



Patton Homestead, acquired by Town of Hamilton in 2012, previously was home of General George S. Patton, Jr. (1928-1945) and next of his son Maj. General George S. Patton (1980-2004). Photo, Town of Hamilton, 2017

History of the ...

Patton Homestead

The Town of Hamilton acquired, the Patton Homestead, 650 Asbury St., in 2012. The previous 85 years, it was the estate of first General George S. Patton, Jr. and next his son, George S. Patton IV.

The Patton Homestead prior to 1927 was part of the Burroughs estate. George Tate Burroughs, a Boston-based realtor, and his wife Edith Caden Burroughs. They bought the 163-ac. property, in 1904, for \$17,000 and subsequently bought another 200 acres.

Built c1786

The prior 163-ac. property owner, Alvin C. Smith, was a farmer and also a Hamilton teacher. He inherited the property, which was on both sides of what was then called Topsfield Rd., from his father, John Smith, who inherited it from his father, Alvin C. Smith, in 1887.⁵

The original house, separated from the highway by a fieldstone wall and an elm-shaded yard, was built about 1786. No original deed was recorded.¹

While the old Smith farmhouse was in need of major refurbishing, Burroughs recognized the site as a picturesque area for an imposing country home.¹ To top it off, it was in a town having the same name as the Ohio town where he was born, Hamilton, north of Cincinnati.²

The 2½-story colonial style house, facing east, had a large central chimney, 5 windows on the second floor, 2 windows on each side of the center entrance, and single-story wings on the north and south sides. Most likely, the original house was unpainted. (*In 1866 Sherwin-Williams was the first company to produce ready-to-use paint.*)*

The former Smith property, near the Hamilton/Topsfield town line, was in the heart of rolling countryside and surrounded by large stretches of lush grassland. Not surprising that Burroughs named the property "Green Meadows."¹

* NOTE: bracketed italic comments are this editor's, not Northend's.



Burroughs' house, 1925, on Asbury St.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

How It Looked in 1915

In a 1915 book, "Remodeled Farmhouses," Mary H. Northend of Salem, who wrote extensively about and photographed New England architecture, described how George Burroughs refurbished and expanded the old Smith farmhouse. ¹ (*Paragraphs in quotes are directly from Northend chapter.*)

"It was the usual type of farmhouse, constructed about a central chimney, two and a half stories in height, with an unbroken roof line. Subsequent owners had added wings at each side. (*The south side wing has brick siding, indicating it likely was built after 1850.*)

"The only important alterations in the exterior appearance of the house were in the addition of the long porch across the rear and the alteration of the frame wing at the right (*north side*).

"The old structure was found to be in too dilapidated a condition to restore, but it was reproduced in all its exterior details and joined to the end of a new wing attached to the house and a trifle broader than the old."

(*On the first floor there were: a kitchen with two sections; two bedrooms, a laundry room, a pantry and an alcove opening onto the dining room. The second floor had: two small bedrooms, and two bathrooms, for servants.*)

"Two hip-roofed dormers add space to the second floor and permit the construction of attractive servants' quarters.

"The frame of the entrance door, in the center of the front façade, is a particularly happy example of the simple Georgian style used in the better class of (*New England*) farmhouses of that day. Its flat pilasters and well-proportioned cornice illustrate restraint and refinement.

"The door opens into a small hallway, restored with fresh white paint to all its original beauty.

"On the left (*south*) side of the house, the partition between the old dining room and parlor was removed to make one large living room. The cornices and the wainscoting were restored. The woodwork, including the encased beams in the ceiling, was painted white.

"The condition of the old floor made it necessary to lay a new one of hardwood. ...

"The paneling above the mantel shelf presents an interesting variation in the framing of fireplaces. The original wainscot, with its molded cap, divides the wall surface in an agreeable proportion, and the rather heavy cornice moldings, at the ceiling line, relieve the emphasis of the great (*ceiling*) beams.

"Old hardware, used on doors and windows, and the thumb latches, are finished in the natural black, and the H and L (*style*) hinges painted white to correspond with the woodwork.

"The upper part of the walls is covered with a rose-colored paper reproducing a conventional Georgian medallion design, in silvery gray. ...

"On the opposite side (*north*) of the entrance hall is the reception room. The same treatment has been accorded here as in the living room.

"A fireplace is on the opposite side of the chimney, from that in the living room, ...

"In the rear, on the same side (*north*) of the house, is the dining room. The old woodwork was replaced with paneled wainscot covering two thirds of the wall surface.

"The old fireplace remained across the corner of the room, its flue in the central chimney, but its frame is new. The chimney cupboard in the side was turned into a china closet, with a new door of mullioned glass displaying interesting old pewter and plates.

"The apparent size of the dining-room was increased by carrying the decorative motives into the passageway that connects it with the service quarters, in the right (*north*) wing. The same paneling of the wainscot and the same paper above, seen through the double doorway, give the impression that this is all part of the one room.

"On the other side (*south*) of the dining room, a small hall, paneled with white enameled woodwork to the ceiling, leads into the living room.

"Glass French doors open from here on to the wide porch, across the back (*west side*) of the house, overlooking the green meadows and vales that stretch away on all sides.

(As seen in a c1900 photo, there was, on the south side of the main house, a separate, 1-1/2 story cooking house. Burroughs had it removed and replaced with a brick wing attached to the house.)



Burroughs' bed room

Photo, Mary H. Northend

"From the porch or the living room, one can enter (*through French doors*) the brick wing, at the left (*south*) of the house. This originally contained the kitchen with bedrooms above, but in altering it, the entire wing was made into one room, opened to the roof. With the exposed old beams and rafters, and all the woodwork stained dark, this room has the character of a den or smoking room.

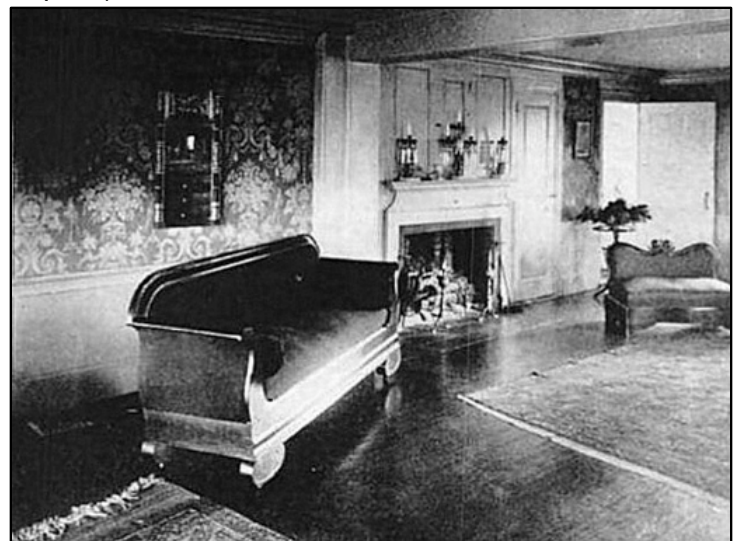
"At the end, the old kitchen chimney was used for a fireplace, and old paneling inserted above the high mantel." (*The chimney had 12/12 windows on both sides an on both the east and west walls.*)

"Seats were built under the windows flanking the chimney. ... Very large windows are in this wing, an indication of the later date of its construction. They have 24 (12/12) glass panes.

"The service quarters of the house are in the wing at the right (*north*). In the middle section are butler's pantry, kitchen, laundry, with two bedrooms on the second floor; and in the narrower part is a servants' hall and three bedrooms that are open to the roof.

