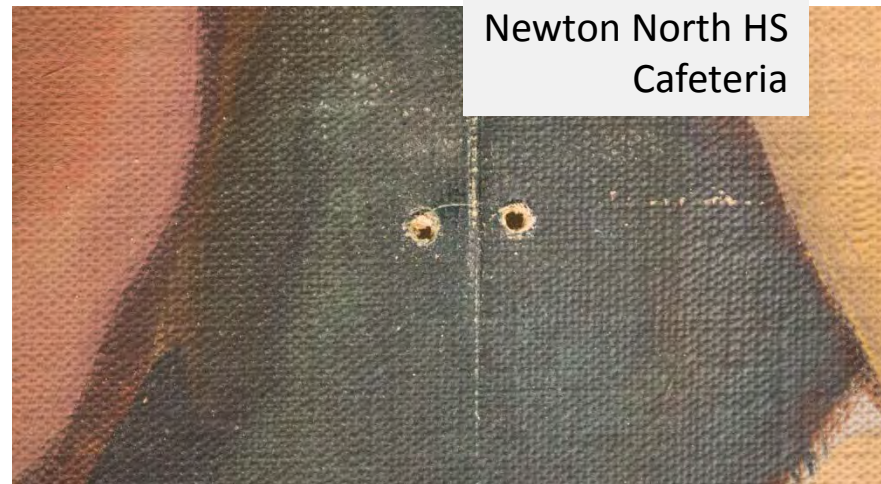
water damage



UV light



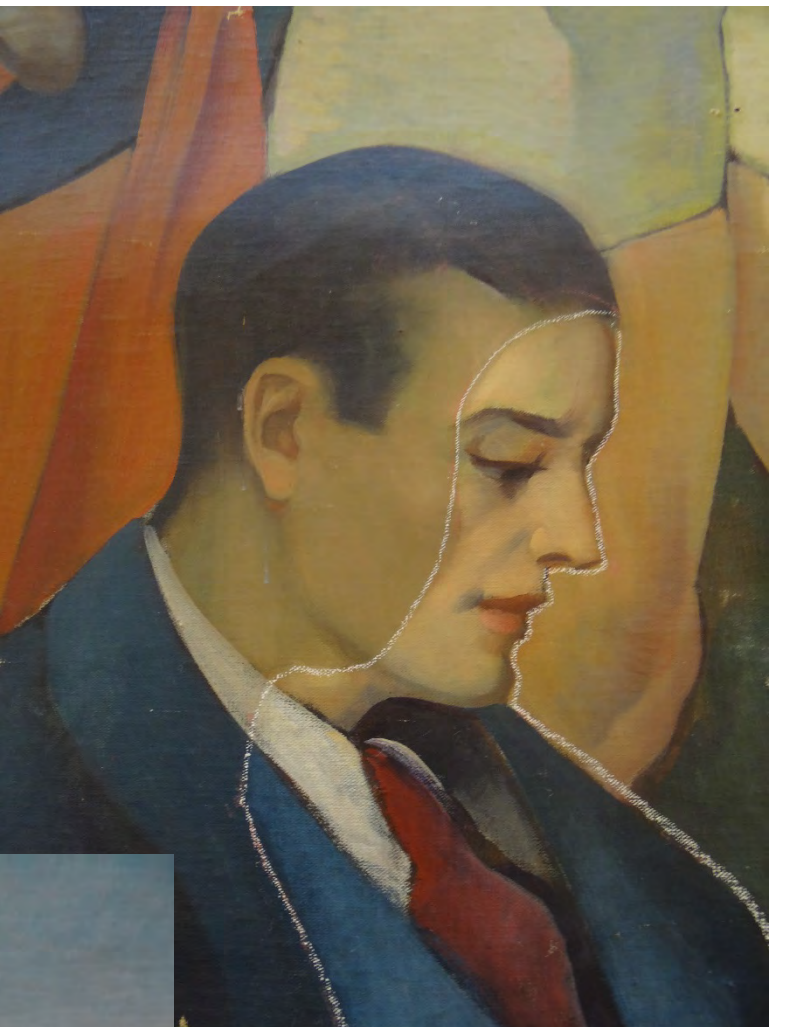
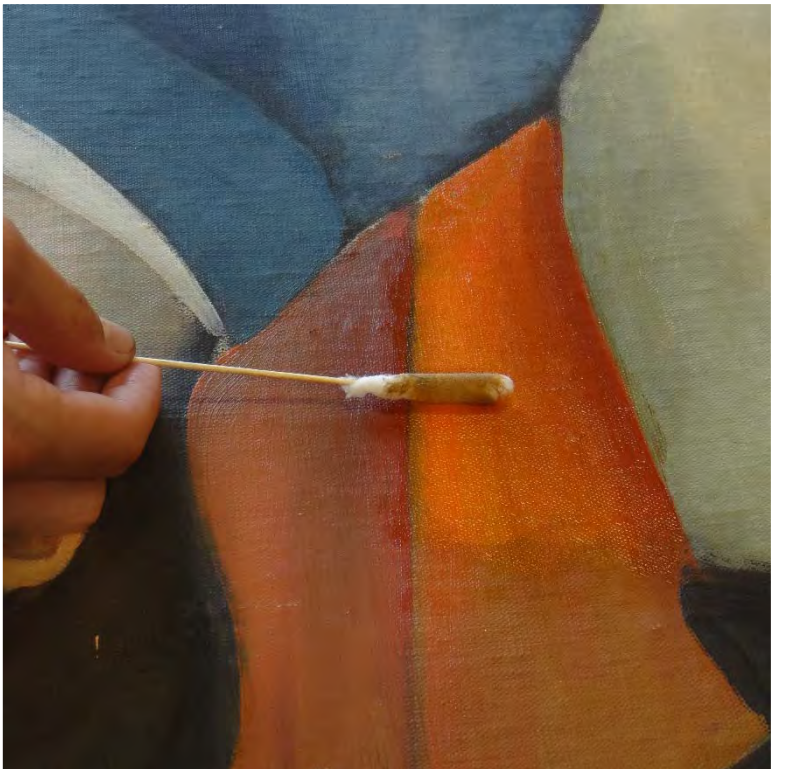
transmitted
light



