



1929: Herb Curry with a Linn tractor truck loaded with hoop pine at Villeneuve. Photo courtesy of SLQ

Fact Sheet – V3



Sawmills of Durundur ...

Hancock Bros' Sawmill (1899 – 1933)



1913: Hancock's Sawmill, Villeneuve

The old-established and well-known arm of Hancock Brothers, of Ipswich and Brisbane, extended their operation by erecting a mill at Villeneuve in 1899.



Thomas Hancock Jr (c1844-1897)

Villeneuve Sawmills



Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:

One of their bullock drivers was Herb Curry, and he and his brothers had been with the firm for years. Herb was a good worker, and always looking to improve which led Hancock to importing a few Linn tractors from America in 1927. They were 100 HP petrol engines, crawler tracks at the rear and steel wheels in front.

Herb was using one and put it to good use. He welded a steel cage around the cabin and loaded long logs on both sides and shorter ones on top, and pulled a loaded wagon behind as well. This was the start of the end of the old Bullock days.

He was hauling logs off the side of Mount Archer about twenty miles to the mill so in 1930, they decided to close the mill and rebuild it up on Mount Mee. Herb was in charge and all went well until his son Jack was killed there. He handed the mill over to his Son in law Dudley Kington. He carried on for some time, until the mill was taken over by Mick Simpson.



Woodford Historical Society 2025

Compiled using information from:-
'The History of Queensland' Volume 1
Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim

Hancock Bros' Sawmill *continued*

This timber business was established in Ipswich in 1872.

In 1897, Thomas Hancock (Jnr) purchased extensive timber lands and laid the foundations for a new mill at Villeneuve. His death later that year delayed plans for the mill.



From TROVE: *QUEENSLAND COUNTRY LIFE*
1 July 1905

HANCOCK BROS.

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EXTENSION OF OPERATIONS.
A NEW MILL AT VILLENEUVE.
AN ABUNDANCE OF PINE.

The old-established and well-known firm of Messrs. Hancock Bros., of Ipswich and Brisbane...

They have erected a mill at Villeneuve, a place about five miles from Hopetown, and about 10 miles on the East side of Woodford. The building measures 100ft. by 35ft....

From TROVE: *QUEENSLAND TIMES* 25 January 1900

Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:



Another firm in the Timber Industry was Tom Hancock from Ipswich. They had bought out a small mill in North Ipswich and started out from there. They had heard about all the timber around Kilcoy, so Tom was sent up to look around. He ended up buying a lot of Nicholson's land and decided to build a mill up there.

They built on the hill overlooking the Villeneuve Bridge but on the north side of the river.

In 1933, the decision was made to relocate the Villeneuve mill to Mount Mee, in order to be closer to the source of the timber.

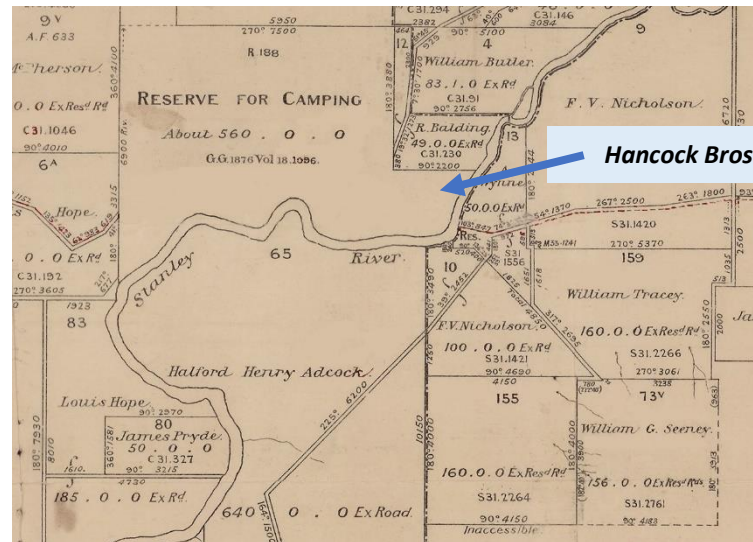
Hancock Bros., who are interested in large timber areas at Mt. Mee, have decided to shift their mill from Villeneuve to Mt. Mee, and the work has commenced.

From TROVE: *THE TELEGRAPH* 3 October 1933

The timber industry is going ahead again, and great activity is displayed just now in the way of sawmills, as the machinery for Messrs. Hancock Bros. new sawmill, that is being erected at the Villeneuve bridge, went up through Woodford lately. This will make two new mills within a mile of each other at Villeneuve.

From TROVE: *MORETON MAIL* 21 April 1899

Hancock Bros., Ltd.,
SAWMILLERS AND TIMBER
MERCHANTS,
(Established 1872.)
Mills at Ipswich and Villeneuve,
Registered Office: Terrace Place,
North Ipswich. 'Phone No. 20.



From TROVE: *QUEENSLAND TIMES* 5 February 1913

