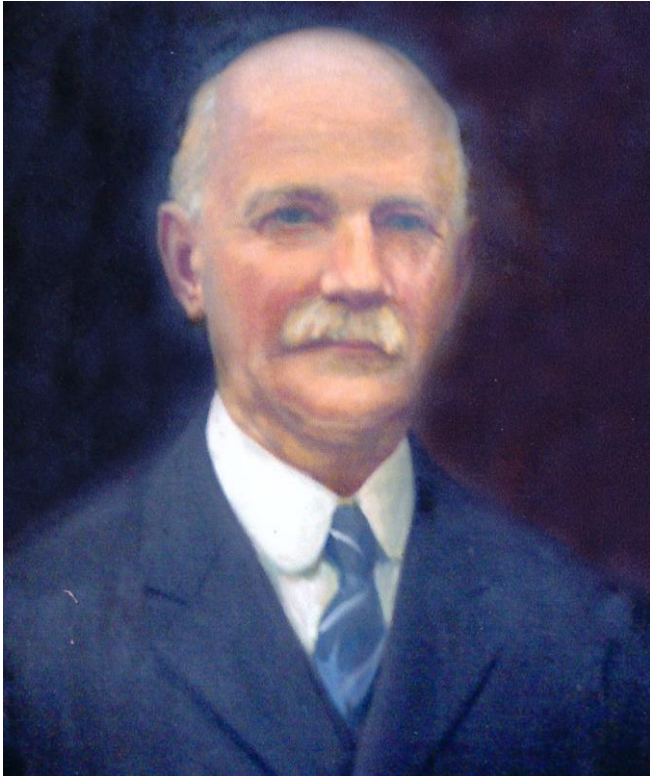


Herbert W. Kittredge Memorial Endowment



When Herbert W. Kittredge died on March 27, 1928, after a brief illness, he was completing his thirty-eighth year as Principal of Westfield High School, a service recognized by the community for its impressive length, but more importantly, for its exceptional quality. He was, at the time of his death, one of the most well-known and admired men in the city due his dedication to the school system and his commitment to many civic organizations.

Herbert Kittredge was born in November of 1858 to Russell and Laura Kittredge in Nelson, New Hampshire. Because of his academic accomplishments as a student, he was accepted to Dartmouth College, graduating in 1879 with a Bachelor of Arts, soon to be followed with a Master of Arts degree. He began his career in education immediately, establishing himself as an effective leader in North Brookfield and Fitchburg before accepting a position as principal of the newly reorganized Westfield High School in 1890. He moved with his wife Marion and their two young children, Helen and Russell, to a home on Broad

Street, and began his involvement in the city of Westfield.

From the start in his role as principal, Herbert Kittredge was known for his dedication, his strong work ethic, and his ability to inspire students. As the school committee noted in a tribute to him, he “so impressed the stamp of his strong personality upon Westfield High School that for many years it has been almost impossible to think of the school apart from the principal or of the principal apart from the school.” Because of his strong belief in the power of education to change lives, Mr. Kittredge established high standards of scholarship for his students, expecting their best at all times. They quickly learned that their positive effort and attitude earned them the respect and loyal support of their principal. In the same way, he inspired his faculty with his untiring devotion to the school and his unfailing support for their work. He arrived early each day at school and often remained until well into the evening, completing whatever tasks needed his attention. As a result of his efforts, Westfield High School, during the tenure of Mr. Kittredge, earned a reputation for providing its graduates with outstanding academic training. In recognition of all that he accomplished for education in Westfield, the library at Westfield High School was named in his honor, and his portrait continues to be displayed there in a place of prominence.

Mr. Kittredge was also admired for his generous involvement in the community. He served as a director of the Westfield Cooperative Bank, president of the board of trustees of the Westfield Athenaeum, and president of the Y.M.C.A., as well as being active in many other organizations. He was very involved in his church and was a founding member of the Get-Together Literary Club, a popular reading group in Westfield for more than twenty years. In his neighborhood he was also well known for entertaining children with rides on one of his horses and for offering some of the bounty of his admired gardens to friends.

When Marion Kittredge established this scholarship in her husband’s name following his death, she was acknowledging his lifelong devotion to education. Because of this memorial gift, his support for the students of Westfield continues to this day. Mr. Kittredge would be proud of those whose efforts have earned them this award.