

# Patten Road bears historic name

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — Checking through some historical facts, and some misconceptions, the Westford Bicentennial Committee is offering this week some bits of background material.

Patten Road, a winding mile in length from Forge Village to Concord Roads, was of little importance until a generation or two ago when new residences began to spring up along its narrow path. And now it harbors the \$5 million new Academy complex, adding to the usefulness of the thoroughfare.

It is named for the Isaac Patten family, who farmed the area for many years and occupied the

only house on the road, long since destroyed. This was about the time of the Revolution for he was born in Chelmsford and married presumably a Westford girl by the name of Lydia Keyes in 1782.

THE NAME of Patten long has been missing in Westford but the family tomb is in the West Cemetery. In the early 1900's, apple growers tried unsuccessfully to produce fruit in this area but late springtime frosts usually raised havoc with the apple blossoms. Many of the old trees still linger.

People today confuse the spelling of this street with that of the famed and colorful World War II, General George S. Patton, Jr. There is no

connection nor is there an "o" in Patten Road.

Speaking of apples, on Groton Road (Route 40) near the junction of Gould Road, is a pair of rough stone posts which at one time held the gate to a small apple orchard. Crudely engraved on one post is an arrow and the date, 1848; on both posts is the outline of an apple. Mrs. Bernice Pickling, founder of the Westford chapter of the DAR and current owner of the property, believes that it is the work of her great-grandfather, Edwin Gould, who was a stonecutter by trade.

Westford calls this highway Groton Road, but folks in Groton know it as Lowell Road. Pity the poor mapmaker!