mounting holes
from clear cover
installed to
protect center
panel in 1970s
Newton North HS
Cafeteria

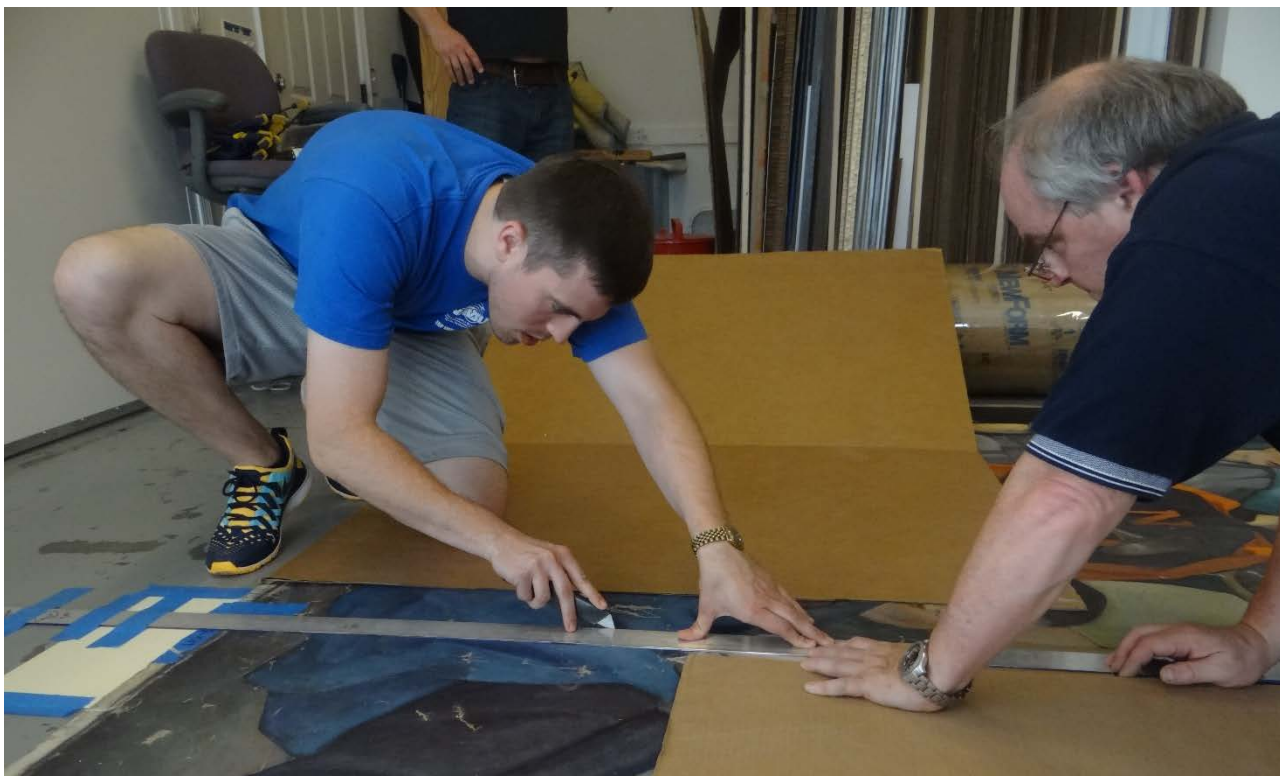


Maurice Compris mural 2016-17 repair & treatment:
cleaning, new linen backing, in-painting, varnishing,
corrugated aluminum mounting panels



chalk lines used to
mark where cleaning
paused temporarily

Maurice Compris mural 2016-17 repair & treatment:
cleaning, new linen backing, in-painting, varnishing,