"On the upper floor (*second*), of the main part of the house, the four bedrooms were kept much as in the past. Those in the rear have been made to open out, through double doors to the second story of the porch, which can be used as a (*screen-enclosed*) sleeping-porch (*during summer*). The old white woodwork and the original fireplaces add their ineffable charm. The floors were in poor condition and are covered with matting as a base for the rag rugs.

"The registers of the hot-air heating system, which has been installed. Instead of the customary meaningless scroll and meander pattern, the grills have a simple square lattice." (*Burroughs' house had a coal-burning furnace, in the basement.*) (*End of Northend chapter.*)



Burroughs' living room

Photo, Mary H. Northend

Other Burroughs Changes

While being quite detailed, the Northend article did not include information about all the changes Burroughs made to the Smith house.

Perhaps thinking the subject tacky, she omitted discussing toilets; however, Burroughs certainly would have added them to his "modern" house. By 1915, these "conveniences" had arrived in many houses on New England's wealthy estates, replacing exterior toilets called outhouses.

The Burroughs main house had five toilets: One off the first floor reception room; three on the second floor; and the one on the third floor. Each room also had a hand sink and a bathtub.

Toilets and tubs of that time, in wealthy homes, often were on marble slabs. The toilets, generally called a water closet, had a high, water-filled tank to provide gravity-fed flushing. The wood tank, lead lined for waterproofing, had a metal pipe that fed water to the bowl, when a cord connected to a valve was pulled.

Over a well a short way north of the house, Burroughs built a 40,000-gal. elevated water-tank and pump. Higher than the house, it provided water to all the bathrooms and kitchen in the house.



Burroughs 2-story porch was about 15-ft. wide and 12-ft. deep. Facing west, the porch provides a view of the property back to the Ipswich River . Photo, Mary H. Northend

The bathroom sink bowls were white vitreous porcelain, often decorated with flowers and other decorative motifs. Some very ornate bowls were sculpted with designs and shapes, all of which were fired into the bowls.

Burroughs also built a steam heating system in the house. A boiler was in the basement. Pipes brought steam to iron radiators in the rooms. and heated water to the various sinks.

Also not mentioned by Northend about Green Meadows is that Burroughs built two bedrooms and a bathroom, at the back of the third floor. Each of the rooms has a dormer with a window. The northwest



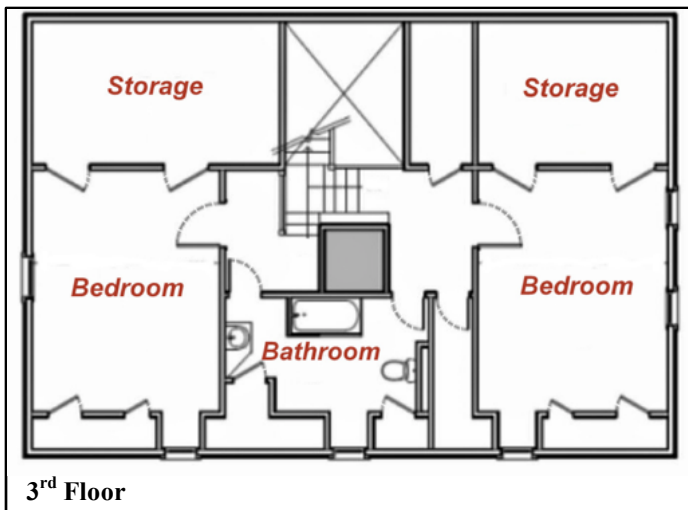
Burroughs den, in south wing, had a doorway from the living room (*center*) and a door to the front yard (*right*).

Photo, Mary H. Northend



Fireplace, at south end of the den that had large windows, to provide ample light to room.

Photo, Mary H. Northend



corner bedroom also has a window on the north wall; the southeast bedroom has two windows on the south wall.

Not all the rooms on the third floor are bedrooms. At the front, there are two large storage closets. There also is a narrow storage closet at the front and another at the back. Being under the gable roof, all the rooms have a slanted ceiling.

The original 2-story porch, at the back of the house, was about 15-ft. wide and 12-ft. deep. It had large panel screens on three sides. Since it faced west, Burroughs added Venetian blinds for afternoon shading. These were, at the time, installed at many houses of the wealthy in America.¹⁸



Speaking tube system in Burroughs' house was used to communicate with house staff in kitchen.

(Pinterest photo, an example from another house.)

Burroughs also added electricity to Green Meadows. Most Americans lit their homes with gaslights and candles. Pictures of some rooms show electrical lamps on tables. There were no overhead lights.

Another modern convenience Burroughs added was a "speaking tube" system. To communicate with house staff, the user blew a puff of air into a wall-mounted cone connected to metal tubes running behind the walls. The blown air passed to a whistle, in the tube in the kitchen. In 2019, the only visible evidence of the system is an outlet in the second floor master bedroom.

Northend's description of the north wing does not mention that it was new construction by Burroughs. The 2-story wing, with 6 rooms, replaced three attached, single-story sections, the center of which had two chimneys. The new north wing had a double hip roof.³⁷

Three dormers are on front of the north wing. One is for a small bathroom and two are at the front of a bedroom. The bathroom at the back of the second floor has a double dormer with a Dutch gable roof.

To the north wing's new 2-story construction, Burroughs added a single-story, westward extension having 4 rooms. These were servant quarters.¹⁰

While the Green Meadows house is on a raised area (*upland*) from the marsh at the back of the property, water flow, in times of heavy rain, was a potential for cellar flooding. Burroughs hewed an inclined groove running from the front wall to an opening in the back wall. When water seeped through the cellar's fieldstone walls, it drained into the groove.

A gable roof has always been on the Green Meadows house. Originally, wood shingles covered the surface. No information exists as to when the roof became covered with asphalt shingles. All the extensions to the wings also have asphalt-shingle covered gable roofs.

Green Meadows Sold

George Burroughs died Jul. 23, 1925 in an airplane crash near what is now called Boston's Logan Airport. He was 57. The flight was scheduled to photograph the Burroughs' Hamilton Estate.¹²

Subsequently, the Burroughs family lost ownership of the 360 ac. property, which included 17 properties acquired by George Burroughs. In 1926, Josiah Buckman of Newton bought the Burroughs' property, at an auction in Boston.^{14, 36}

A year later, 1927, Freddie (*Frederick Jr.*) and Chilly (*Charles*) Ayer, Beatrice's brothers, learned that the Buckman property might be subdivided, into 17

separate lots.³⁸ The Ayers, wanting to keep whole the property often used by Myopia Hunt Club, offered to buy it, in the name of their brother-in-law and sister. The Pattons, at the time living in Hawaii, sent a telegram saying yes.¹⁹

George S. and Beatrice A. Patton were somewhat familiar with the house, having had breakfast with the Burroughs a few times, when they participated in Myopia Hunt Club foxhunts, in the area.¹⁸

The main house had 19 rooms and 5 baths. On the grounds there were: flower and vegetable gardens, a nursery, bridle paths, trails, horse training fields and pastures.

Also on the property were: a stable, barn, hay barn, boathouse, tool house, garage, laundry building, icehouse and a large chicken house³⁸

The deed for the sale of the Hamilton property to the Pattons lists San Marino, CA, south of Pasadena, as their residence.¹⁵ This was the home of his parents, George S. and Ruth W. Patton. His father, an attorney, who changed his name, about 1867, from George William Patton, was a former mayor, the first, of San Marino. He never served in the military, but was a Virginia Military Institute graduate, and son of George Smith Patton (1833-1864), a confederate colonel in the Civil War.

