

West to Ipswich and Toowoomba

This section provides an overview of sawmills from Goodna west to the foothills of the Toowoomba Range. The Fassifern Valley and Brisbane Valley are treated separately.

Daniel Jones, a former miner and canegrower, opened a sawmill at Goodna in 1884, employing 14 hands. The Goodna Sawmill and Manufacturing Company Limited was floated in 1891 under an agreement between Jones and John Howard Maynard (later a Brisbane sawmiller) who acquired a one third interest, and John Campbell another third. Jones, Maynard and Campbell were the first directors. The company would appear to have been formed because the Jones was in financial difficulty. The company was unprofitable and was liquidated only a year after its registration on 18 December 1891.¹ Daniel and later Henry L. Jones regained control and operated it to around 1924. Brown and Broad were listed as sawmillers in 1908, and it may be this mill that H.L. Jones operated 1910-24. Norman Brothers milled from 1927 and others milled from the 1940s.

Pitt and Kingston had a sawmill at Redbank Plains in the 1890s and William Johnson in the 1910s.

Kruger and Sons Pty Ltd operated Kruger's Sawmill at or near Bundamba from the early 1940s. It gradually changed to a furniture manufacture, located on the southern side of the Brisbane Road between Braeside and McCormack Streets.² T. Cook milled at Booval in the late 1890s and Queensland Farmers Co-operative as well as its butter factory was recorded as a sawmiller in the 1920s, possibly making butter boxes.

A.J. Deadman built a sawmill with its own railway siding at Bundamba Racecourse by 1918. Five years later the Bundamba Sawmilling Company bought or leased both sawmill and siding. A half mile to the south along the Bundamba Coal Railway, a siding was provided for Booval Sawmilling Company. The siding was put out of use in 1937.³

The Bremer Mills beside the Bremer River in the Bundamba area may have been the second sawmill established in Queensland if the date of 1852 for the establishment by Joseph Fleming of his industrial complex on 640 acres is correct. He erected wharf, steam flour mill, steam sawmill, boiling down works, brickworks, his own house and worker's cottages. The sawmill, adjoining the flour mill, had a vertical saw frame able to cut

logs 4 feet diameter and two circular saw benches and other machinery, all driven by 25 horse power steam engine. An earlier source gives the earliest date as 1856, based on the memory of David Rodger, an engineer involved in erecting the flour mill. The mortgagees offered the complex for sale in 1862 and it would appear that the enterprise lasted only a comparatively small number of years.⁴

An 1858 advertisement by Joseph Fleming dated 1 June 1858 states that from that date the Bremer Steam Saw Mill will be under sole management of John Blaine.⁵

James Reilly established a sawmill at 1 Lamington Street, North Ipswich. After Reilly died, the Hancock Company, established in 1872 at Pine Mountain, took a lease of the North Ipswich mill, and Reilly's Rosewood Saw-Mills at or near Walloon. The mills resumed work. The mill then had a 35 horsepower engine with 18 inch diameter cylinder, the mill machinery made by Gray and Company of near Glasgow. It had two Cornish boilers, vertical iron saw frame and an incline or slip with chain was used to raise logs from rafts in the river and onto trolleys on which they ran to the first bench. There was also a steam-powered saw sharpener.⁶

The sawmill burnt down in January 1885, just a year after a siding had been provided passing through the woollen mills. The mill was rebuilt and became a major plywood and veneer manufacturer, operating as Hancock Brothers Pty Limited. continues at this site. In 1995-96 it was acquired by Boral.⁷

Besides Hancock, Byrne and Company had a sawmill beside the North Ipswich Wharf line around 1882-1886 and a rail siding was provided in 1884. In 1887 or 1888 Edward Bullmore bought Byrne's interest in the sawmill, Darvell also being a partner in the business at that time.⁸

Richard Seymour who had been operating the "Steam and Water Sawmills" at North Ipswich since 1878, obtained a railway siding off the wharf branch in 1885. By 1888 he was employing 20 men, double at busy times, sawing and planing hardwood and pine. Their planing machine was made by Robinson and Sons. Seymour also had a yard in Brisbane. He had arrived in Brisbane in

1853 and when construction of the Brisbane-Ipswich Railway began in 1873, he bought a small plant for cutting sleepers and bridge timber.⁹

The new Ipswich Railway Workshops built over two decades from 1885, included in the later buildings a sawmill 200 by 100 feet. The log band sawmill was reported as doing splendid work in 1910-11, having been recently completed. Even in 1920 it was described as possibly unique in Australia with logs automatically cut to scantlings. Rollers carried the sawn timber to the edge of the shed for loading into wagons. The mill supplied the bulk of sawn timber used by the department and was a large one, powered by 300 horsepower engine.¹⁰

A new sawmill was provided in mid 1968, and started work on 5 August, replacing the Prescott and Waterous mills. In its first year production was nearly double the combined output of the mills it replaced. A chipping machine installed in 1977-78 enabling the decommissioning of the Tee-Pee Burner used to burn sawmill waste but a source of pollution complaints. The sawmill closed in early 1988.¹¹

In the 1890s the Wales Sawmill supplied timber to the Mount Crosby Waterworks; the site is now described as 45 Billagall Avenue, Karana Downs.¹²

Brown and Broad operated a box factory in Ipswich in the 1906-1909 period.

At west Ipswich, Josias Hancock erected a sawmill some time prior to 1888, possibly in 1887 when a siding was provided to the site adjacent to the Fassifern branch railway. It included a joinery and moulding plant, and operated until around 1920.¹³

Near Hancock, August F. Spann established a sawmill in 1904 with its own railway siding, and operated, later as A.C.C. Spann, until the 1950s.¹⁴

West of Ipswich

The area from Walloon to Marburg supported sawmills, and was known as the Rosewood Scrub. Charles Smith operated a sawmill on Sandy Creek on Portion 176, 3 km north east of Hagslea and from about 1868 Hancocks operated a sawmill on Portion 323.¹⁵ The Hancock's sawmill may have been Reilly's sawmill, taken over by Hancock from 1878 (see North Ipswich). E.J.T. Barton's Jubilee History of Queensland

(1909) also refers vaguely to Hancock erected a small sawmill in the Rosewood scrub.

