

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS WORK SHEET

NUMBER: PC.1884.1-36

NAME OF COLLECTION: JOHN L. PATTERSON PAPERS

Roanoke Rapids, Halifax Co., N.C.

DATES: ca.1900-1919

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Deposit leading to a gift by Dr. and Mrs. John Page Williams, Charlottesville, Va., August 26, 1998

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Approximately 12 cu. ft., including original manuscript and typescript letters, bills and receipts, reports, printed matter, maps, and photographs.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: John Legerwood Patterson (1874-1935), son of Rufus L. and Mary (Fries) Patterson, was educated in the University of North Carolina, taking his bachelor of science degree in 1895. Upon leaving the university, Patterson followed the industrialist tradition of his family by going into textile manufacturing. From 1895 to 1900 he was with the Southside Mills of Winston-Salem, after which he went to Roanoke Rapids as secretary and general manager (subsequently president) of the Rosemary Manufacturing Company which had been organized by family members and business partners. His brother, Samuel Finley Patterson, who had helped organize the Rosemary Manufacturing Company, served as treasurer of the company until 1920 when he assumed the presidency vacated by John L. Patterson at the end of 1919 when he resigned the office and moved to Richmond, Virginia. While at Roanoke Rapids, John L. Patterson was vice-president and director of First National Bank in the town, director of the Roanoke Mills Company and of the Roanoke Rapids Bridge Company. He was president of the North Carolina Good Roads Association, 1911-1912, and of the Cotton Manufacturers Association of North Carolina, 1917-1918. Mr. Patterson, an Episcopalian, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, the Knights Templars, the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elk, and several professional organizations. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Stevens Textile Manufacturing Company of Fall River, Mass., purchasers of the Patterson, Roanoke, and Rosemary mills at Roanoke Rapids, N.C. Mr. Patterson's papers are divided into six series.

(1) Correspondence, 1900-1919: 15 fibredex boxes of papers foldered by year, but not arranged day by day or month by month within the folders. Contains personal and business correspondence, including some letters relating to Patterson's involvement in organizations such as the Cotton Manufacturers Association of America, the Southern Cotton Manufacturers Association, the Cotton Manufacturers Association of North Carolina, North Carolina Good Road Association, and so forth. Included among the correspondence will be found some ephemera that will need to be moved to their proper series when final arrangement of the papers is undertaken. Presently (January, 1999) the

JOHN L. PATTERSON PAPERS
ca.1900-1919

correspondence files end with September 15, 1918, which means that the files for the last fourteen months or so of John L. Patterson's involvement in Rosemary Manufacturing Company are not present in the collection.

(2) Bills and Receipts, 1901-1917: 4 fibredex boxes. The unarranged bills and receipts are gathered roughly by year. They have neither been sorted into "personal" and "business" subseries nor categorized.

(3) Miscellanea, 1900-1917: 3 fibredex boxes. These include both personal miscellanea and printed ephemera. Of the personal miscellanea, the first box contains material deriving from John L. Patterson's life outside the operation of Rosemary Manufacturing Company and includes material on his membership or involvement in various non-professional organizations (Academy of Political Science, Chataqua Committee, Democratic Party, Kanuga Club, N.C. Forestry Association, the Patterson School, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, UNC Alumni Association), or concerns affairs of the towns of Rosemary, Roanoke Rapids, and Weldon. The second box contains materials relating to Patterson's venture in land development near Rosemary with his partner, W. F. Horner. The third box contains printed ephemera that range in subject matter from buggies to electrical appliances, from household furnishings to "telegraphones", from state politics to national affairs.

(4) Good Roads, 1907-1917: 2 fibredex boxes. The first box contains some of Patterson's Good Roads correspondence (while some of it will be found among the general file of correspondence in the first series) and a Good Roads publicity program to be developed and administered through UNC. The second box contains material relating to the American Road Congress, the American Association for Road Improvement, Capital Highway Section maps, Dixie Motorway Section maps, Good Roads circulars, Halifax County road law, state road law, N.C. Automobile Association, N.C. Good Roads Association, N.C. State Highway Commission, N.C. State Highway Dept., Road Institute, Southern Appalachian Good Roads Association, brick roads, bridges and culverts, dirt roads, macadam roads, national highways, railway crossings, road machinery, road maintenance, road maps, road surfacing, and street signs.

