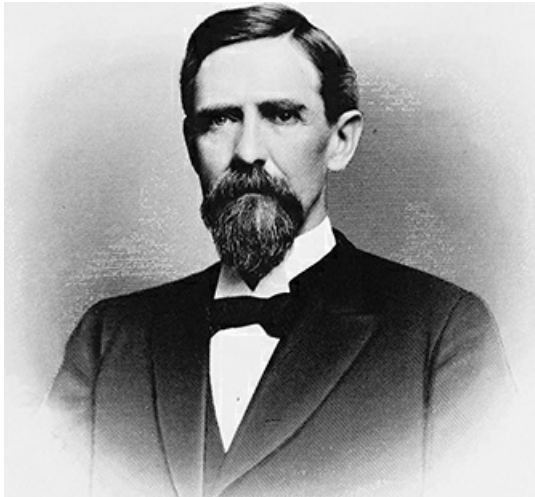


Patterson, Samuel Legerwood ^[1]

Patterson, Samuel Legerwood

by Charles S. Powell IV, 1994

6 Mar. 1850–14 Sept. 1918



Engraving of Samuel Legerwood Patterson, circa 1905. Image from Archive.org.

^[2]Samuel Legerwood Patterson, farmer and legislator, was born at Palmyra ^[3], the family home located in the Yadkin River valley in Caldwell County ^[4], the son of Samuel Finley ^[5] and Phebe Caroline Jones Patterson. His father, a farmer, financier, and businessman, was a member of the state house of representatives and the senate, state treasurer ^[6], and president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad for five years. Samuel L. Patterson was educated at Faucette's school, Bingham's, and Wilson's Academy. He entered The University of North Carolina ^[7] in 1867 but the school closed the following year. He then attended the University of Virginia for one year before taking a clerking job in Salem ^[8]. On 17 Apr. 1873 he married Mary S. Senseman, the daughter of a Moravian ^[9] minister from Indiana.

Although a Republican ^[10], Patterson was appointed county commissioner and district superintendent of the census in a Democratic ^[11] county. He served in the state house of representatives in 1891 and 1898 and in the state senate in 1893; in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on agriculture and was a member of many other committees. He was also a trustee of The University of North Carolina. Patterson was commissioner of agriculture from 1895 to 1897, when he was removed by the Fusion party ^[12]. He was reappointed in 1899 and then elected by popular vote through 1908. Patterson Hall ^[13] at North Carolina State University ^[14] is named in his honor.

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