Just east of Rosewood, Collett Brothers' steam sawmills were established in 1886. Wallace Collett previously had a sawmill at Three-Mile Creek, Ipswich. The new mill had a 16 horsepower engine and had "the latest improvements". A siding off the main line to Toowoomba was provided for the sawmill in 1888.¹⁶

The siding was put out of use in 1918 possibly indicating the demise of the sawmill but by 1925 the Richmond Timber Company was using the siding and by 1935 there was also the Atkinson Estate Timber Company siding at the same mileage; Atkinson was listed at Rosewood from 1925, listed as the estate from 1935. The siding was removed in 1958, probably because timber was then allowed to be hauled to Brisbane by road.¹⁷

From around 1891, J. Wohlgermuth and August Spann operated a sawmill at Rosewood, but about 1905 the firm operated as Wohlgermuth & Co. Ltd. It was stated that the Marburg railway branched at Rosewood opposite E. Maher's steam sawmills.¹⁸ Maher and Ruhno's Siding was listed at 35 miles 8 chains (about 200 metres west of Collet's Siding) in 1914.¹⁹ W.A. Rafter milled at Rosewood in the 1930s.

Denning Brothers had a sawmill listed at Marburg in the 1890s.

Charles Smith and his son Thomas Lorimer built a sawmill opposite the junction of Stuhmcke's Road and Glamorganvale Road in 1877. Charles Smith had been sawmilling in 1863 at the "Old Walloon Mill" (meaning Reilly's?). The new mill was in a shed 86 x 50 feet with planing shed. The mill had a boiler with 50 feet chimney made at Ipswich Railway Workshops. Thomas built a sugar mill on western side of Portion 392. The two-storey mansion, Woodlands, remains.²⁰ The property was subdivided into 25 farms, and the auction on 29-30 January 1906 included the sawmill. It was bought with sugar mill by W.A. and D.L. Gibson of Bingera near Bundaberg.²¹

Thomas Smith had full oversight of the sawmill near Walloon by age 20 in 1874. The new mill was about five miles away. In 1880 the new sawmill was destroyed by fire, rebuilt and in 1883 a sugar mill erected and made its first crushing. The sawmill closed in the mid 1880s and convenient timber had been cut down.²² Nevertheless Thomas Smith was listed as a sawmiller until 1897. The sawmill comprised

Ransome's Planing Machine, Robinson's tenoning, sandpaper, morticing and boring machines, grindstone shaver, saw and rack benches, mitre machine, 30 circular saws plus pulleys and shafting. The sawmill building measured 130 x 45 feet.²³

There were sawmills at Lockrose and Minden. West of Rosewood, Westvale Collieries at Dunmore operated as a sawmill as well.

The Gillam family established the Grandchester sawmill in 1940, a gabled structure with mono pitched roof extension at one end, the sawn timber roof structure supported on round timber posts. The mill is powered by locomotive boiler from Walkers-built C17 No.922 and steam engine imported by Nestle Company in 1910 for their Toogoolawah factory, later used at the Lowood butter factory. The sawmill is driven by belt and pulley system. Prior to the C17 boiler, the mill was powered by one from a D8 1/2 class locomotive used on the two foot gauge Innisfail Tramway. The steam engine was known as "Old Reliable".²⁴ The mill is still operating, being a small operation cutting crating timber mainly.

H. Fleischman and Company established a sawmill at Laidley in the mid 1880s, H.J. Hodges being the manager in 1886. Next year the forkline was extended as a railway siding to the mill.²⁵ Horatio John Hodges, the proprietor by 1887, had earlier worked as manager for James Reilly in Ipswich and then Hancock's for a total of 9 years. In 1881 he settled in Laidley and managed Doorey's timber yard.²⁶

Around 1900 H. James apparently took over but was not listed after 1905. The new branch railway to Mulgowie opened in 1911 was recorded as passing nearby the Laidley Sawmill, by then either Bromiley & Company's mill or Edward Morton's mill, listed at Laidley 1913-16. The sawmill siding was still in use in 1916. In 1921 a dead end siding was provided (or reconditioned?) for Whitworth; in 1934 it was taken over by the Laidley Sawmilling Company but in 1945 this siding, off the forkline was placed out of use.²⁷ The sawmill closed about 1939; it was built by Albert Muckert in 1933 for Hood's of Gatton who later sold it to Manitzki.²⁸ The sawmill site is now occupied by the bowling club.

Albert Muckert purchased a new steam traction engine for just under £2000 and hauled logs to the Forest Hill sawmill and for railing to Brisbane. He built a sawmill for Hood's of Gatton in 1933 and in 1936 built his own mill near Narda Lagoon at the old Laidley township (south of the

new township at the railway) and continued to engage in log hauling. After his death in 1956, his sons continued, George alone after the death of Bill in a fatal accident. George is now assisted by his son Kerry.

The mill started in July 1936 but has since been substantially modernised. It was steam operated until May 1970 and the steam equipment has now been moved offsite. It originally came from the Laidley Butter Factory, and was installed in 1947, replacing the original traction engine boiler as power. The mill cut mainly hardwood and has drawn mill from as far as Glen Innes to maintain supplies. Initially the mill had a breaking down vertical frame saw and a new No.1 bench but most equipment was second hand. The modernisation around 1990 included a second hand Canadian carriage but the rest of the equipment was new and capacity has increased from two to ten thousands super feet daily.²⁹

After Alfred Doorey selected land at Main Camp Creek on 7 October 1879, he started by pit sawing. He soon built a steam sawmill on the selection, bringing timber to it down from the plateau by a chute. The mill was substantial and powered by two portable steam engines. It had vertical saw frame able to cut large cedar logs and a full size saw bench and two circular saw benches and smaller saws.

