

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 103

THE R S SANDERSON COLLECTION

**Businessmen, Burnie
History, North West Tasmania**

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Randolph Stuart Sanderson (1860-1933), known as R Stuart Sanderson, was born and educated in London. Acting on advice to take a long sea voyage to improve his health, he arrived in Melbourne in 1880. After coming to Burnie a few days later, he joined the staff of the Van Diemen's Land Company, becoming the Company's secretary. He was the first secretary of the Emu Bay and Mount Bischoff Railway Co. (an offshoot of the VDL Co.) and for a time also acted as stationmaster.

Of a studious nature and gifted with a retentive memory, Mr Sanderson took advantage of his position as Company secretary to become an authority on Tasmanian history and Tasmanian nomenclature. He personally followed the routes of the early Company explorers, checking descriptions recorded in their diaries. He gave lectures on their expeditions and also delivered a number of lectures to the Workers Educational Association on Shakespearian plays and other subjects. A lover of the bush, he was a pioneer of the popular tourist outings to St Valentine's Peak.

He was a member of the first Burnie town board, director and secretary of the Emu Bay Butter Factory and a director of the NW Freezing Co.

After 30 years of service he resigned his position as secretary of the VDL Co. and acquired an interest in the Burnie firm of Tattersall's Pty Ltd, hardware importers, ironmongers and timber merchants. He was director and secretary until the time of his death.

An active member of the Loyal Wellington Lodge, MUIOOF, he occupied every office in the order.

He married Martha Maud, eldest daughter of James Norton-Smith (manager of the VDL Co. from 1869 to 1903) at St George's Church, Burnie, on 13 May 1902.

Mr Sanderson died at Burnie on 31 May 1933, aged 73, respected by all sections of the community. He was survived by his widow and two sons, a daughter having predeceased him some years previously.

(Most of the above information comes from Mr Sanderson's obituary in the *Advocate*, 1 June 1933)

A feature of the records are Mr Sanderson's small personal diaries from 1881 to 1932, (except for the missing 1888 and 1912 diaries) which provide a concise record of his activities.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in March 1949.

1. Diaries

Note: the diaries are small, varying in size between 7 x 5.5 cms and 14 x 6.5 cms. A detailed summary of their contents is included in 1/1.

1/1	R S Sanderson, note book, March 1881- August 1882, diaries, 1883-1890 (there are 2 diaries for 1886, one lacks 1 to 27 January and has few entries; 1888 is missing from the collection)	1881-1890
1/2	Diaries, 1891-1900	1891-1900
1/3	Diaries, 1901-1909 (all the diaries from 1901 have a large number pasted on the front cover, indicating the year)	1901-1909
1/4	Diaries, 1910-1919 (1912 is missing from the collection)	1910-1919
1/5	Diaries, 1920-1928	1920-1928
1/6	Diaries, 1929-1932	1929-1932

2. Correspondence

2/1	R S Sanderson miscellaneous correspondence	1915-1929
2/2	R S Sanderson miscellaneous correspondence	1930-1931
2/3	R S Sanderson miscellaneous correspondence	1932
2/4	R S Sanderson miscellaneous correspondence	1925-1931
2/5	Peter Smith and T A Murray, miscellaneous correspondence	1861-1867

3. Manuscript Notes

3/1	R S Sanderson, manuscript notes re Flinders <i>Voyage to Terra Australis</i>	nd
3/2	Manuscript notes re Baudin	nd
3/3	Manuscript copy of Despatch No.1, from Hobart Town, to James Inglis	1826
3/4	Manuscript copy of Report of Henry Hellyer, Circular Head, 13/3/1827; copy of Hellyer's report, 27/11/1827 by another hand, also typed copy	1827

