

Obituary.

Mrs.C.R. Sanderson, Link with Earliest N.Z.

With the passing of Mrs. C. Russell Sanderson on Saturday, at her son's, residence at Totara North, another link with early days in New Zealand is severed. Mrs. Sanderson, one of a family of 16, was a daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Stephenson, once well-known as acting-Consul for the United States and a merchant in Russell, one-time capital of New Zealand.

She was born 86 years ago. Up to the time of her death, Mrs Sanderson described vividly her memories of early days in old Russell when ships of all nations, both whalers and traders, made frequent calls at the port. Many famous naval officers, sea captains and others, including Tamati Waka Nene and his wife, Rutu, with whom she had come in contact as a young girl, were frequently mentioned as visitors to the Stephenson home and place of business.

STAMPS AND SHELLS

Over 70 years ago she began collecting the nucleus of what has become one of the finest stamp collections in Australia and New Zealand, and. In 1894 became a member of the then New Zealand Philatelic Society. She was recently elected, on the occasion of the prefix "Royal" being added to the name of the society, an associate of the RNZPS as an honorary life member.

For 30 years Mrs Sanderson's name has been prominent in the minds of New Zealand conchologists and she was honoured in discovering and including in her collection previously unknown specimens of shells which had been officially acknowledged by the Linnean Society.

Latterly her activities had been devoted to the formation and guidance of a local junior club—the principal objects being music and the collection and classification of stamps and shells by the young people of the district.

VALUED INTERESTS

After her marriage at St Paul's Church, Whangaroa, in 1886, to the late Mr F. W. Sanderson, she became a leading spirit in local social activities, such as the Orchestral and Amateur Theatrical Society and the Whangaroa Chess Club. She was a keen chess player of no mean ability up till quite recently and at one time attained championship honours.

Mrs Sanderson is survived by a family of four—Messrs Eric, Alan (Whangaroa County) and Neville (Cambridge) and Mrs Gerald Hayes (Pupuke). There are also 15 grand-children and six great grandchildren.

The well-known coastal masters, Captains Samuel, Edward (of the "Nga-puhi and Manaia") and Arthur Stephenson (who still survives) were her brothers. Another brother, Mr Octavius Stephenson was well known in aquatic circles and as postmaster at Opotiki, and Mr Henry Stephenson as officer of H.M. Customs and Marine and registrar at Bay of Islands. Of eight sisters, the only survivor is A Nisbet, of Kaeo.