The chute was 1300 feet long, the course made straight by blasting and pick work. At the bottom was soil to minimise damage to the logs as they speared down. A wire rope was installed with braking power provided by a second rope being used to drag another log from the stockpile to the head of the chute. Bullock teams hauled logs from the foot of the chute to the mill. Doorey was killed in June 1881, hit by rock dislodged by cedar logs coming down the mountain. Horatio John Hodges took over his timber yard in Laidley and in 1885 developed it, assisted by James Walton (or Fleischmann?) into a sawmill. Laidley bushwalkers located the chute including old wire rope, the chute timbers long destroyed by bushfire.³⁰

Filshie and Broadfoot of Toowoomba built a sawmill at Townson at the head of Laidley Creek in early 1897 and used a bullock team to haul timber on the Mistake Plateau and from their mill to Laidley. The mill closed in 1902.³¹

There was no logging from 1902 until 1938 when Hansen and Bambling began hauling hoop pine to Hancock's mill in Ipswich, using the chute. In the early 1940s Linn tractor(s) were introduced

hauling down the steep mountain roads, one now being preserved at Laidley Pioneer Village. Cliff Francis worked with Linn tractors for many years, a task requiring special skills keeping the vehicle under control. Hancocks erected a sawmill in early 1940s near the site of the original Broadfoot mill, at the head of Laidley Creek, trucking the output to Mulgowie. The mill closed in the credit squeeze and building slump in the early 1960s. Electricity had been connected to the mill in 1960 replacing steam operation. There were barracks and 14 houses at the site provided by Hancocks.³²

G.F.H. Atkinson operated a sawmill at Forest Hill, listed 1934-37 although George Muckert says it operated in the 1920s and closed in early 1930s. Timm and McAlom brought a mobile sawmill and portable boiler to Hatton Vale in 1916.³³ William Denning operated a small mill at Kentville, closed in 1915 and Albert Muckert operated a small mill at Kentville in the mid 1920s.³⁴

Kent Sawmills were established in Gatton in 1879 by Stubbersfield Brothers, based on pit-sawing until 1885 when the a new site was adopted and a sawmill powered by six horsepower engine, shafts and pulleys and wooden and iron benches was erected. An Egan's planing machine and 20 hp engine was installed by 1888. The Stubbersfields came from Kent, England. In 1886 James Geddes also established a steam sawmill in Gatton with 14 hp engine.³⁵

In the 1890s G.T. Ballard and Son and Cossart and Son were the sawmillers listed at Gatton, the Cossarts still listed until 1924 but Ballard only to 1899.

In 1927 Gatton Hardwood Milling Company was listed at Gatton to 1939, after which Hood Brothers were listed, with branch mills from 1943 at Lockyer and Mount Byron and now still have a small mill at Ravensbourne.³⁶

There were also mills at Fordsdale from the 1920s and at Junction View post World War II. There may have been sawmills at Helidon; O'Connor and Kerr had a siding from 1885 which had a timber loading stage and from 1892 to 1906 Hugh Deviney was listed as having a sawmill. Filshie, Broadfoot and Company had a private siding in the 1930s, which may have been just for loading logs, or associated with a sawmill. Hood Brothers had a sawmill at Lockyer from around 1943, possibly started by Rose and Sons in 1941 and also operated then by Thomas Chard. At Murphy's Creek, Dixon's sawpits were reported in

full swing at the railway station in 1874 and in 1879 Hebel and Cameron were reported to have shifted their sawmill from Murphy's Creek to Perseverance. James J. Gregson was listed at Murphy's Creek from 1893 to 1922 and Kean, White and Company in the mid 1890s.³⁷

Below Toowoomba, Bonell Brothers milled in Iredale Road about half a mile from Blancheview Road from 1914 to 1921. There was a sawmill beside the highway on the southern side just downhill from Hold's property, at Withcott, apparently the one listed 1927-1935 although Talbot indicates it preceded the Blancheview one above. Wilson Brothers had a sawmill in Withcott powered by 100 horsepower Macdonald diesel during World War II. After a fire in February 1961 it was not rebuilt.³⁸

Endnotes

1. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpagged; Company 280 Book 6, A/21575, QSA.
2. Ref 14-1092-0047, Ipswich Heritage Study.
3. WN 531, 34/23; WN 676, 45/37.
4. Inventory item 14-1219-0031, Ipswich Heritage Study 1992 Vol.2; W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, appendix, unpagged.
5. *North Australian* 8 June 1858.
6. *Queensland Times* 30 March, 4 May 1878; Ipswich Heritage Study 1992 Vol.2 item 45-1735-1.
7. CR 1884 p135; *Mackay Mercury* 28 January 1885; Annual Report Boral Limited to 30.6.1996 p3.
8. CR 1884 p141; W.F. Morrison, Vol. 2, p. 526.
9. CR 1885 p55; WF Morrison Volume 2, unpagged.
10. *Queensland Times* 1 Feb 1900 p4; CR 1910-11 p. 114; West Moreton District Today [1920] pp. 25, 27, 29.
11. CR 1968-69 p13, 1977-78 p6, 1987-88 p18; *Rail Australia* November 1987 pp. 30-1.
12. Gillian Alfredson, Moreton Shire Cultural Heritage Survey.
13. W.F. Morrison, Vol. 2, pp. 524-5; CR 1887 p.123.
14. CR 1903-04 p. 79.
15. *Haislea State School Centenary 1876-1976 Souvenir Booklet* p 19 quoted by Alfredson, Moreton Shire Cultural Heritage Strategy Survey. June 1996.
16. WF Morrison, Volume 2, unpagged; CR 1888 p. 119.
17. WN 508 of March 1918; Railway Department, General Appendix lists 1925, 1935, 1950; WN 3/58.
18. *Queensland Times* 14 October 1911.
19. WN 335.
20. *Queensland Times* 12 February 1878; *Centenary of Marburg State School 1879-1979* p. 23.
21. *Queensland Times* 20 June 1907 quoted by Alfredson.
22. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2 p.535.
23. *Fassifern Guardian* 9 December 1905, quoted by Alfredson.
24. Alfredson, p. 66; *Grandchester State School Centenary 1878-1978*, p. 69.
25. Pugh 1887; CR 1887 p. 122.

26. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued.
27. Railway Department, General Appendix 1916, list; WN 667 of April 1921; WN 51/34, 47/45.
28. Interview George Muckert 10 February 1997.
29. W.R.E. Blake, pp. 44-5; Interview George Muckert 10 February 1997.
30. W.R.E. Blake, p. 40; Kevin Ahearn, *From Crosscut to Chainsaw* pp. 114-127; MC 21 June 1881 p. 2.
31. W.R.E. Blake p. 40.
32. W.R.E. Blake pp. 41-42.
33. *Hatton Vale State School Centenary Souvenir Booklet*, 1981, p. 84.
34. W.R.E. Blake p. 44; interview George Muckert 10 February 1997.
35. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued.
36. Win Davson, *Lockyer Saga, A Jubilee Review of the Lockyer Valley*, Brisbane, Consolidated Publications, 56p [1951] p. 47; George Muckert 10 February 1997.
37. Q 9 May 1874 p. 10, 1 November 1879 p. 551.
38. Don Talbot, pp. 10, 23, 34, 36.

The Fassifern Valley and Ranges

This section provides an overview of sawmills in the area south of Ipswich.

A siding was provided to John Fraser's sawmill at Rockton in 1885, which may be when it was built. The mill was later owned by A.J. Raymond and managed by a Mr Campbell. It was sold in 1900 and moved to Running Creek south of Beaudesert. In 1996 there were scattered remains of the hotel or sawmill in the area.¹

There was a sawmill at Peak Crossing from around 1889, operated by Richard Jackson and Charles O'Brien, located on the bank of Purga Creek at the northern end of the Peak Crossing school grounds, and acquired by George Stacey or Mott and Stacey in 1906, and continued by Stacey's son George from around 1910. The mill was moved to Yeerongpilly in 1922, according to Pugsley.² Ryan Brothers and E. Meiers also had sawmills at Peak Crossing in the 1930s.

The first sawmill in the Fassifern district was the Harrisville Sawmill established in 1879, A.J. Deadman (later of Bundamba) being the managing proprietor, with timber coming by rail after construction of the Fassifern branch. It had in 1888 two 15 horsepower engines, a joinery section and most of its output was railed to the company's Brisbane yards.³ It operated until about 1897.

Robert Hines had a sawmill at Wilson's Plains in the 1936-1943 period.

Although often listed under Boonah, the district's major sawmills were located at the old township of Dugandan, the railway terminus, which predated Boonah. Cossart had a hardware business in Boonah for many years from around 1899 as Boonah was then the main centre. The Dugandan Sawmill predated the extension of the railway, and a meeting in 1885 urging the extension was held at the Dugandan Sawmill, presumably Bruckner's erected in 1883-84 by Heinrich Bruckner and Carl Hertzberg. Bruckner bought out his partner in 1889 and remained in sole control until his death in 1934, assisted by family members who carried it on until Keith Bruckner, the third generation, sold the business to Clem Hoffman of Ipswich in 1971.⁴ It has since ceased to be a sawmill for lack of log quota and some of the machinery is now in the Templin historical village. The sawmill shed remains on site. I was refused permission to inspect or measure.

The original machinery was hauled by horse and when the site of Coochin was found to be under water, the high site above Teviot Brook was selected. At first it had no planing machine.⁵

An advertisement in the 1902 issue of Pugh's Almanac (between pages 588, 589) shows a narrow gauge tramline in the bush and steam driven log loader and photo of the mill. I have not been able to verify that Bruckner operated a tramline or where it was located.

In 1886 Josias Hancock also established a sawmill at Dugandan, downstream from the present Dugandan bridge, and it was devastated in the 1887 January flood. James Cossart entered into partnership with Hancock and the sawmill was rebuilt with Cossart becoming sole owner. After the mill was destroyed by fire in 1897, it was rebuilt on the present site beside the railway.⁶ Cossart also had a timber yard (or another sawmill) at Wellington Road, South Brisbane from this time.

There was also a fire in 1908 and the mill was rebuilt. In 1922 the branch sawmill from White Swamp (across the border) was re-erected at Dugandan.⁷

In 1907 S.J. and C.E. Cossart were taken into partnership with their father as James Cossart and Sons, James retiring in 1917. Under the sons the firm rapidly expanded with new machinery and became the largest butter box maker in Australia, exporting to other states. Employment peaked at over 200, and with still 200 in 1944. In 1961 James Cossart and Sons Pty Ltd employed 136 men and three women and sold 425,000 butter boxes in 1959-60.⁸ The sawmill provided a large part of the traffic on the Fassifern branch railway until the railway closed in 1964. The sawmill had its own siding.

Hancock Brothers established a sawmill at or near Dugandan, listed for the years 1896-1904. The only secondary source seen referring to it adds nothing to the above.⁹

In the district, Tom Taylor ran a sawmill at Cannon Creek near Milford from 1896. It closed but Howard and Co. reopened it in 1907 and later moved it to Mount Edwards to cut hardwood. Lutters mill at Charlwood opened in 1914,

benefiting from the Mount Edwards railway and closed in 1935.¹⁰

August Anders established at Mount Alford (then called Recumpilla) around 1900, purchased by W.C.J. Behrendorff in 1908 and operated until 1922.¹¹ It was behind where the hotel now stands. In 1922 Martin Brothers of Booval bought it.¹²

James Campbell has a sawmill at Coochin in the period 1889-1896. It is possible that this mill became Hancock's mill, listed under Dugandan.