The 19-room house would be a great place for the Patton family of 5 to live, when not stationed at a military base. Daughters Beatrice and Ruth Ellen were born in 1911 and 1915, respectively, and son George S. Patton, IV, in 1923. However, the family's taking permanent residence in Hamilton did not immediately occur.

At the time, Maj. George S. Patton was stationed at the Schofield Barracks, with the Hawaiian Div. The family had arrived in March 1925.⁶



Cannon barrel found, in 1942, on a beach, while Gen. Patton was in Morocco. Engravings on the bronze barrel indicate it was made in the 1600s, in Seville, Spain. Photo, J. Hauck, 2019

Later in 1928, the Army transferred, temporary Lt. Col. Patton to the east coast, the Office of the Chief of Cavalry, in Washington, D.C.⁶

Patton Changes Began

In the summer of 1928, Beatrice A. Patton visited her parents in Prides Crossing, in order to work with builders for many changes to restore, refurbish and personalize thier Hamilton home. Lighting fixtures were changed, the rose-colored flocked wallpaper removed and the plumbing modernized. Daughter Ruth Ellen Totten recalled her mother wanting to change the toilet in the third floor bathroom and being told it had "the finest solid cherry seat in Essex County," She kept it.¹⁸

Two changes to the cellar of the Green Meadows house, made by Beatrice A. Patton, were: building a walk-in vault, for the family's many silverware items; and a wine storage area.¹⁰ Already in the cellar were: a coal-burning furnace, coal bins, a cold-storage pantry and shelves along the walls.

The Patton's were back in Hamilton, in 1934, when their daughter Beatrice married 1st Lt. John K. Waters. Following the wedding in Beverly Farms, the Patton's hosted a reception at Green Meadows, before returning to Washington.³⁶

(Many weddings and receptions have been held at Green Meadows. In September 2018, Benjamin Patton married Blair Miller at the Patton Homestead, with the wedding and tent reception on the back lawn and a reception dinner in the stables. 28)

In 1935, permanent Lt. Col. George S. Patton, Jr. the Army transferred him back to Hawaii.⁶ The return posting to Hawaii was short: in 1937, Patton was transferred to Los Angeles.⁶

That summer, back at his Hamilton home, Lt. Col. George S. Patton, Jr. broke a leg while horseback riding and also had to have a blood clot removed from his lungs.⁷ He used the reception room as his bedroom, during his recovery from his riding accident.¹⁰

From 1934 to 1941, Patton relocated to six different posts. Throughout the frequent changes, Beatrice remained with her husband.

Patton became a full colonel in 1938, when he was the Commanding Officer of the 5th Cavalry, Ft. Clark, TX.⁶ In 1939, he went to Fort Myer, Arlington, VA; a year later, 1940, he was at Fort Benning, GA, where he became a Brig. Gen. (1 star); he was here, on Dec. 7, 1941; in April 1942, he took command, as a Maj. Gen. (2 stars), of the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions and organized a tank-training center, in the Mojave Desert, east of Indio, CA.^{8, 32}

Later in 1942, Maj. Gen. Patton, with his desert training knowledge, was in North Africa as Commanding Officer of U.S. II Corps., fighting the German army in the deserts.

When the General left for North Africa, Beatrice A. Patton moved to the family home in Hamilton.^{10, 19} Their daughters were married: Beatrice, 1934, to Lt. Col. John K. Waters and Ruth Ellen, 1940, to Lt. Michael W. Totten; and son George was a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

During war, the Patton's daughter, Ruth Ellen Totten and her two young children, James and Beatrice, stayed with Beatrice A. Patton, at Green Meadows.¹⁸

General Patton, a prolific letter writer, sent a steady stream of letters to Beatrice. It was not just letters that arrived. In 1942, while Gen. Patton was in Morocco, a bronze cannon barrel was found on a beach near Port Lyautey. Engravings on the barrel indicate it was made in the 1600s, in Seville, Spain. It had been guarding a former fort near where General Patton waded ashore for the 1st Armored Corps' entry to World War II: Operation Torch.^{10, 23}

The General's staff sent the barrel to Green Meadows. Beatrice A. Patton placed it alongside the patio behind the house. Grandchildren were told it faced the river to scare off any pirates coming from Ipswich.^{10, 23}

A pride of Beatrice A. Patton was the large garden next to the south wing. She devoted many hours attending the garden's flowering plants, roses and grape vine trellis.¹⁰

During WWII, a neighbor commented to Beatrice A. Patton, "When I drive by, I see a little old man, in

blue overalls and a red bandanna, weeding. How do you manage to keep him?" (*Most men were in the military or working at defense plants.*) Beatrice replied, "He's a friend I have known all my life. He's too old to go into the service."

Beatrice A. Patton was the "little old man." She called her yard attire her "petit costume du mal"¹⁸ (*small wayward attire*). In addition to French, she was fluent in German and Spanish, and spoke some Italian and Hawaiian.¹⁸

Besides being a great gardener, Beatrice was a great story reader. In the evenings, she gathered her two grandchildren, James and Beatrice Totten, into the former reception room, to the right of the entrance. She sat with the children, on a large bed that her husband used during his recovery, to read fascinating books. Her ability to expressively read aloud, wrote her daughter Ruth Ellen, was one of her many gifts.¹⁸

Beatrice A. Patton, also was a published author of three novels: *Blood of the Shark* (1936) and *Love Without End* (*published* 1987) and *Legendes Hawaiiennes* (1932).

By 1944, the war, in Europe, was shifting in the allies favor. In March, the allies crossed the Rhine into Germany. In Aug. 1944, Lt. Gen. (3 stars) Patton took command of the 3rd Army, in Germany. In April 1945, George S. Patton, Jr. became 4-star general. On May 4, Germany surrendered.

When WWII ended in Europe, General Patton remained in Germany. On May 12 1945, General Patton's 3rd Army, 2nd Cav. launched Operation Cowboy in Hostau, Czechoslovakia. The unit rescued 1,200 horses, including 375 Lipizzans, from potential slaughter by advancing Russian soldiers.³⁹

In June 1945, Generals George S. Patton and James Doolittle, both born in California, were honored at a parade in Los Angeles. Later that month, on the 24th, Gen. Patton flew to Boston for a war bond drive appearance and parade. West Point cadet, George S. Patton IV spent the day with his father. The next day, Gen. Patton was the guest of honor at a celebration at the Hamilton Junior High School, where he reportedly shook the hand of more than 3,000 people.⁴ This was his last time in Hamilton.



Rose, flower and vine garden, by south wing, was built by George Burroughs.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2015

The General returned to Germany, where, in July 1945, he became the military governor of Bavaria. On Dec. 9, 1945, he was critically injured in an automobile accident. He died, at a Heidelberg hospital, 12 days later, with Beatrice at his side.²⁵

Beatrice A. Patton continued to live at the homestead, where she had a small household staff and a property manager.¹⁰ She returned to using the master bedroom in the main house.^{10, 19} Her children and friends often visited.

A member of her staff was Reginald H. Maidment, who was her chauffeur for 28 years.³¹ About 1949, he became the property caretaker.¹⁰

Although General Patton did not make it back to live at Green Meadows, his pet dog, Willie, a white bull terrier, which was his companion during the war, returned here, after the general's death. Willie, whose name was short for William the Conqueror, is buried on the property.¹⁰

After his father, George S. Patton, Jr., died, George S. Patton IV legally changed his name, by dropping the "IV" from his name.¹⁰ There never was a George S. Patton III.¹⁰

A change came to the grounds, when in 1950, Beatrice A. Patton placed a stone lion's head gargoyle (*a symbol of vigilance, strength, justice and courage*), near a rock garden, at the entrance driveway.¹⁰

The gargoyle came from the United States Military Academy. Gen. John K. Waters, the Commandant, and Patton son-in-law, saw the gargoyle in a dump truck. When told that it could not be re-set on the Pershing Barracks, its former site, he said he knew someone who would take anything discarded from the Academy. It was shipped to Green Meadows.¹⁰



Gargoyle from West Point Military Academy, for many years, was at front of the Patton Homestead.

