

MEMORIAL ROOM

In 1928, Oliver G. Jennings, President of the Fairfield Memorial Library commissioned Norman M. Isham of the Rhode Island School of Design to create a special room in the Library celebrating the contributions of the town's earliest settlers and citizens to American history. As part of the project, the large meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Library, measuring approximately 28X37 feet, was paneled in wood up to its arched ceiling.

Artist Sydney R. Burleigh of Rhode Island was chosen by Mr. Isham to execute 21 commemorative panels in the new Memorial Room. The two largest panels on the north and south walls are old style maps of early Fairfield. The map on the north wall above the fireplace measures about 4 x 8 feet and shows the town of Fairfield at its founding in 1639. Fairfield's original boundaries incorporated what is now Easton, Weston, Redding, Westport, and part of Bridgeport. Along the sides of the map are the coats of arms of Roger Ludlow, who purchased Fairfield from the Paugussett Indians, and those of the earliest settlers.

The panel on the south wall measures about 4 x 10 feet. It illustrates the "Compact Part of the Town of Fairfield," also known as the "four squares." The original center of Fairfield is the present site of the Town Hall Green. The map depicts the old town with its gateways, houses and gardens as it appeared 13 years after its settlement in 1652.

Two smaller map panels in the Memorial Room recall Fairfield's participation in the French and Indian Wars. On the east wall, a map commemorates the capture of the French fortress of Louisburg on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia by New England troops in 1745. On the west wall, another map shows the capture of the city of Quebec by the English in 1759.

The remaining panels bear the names of Fairfield residents, lettered in gold, who figured in the town's military and civil history. They include officers who served in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, as well as those who died in the Civil War and the First World War. The names of Fairfield's earliest judges, the planters from Concord, deputies to the General Court, sheriffs, colonial Lieutenant Governors, physicians, the Ministers of the Prime Ancient Society (now the First Church Congregational), and the Rectors of Trinity Church are also displayed.

The Memorial Room can be viewed by appointment. Please email MainRooms@fplct.org to schedule your visit.