corrugated aluminum mounting panels



Maurice Compris mural 2016-17 repair & treatment:
cleaning, new linen backing, in-painting, varnishing,
corrugated aluminum mounting panels



wax used to attach
new backings
(reversible in future)



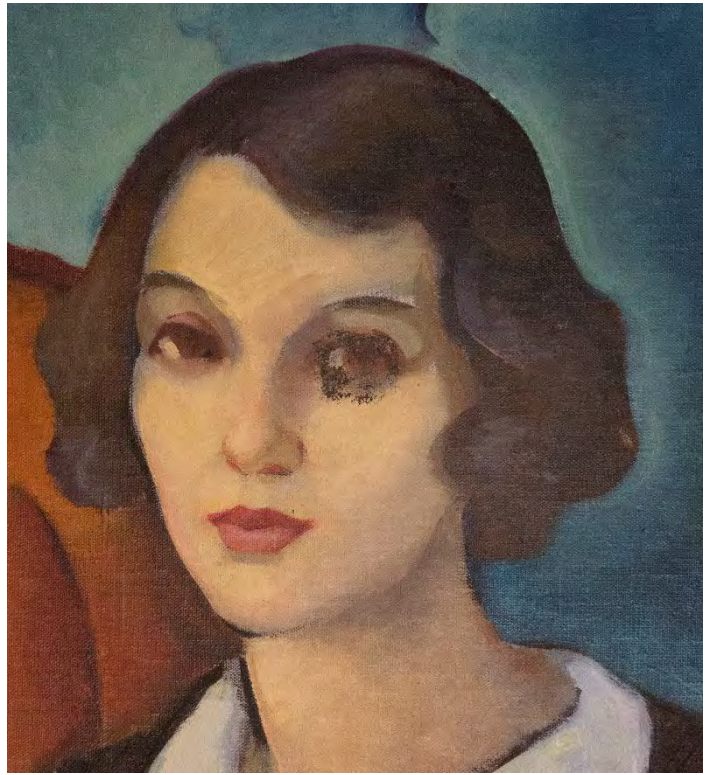
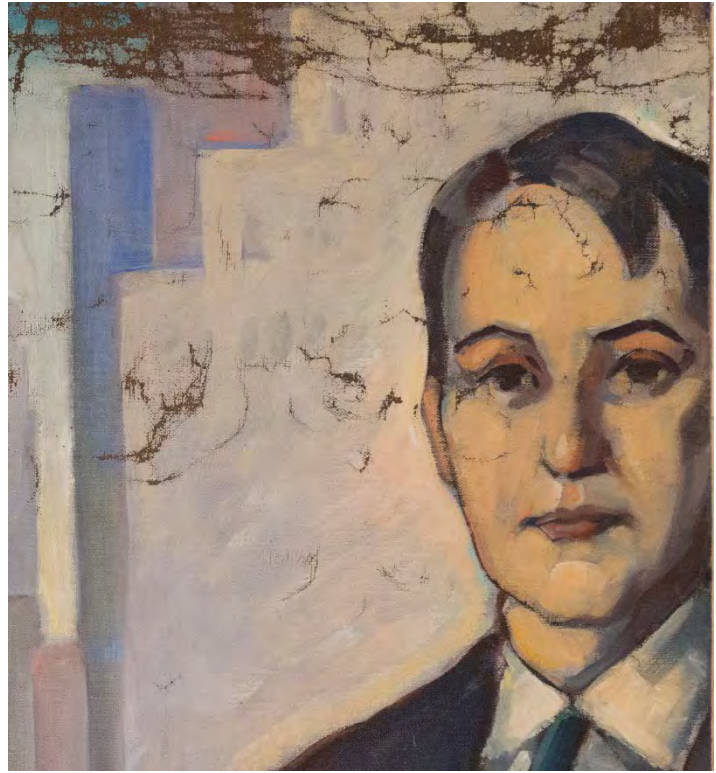
Maurice Compris mural 2016-17 repair & treatment:
cleaning, new linen backing, in-painting, varnishing,
corrugated aluminum mounting panels