Photo Hamilton Historical Society,

General Patton was a great admirer of General John J. Pershing, having served under him in the Poncho Villa expedition of 1916 and also in WWI.

Many years later, when members of the West Point Society of New England visited the Hamilton property, they were told the gargoyle was kept at the Patton prop-

erty until a place could be found for it back at West Point. Beatrice A. Patton had said, "Anyone is welcome to take it."¹⁰



Miller's wheel, found on shore of Ipswich River at back of the property, is of unknown origin.

Photo, Patton Family Archives, 2014

In 2012, Joanne H. Patton, then living at Green Meadows, received a letter saying the West Point historian wanted the gargoyle returned and would have it put back on the original Pershing building. He was told he had to be quick, for the town would soon own the property. A truck arrived a few days later and the gargoyle went back to be with the Black Knights on the Hudson. In 2018, once again, the gargoyle was on the southeast corner of the Pershing Barracks Clock Tower.^{10, 34}

Another objet de discussion, a miller's wheel, is on the lawn behind the house, near the kitchen area. It is not known when it arrived, but is believed to have been found on the shore of the Ipswich River, at the back of the property. Beatrice Patton may have saved it in order to tell visitors about her father's success in the wool mill business, in the early 1900s.¹⁰

Joanne Holbrook, in June 1952, married Capt. George S. Patton, in Washington, D.C. They lived at Fort Knox, KY, where he was posted at the Armored School.¹⁰

In October 1952, tragedy came to the Pattons. Beatrice A. Patton's daughter, Beatrice, wife of Brig. Gen. John K. Waters, living in Highland Falls, NY, died, at 41, of a heart attack; her husband, at the time, was serving in the Korean War.

The two Waters sons, John and George, came to live with their grandmother in Hamilton. The bedrooms on the third floor were refurbished for them and, from then on, this became known as the "boys floor." In the late 1960s and 1970s, Benjamin and Robert Patton, sons of George S. and Joanne H., roomed on the "boys floor," when visiting the Patton homestead.¹⁰



In remembrance of Beatrice A. Patton, family placed a boulder, with a metal plaque, near the back of the south wing, in 1953.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2019



Beatrice A. Patton plaque inscription, at bottom, aptly includes, "I Have Kept the Faith."

Photo, J. Hauck, 2019

In 1953, tragedy returned to the Pattons: Beatrice A. Patton had a fatal heart attack. She died, while horseback riding in a Myopia Hunt Club foxhunt, at the Wenham estate of her brother Frederick Ayer. She was 67.¹⁹ Following their father's return from Korea, John and George Waters left Green Meadows and went to live with him at Fort Knox.¹⁰

The Patton family, later in 1953, placed a boulder with a cast-metal plaque, in remembrance of Beatrice A. Patton, near the end of the south wing. The inscription aptly includes, "I Have Kept the Faith." (*II Tim. 4, 7*). Her ashes are buried near the boulder. Years later, some ashes, as she had requested, were scattered on Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.'s grave, in the Hamm, Luxembourg, American Cemetery.¹⁰

At the time of his mother's death, Col. George S. Patton was serving in Korea, commanding A Co., 140th Medium Tank Bat., 40th Infantry Div.²⁹

New Green Meadows Owners

Col. George S. Patton and his sister Ruth Ellen Totten inherited the Green Meadows property, which they divided. George received the house, other nearby buildings and some of the property.¹⁹ He and his wife, Joanne and their family took over the homestead, but not yet as their permanent residence.¹⁰

For the next 17 years, there were no regular residents at the Patton homestead. Col. George S. and Joanne H. Patton enjoyed being there during summers and on vacations. He wanted to finish his military career, which required their living abroad.¹⁰

In 1968, Col. George S. Patton became commander of the 11th Armored Cavalry ("*Blackhorse*") Regiment in Vietnam. During his third tour in Vietnam,

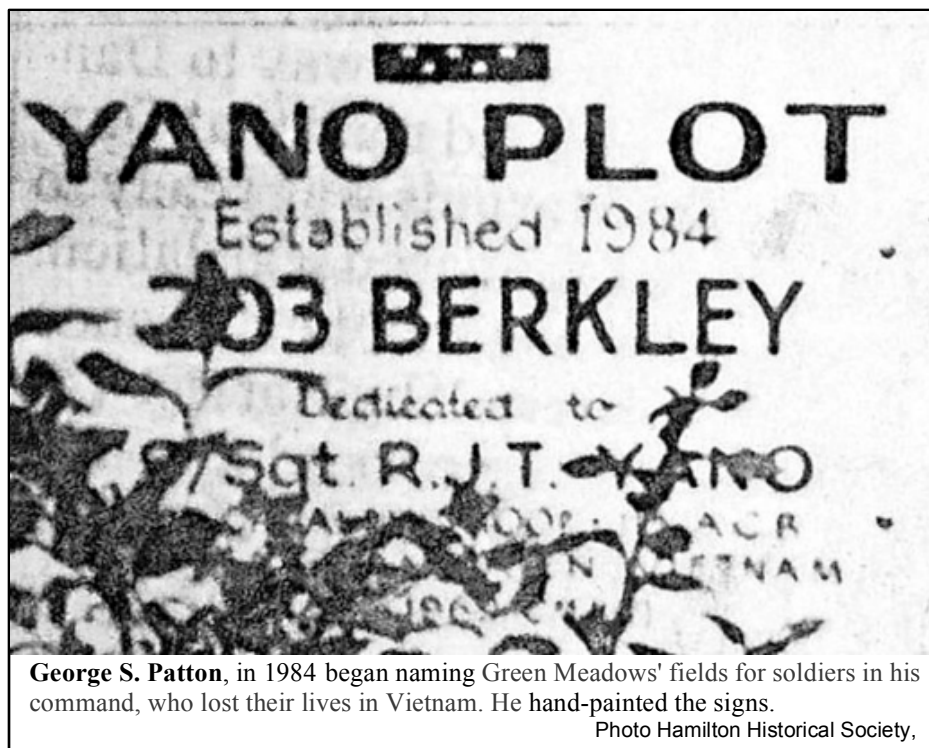
he was awarded two Distinguished Service Crosses, his second silver star and a purple heart. He used helicopters as a mobile command post, and was shot down three times, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.²⁹

In 1975, the U.S. Army promoted Col. Patton to Brigadier General and he became commander of the 2nd Armored Div., the unit his father previously commanded (1940-42). This was the first time in U.S. Army history that a father and a son commanded the same division. Later in 1975, he was promoted to Major General, while he was at Fort Hood, TX.

In the mid 1970s, the Pattons rented the 6-room north wing to several married Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) students. The first, in 1972, were Lee and Clyde McDowell. Another GCTS couple, James and Bobbi Kirkley, had a baby, Adam, while renters. He is the only child known to have been born, while the family lived at Green Meadows. The Kirkleys were the last Gordon-Conwell student family to live at the Patton Homestead, leaving in 1978.¹⁰

Another GCTS family was Michael G. and Gayle Ford. The son of former President Gerald Ford, he graduated from the seminary in 1977. It is not known if the President visited his son at Green Meadows.

