



Gallison was known as an important American landscape painter in his time, and three of his landscapes are in the foyer and on the wall going downstairs from the foyer to the lecture room.

A second artist, Tommaso Juglaris, painted the murals in the reading room. Juglaris was an Italian citizen and, in fact, did much of the work on the murals in Italy. He completed the work on the murals in this country at Gallison's studio in Annisquam, Massachusetts. The murals were done on canvas which was then attached to the reading room walls.

In 1904 the Ray family also established the Ray Memorial Association to provide for and maintain the Ray building. This association was responsible for the building until 1982 when the Franklin Public Library became a department of the town.

From 1987 until 1989 the town of Franklin spent over three million dollars restoring and adding on to the building. The changes made then expanded the structure to give the town space for library services well into the 21st century. That project, designed by Robert C. Abrahamson, Jr., President of Architect Design Group II, Inc., Wellesley, also made major updates to the 1904 building. Thanks to the generosity of earlier citizens of Franklin, those expenditures, together with \$25,000 spent repairing the roof in 1982, were the first the town had ever had to make on a library building. The costs involved in maintaining, furnishing, staffing, and stocking of a modern library now require the support of an entire community.

*In 1916 on the 50th anniversary of Dean Academy, former President William H. Taft gave the main address. In a letter to his hosts written after his appearance at Dean he wrote, "I have never seen a town Library equal to that of Franklin. It is a work of art and yet admirably adapted to the real uses of such an institution."*

*(Franklin Town Report, 1916, p.26)*

