



Suggestion 10

Tony Hughes

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Victorian Redistribution suggestion uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: Samuel Anderson was Gippslands first settler and Victoria's third, arriving at Western Port five months after John Batman at Melbourne and 12 months after the Henty Brothers at Portland. He, together with his business partner, Robert Massie created a prosperous 40 hectare farm, orchard and flour mill in harmony with the local Aborigines, three of the original pear trees are still alive today.

PROPOSED ELECORATE NAME

McMillan redistribution, Victoria

Samuel Anderson was Victoria's third permanent settler and Gippsland's first.

Arriving on the banks of the Bass River, to harvest wattle bark with his small party in October/November 1835, not far from where George Bass had repaired his whaleboat and replenished his water supply in 1798, Samuel, aged 32, recognises the land he is clearing for a camp is suitable for farming.

Leaving his men behind to continue clearing the bush and start harvesting bark suitable for the leather tanning trade, Samuel returned to Launceston to put together what was needed to plant wheat. A bumper crop, it is sold for a profit and enables another to be planted.

Samuel and his business partner, qualified Professional Civil Engineer, Robert Massie, set about establishing a prosperous 100 acre (40 hectare) farm growing wheat, potatoes and vegetables, together with a large pear orchard on the river flats at Bass. Three of the original pear trees are alive today and must be considered among the oldest in Victoria, if not the oldest.

Anderson Inlet at Inverloch was discovered and named by Samuel together with the Tarwin River which discharges into the eastern end of the inlet.

Samuel rediscovered the coal seams at Harmer's Haven near Cape Patterson. Originally found by William Hovell in 1826, this find eventually leads to the State Coal Mine being established at Wonthaggi in 1909.

Robert Massie built Victoria's first and probably only, underwheel tidal flour mill on the mud flats at the junction of Ross Creek and Bass River in 1842, a major achievement by any measure. The mill worked well, grinding their own and neighbours grain for many years.

Samuel's younger brothers, Hugh and Thomas, purchase 2616 acres (1046 hectares) of the old Two Rivers pastoral run in 1852/3 originally leased by Samuel and Robert, clear the land and become successful graziers.

The area is later called Anderson after the three brothers.

Samuel, a bachelor, aged 60, passes away alone, intestate and is buried beside his hut on a portion of Hugh's land, the grave and hut long lost to history.

Samuel and Robert employed "free" men and enjoyed good relations with the local Aborigines. There is no evidence they abused or exploited the Aborigines apart from farming the land, they were not tainted by convictism.

Samuel arrived at Western Port to harvest wattle bark, not farm, recognises the quality of the land, something no other explorer, official or otherwise had done previously, they had all reported Western Port unsuitable for settlement.

Samuel, a bookkeeper by profession with a seafaring/merchant, not farming or agricultural upbringing, saw what others couldn't and against all the odds, created Gippsland's first settlement and farm.

His ability, courage and determination cannot be underestimated, a dour, quiet Scotsman who chose deeds, not fame or fortune, to mark his legacy. You won't find his name in school textbooks or thought of as a pioneer. This in no way diminishes what he achieved and his place in Victoria's history.

Renaming the electorate of McMillan, "ANDERSON" after Samuel, in the proposed redistribution, would acknowledge his place in our history and hopefully, lead more people to learn about his contribution to our State.

Tony Hughes

25th October 2017