In 1980, upon his retirement after 34 years in the army, George S. Patton, with his wife, Joanne and their children, George, Helen and Benjamin moved to the Hamilton estate. They had been living in Bethesda, MD. (*Daughter Margaret, a Catholic nun, was at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, CT, and son Robert was married.*)¹⁰



Changes to House and Grounds

George Patton made it his new mission to be a successful farmer. Knowing nothing about farming, he started wisely with a field for growing Massachusetts' ubiquitous blueberries.

Drawing from his years as an aggressive leader of tanks, farmer Patton quickly moved forward, plowing new fields and planting crops.

Beginning in 1984, Patton began naming Green Meadows' fields for soldiers in his command, who lost their lives in Vietnam.¹⁰

The first, dedicated in 1984, honors Sgt. 1st Rodney J. T. Yano, of the 11th Air Cavalry, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Following came: Hayes Field, Capt. John Hayes, Commander B Troop, 11th Cav., KIA by a rocket grenade; Lucas Field, Andre C. Lucas, Lt. Col., 2nd Bat., KIA, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, KIA; Sinclair¹⁰ Field, John J. Sinclair, Staff Sgt., KIA, 2nd Squad., 11th Armored Cav.; Wickam Field, Cpl. Jerry W. Wickam, 11th Armored Cav., Troop F, KIA; the Michelin plot, March 1969, the "bloodiest battle" under his command; and Blackhorse Field, the biggest field, named for the 11th Armored Cav.¹⁷

For most of the fields Patton, originally hand-painted a sign with details about the honoree and his service.³⁵ However, a cast metal plaque is on the lot commemorating the Blackhorse Regiment, the 11th Cav. Reg.

In 1988, William J. Westmoreland toured the fields along with George S. Patton. Westmoreland was his commander in Vietnam. Riding in a pickup truck, the two former generals recalled the bravery of those who died under their command.¹⁷

In the book "Growing Up Patton," by Benjamin Patton, he mentions that his father also had many memories to share from his time in Korea with fellow Hamiltonian Wilfred Vaillincourt. When MSgt. Vaillincourt retired, George S. Pat-

ton hired him to be the Green Meadows' property manager.

While George S. Patton made many changes to the Green Meadows fields, few changes were made to the exterior of the house (*windows, door, chimney and siding*).

The entrance, at the center, remained an understated simple design, with a horizontal pediment and plain pilasters, fitting the house's Georgian design, characterized by order, symmetry and proportion. The door has bulls-eye windows, square translucent panes cut from mouth-blown rondels.



Plaque honoring those of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regt., commanded by Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, is on a large Green Meadows field.

Photo Hamilton Historical Society,

Beatrice A. and George S. Patton, Jr. placed small green and red lanterns beside the front door. They symbolized both ocean channel markers and the Patton's "love" of boating.

Exemplifying their "love" of boating was their sailing from San Diego to Hawaii, in 1925. Col. Patton, having been re-assigned to Hawaii, decided he would sail there, rather than go by ocean liner. He bought a schooner, named the *Arcturus* (*bright star*), from an east coast harbor and had it shipped to San Diego. While waiting for its arrival, he took a night course in ocean navigation.¹⁸ Beatrice A. Patton demanded to go with him and his two-man crew. They left in May 1925 and made the first landfall at Mauna Kea and then continued, in June, to Honolulu.¹⁸

Green Meadows front door also is the source of a ghost story, attributed to Ruth Ellen Totten, George S. Patton, Jr.'s sister. During the Smith years, there was an ash tree in front of the house. Reportedly, a settler and an Indian, perhaps a Naumkeag, had a fight about trespassing. The defeated Indian was chained to the tree. He broke free and ran to the back of the property, where he fell into a pond and drowned. Ruth Ellen Totten claimed the Indian's ghost occasionally returns to the house and leaves muddy handprints on the front door.

In 2006, Joanne H. Patton had two skylights built on the front of the main house roof. This was done to provide more light for the top floor.¹⁰

Neither of the Pattons changed the inside of the entrance. The enclosed entrance hall is typical of colonial home designs: it keeps cold air from entering into the living areas, when opening the door.

A steep, switchback staircase to the upper floors, built by Burroughs, is in front of the chimney. There are 3 flights to both the second and third floors. The stairwell has wainscots on all levels.

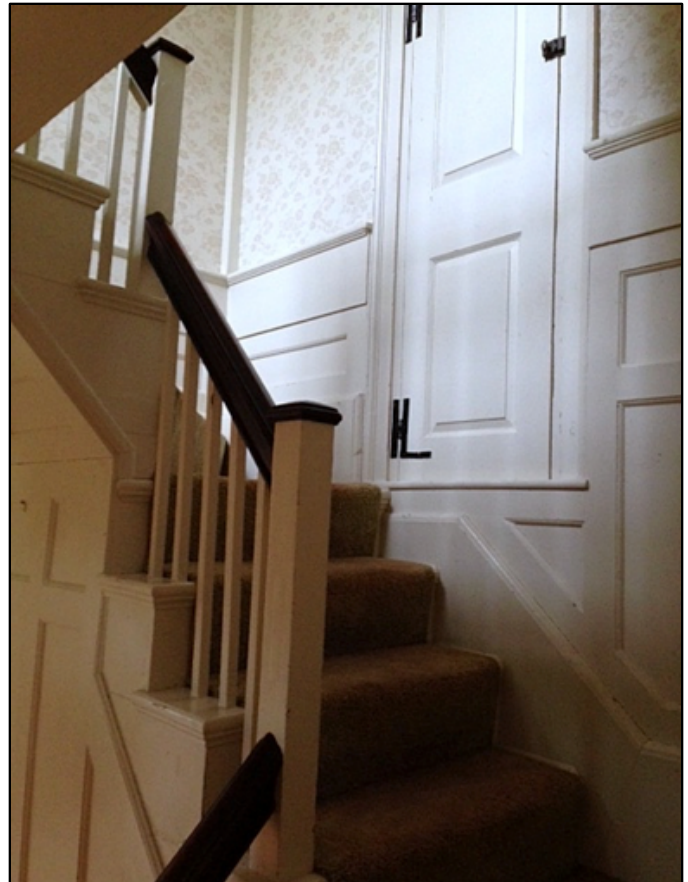
Burroughs altered the location of the staircase in the Smith house. This was revealed, about 1983, when Joanne Patton, while looking into a living room closet saw, at the back of the closet, a portion of the original stairway.¹⁰

The brick chimney, behind the entrance hall, was the only source for heating the original house. Built into it, on the north and south sides of the main, second and third floors, are open-face fireplaces, eight in all. A "hidden" storage space is above each mantle.

Doors to adjoining rooms are to the immediate right and left of the entrance hall.



Green and red lanterns, beside front door, represent ocean channel markers, and symbolize George S. and Beatrice H. Patton's "love" of boating. Photo, J. Hauck 2019



Switchback staircase, to the upper floors, is in front of the chimney. Photo, J. Hauck, 2019



Dining room, with door (*left*) from original reception room, has alcove cupboard, with an arched peak, a scallop shell upper surface and enameled wood framing.

Photo, J. Hauck 2018

In 1989, the Pattons converted the bedroom, at the front of the first floor (*originally a reception room*), to a bedroom for George S. Patton, who with advanced Lewy body dementia, was confined to a wheelchair. Further, the bathroom next to the room was refurbished to meet his reduced physical capabilities.¹⁰ The doors in the Green Meadows house were never enlarged for George S. Patton's wheelchair. The openings were wide enough for his wheelchair to pass through.¹⁰

George S. and Joanne H. Patton did not change the dining room, behind the bedroom room. However, in the past, there were major changes.

