

Fact Sheet – V5



Sawmills of Durundur ...

Donald Miller's Sawmill (1919 –1925)



From Map Showing Railways in South-East portion of Queensland
created by the Chief Engineer's Branch Railway

By 1919, Donald Miller, timber merchant, had a sawmill at Villeneuve and operated it for a number of years.

Donald Miller (1862-1924)



Woodford Historical Society 2025

*Compiled using information from:-
Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim
Sawmills and Tramways by John Kerr*

villeneuve Sawmills

Donald Miller's Sawmill *continued*

Donald Miller, a joiner, came to Queensland in 1886 as a bounty passenger. He was only 23 and emigrated with his wife.

In 1891, he started his own joinery business at South Brisbane. His business steady grew over the years and in 1919 expanded to include a sawmill at Villeneuve. He may indeed have leased Green's mill as James Green had retired as a timber merchant and the mill was sitting idle.

Miller D, sawmills, Villeneuve

From *QUEENSLAND PO DIRECTORY 1920*

In December 1920, Miller's business became a limited liability company.

REGISTERED COMPANIES.

The following companies have been registered in the Supreme Court at Brisbane :-

Donald Miller Ltd., Stanley-street, South Brisbane, capital £50,000 in 50,000 shares of £1 each. The objects are to acquire and take over as a going concern from Donald Miller the business now carried on by him, together with all or any of the assets and liabilities in connection therewith, and to carry on all or any of the businesses of timber merchants, sawmillers, builders, and furniture manufacturers, etc.

From TROVE: *THE DAILY MAIL* 23 December 1920



c1920: Looking towards Villeneuve

DONALD MILLER LIMITED

The firm of Donald Miller, Ltd., carries on business as general timber merchants in Stanley-street, South Brisbane. The business was founded during 1891 by Mr. Donald Miller, the present managing director of the firm. Two years ago a limited liability company was formed.

From TROVE: *THE DAILY MAIL* 17 March 1923

The firm also has a pine and hardwood mill at Villeneuve.

From TROVE: *THE DAILY MAIL* 17 March 1923

The company continued to operate a sawmill at Villeneuve, even after Donald Miller died in January 1924, until about 1925.