



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## William Weston Patton papers11918961

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Burke Library record group: .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series 1: Photographs .....	6
Series 2: Published and Unpublished Writings .....	8
Series 3: Congregational Church of Christ .....	9

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Patton, William W (William Weston), 1821-1889
<b>Title:</b>	William Weston Patton papers
<b>ID:</b>	11918961
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	circa 1830 -- 1940
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.25 linear feet 3.25 linear feet; 6 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	William Weston patton (1821-1889) was a UTS Alumnus (1842); Presbyterian minister; abolitionist; and the son of William Patton (a faculty member and director at Union Theological Seminary). The collection contains family photographs, books written or owned by members of the family, and newsletters, service programs, and other materials relating to the Congregational Church of Christ in Westfield, NJ.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: William Weston Patton papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical / Historical

---

William Weston Patton was a minister and a key figure in the abolitionist movement. Patton wrote the lyrics to what became the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." He was the president of Howard University from 1877 to 1889. William Weston Patton was born on October 19th, 1821. He was the oldest surviving child of Rev. William Patton, D.D., and Mary Weston Patton. His father was one of the founders of the Union Theological Seminary (and briefly served as director from 1836 to 1849) and the Evangelical Alliance. Patton's grandfather was a colonel in the Revolutionary War and the first Postmaster of Philadelphia in the new Republic. William Weston Patton graduated from New York University and the Union Theological Seminary and

became a minister at age 20. Not long after that, Patton left the Presbyterian Church partly because of his anti-slavery stance and became a minister in a Congregational Church. He married Sarah Jane Mott in 1843. They had 3 children, two of whom died in childhood. His first wife died in childbirth and he married Mary Boardman Smith in 1851. With her he had 6 children all of whom survived into maturity. Patton served as a minister in Chicago and was one of the organizers and a President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary. During the Civil War Patton was a vice-president of the Northwestern Sanitary Commission. In that capacity he inspected army camps throughout the central United States. It was during his travels for the commission that he wrote new lyrics to the song that was then familiarly known as "John Brown's Body". The text was published in the Chicago Tribune and then was modified by Julia Ward Howe into what is known today as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." In 1862 Patton presided over a mass meeting in Chicago, where he drew up a memorial on proclamation of emancipation and he was the head of the Committee that presented it to President Lincoln. In 1867 he resigned his pastorate and became an editor of the Advance, a Congregational paper in the Northwest. In 1877 he became a president of Howard University. He held that post to shortly before his death on December 31, 1889, at the age of 69.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

This collection contains family photographs, including images of various members of the Patton family and houses where they lived (some photographs include captions and annotations); books written or owned by the family, including some written by W.W. Patton's father, William Patton, and others by William Weston Patton himself; and newsletters, service programs, and other materials relating to the Congregational Church of Christ in Westfield, NJ.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is organized in three series: Series 1: Photographs; Series 2: Published and Unpublished Writings; and Series 3: Congregational Church of Christ.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-08-05

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. Please see the detailed contents list for fragile materials and handle with care.

Series 1 onsite storage.

### Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 2.1-2.4 and Box 3.1. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were donated to the library at Union Theological Seminary by Mr. Patton's descendant in 2004.

### Processing Information

Any folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. Photographs that are in frames were wrapped in acid-free paper. The finding aid was created by Maya Naunton and Rebecca Nieto in 2017 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

## Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Rev. William W. Patton diaries and account book, 1835-1889, Ms 68129. Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Clergy
- Patton, William W (William Weston), 1821-1889 -- : Archives

---

## Burke Library record group:

---

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series 1: Photographs, circa 1830 -- 1890

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 1 OS box

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains family photographs, including images of various members of the Patton family and houses where they lived. Some photographs include captions and annotations.