The wall on the south side of the dining room is at an angle. Behind the wall, an open-face fireplace extends from a corner of the chimney. Open on the wall a smaller fireplace replaced the original one. Also behind the living room wall is an old colonial oven. (*Part of it is visible in a living room closet facing the porch.*)

Recessed into the wall, to the left of the fireplace, is an alcove cupboard. It has an arched peak, a scallop shell upper surface and enameled wood framing,

The dining room opens to a large living room. It spans the width of the house and connects to an area to the left of the entrance hall. A large open-face fireplace is in this area, as was, during the Patton years, a large grand piano. In her book, *The Button Box*, Ruth Ellen Patton Totten, wrote her mother was "extremely musical." In fact, her gifts in that direction were closer to genius." However, she added, her father was tone deaf.¹⁸

About 2009-10, a vase was found in a living room closet that faces the porch. It was given to Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., by the government of Czechoslovakia. (*In May 1945, U. S. forces, under General George S. Patton, Jr.'s command, liberated western Czechoslovakia.*) Beatrice A. Patton put the vase in the closet to keep it from being broken by children running through the house. It remained hidden there, until discovered by Joanne Patton. She gave the Czech vase a prominent place in the living room, where it remained until 2012, when she sent the vase to her son Robert Patton, living in Darien, CT.¹⁰

At the southwest corner of the living room, the George S. Patton, Jr.'s removed a wood sliding door, to create an open doorway to the trophy room.¹⁰ During the George S. Patton, Jr. years, there was a small table near

the doorway. Made in Africa, the table top was of elephant hide. It was a gift from the noted big-game hunter and one-time Hamilton resident, Col. Francis T. Colby. Ruth Ellen, George's sister claimed she sensed a spirit present, when she passed by the table. The possibility of ghosts in the house ended



Doorway, in living room during Patton residence, was open to south wing trophy room. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



1900

House History

1900 – North wing (left) had 3 sections; north wing (*right*), a 1-1/2 story kitchen building slightly set off from house;

1935 – North wing a single structure with 5 rooms, a 2nd floor with a dormer; main house had 3 dormers, 2-story porch; and single-story, single room south wing attached;

1985 – North wing had a 5-room extension; a 2-story veranda the width of the house; and a south wing extension with 4-rooms; and

2019 – Back of house basically unchanged since 1985.



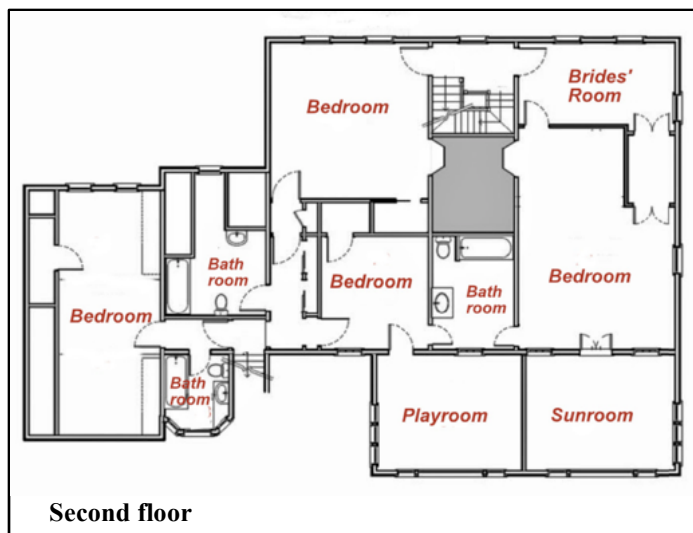
1935



1985



2019



when Joanne Patton gave the table to Helen, her daughter, in 2012.¹⁰

For almost every room in the house and all parts of the grounds, there are stories to be told.

According to a Patton family member, a young Patton boy enjoyed telling stories to visitors. However, there was the time he told a story about a sword. Later, his older sister questioned its truth. The young Patton replied that people came to their home expecting to hear stories, so he made one up.¹⁰

A door, near the doorway to the south wing, opens to a screen-enclosed, 2-story porch. Facing west, the porch provides a view of the property back to the Ipswich River and to beautiful sunsets.

George S. and Beatrice A. Patton, about 1939, expanded the porch width to 31 ft. In place of previous 3-ft. wide screens, the enlarged porch has two 15-ft. wide screens. The Pattons added an entrance on the north side that connects with a hall leading to the dining room and to stairs to the second floor.

About 1955, George S. and Joanne H. Patton enclosed the upper level of the porch and converted it to

two rooms. One section, a sunroom, had a door to the master bedroom and the other a door to a small bedroom at the back of the second floor. The second porch room later became a children's playroom, with the walls having shelves for books and games and the west wall having a cushion-covered horizontal wall cabinet for toy storage.¹⁰

Joanne H. Patton converted the second floor sewing room, on the southeast corner, to what she called the "brides room." The walls had more than a dozen framed photos of brides wearing the same wedding gown, as originally worn by Frederick Ayer's 2nd wife, Ellen Barrows Banning, and next by her daughter, Beatrice, when she married George S. Patton, Jr.¹⁰

On the second floor, to the right of the stairs and front of the house, there is a bedroom. It has an open-face fireplace. George S. and Joanne H. Patton used it as a guest bedroom.

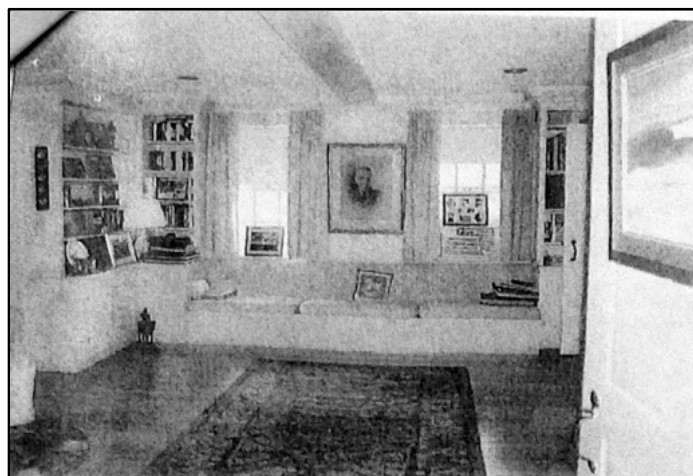
A door, at the back right of this room, opens to a hallway to the back of the house, where there is a small, bedroom and an adjoining bathroom.¹⁰

The large master bedroom, at the back of the house, has an open-face fireplace, a walk-through closet between it and the bride's room, and a door to a sunroom over the porch.

A bathroom, at the center of the second floor and behind the chimney, has doors to the master bedroom and the small bedroom, at the back.

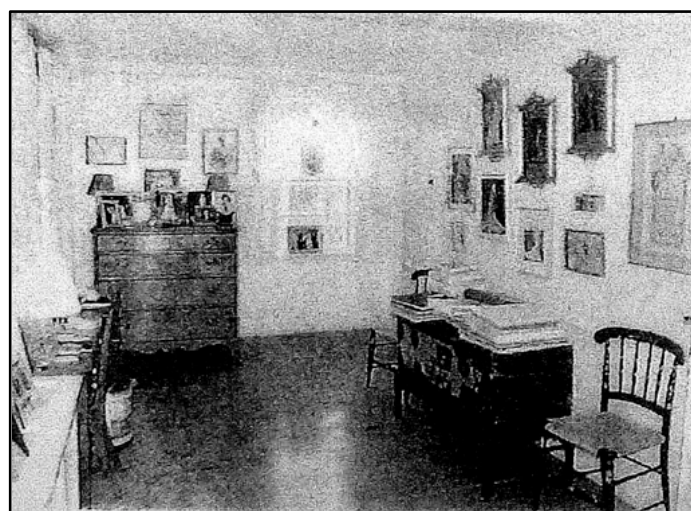
Two more bathrooms are on the 2nd floor of the north wing. One has a door, on the hall that runs from the front bedroom to the back of the house. The hall intersects with another hall at the back of the 2nd floor and with stairs from the 1st floor. Another bathroom is next to the stairs.