trimming &
inserting new
canvas for in-
painting of
torn edges



examples of
where in-
painting
was needed

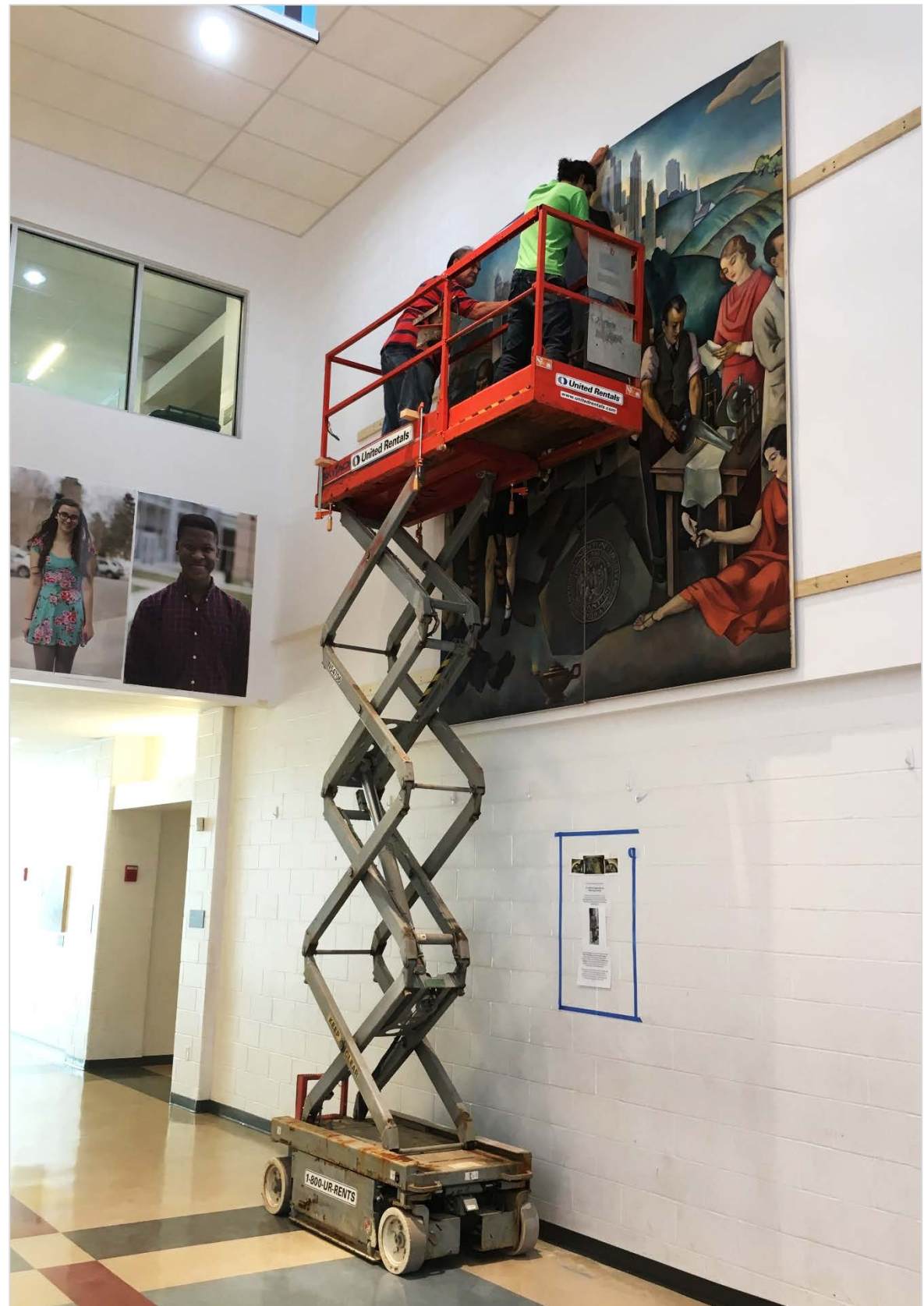


Maurice Compris mural 2017:
shipping & re-installation



Maurice Compris mural 2017:
shipping & re-installation

center panel,
Education



Maurice Compris mural 2017:
shipping & re-installation



side panels,
Commerce (left)
& *Industry* (right)