Title/Description	Instances	
Framed print portrait of Rev. Wm. Patton, D.D. Metcalf pinxt , Durand sc., circa 1830 -- 1839	box OS1.1	folder 1
Framed sepia photo on paper [copy] – caption reads, Rev. Wm. W. Patton born N.Y. City – Oct-19-1821 died – Westfield, N.J. Dec 31-1889 daguerreotype [sic], Hartford about 1850, 1866-04-09	box OS1.1	folder 2
Rev. William Patton, D.D. [copy], original photo by Moulthrop, New Haven, 1866	box OS1.1	folder 3
Patton House, 380 West Washington Street, built by W.W. Patton about 1860, sepia photograph, J. Battersby, Chicago, circa 1860 -- 1869	box OS1.1	folder 4
Mary Amelia Patton, circa 1860 -- 1869	box OS1.1	folder 5
Cornelius Howard and Horace Bushnell Patton, circa 1860 -- 1869	box OS1.1	folder 6
"Mother" [taken from a painted miniature, possibly Caroline Smith], circa 1860 -- 1869	box OS1.1	folder 7
Mary Amelia Patton, 1879	box OS1.1	folder 8
Caroline D. Smith, 1881	box OS1.1	folder 9
Duodecimal Club of Washington, DC., 1884 -- 1888	box OS1.1	folder 10
Mary Patton Welles – Wedding portrait, 1888-06-12	box OS1.1	folder 11
House where Mary Amelia Patton was married, 1888	box OS1.1	folder 12
Two group photographs on the wedding day of Mary Amelia Patton and Martin Welles, 1888	box OS1.1	folder 13
Norman Smith, circa 1888	box OS1.1	folder 14
Compilation of photographs of the Patton family on a single card Mount, circa 1888	box OS1.1	folder 15
Compilation of sepia photographs of Ludlow Patton on one card mount, circa 1888	box OS1.1	folder 16
Three Copies of a photograph of William Weston Patton, circa 1888	box OS1.1	folder 17

Mary A. Patton, circa 1890

box OS1.1

folder 18

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series 2: Published and Unpublished Writings, 1836 -- 1940**Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxesConditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged in alphabetical order.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains books written or owned by the family, including some written by W.W. Patton's father, William Patton, and others by William Weston Patton himself. One book was written by his children to publish a biography and the sermon preached by his son on the occasion of his death.

Title/Description	Instances	
The Cottage Bible and family expositor (vol. 1) by Dr. W. Patton, 1845	box 2.1	folder 1
The Cottage Bible and family expositor (vol. 2) by Dr. W. Patton, 1845	box 2.1	folder 2
Home Pictures, circa 1865	box 2.2	folder 1
Honour [sic] thy father, by Cornelius H. Patten, 1890	box 2.2	folder 2
Jesus of Nazareth: Who was he? And What is he now?, 1890	box 2.2	folder 3
The Judgment of Jerusalem, circa 1876	box 2.2	folder 4
The last century of Congregationalism by WWP, 1878	box 2.2	folder 5
Lily of the Valley, introduction by Dr. W. Patton, 1836	box 2.2	folder 6
New Testament (vol. 1-2), 1859	box 2.2	folder 7-8
New Testament (vol. 3-4), 1859	box 2.3	folder 1-2
Prayer and the Remarkable Answers by WWP, 1876	box 2.3	folder 3
Spiritual Victory by WWP, 1874	box 2.3	folder 4
The Young Man, by WWP, 1847	box 2.3	folder 5
Printed leaf of Spring Street Presbyterian Church [announcing preaching by WWP's great-grandson], 1940-05-12	box 2.4	folder 1
Sermon by WWP, circa 1870	box 2.4	folder 2



Letter from Connecticut Historical Society Regarding Diary, 1861      box 2.4      folder 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series 3: Congregational Church of Christ, 1874 -- 1918

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

Materials in this series are fragile; please handle with care.

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged in reverse chronological order.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains newsletters, service programs, and other materials relating to the Congregational Church of Christ in Westfield, NJ. Some materials relate to the town itself. WWP's son, Cornelius H. Patton, was a pastor at this church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual reports, 1893 -- 1905	box 3.1	folder 1
Service programs, 1888 -- 1918	box 3.1	folder 2
Newsletter, 1886	box 3.1	folder 3
Depositions of a case in the Synod of New Jersey, relating to the Church, 1875 -- 1877	box 3.1	folder 4
Various, 1874 -- 1900	box 3.1	folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)