The back hall leads to a bedroom, which was George S. Patton's as a boy. In 1982, he used it as his office.¹⁰



Children's playroom, 2nd floor, above porch.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Brides room, 2nd floor, originally was a sewing room.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



Porch patio, with large screens, provides clear view of property behind the house. Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Seeking a more quiet and secluded area to do his research, George S. Patton, in 1984, built a wood-paneled office in the cellar, below the pass-through section of the south wing. Bookshelves and pictures covered the walls of his "hide-away office," which had had filing cabinets and a wood desk. A side door to the exterior is in the adjoining cellar area below the study.

When George S. Patton, Jr. moved his office to the cellar of the south wing, Joanne H. Patton had on the 2nd floor office on the north wing converted to a child's bedroom.¹⁰



Picture windows, back of north wing, were built by George S. and Joanne Patton, in 1982. Photo J. Hauck, 2019

In a 1986, a fire destroyed George S. Patton's "hide-away" office.

Joanne H. Patton recalled she was in the kitchen, when she heard a buzzing sound; she thought it was George's basement phone. He went to see what was causing the noise and found the fire. He called the fire department.

Firemen were at a special town hall meeting about their need for a new safety building. Also, contacting the firemen was hampered, because Hamilton was in process of changing to a touch-tone phone system. Despite these hindrances, the firemen arrived soon

enough to keep the blaze from spreading, although smoke did spread beyond the cellar office and coat walls and furniture in the extension and the main house.¹⁰

The source of the fire may have been George S. Patton throwing a cigarette butt, he thought was out, into a wastebasket.²⁰

In attempting to extinguish the fire, George S. Patton suffered second-degree burns. Many of his journals were destroyed. The floor above collapsed to the cellar, allowing smoke to flow into much of the house.^{10, 20, 35}



Facing west, the porch provides a view of the property back to the Ipswich River, and trees with their spectrum of fall colors and to beautiful sunsets.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2019



General George S. Patton, Jr.'s study, with replica of Napoleon Bonaparte's desk and the portrait study of the General above fireplace. Photo, Patton Family Archives, 2018

Following the fire, George S. Patton moved his office back to the bedroom above the north wing.¹⁰ To provide a better view of the property behind the house and more daylight into the room, the Pattons enlarged the dormer on the back of the roof. It combined two dormers having a picture window and two side windows. In outward appearance, the windows are very similar to the picture window arrangement directly below, in the kitchen.

In total, the Pattons built four picture windows on the back of their house. Views from the house, which is above the broad lawn and marshland in the west,

can be quite impressive ... morning's low clouds of mist drifting over the marsh ... evening's sun-lit clouds ... thunderheads sliding across the marsh.

Changes to South Wing

The George S. Patton, Jr.'s changed the exterior of the south wing, when they built wood clapboard siding on the east and west brick walls; they left the brick facing on the south side.¹⁰ This may have been done, from 1938 to 1940, when they built a 3-room extension, with wood clapboard siding, onto the south wing.

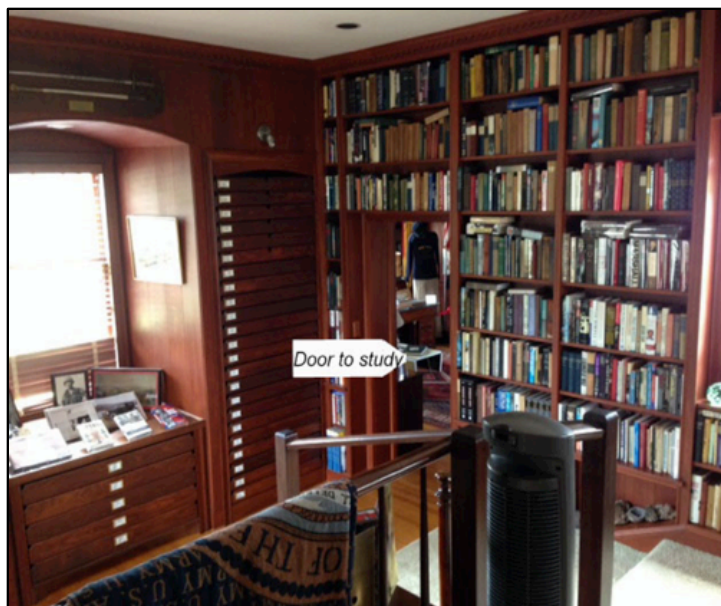
The extension has: a study (20 x 12 ft.); a bedroom (20 x 12 ft.), with a bay window; fireplaces in both rooms; and a combination bathroom and closet/dress-

ing room (17 x 18 ft.). They became the master bedroom suite. The Pattons completed the extension in 1942.¹⁰

They made the south wing into a military memorabilia, "trophy" room for the Patton family going back to the Civil War. Various weapons, military hats and helmets collected by family members hang on the walls and rest on the ceiling beams. Memorabilia, photographs and medals are on the walls.



Pass-through, coming from den (above) and going to photo files and study door (right). Photos, J. Hauck, 2019



General George S. Patton, Jr.'s military medals include two Distinguished Service Crosses for Valor in combat, the second highest military award, the Medal of Honor being the highest.

Most of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.'s memorabilia are at the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, Fort Knox, KY. Some items, which were at the Patton Homestead, later went to the 101st Airborne Museum, Bastogne, Belgium.¹⁰

The trophy room originally had a door on the east side, near where the room abutts the house. Firemen tore down the door, in 1986, in order to widen access for their gear used in fighting the fire below the south wing extension.¹⁰

A doorway, on the west wall of the south wing, leads to a landing in the next section. A narrow, wood-paneled room, it functions as a pass through. There are built-in bookshelves on the east and south walls. George S. Patton, Jr. was a voracious reader of history books. Many of the books, in the pass through, have notes written by him.¹⁰

About 2006, two closets in the pass through were converted to archival drawers, to accommodate numerous large photo albums.¹⁰

A door on the west wall of the pass through, leads to an extension, which has two rooms. The first George S. Patton, Jr.'s study and the second was a



Patton Family Archives office occupies what had been the George S. and Beatrice Patton bedroom, in the south wing of the Homestead. Photo, Patton Family Archives, 2014

bedroom. A dual-face fireplace is in the center of the wall between the study and bedroom.

The study has 8/12 windows on the east, north and south sides. Built-in bookcases are on the north wall, between two windows (8/12). Framed pictures are on all the wood paneled walls. A door on the south wall opens to a patio. A door on the west wall opens to the bedroom.

The study has a replica of Napoleon Bonaparte's desk.³⁵ Beatrice Patton brought it to Hamilton, in 1938, from her parent's Avalon house. Originally, it was at a house on Commonwealth Ave., Boston.¹

A Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. portrait, which was in the study, now is in Washington's Smithsonian Institution National Portrait Gallery. Noted portrait painter Boleslaw Jan Czedekowski painted it, in May 1945.



