



James Anderson hailed from Perthshire, Scotland, where he worked for the Duke of Sutherland who owned the freehold of almost the entire county. James took charge of the first sheep introduced to the country by the Duke, and this historic move was to lead to the eviction of many thousands of small inefficient tenants. On leaving school, his son, John Anderson, became a shepherd lad on the state working for his father, and before long became an expert in the training of sheep dogs.

After a brief sojourn in Canada, John returned to Scotland and he along with his father, now widowed, and brothers John and Donald, decided to emigrate to New Zealand.

The Andersons landed at Wellington where they remained for a few years where they started a butchers shop, obtaining their livestock by regular shipments from Australia.

In 1843 John and his father sold the butchery business and moved to Nelson with a shipment of live sheep with the intention of starting sheep farming. Unfortunately, on entering Nelson harbour, the vessel struck a rock and was wrecked and nearly all the sheep were drowned. James then opened an hotel called the "Oddfellows Arms".

John Anderson married Isabella Allan in 1844 and left for Dunedin. After a stormy journey they landed safely in Otago Harbour at Koputai (Port Chalmers) on 3 December 1844, and before they disembarked Isabella gave birth to her first son James, who thus had the honour of being the first white child born in Otago Harbour.

The Andersons circumnavigated the Otago Harbour and finally decided to pitch their tent in the inlet now known as Anderson's Bay. Here was a strip of clear land from bay to ocean with plenty of good

bush in the vicinity. Upon this they hoped to run a few sheep, and, perhaps, cattle. They built a hut of rushes and rough timber. For food they had plenty of wild pork, and vegetables of their own raising. They also carefully eked out a half ton of flour which they had brought from Nelson. There was an abundance of quail to be had for the shooting.

But time hung heavily on their hands, almost their sole occupation being gardening, fishing and boating. Their only friends were two runaway sailors living in a hut on the site of the future Dunedin.

In February 1846, to everyone's delight, Kettle and his survey party appeared in a boat on the harbour. John secured employment amongst the surveyors, and built a small house in Dunedin. Here was born, on 10 December, 1846, his son John, the first child to be born in Dunedin. Old Mr James Anderson died in his son's house in August 1848, six months after the arrival of the first settlers.

In 1849 John and his family went to Port Chalmers where he started a butchery business. He got his stock from John Jones, at Waikouaiti, which came via a narrow and difficult track on the side of Blueskin Hill. In 1853 he left for the Taieri, and in 1857 moved to the Blue Mountain District, and ultimately settled at Kelvingrove, Waiwera.

In Dunedin's Anderson's Bay cemetery is the Anderson family grave and the memorial to the early settler Andersons James and Isabella who are not buried here.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand (www.cemeteries.org.nz) from research taken from "The Taieri Allans and Related Families" by James Allan Thomson.