James Cossart established a branch mill at Burnett's Creek, Maroon in hoop pine forests in 1899, moving it to White Swamp (NSW) in 1907 and back to Dugandan in 1922.¹³ The Burnett Creek Provisional School functions from 1902 to 1921, at the foot of Mount Ballow, both Cossarts and Hancocks operating sawmills nearby.¹⁴

The Hancocks took large quantities of pine off Mount Clunie with a flying fox and constructed miles of road (in the pre-bulldozer period). Hancocks later got a timber concession between Mount Clunie and Mount Ballow and put up a breaking-down mill at The Gorge further up Burnett Creek. A Lynn tractor was used bringing logs to motor lorries in the 1927-29 period from the Gorge at Burnett's Creek and from White Swamp Road. Hancocks built the access road and gravelled it.¹⁵ Hancock were operating at Burnett Creek from around 1949. The mill seems later to have been bought by Enright's of Beaudesert and a relic from it is displayed at their Beaudesert mill.

William Howard operated at Kalbar 1914-20, possibly the same mill listed as Hancock Brothers 1921-27. Paul Lutter or Lutter Brothers milled between 1916 and 1939. Piva's mill at Aratula was still operating in 1989, presumably dating from 1950 or later. Hancock Brothers had a hardwood mill at Jurippa (now Mount Edwards) in 1922, which may have been referred to as Kalbar which was the railhead until around 1922.¹⁶

Endnotes

1. CR 1885 p. 157; Eileen M Hodgson, p. 11; Harry Pugsley, p. 37; Alfredson, Moreton Shire Cultural Heritage Strategy Survey.

2. Eileen M Hodgson, pp. 11, 27; Harry Pugsley, p. 37.

3. H.A. Krause, p.27; W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpagged.

4. Q 4 July 1885 p. 27; C.K. Pfeffer, p. 47.

5. *Fassifern District Centenary 1844-1944*, p. 59; H.A. Krause, p. 27; W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, Appendix, unpagged.

6. C.K. Pfeffer, p.49.

7. Angela Collyer, pp. 46, 47.

8. *Fassifern District Centenary 1844-1944*, p. 59; H.A. Krause, p. 27.

9. *Fassifern District Centenary 1844-1944*, p. 60.

10. *Fassifern District Centenary 1844-1944*, p. 60; C.K. Pfeffer, p. 49.

11. C.K. Pfeffer, p. 49.

12. Margaret Oppermann, p. 49.

13. H.A. Krause, p. 59.

14. Margaret Oppermann, p. 33.

15. TW Hardcastle, *Fassifern Guardian* 31 December 1958 quoted in Angela Collyer. pp. 51-2; Margaret Oppermann, p. 62.

16. C.K. Pfeffer, p. 49; *Arch. and Build. Journal of Queensland*, August 1922 p. 40.

Brisbane Valley

The Brisbane Valley has been a major timber resource for nearly two centuries. Beyond Ipswich, timber was being rafted down the Brisbane River from near Pine Mountain by 1858. There were numerous cutters in the 1860s, some unlicensed.¹ Timber getting accelerated with the clearing of selections in the 1870s. The building of the railway, opened to Lowood in 1884 and to Esk in 1886, made a large section of the valley accessible. The further extensions were largely to tap the timber resources, in which they were very successful, opening to Toogoolawah and later Yimbun during 1904, Linville in 1910, Benarkin in 1911, Gilla 1912 and Yarraman in 1913. The railings of log and sawn timber in 1919-20, for example, to the nearest thousands, were Esk 5000, Moore 4000, Linville 4000, Benarkin 10,000, Blackbutt 14,000 and Yarraman 19,000. The railings from Nanango in the same year were 5000 tons. The sleepers for the first Brisbane tramway came from W.R. North's property, between Gatton and the Brisbane River. In 1905 100 bullock and horse teams were hauling logs to sawmills and sawn timber to railways.²

It has been stated that Josias Hancock erected a mill at Pine Mountain in the early years. Hancock is reported to have had a saw pit on the Glamorganvale Road, on the first gully out of Lowood - without mentioning a date - but the timber was said to be taken by river.³ It is also stated that Hancock's sawmill was on the Lowood-Glamorganvale Road and cut out about the time the railway arrived (1884).⁴ William and James Denning had a sawmill at Glamorganvale, listed 1892-1902 and Cooper Brothers had a mill at Lark Hill, listed 1914-40. Hugh McLaughlin and Mr Huston had a firewood cutting operation or woodmill at Wanora; about 1924 they moved it to Coominya.⁵ Barrett Brothers had a sawmill at Fairneyview, listed 1892-95. Sherlock and Hunter erected a woodmill at Fairney View railway station in 1913; it was listed as a sawmill until 1915.⁶

A.J. Raymond & Company were reported as having bought land and about starting a mill in Fernvale in 1902. The increase in rail freights two months later was given as the reason for not proceeding.⁷

Fernvale Sawmilling Company Limited of Brisbane was listed as having a sawmill at Fernvale from 1913; John and Harry Turnbridge were listed as sawmilling at Fernvale 1913-17,

and this may be the same enterprise. The sawmill at Fernvale was mentioned in the Esk Shire Council Minutes in 1921 and 1924 without mentioning ownership but in 1926 Denning's Mill at Fernvale was mentioned.⁸ The mill continued to operate, in Portion 44, the W. Denning Estate from 1941, and is presumed to be the mill still operating.