Kitchen south section (left) and north section (right). In 1982, the two sections were completely remodeled and updated with new appliances. Photos, J. Hauck, 2019



Smoke from the 1984 fire coated the portrait. It was refurbished before going to the Smithsonian.¹⁰

A preliminary study for the final General George S. Patton, Jr. portrait replaced the portrait sent to the Smithsonian. The study is only of the general's head; the portrait shows him in full uniform, holding a riding crop and gloves and a slightly different facial expression than that in the study.¹⁰

The study room also served as a family room for both Patton families. They watched movies on a pull-down movie screen, on the south wall.¹⁰

The former master bedroom, on the west side of the south wing extension, has 2 windows (8/12) on the north wall and a large bay window on the west wall. The latter, has an 18- x 18-ft. picture section with 12- x 12-ft. side sections.

A door off of the south wall leads to an extension having a large bathroom and a combination clothing closet/dressing room. Both rooms have windows. The extension has a hip roof.

Changes to North Wing

There were many changes to the north wing during the Patton years. In 1982, George S. Patton remodeled and updated the two kitchen sections with new appliances.¹⁰ The former kitchen had a cast iron stove and a rickety kitchen table and chairs.

To allow better views of the area behind the house, a picture window replaced two single-casement windows. A high table and counter chairs allowed diners to sit higher and see the area behind the house.³⁰ George S. Patton made the kitchen changes as a gift to his wife, Joanne, on their 30th wedding anniversary.¹⁰

In 1983, Joanne H. Patton converted the two former bedrooms, in the north wing and next to the kitchen, into offices for her new business, Patton Consultant Services (PCS). A non-profit organization, PCS recruited marketing consultants, trainers and speakers for nonprofit organizations.¹⁰

Through PCS, Joanne re-activated her interests in military volunteer support programs. While in Washington, she was the senior volunteer executive, for the American Red Cross, to military families at the National Headquarters. She was the first volunteer recipient of the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal from the U. S. Army.¹³

Later in 1983, Joanne H. Patton co-founded Ready, Willing ... Enable that



Hamilton Historical Society moved to the far-most end of the north wing extension, in 2019. Photo, J. Hauck

made films for local TV. The RW/E films depict the latest advances in assistive technology and in meeting quality of life issues, for the disabled.¹⁰

With RW/E's success, Joanne H. Patton needed more office space for the firm's many vhs cassettes and for working with local TV stations. She began using, in 1984, the extension west of north wing.¹⁷

Joanne H. Patton added, in 1994, a 24x15 room to the north wing extension. It has a poured concrete foundation that can support heavy filing cabinets and storage boxes.¹⁰

To ensure desks and file cabinets could be moved into the wing for the RW/E business, the architect designed the entrance door to be wider than the normal door width, 27 in. The 32-in. wide door came from a unit at The Maples, a senior housing complex in Wenham.³³



Visitor entrance to Patton Homestead.

J. Hauck, 2019



Patton Homestead on Asbury St., near Topsfield town line.

Photo, Google Maps, 2018

In 1992, when her husband began having advanced symptoms of dementia, Joanne H. Patton gave up her businesses and took up managing his farming operation.

With the help of farm managers, she oversaw the 501 (c) business. In 2003, Joanne H Patton hired Andrew Rogers to be Green Meadows Farm's manager. He created an organic community-supported agriculture and raised pastured sheep, chickens and pigs. Rogers created areas where adults and children could get close to the animals and crops from which food comes.

In June 2004, after a prolonged illness, George S. Patton died. He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, VA (Sec. 34, lot 784).

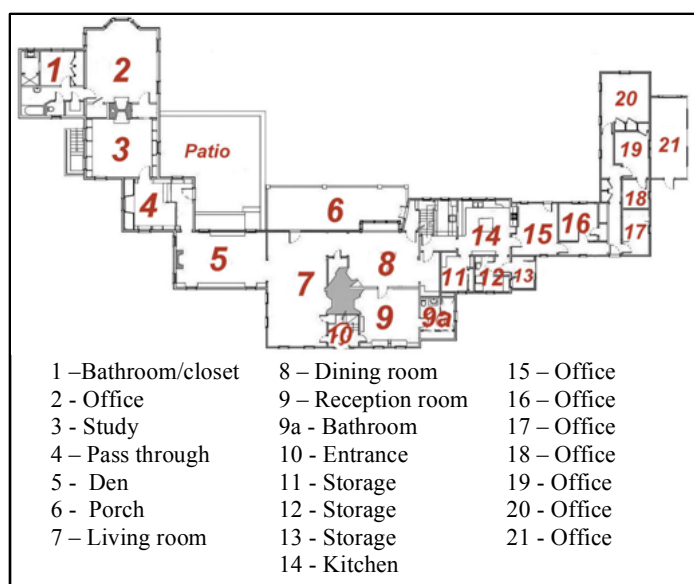
Changes by Town

At this time, to create a central Patton archive, Joanne H. Patton focused her skills on gathering and cataloging the many documents, letters, diaries, photos and collectables related to her husband and his father. Her husband, George S. Patton had done this for many years.

In 2008, Joanne H. Patton arranged for Gordon College's Public History Department to handle the multitude of Patton archiving activities. The north wing and extension became the Patton Archives. The large room, at the west end of the extension, became an office for archive personnel and files for Patton books, papers, letters, diaries and collectables from two generations of military officers. It also included over 150 years of family correspondence and artifacts. Previously, the archives were kept in various places, including the barn near the house, the cellar and in parts of the extensions.

With both the south and north wings of the Patton house devoted to various aspects of the history of George, Jr. and George S. Patton, Joanne H. Patton decided she needed a less hectic place to live.

In 2011, she offered her home and 27 acres of land on Asbury Street to the town. At the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, voters accepted her generous gift of the property at 650 Asbury St. The gift, valued at \$2,135,300, included the 38-room Patton Homestead and various other buildings.





French doors, at left in corner of living room, open to Patton Family Archives, and at right, to porch.

Photo, J. Hauck, 2018

Joanne H. Patton moved, from the Homestead, to a house a short distance north of Asbury Street, in Topsfield. She was the longest resident at Green Meadows, 32 years (1980 to 2012) and it was the 23rd different place at which she had lived.¹⁰

A minor change to the exterior of the house came in 2016, when the town removed a corroded brass eagle from above the front entrance. This was done, during renovations of the house.

A year later, in November 2017, Green Meadows Farms and its associated farm operations closed.

Also in 2017, the Patton family chose the Wenham Museum to be the new owners and care takers of the Patton Family Archives. Working with the Patton Homestead, Inc., (PHI) a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, the museum established, some displays in the



Patton Family Archives has historic displays in the former living room, above, and the former trophy room, right..

Photos, Hamilton Historical Society

south wing and the pass through. The former Patton bedroom in the south wing extension became an office.²⁶

To ensure the security of records and memorabilia kept in the wing and the extension, the town, in 2018, added French doors between the living room and the south wing..

Also in 2018, the town removed the skylights, added in 2006, to restore the building's appearance. The town also repaired and painted the siding, and replaced the gutters.²⁴

PHI signed an agreement in 2018 to help the town develop a business plan for ensuring the financial sustainability for the Patton Homestead. The town hired a director, to manage the Homestead. Two rooms on the north side of the north wing became the director's offices.

In 2019, Hamilton allowed the Hamilton Historical Society to occupy the five rooms in the north wing extension. The Society moved its records and display items from a basement office in the town hall.

By J. Hauck, December 2019





Photo, J. Hauck, 2019

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Special thanks to Joanne H. Patton for the information she provided and Carol Mori for her technical review.

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