(5) Textile Industry, 1900-1919: 5 fibredex boxes; 3 oversize boxes. The bulk of these papers contain monthly reports, 1908-1919, and miscellaneous files relating to Rosemary Manufacturing Company, but there are also files on the Cotton Manufacturers Association of North Carolina (1917-1918) and miscellaneous files relating to the textile industry (1902-1919). Three of the boxes of Rosemary Manufacturing Company reports are oversized so they do not follow the other company-related material on the shelf. Miscellaneous Rosemary Manufacturing Company papers include efficiency and production charts; bleaching, drying, dyeing, and finishing machinery; lacing machinery; looms, loom room, and loom tie ups; patents; descriptions of the plant and the mill village; silk production, and photographs of the silk mill of the Patterson Textile Company; and the singeing outfit at Rosemary Manufacturing Company. Miscellaneous papers relating to the textile industry in general include files on the Southern Commercial Congress; the National Cotton Congress; the American Cotton Manufacturers Association; anti-trust laws; child labor laws; coal fuel; cotton production and manufacturing (boll weevil, conveying systems, cotton exchanges, National Cotton Show, grading classifications, picking machines, and pricing); dyeing machinery and methods; dust control; health and sanitation; lighting; library rules; mill rules; nurses; Panama Canal tolls; Southern Textile Association; starches; statistics; tariff; town planning; unions; and wages.

(6) Photographs: One 8x10 photo box; one 18½x14½ clamshell box; one 21x17 flat box. The first, and smallest box, contains miscellaneous photographs and photographs of mills. The second box contains photographs of Rosemary Manufacturing Company and Roanoke Mills. The third box contains photographs of Patterson's student days at UNC, Chapel Hill, 1891-1895.

Double Oversize Materials (not a series in itself). The following materials do not occur in their proper place in the series to which they belong but are, on account of their size, filed in a folder in the map case containing double oversize private manuscript materials in the Archives stacks.

1. Map. Textile Map of the Southern States, showing all textile mill towns. Enlarged from "The Blue Book" textile directory. New York: Davison Pub. Co., ©1909. Scale 1.75 in. = 100 mi.
2. Plan. Doppleschrauben-Schnellpostdampfer "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse", Norddeutscher Lloyd. 1898.
3. Plat. Map of property belonging to Roanoke Realty Co. situated in Northampton County, N.C., and Greensville County, Va. 1913. Glaucus A. Bryant, Civil Engineer, Wilson, N.C.; T.D. Harris, draughtsman. Scale: 500 ft. to 1 in.
4. Plat. Map of the Patterson & Horner Property Situated in Roanoke Rapids Township, Halifax County, N.C., Developed and Improved by the Above; and sold at Auction by the Atlantic Coast Realty Company, Greenville, N.C., Saturday November 25th, 1911. G[laucus] A. Bryant, [Surveyor and Civil] Engineer, Wilson, N.C., [1911] Scale: 250 ft. to 1 in. [Two copies, one marked with prices in red ink.]
5. Plat. [Map of the Patterson & Horner Property Situated in Roanoke Rapids Township, Halifax County, N.C., BY Glaucus A. Bryant, Civil Engineer, Wilson, N.C., n.d.] Scale not stated, but 250 ft. to 1 in. [An earlier version of the layout of the property prior to the final layout made for the auction of November, 1911.]
6. Plan. Plan of Sulphur Springs Park Development in and adjoining West Asheville, N.C., being the property of the Sulphur Springs Park Realty Company, June 1914. Scale: 100 ft. to 1 in. [On reverse, map showing Sulphur Springs Park in relation to Asheville, West Asheville, and the Biltmore Estate. Scale not stated.]
7. Broadside. "Rosemary Manufacturing Company Operate World's Largest Damask Mills."
8. Photographs. (a) Elementary school at or near Roanoke Rapids. (b) Elementary & high school at or near Roanoke Rapids. (c) Plant of Rosemary Manufacturing Co. (d)-(h) Plant of Rosemary Manufacturing Company.
9. Certificate. Certificate of membership of John L. Patterson as an active member of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, 1911.

