



### Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:

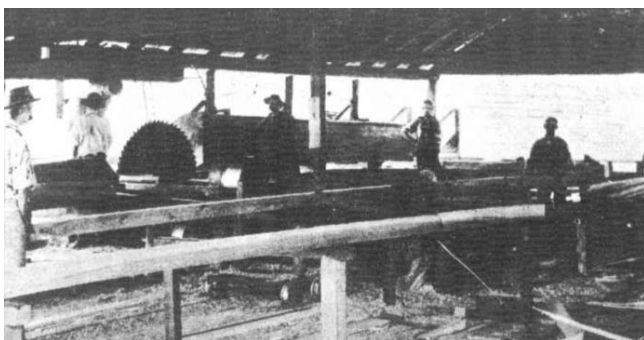
At this time moves were afoot to pave Brisbane main streets with wooden blocks standing on end. A Brisbane firm, Chamberlain and Wyllie won the contract and started digging out Queen and George Streets with ploughs drawn by twelve horses. Green had orders for this job and started to cut it.

**WANTED** good frame Sawyer, capable taking charge of mill. James Green, Timber Merchant, Woodford, via Caboolture.

From TROVE: *THE TELEGRAPH* 1 August, 1899

His brother-in-law, Fredrich Witt, acted as foreman of the sawmill at Yatesville from 1899 until 1903 when the mill closed.

The sawmill plant was most probably moved to Kilcoy where James Green erected another sawmill.



c1905: Sawmill at Hopetoun



**Woodford Historical Society 2025**

Compiled using information from:-

'History of Queensland: Its People and Industries'

Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim

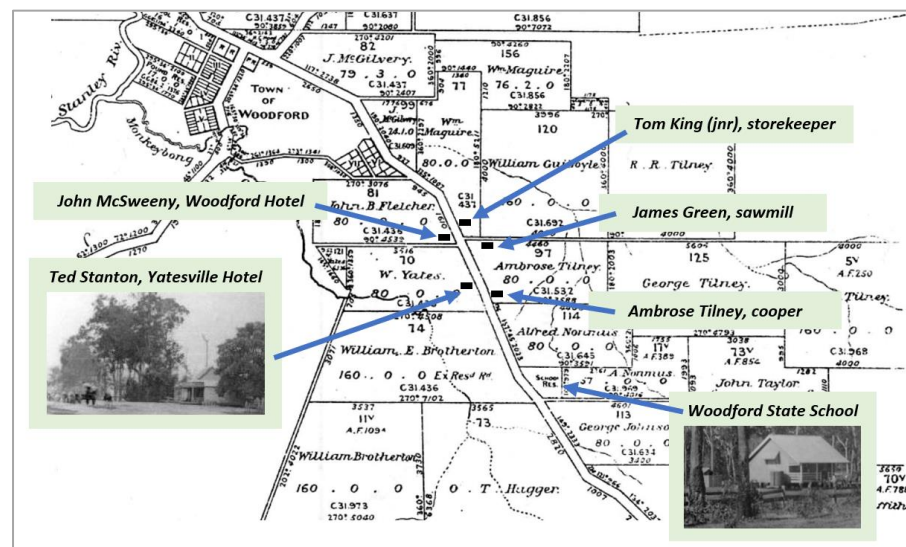
'Reflection' by Charles John Eaton

## Fact Sheet – W2



Sawmills of Durundur ...

### Green's Sawmill (1894 – c1903)



1897: Yatesville

In 1894, James Green in partnership with his brother-in-law George Seeney rented a small sawmill at the rear of King's store at Yatesville.

James Green (1861-1943)



Woodford Sawmills

## Green's Sawmill *continued*

After taking passage by the emigrant ship, 'New Guinea', James Green arrived in Brisbane on 1 March 1886. A carpenter by trade he soon found employment building houses.

Twelve months later he found employment as a sawyer at a sawmill at Goodna.

In 1891, James Green decided to strike out on his own. His first two attempts at sawmilling were unsuccessful, which led him to trying his luck at Yatesville (now Woodford).

In 1894, he teamed up with his brother-in-law George Seeney and they rented Tom King's small four-horse-power mill at 4s per week situated at the rear of King's store.

Green J., sawmill proprietor, Yatesville

From *QUEENSLAND PO DIRECTORY* 1895



from *"Reflection"*  
by Charles John Eaton 1988

*'The King family was well known in the Woodford area in its early days. The boys got an old steam engine and started to cut some timber on top of the hill where the Woodford gaol now stands. It was the police paddock at that time.'*

*'The Kings did not know much about circular saws. A young Englishman (James Green) came to Australia to try his luck and sat on his swag for a spell. After listening to the saw for a while and being trained at home in sawmilling, he asked did they mind if he had a look at the saw. He sharpened and set the teeth and cut some timber for them. All I know is he finished up with the outfit.'*

*'A year later Mr Seeney retired from the business, and the remaining partner (James Green) continued the working of the mill practically single-handedly, his only assistant being a small boy who had just left school.'*

From *HISTORY OF QUEENSLAND: ITS PEOPLE AND INDUSTRIES*

In 1896, James Green erected a new sawmill (on Dalton's corner, George Street, opposite the site of the old Railway Station). Possibly leasing land from Ambrose Tilney.

WOODFORD.

April 28.

**Mr. Jas. Green, our local sawmiller, has made a purchase of a sawmill plant at Clayfield, near Brisbane, and intends getting to work on a larger scale short'y. The work he has already done with his little "coffee mill" proves him to be a practical man, and if industry and energy deserves success, then Mr. Green should come in for a large share of the favours of the fickle Goddess. There is no doubt that it is very handy to have sawn timber for building purposes close at hand, and settlers should show their appreciation by supporting local industry.**

From TROVE: *MORETON MAIL* 1 May 1896

**Our local sawmiller, Mr. James Green, is busy erecting his new mill, when he will be in a position to get through more work, as his present plant was too small for his increasing business. The work turned out is most creditable, and proves him to be a master hand at the saw.**

From TROVE: *MORETON MAIL* 27 November 1896

By the end of 1898, he made the decision to erect another sawmill, this time at Villeneuve and was successful in obtaining a special lease.

see **Fact Sheet – V2 Green's Mill**