Edwin Hine operated a mill at Northbrook by 1887, presumably the same mill described as at Dundas in the Post Office Directory of the 1890s. In 1898 he complained the road from Dundas sawmill to Fernvale was so bad he had to send it via Coominya.⁹ The mill was last listed in 1914. C.L. and/or G.C. Imhoff began sawmilling at Dundas about 1947.

The Denning Brothers, James, William and Henry Senior, were milling at Lowood from 1892, listed from 1893 to 1937 as William Denning. In 1936 the site was referred to as Denning's old sawmill.¹⁰ T.C or T.G. Gee came to Lowood in 1947 or 1948 and installed an all-electric sawmill, listed in the post-office directory as Savages Bridge via Fernvale, but in 1951 he wanted to sell and erect a new mill in Toowoomba.¹¹

Oscar Boughen or Bowen and Albert Müller (or Muller) were milling at Prenzlau from 1937. The mill was located in the paddocks opposite Portion 59 on Bumstead Road. When they retired it was taken over by Herbert Muller and Gordon Haak. Remains were visible in 1993 - posts and a pile of ruins.¹²

The first of the woodmills at Coominya cutting firewood was operated by Theuerkauf opposite the railway gates next to Hickey's residence; he later moved it to Mahons Road. About 1924 McLaughlin and Huston moved their woodmill from Wanora to Coominya. They sold to Les Montgomery and Vince Muckert in 1948; the mill closed in 1960. Norm Dixon started cutting wood on an allotment on Mahon's Road in 1942, moved his mill to the railway yards in 1944 and operating to 1958.¹³

F.E. Barbat and Sons of Ipswich erected a sawmill in the Bellevue Estate almost opposite Coominya railway station in 1913 and were allowed to built a tramline across the road to connect the two. Within two years, 16 hands were employed, Arthur Barbat being the manager and with 16 horsepower boiler, 30,000 super feet of

logs were cut weekly to meet Barbat's contract to build railway wagons. A siding was provided for them in 1913.¹⁴ Arthur Barbat enlisted in 1915 and the mill apparently closed but in 1918 Pattersons Ltd of Toowong bought the siding, apparently taking over the mill. (Around 1920 my grandfather (Gabriel Kerr) was boiler attendant or engine driver at the mill at Coominya.)

W. Hoger was listed with a sawmill at Coominya 1929-36. A. Bunney was allowed to have wagons placed at McLaughlin's lease in 1930. In May 1934 railings from Coominya amounted to 76 tons of sawn timber and 376 of firewood, a total of 4000 tons of firewood from McLaughlin's mill in the year 1933-34.¹⁶ Hugh Loughlin or McLaughlin was listed until 1941. J. Hayes had sent 85,000 tons in 17 years to 1940 when he retired, having sold out to H. McLaughlin and in 1940 an electric motor was being installed. A.E. Bunney was still producing sawn timber. N. Dixon took over Bunney's siding in 1945 (for sawmilling?) and ceased operations about the end of 1960.¹⁷

Esk

Among the other sawmillers listed at Esk were Raymond and Hossack Ltd from 1919 to 1933 (who also listed a mill at Wyvern), R. Patterson 1922-39, A. Gregor 1922-28 and L. Boon 1940-49.

Blank Brothers Esk sawmill, established in 1883 with two 12 horsepower engines was the first at Esk, the brothers having come from Germany in 1863.¹⁸ The sawmilling operation was listed until 1903 as Blank Brothers Esk, and 1911-18 as August Blank, the site being near the Showgrounds in the 1910s or 1920s. In 1946, recalled Mrs Hertrick, there were still remains of Blank's sawmill on the banks of the creek, including an old boiler and a sawdust heap. The area was later filled with garbage. Of the brothers, Carl was bookkeeper, August ran the mill and Christy hauled in the pine. John Gorrie was the benchman.¹⁹

Porter bought land by Sandy Creek near the proposed railway station at Gallanani (Esk) and ordered a sawmill plant but in October 1885 discovered his land not beside Esk station as he thought - it was nearly a mile away by road and he decided not to proceed.²⁰

Gens (James) Andersen of Denmark emigrated to Queensland in 1873, and for 6 years as machinery foreman for Hancock. In 1886 his brother Lacres (Lars) came out and they at once went into

business at Esk and erected a sawmill employing 7 hands in 1888.²¹ In 1900 Lars Andersen bought a much larger sawmilling plant, bought seven acres on Sandy Creek from the McDonald Estate and sold his old plant to C.S. Langton of Eskdale. At the new site Andersen had his own siding.²²

Andersen also expanded with a branch mill at Blackbutt or Stonehouse listed 1904-06.

In 1921 Lars Andersen & Sons Limited was formed, registered on 6 October 1921 to take over the Esk business with a nominal £30,000 capital, more than half the shares issued to Lars Andersen or his nominees in return for him passing the business to company. All the shareholders were members of the Andersen family, including James Alexander, manager the mill at Beam Creek and Robert Archibald managing the mill at Deongwar. The first shareholder not to have the Andersen surname was George Nicholson, an Esk grazier who acquired 1000 shares in 1924 or 1925. In January 1929 the shareholders decided to wind up the company.²³

The company suffered a major setback when fire destroyed the whole mill. The firm had just purchased a motor lorry with trailer to improve log haulage, the first lorry with trailer in the district. The firm had five mills in the district and announced plans for immediate rebuilding.²⁴

The depression took its toll but in 1933 there were still three mills, at Esk, Kipper Creek and Blackbutt, together producing 400,000 super feet per month, two thirds pine.²⁵ James Anderson died in 1934 and Lars in 1941.²⁶

The firm changed to road haulage of sawn timber and the siding was put out of use in 1960. Queensland Museum acquired the old beam engine from the Esk sawmill in the late 1960s.

