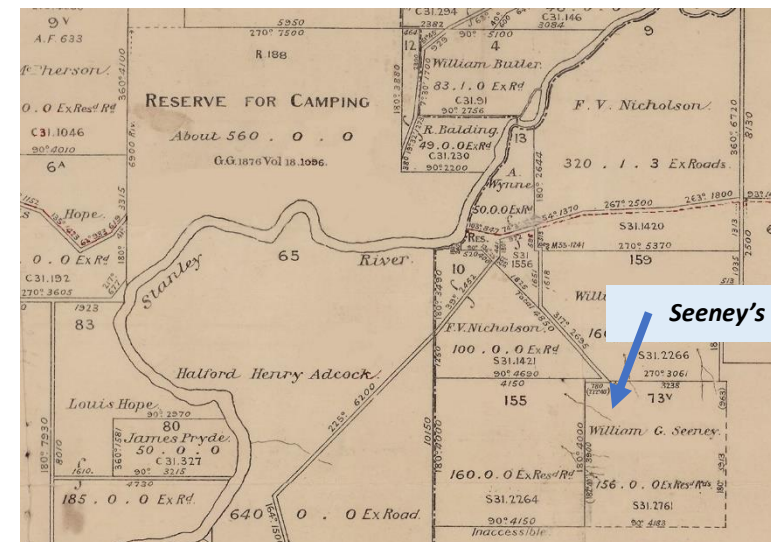


Fact Sheet – V4



Sawmills of Durundur ...

Seeney's Sawmill (1901 – c1903)



Seeney's Property



Woodford Historical Society 2025

Compiled using information from:-
QSA, Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim

In 1901, William George Seeney erected a sawmill on his property at Villeneuve and operated it for a short time.

William George Seeney (George) (1859-1937)



Villeneuve Sawmills

Seeney's Sawmill *continued*

George was living at Villeneuve by the beginning of 1890. He selected Portion 73v in the parish of Byron, a 156 acre homestead property and worked as a timber-getter.

He started a small sawmill in Woodford with his brother-in-law James Green, worked a sawmill in partnership with Alex McCallum in Caboolture (mainly for the purpose of cutting wood-pavement blocks), before returning to Villeneuve in 1901.



Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:

George Seeney operated a sawmill in Woodford, behind Tom King's shop where he was in partnership with his brother-in-law James Green.

However, he also was sawmilling at Villeneuve during these years too.

From 1908 to 1911 he had a sawmill at Hereford Hills (Sheep Station Creek Kilcoy area). He left Hereford Hills in 1917.

I hear Mr. G. Seeney, of Caboolture, purposes erecting a new sawmill here shortly, which, including Mr. Brown's at Hopetoun, will give us four local mills—a good index to the prosperity of the district.

From TROVE: *THE QUEENSLANDER* 9 February 1901

Mr. George Seeney's mill is now in full swing, and the prospects of the district seem most promising.

From TROVE: *THE QUEENSLANDER* 20 July 1901

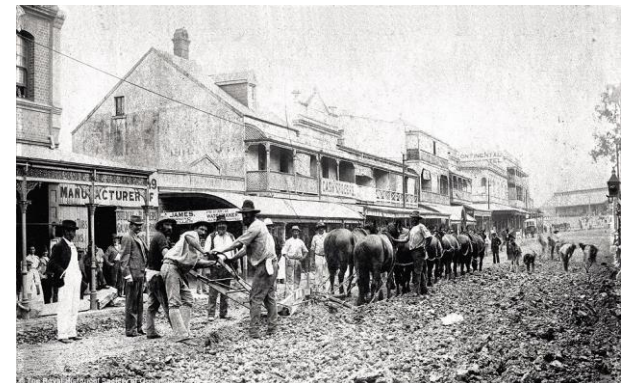
By July 1901, his sawmill was up and running. It only operated for a short time. By the end of 1903, he decided to close the mill and move away.

Wood Paving of Queen Street

At this time moves were afoot to pave Brisbane main streets with wooden blocks (6inch square and 12inch long) standing on end. A Brisbane firm, Chamberlain and Wyllie, won the contract and started digging out Queen and George Streets with ploughs drawn by twelve horses. The company in Brisbane got into trouble and George Charles Willcocks had to take over.

The job was completed but ran into trouble as the top of the blocks became very slippery and horses and cattle broke their legs. It was all dug up and gravel was used to fill in. Sleepers were installed for the new tram lines.

The work was carried out in Queen Street in 1898, using hardwood blocks, all from timber felled within seventy miles of Brisbane, which was laid on concrete.



1898: Queen Street, Brisbane

Photo courtesy of Royal Historical Society of Qld



Wooden blocks laid in Queen Street, Brisbane