Maurice Compris mural
as restored, June 2017



Education

installed in Main Street corridor,
Newton North High School

Maurice Compris mural
as restored, June 2017



Commerce



Industry

installed on outside wall of Auditorium/Theater,
Newton North High School

Maurice Compris mural
as restored, June 2017



CITIZENSHIP

Maurice Compris, 1936

These panels, *Commerce* and *Industry*, are the sides of a three-part mural entitled *Citizenship*, painted by Maurice Compris in 1936 through the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project.

The center panel, *Education*, is now on display on Main Street. The complete mural was originally hung in the library of Newton High School (1936-1973), and the center panel was moved to the cafeteria of the first Newton North High School (1973-2010). In 2000, the school commissioned the *Millennial Mural* by Ellie Crocker, also exhibited on Main Street, as a companion piece to show how the city and school had changed over the course of the 20th century.

All three panels were restored in 2016 with support from the citizens of Newton through the Community Preservation Act. They were rededicated in 2017 to Lieutenant Brown and all the other men of Newton who gave their lives in World War I (1917-1918).



This mural is dedicated to the memory of
Lt. Stafford Leighton Brown

(NHS Class of 1915), who died in France on September 28th, 1918. The mural was funded in part by his mother, Mrs. Eugenia Brown, who also endowed the Brown Scholarship, awarded annually to a Newton North graduating senior.

wall plaque to be
installed near
Commerce & Industry; a
similar but re-worded
panel will be installed
near *Education*



REDEDICATION OF THE MURAL CITIZENSHIP

November 9th, 2017
1:25 – 2:15 PM
Newton North High School
Lasker Auditorium

Originally dedicated in memory of Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown

Lieutenant Brown, a graduate of Newton High School (1915), volunteered for service in France, in March 1917. He died there in 1918. Today we gather to honor the memory of all the citizens of Newton who gave their lives or who served in the Great War, and to rededicate this mural, painted in 1936 by Maurice Compris. This mural was funded in part by Lt. Brown's mother, Mrs. Eugenia Brown, who also endowed the Brown Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a Newton North graduating senior.

Heroes

*We, who live because you died,
Salute you!
And, in memory of your glorious youth,
Of the laughter on your lips as you marched away,
Of the high ideals for which you fought and fell,
And the undying inspiration of your sacrifices –
In memory of all this
We, who were your comrades and friends,
Who tread the halls where you have walked,
Who live to carry on your great unfinished task,
We the Class of Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen,
Dedicate to you this – our words.*

Helen S. Allen
Literary Editor, *Newtonian*
(From *The Newtonian*, 1919, 10th Volume)

PROGRAM

Music

Selection of Newton High School Hymns from the 1920s
Family Singers directed by Adam Grossman

Speakers

Jonathan Bassett (*Chair, History Department*)
Dr. David Fleishman (*Superintendent, Newton Public Schools*)
Dr. Henry Turner (*Principal, NNHS*)

Honor Roll

Read by NNHS students in the Leadership Class and supported
by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 440, Newton

"America the Beautiful"

words by Katherine Lee Bates
Family Singers

Closing Remarks

Jonathan Bassett

Refreshments prepared by the Culinary Arts students and Sodexo School Services
will be served in the Cafeteria immediately following the ceremony.

Many people contributed time and effort to help restore this mural.
Their names can be found on the inside back cover of this program.
We thank them all.