Josias and Thomas Hancock arrived as part of the Hancock family in 1856, venturing to Gympie goldfields and then tried pitsawing. They returned to Ipswich, starting with a four horsepower engine, later acquiring 10 and 12 horsepower engines at Ipswich. Josias moved to Brisbane while Thomas stayed in Ipswich.²⁸

From around 1900 Hancock and Gore had a mill at Millmerby, half a mile from Tooloorum. The mill was closed around 1912. Hancock Brothers were required to move the sawdust from the bank of Tilorem Creek in 1902.²⁹ The Melmerby mill was listed by Hancock & Gore from 1909 to 1913 but 1903 to 1908 it was listed as Crossdale. Correspondence from Hancock and Son and Gore

in 1902/03 mentioned both Crossdale and Melmerby but not in the same letter.

Josias Hancock applied in 1906 to acquire a reserve on Reedy Creek as a special lease for a sawmill site, and in 1906 Hancock and Gore referred to their Mount Brisbane Mill.³⁰

Lars Andersen had a sawmill at Beam Creek from about 1912. In 1921, James Alexander Andersen was its manager. Lars Andersen purchased four million super feet of standing timber near Mount Esk in 1931, apparently for clearing the site of the Stanley River (Somerset) Dam. He erected a flying fox to remove logs from the dam site in 1934, giving a public demonstration on 25 February 1934. The Beam Creek land was sold in 1968.³¹

William Denning, a Welshman who came to Queensland in 1865, worked for his uncle, Jim Denning who had a pit saw before starting a sawmill with 6 horsepower engine at Glamorganvale. About 1889 he erected a larger mill at Lowood with 14 horsepower portable engine and a new mill in 1893. He built a mill at Palen Creek in 1894. Then in 1904 he moved to Mount Brisbane and operated a mill there. He asked permission to erect a sawmill at Mount Brisbane between the school and Reedy Creek. He operated it for five years, then returning to Lowood. He also erected mills at Tarong, Fernvale and timber yards at Sandgate.³² Denning Brothers bought the plant of the Villeneuve sawmill from Nicholson in 1893 and this could have become the new mill at Lowood.³³

A sawmill was being erected at Reedy Creek on Portion 34, Parish of St John in 1928.³⁴

Brown and Broad began sawmilling in the Brisbane Valley in 1904 with a mill at Moore and from 1906 another mill at Mount Byron, possibly at the junction of Reedy Creek and Byron's Creek. They contributed to road works by the Shire Council in order to be able to use their traction engine to take sawn timber to Esk.³⁵

In 1911 Brown and Broad were granted permission to lay a three-foot gauge horse tramway for a mile and a half up to their timber at the head of Reedy Creek. It was apparently all or partly steel-railed and work on the formation began about March 1912.³⁶ In 1915 Brown and Broad were described as having a tramway up Dryden Creek. In December 1918 Brown and Broad finally advised they would contribute no more to the Mount Byron Road. Possibly the mill was about to close.³⁷ It may have been sold to

Raymond and Hossack (possibly their Esk or Wyvern mill) as there was a fatal accident at their Mount Byron sawmill in 1926. The Mount Byron sawmill was mentioned in 1932.³⁸ Boyle Brothers in 1941-42 and Hood Brothers of Gatton from 1943 were listed as having a sawmill at Mount Byron. Harry Langton worked a jinker bringing logs off Mount Byron in the 1950s.

There was also Hancock's Sawmill at Mount Byron, apparently closer to Mount Mee. They commenced operations in the 1930s, a steam powered mill and Herb Curry had a six-cylinder solid rubber tyred Linn tractor for log hauling and also snigging.³⁹

Brett's Sawmill also dated from the 1930s. Remains of the mill and winch machinery were visible in the 1990s. The mill was relocated to Byron Creek from Mount Pleasant.⁴⁰

Cressbrook Creek Tramway

Robert Archibald Andersen was in 1921 manager of the mill at Deongwar, generally known as Kipper Creek mill or the Cressbrook Creek sawmill.

In 1922 Lars Andersen, owner of Cressbrook Creek sawmill, constructed an incline tramway to bring timber down from the Pine Cliffe plateau to obviate the more damage process of sending logs down a chute. Nearly 300 residents gathered in August 1922 to see logs of more than a 1000 super feet brought down a track 37 chains (three quarters of a kilometre) long with grades described as ranging from 1 in 1 to 1 in 3. It was a three rail tramway with a four rail centre section to enable the counter-balancing empty truck to pass the loaded truck descending.⁴¹

This operation lasted until 1926 when Andersen sold the winder and tramway to James Campbell and Sons. They installed heavier winding gear to handle larger loads but their operation ended in 1942.⁴² At the bottom of the incline was a turntable and a mile of conventional tramway.⁴³

The line was much steeper than the incline at the Bunya Mountains, and much of the incline was built with hardwood rails on 3 feet gauge and sleepers 2 feet 6 inches apart. The maximum trolley load was about 1400 super feet. The surface tramline terminated at the sawmill.⁴⁴

The 1931 flood washed out the bridge at the foot of the incline tramline, which James Campbell and Sons had by then taken over but the tramline was hardly damaged.⁴⁵

Toogoolawah Area

Lars Andersen asked the Esk Council to clear and repair the road to Kipper Creek in 1906 to Portion 26 where they planned to erect a sawmill.⁴⁶

It would appear that Frederick James Martin was a partner in the Kipper Creek mill which operated 1906 to 1920 before being sold to Pattersons. Andersen and Martin wrote jointly about the Kipper Creek road in 1908, indicating they were partners. Martin in 1913 described himself as timber merchant of Kipper Creek; his agent at Esk, M.J. Kelly applied for a railway siding on the Ipswich side of Esk where he planned to erect a sawmill. Given the cost, he did not proceed.⁴⁷ Charles Langton was listed as sawmiller at Biarra 1901-06, then William Martin 1908-20 and Ray Patterson 1921-39.

