

## Harold Field Kellogg Architect for the 1935 Library

Harold Field Kellogg (1884-1964) studied architecture at Harvard University and then attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1906 to 1910. Upon his return to the United States, he trained with several prominent Boston architectural firms, including Shepley, Rutan and & Coolidge, Kilham & Hopkins, and Peabody & Stearns.

Mr. Kellogg was the architect for the classic and beautiful Longwood Towers in Brookline. Sometime in the 1920's he converted to modernist thinking as evidenced in his 1930 design of the massive Public Service Building on Batterymarch Street. Mr. Kellogg's other principal works in the Boston area included alterations to the Cathedral in Boston in 1946, construction of the South End's Cathedral housing Project in 1950 and numerous hospitals throughout the state. He also designed the familiar Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. Sometime later, he moved to California and continued his work there as an associate architect of the Forest Memorial Park in Glendale until his death at 79.

Shortly after Mr. Kellogg died in 1964, his son, also named Harold, visited the Topsfield Library with his wife. He recounted how, in 1912, the young Boston architect and friend of trustee Franklin Balch, drew up the original plans for the library. It was many years before the hoped-for building was erected. The twenty-year old plans were brought out again in the early 30's and were followed with only minor changes.

Mr. Kellogg painted the eleven murals depicting the early settlement of Topsfield which adorn the lobby of the Library. His son remembers coming to the job with his father when he was 10 or 11 years old. He noted that the bas relief of the three Muses now over the doorway to the meeting room, was designed and executed by his father who also personally applied the gold leaf which surrounds the Muses. The son felt sure that his mother posed for the Muses as she did for many of his father's works. The murals and Muses were cleaned and restored during the renovation and expansion of the Library courtesy of the Gould Fund.



Kellogg Mural "On the Way to the Meeting House"

Figure 1. Kellogg Mural of 1776 Topsfield Militia (Eric Roth photo)