For more details and information about the mural and the Newton
residents who served or died in World War I, please visit the Historic Newton
website: www.newtonma.gov/gov/historic/visit/online_exhibits/wpa.asp

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
100% of Donations Benefit Our Veterans & Military
www.ALAFamily.org



DESIGNED & PRINTED BY HAYLEY CLINE
NPS GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

from November 9, 2017
RE-DEDICATION PROGRAM

**IN MEMORY OF THE NEWTON CITIZENS WHO
 GAVE THEIR LIVES OR SERVED IN WORLD WAR I**

Clark Alvord	Warren Kaiser Daley	Leonard Jackson	Paul Palamountain
Albert Edgar Angier	Philip Washburn Davis	Ernest Jasset	Ellery Peabody, Jr
Augustus Aspinwall	Frederic Drew Day	Andrew Justabone	David Endicott Putnam
Arthur Kindred Atkins	Victor Leon Dennis	Richard Kimball	Archibald Hamilton Ramsey
Morris Hall Bailey	Henry William DeRusha	William Minot Leonard Jr.	Edward Bernard Reilly
Raymond Batchelder	Paul Jones Farnun	Kenneth Rodney Lucas	John Lawrence Reilly
John Arthur Bennett	Valentine Edward Ferris	Roderick MacLean	Wesley Everett Rich
Richard Ashley Blodgett	Wallace Fisher	Frank Manning	Frank Ross
Stafford Leighton Brown	Charles Flanagan	Malcolm Brown Marsh	Eleanor (Nora) Saltonstall
Raymond Bryson	Robert Lewis Forbush	George Maxwell	Edwin Field Sampson
Joseph Burak	Elmer Merritt Franci	Alexander McDougall	James Smith
Edward Carly	Vincenzo Fusco	Charles McKenny	Ellsworth Olmsted Strong
William Hopkins Chandler	Harold Winslow Gallison	Francis McLaughlin	Edward Michael Sullivan
Elliott Adams Chapin	Ralph Giles	Clifford Kenneth Meakins	Walter Swornsbourne
Francis Haskell Chivers	Prescott Wilder Gould	Walter Linwood Merrill	William Wright Walcott
Howard Rogers Clapp	William Franklin Herrick	Howard Fredric Mitchell	Patrick Waters
Henry Ware Clark	Edward Asa Hooper	Raymond Moore	Ralph O'Neal West
Edward Colby	Stephen Tullock Hopkins	Thomas Mullaney	John Arvid Williamson
John Curley	George Stewart Huggard	Thomas Cushman Nathan	Kenneth Walter Wilson
Donald Woodworth Curry	Norman William Hyslop	Patrick O'Donoghue	Sebastian Zuma
Eugene Joseph Daley		Joseph Ouellette	

"We feel that if one is fighting for the United States, dying is not to be feared, in fact it is quite an honor."

- Lieutenant Stafford Leighton Brown, died September 28, 1918

Writing to Private John Reilly's mother, his captain said, *"He never hesitated to do his duty."*

Private Reilly was killed July 15, 1918

ABOUT THE MURAL

From the original dedication, December 2, 1936

The mural is a painting forty-five feet wide rendered in conservative modern style by Maurice Compris (1885 - 1939). The theme of the painting, which is *Citizenship*, was developed in three panels. The main 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 a farm and an 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 skillfully 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."

SPECIAL THANKS

We are deeply grateful to the individuals and organizations who contributed support, time, and effort to restore the murals and plan the rededication ceremony.

City of Newton: Mayor Setti Warren; City Council; Community Preservation Committee; Josh Morse; Newton Cultural Council; Newton Historical Commission

Historic Newton, Inc.

John Hartman Fine Arts Associates

Mural Research and Interpretation Committee

Newton Free Library Reference and Research Department

Newton North High School: Principal, Dr. Henry Turner; the PTSO; the School Council; and students in the Leadership Class, Fine and Performing Arts, Culinary Arts, Graphic Communications Departments and their teachers.

Newton Public Schools: School Committee; Superintendent Dr. David Fleishman; Cynthia Brown; Michael Cronin

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 440, Newton

MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO PRESERVE THIS PIECE OF NEWTON'S HISTORY AND HONOR THE MEMORY OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF NEWTON WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I.



学以致仁



WE WILL STRIVE UNCEASANTLY TO OWEN 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. 21

Learning Sustains the Human Spirit

Lernen ernährt den menschlichen Geist

El aprendizaje sostiene el espíritu humano

L'apprendimento rafforza lo spirito umano

学問は人の心を養う

Учёба поддерживает человеческий дух

הרוח האנושית מספקת את הלמידה

APPRENDRE SOUTIENT L'ESPRIT HUMAIN

การศึกษาลิขิตสามมนุษย์ชาติ

O aprendizado sustenta o espírito humano

ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ
ᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅ

Okusoma kukuuma omwoyo gwomuntu

Spring 2018: Newton North Fine & Performing Arts faculty member Shannon Slattery's students are painting the school's motto on the wall below the mural's center panel. They hope to represent all the languages spoken by the school's current students.