Inventory

Acc.9031

George Anderson, emigrant to Patagonia
George Anderson (1865-1925) emigrated to the Falkland Islands in 1884 with a five-year contract to work as a shepherd. In 1891 he formed a company with four other Scottish shepherds to start a sheep farm in Patagonia, Argentina. It took George nearly eight years to find suitable land in this remote region. Eventually, in 1898 after several unsuccessful expeditions and many privations, he found a place near Cape Watchman.

Although life in Patagonia was isolated and sometimes difficult, George’s farm, which he named ‘Bahía Laura’, started to take off. George visited Scotland in 1905 and 1907. During the second visit he persuaded his brother Adam to join him the following year. Before returning to Patagonia he acquired a Kodak camera with which he captured the progress of his farm and the lives of relatives and friends.

In 1924 George returned to Scotland permanently. He and his family settled in Peebles. Unfortunately, George died prematurely of pneumonia in January 1925. His son George was born only two months later.

The collection consists mostly of copies of the original photographs. These document daily life and sheep farm activities at Estancia Bahia Laura. It also includes some typescript biographical notes in English and Spanish which provide an insight into George Anderson’s emigration to and life in Patagonia.

Presented

For other related material see Acc. 9002.

1. George Anderson soon after arriving in the Falklands, 1884.
2. George Anderson on horseback in the Falklands, 1889.
3. Thought to be a Post Office built on the coast of Bahia Laura, 1902.
4. Adam Anderson’s house at Bahia Laura. Adam (George’s brother) with wife and family left Innerleithen in 1907 and 1908 to join George, c.1910s.
5. Lamb marking at Bahia Laura, 1908.
6. “Lamb marking 1908, Bahia Laura”.
7. “Que Bueno el Asado, Bahia Laura, 1908”.
8. The dwelling house completed at Bahia Laura, March 1908.
9. Stores arriving at Bahia Laura, 1908.
10. Agnes Anderson (on left) and her young sister (centre) with visitors and some of the farm workers, Bahia Laura, c.1909.

11. Settlement of Comodoro Rivadavia, c. 1910s.

12. At Bahia Laura. “Mr Jolly and his shearing machine”, c. 1910s.

13. The wool shed at Bahia Laura nears completion, c.1910s.

14. Estancia Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

15. Estancia Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

16. Estancia Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

17. Dwelling house, Estancia Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

18. Visitors at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

19. Visitors at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.

20. At Bahia Laura. Agnes Anderson on left, c.1910s.

21. George’s wife Annie (MacDougall) on left and niece Nellie dressed up as Tehuelche Indians, wearing guanaco skins. Annie is drinking maté from a gourd, c.1910s.

22. A dance at Estancia Bahia Laura. The couple on the right are Agnes Anderson and her husband Jim Hope, c.1910s.

23. An outing to Cape Watchman. Adam (George’s brother) is on the right, c. 1910s.

24. At Cape Watchman with penguins, c.1910s.

25. Settlement at Puerto Deseado, c.1910s.

26. Passenger disembarking, probably at Comodoro Rivadavia, c.1910s.


28. At Bahia Laura. Agnes Anderson (Adam’s daughter) on the left, c.1910s.

29. Original caption: This is Jim Anderson (nephew of G.A. – possibly George Anderson) driving a lot of “Bobbies”, c.1910s.

30. Probably view (from sea) of settlement at Puerto Deseado, c.1910s.
31. Wool shed and windmill at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
32. Mounted farm workers driving herd of horses at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
33. Mounted farm workers and some horses at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
34. Mounted farm workers and some horses at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
35. Horses and cart with farm worker at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
36. Farm worker, horses and mounted uniformed men at Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
37. Mounted farm worker leading another horse with bridle Bahia Laura, c.1910s.
38. Estancia Mate Grande in San Julian, home of Robert and William Patterson who emigrated from Dumfries to the Falklands and crossed to Patagonia in 1890. This building was burned down by the group known as the ‘Huelquistas’ around 1920.
39. Saved by the marines. The group known as the ‘Huelguistas’ having burned down farms and terrorised the area around San Julian moved north towards Bahia Laura and the men prepared to defend it. But the ‘Huellguistas’ were intercepted by a detachment of the Argentine navy before reaching the buildings, defeated and shown no quarter. This shows some of the sailors (or marines) at Bahia Laura afterwards; Maria, George’s daughter is on the right, c.1920.
40. Photograph of newspaper article in Territorios Nacionales about George. Article has picture of George, his wife and daughter, 20th November 1920.
41. Photocopy of a page of George Anderson’s diary. The entry refers to his first visit back to Scotland in 1907, sailing from Punta Arenas in the far south of Argentina. Before sailing for Scotland he had to go down the coast on a smaller ship and had a tiring night ride before he could board on it.
42. History of the life of George Anderson (in English) compiled by his son, also named George Anderson, in chapters entitled:
   “The Early Years 1865-1884”,
   “In the Falklands 1884-1891”
   “A province called Patagonia”,
   “The search for land 1891-1898”
   “Estancia Bahia Laura 1898-1924”.
43. Document (in Spanish) with brief history of George Anderson’s life.