3/5	Manuscript copy of Despatch no.45, VDL Co's office, London	1827
3/6	Extracts from the reports of surveyors and others employed by the Van Diemen's Land Company....1827-8, by another hand	1827-28
3/7	Manuscript copy of Despatch no.11, from E Curr, Cir. Head	1828
3/8	Manuscript copy of extracts from J H Wedge's report	1828
3/9	Manuscript copy of extract from letter by James Bischoff, London, to R W Hay	1830
3/10	Van Diemen's Land Company Memorandum Book of Edward Curr and James Gibson (1829-1842), typescript	1829-1842
3/11	Manuscript copy of pages from Ida Lee's <i>Voyage of the Caroline</i>	nd
3/12	Manuscript copy of pages from Widowson's <i>Present State of Van Diemen's Land</i>	nd
3/13	Manuscript copy of letter from Skelton H Emmett, son of late S B Emmett, both of Circular Head, to his son Alynn S H Emmett, written about the end of July 1923, with typed copy	1923
3/14	Manuscript notes of conversation with James Lapham, 31/10/1929	1929
3/15	Manuscript notes re Harry Dempster, The Dip and Dipwood Marsh, 24/1/1930	1930
3/16	Manuscript notes of information given to Mrs H F Ford, of Terra Nova, by John Corkery referring to Moore & Quiggin etc, 30/8/1931	1931
3/17	Manuscript notes re James Hurst, 3/9/1931	1931
3/18	Manuscript notes of conversation with James Wilson, 23/12/1931	1931
3/19	Miscellaneous manuscript notes	c1931
3/20	Manuscript notes of conversation with T Gaffney, Temma, 6/1/1932	1932
3/21	Manuscript notes by unknown hand re Helleyer's route	nd
3/22	Manuscript notes from letter by Annie J Ford	nd

4. Miscellaneous Records

4/1	R S Sanderson, miscellaneous financial records, various dates	
4/2	Chemist prescription; Vaccination certificate	1889, 1913
4/3	Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings, various dates	
4/4	Tattersall's Consultations, 2 Melbourne Cup tickets	1907
4/5	Mr R Stuart Sanderson, visiting cards	nd
4/6	Envelope annotated 'Correspondence with P B Nye, Government Geologist'	nd
4/7	Photographs of unidentified man found in 1897 diary; photograph of unidentified woman from Sanderson diaries	

5. Miscellaneous Items

5/1	H J Emmett and F W Ford, typed copy of letter to William Henty and members of the Executive Council	1857
5/2	Peter Smith, typed copy of letter, photocopies of correspondence from and re Peter Smith, owner of Plough Inn, Circular Head; two original letters from R H Wigmore, 1865; manuscript note on Smith by R S Sanderson	1860-1867
5/3	J W Norton Smith, typed copy of letter to Chas. Webster, Mackay, re Emu Bay breakwater	1894
5/4	J W Norton Smith, typed copy of letter to W Herbert Jones Melbourne, re history of VDL Company	1895
5/5	Burnie, chronological historical notes chiefly about Burnie, manuscript	1901-1932
5/6	J W Norton-Smith, menu of banquet given by tenants of the VDL Co. on his retiring from management of the Company	1906
5/7	Port of Burnie, typed notes re history	1921
5/8	R Hilder, letter from G H Stephens re names on Soldiers Memorial, Burnie	1923
5/9	Circular Head Marine Board, copy of letter to Surveyor General, Hobart, re name 'Highfield' and Admiralty charts	1928
5/10	A L Meston, <i>The Work of the Van Diemen's Land Company</i>	1929

in Land Settlement (from report of Hobart meeting of Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, with manuscript comments by R S Sanderson on some pages)

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| 5/12 | Copy of an account of Henry Hellyer's early exploration in Feb. 1827 of The Emu Bay district and ascent of 'the North Pyramid of rock' | nd |
| 5/13 | Typescript copy of Henry Hellyer's report, Emu Bay, 27 th November, 1827 | nd |
| 5/14 | Typescript copy of Henry Hellyer's report, 1827 | nd |

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, 1983.P.0923, 1983.P.0924, 1983.P.1314, 1983.P.1677, 1983.P.1678, 1983.P.1679, 1983.P.1680, 1983.P.1681, 1983.P.1682, 1983.P.1683, 1983.P.1684, 1983.P.1685, 1983.P.1686, 1983.P.1688, 1983.P.1689, 1983.P.1690, 1983.P.1691, 1983.P.1692, 1983.P.1693, 1983.P.1695, 1983.P.1698, 1983.P.1699, 1983.P.1700, 1983.P.1705, 1983.P.1706, 1983.P.1707, 1983.P.1708, 1983.P.1709, 1983.P.1710, 1983.P.1711, 1983.P.1712, 1983.P.1713, 1983.P.1715, 1983.P.1719, 1983.P.1723, 1983.P.1724, 1983.P.1725, 1983.P.1746, 1983.P.1755, 1983.P.1827, 1983.P.1997

CHS103 R S Sanderson Photograph summary (descriptions of above photographs)

CHS103 R S Sanderson from OCR - Sanderson Diaries summary listing 1881-82, 1883 - 1886, 1889 - 1932