Lars Andersen had a private siding inserted for his sawmill at Toogoolawah constructed in 1909 on the Yarraman side of the railway station. From 1909 to 1940, the Toogoolawah Sawmilling Company was listed as a sawmiller.⁴⁸ Andersen used a traction engine on the Toogoolawah-Mount Beppo road in 1915, presumably to bring logs to the Toogoolawah mill. Campbell was mill manager in 1921.⁴⁹

A fire at the mill in 1922 damaged the breaking down bench and frame and part of the roof. When the alarm sounded, 30 or more men formed a bucket brigade and prevented the fire spreading. H.A. Teske purchased the mill from Andersen in early 1925 and most of the workers retained their jobs. Teske operated the mill until 1940. From 1941 N.M. Doak operated the mill and owned the siding which was removed by early 1961, as road haulage was adopted. Toogoolawah Sawmills were still in action in 1973.⁵⁰

J. Crandell advertised in 1937 that at his wood depot, he had the first electrically driven saw bench in Toogoolawah, able to cut 3 tons an hour.⁵¹

S. Bustin and L.J. Tompkins were erecting a sawmill at Black Jack's Creek on Cressbrook Estate near the Deer Reserve in December 1924.⁵²

The Queensland Pine Company Ltd was listed as having a sawmill at Harlin 1912-18.

It was stated in 1929 that Mr Jackson of Colinton erected the first sawmill in the Esk area; in 1934, an old resident stated the mill was erected by J. Jackson on Colinton about 1875, for station

purposes and used a portable steam engine and was later bought by J.H. McConnel and used on Cressbrook.⁵³

Moore, Linville and Blackbutt

Brown and Broad erected a sawmill at Mooretown in 1904, known simply as Moore from 1905. Sawn timber had to be hauled by road until 1910 when the railway was extended to Moore and Linville and they asked for road repairs in 1906.⁵⁴ There were two proposed sites for the railway station, the one preferred locally opposite the sawmill and the other out of town but the site near the mill was rejected as not practicable. The sawmill was on the bank of Wallaby Creek and a private siding was investigated but not built.⁵⁵

In 1915 Brown and Broad sought permission to lay a tramline along the road from Portion 128V to the boundary of Portion 97V.⁵⁶

Charles Patterson of Toowong also erected a sawmill at Moore in 1904. To bring logs from the country around Colinton, it was found "necessary to construct as much as four miles of tramway, and work it with bullocks to convey the pine to the mills."⁵⁷ The tramway was presumably the one up Aribaby Creek.

Pattersons Pty Ltd continued to operate the mill at Moore until the 1950s, the 1954 request for road repairs indicated continuing operations but in 1961 as owners of the old sawmill, they were advised to demolish the dilapidated buildings without delay. In 1971 the Council decided to negotiate with Patterson's to purchase some of their land for a Council Depot.⁵⁸

The Queensland Box Company had a mill on Arababy Creek in the period 1910 to 1918.⁵⁹

Linville, temporarily a rail terminus and at the bottom of the Blackbutt Range, became a major sawmilling centre, and outlet for the upper Brisbane River valley. Some of the sawmills listed at Linville may have been some distance from the township.

Hack and Fox had a sawmill at Linville from 1912, operated by Fox and Sons 1914-18. In 1915 they asked for a private rail siding but it was too expensive and nothing happened.⁶⁰ Water Fox and A. Fox were both listed as sawmillers at Linville from 1915 to 1940, and Frank Fox 1919-27. Fox also used a traction engine.⁶¹

Thomas Hawkins mill was listed 1912-15, and other millers in the 1910s included Alfred Hine,

James Squires, P. Harte, Charles Blank, and in 1915 only, Hancock & Gore Ltd with mills at Monsildale and Linville, but the latter could be mistaken. In 1931 the reference to "the local mill" suggested that Fox's was the only mill in the township.⁶²

In the 1940s, Pattersons were listed with a mill at Linville as well as Moore. By 1983 the timber mill, employing 13 and managers by Eric Morgan, was the only employer at Linville, by then having electronically controlled machinery and almost complete mechanical handling. Pine was coming from Warwick and hardwood from Kingaroy and Mundubbera, and Linville's days were numbered.⁶³

Dellar & Co. were listed as sawmillers at Benarkin from 1912 to 1914, its first two years with rail communication.

Benarkin sawmill was built on Forestry land to mill thinnings. Wilkinson and Co. of Nambour commenced milling at Benarkin in 1960 with 17 workers and C. Hawkins manager. Female staff were introduced in 1960-61 and four were on the production line in 1970 breaking a tradition of all male hands in country mills. Most of the staff were retrenched in 1986. The Benarkin and Caboolture mills were acquired in 1987 by Wilco Timber Production Pty Ltd as part of the Eastcourt Ltd takeover of Sunstate Resources. Softwoods Holdings from Mt Gambier, S.A. held 51% of share and Sunstate Resources the rest.⁶⁴

The Taromeo Sawmill near Benarkin was established in 1910 by A.J. Raymond and Company and was bought as a State Sawmill in December 1915. On 1 July 1920 the State Sawmills were transferred to the Forest Service. A tramway from Benarkin to the mill, 3 miles 46.5 chains long, was surveyed in 1920 but not constructed.⁶⁵ Taromeo mill closed for some months for lack of logs and was converted from pine to hardwood, replacing the closed-down hardwood mill in Brisbane. When government policy changed, the Taromeo mill and the Newstead yards were sold in 1933 to Yarraman Pine Pty Ltd.⁶⁶

Les Muller and family, operating Nukku sawmill since 1948, purchased the Taromeo mill in November 1960, operating as Muller Sawmills Pty Ltd. They expanded in 1962 and installed a plantation pine sawmill. In the early 1970s they peaked at a million fruit cases annually and a staff of 43. Fruit case demand slumped and a fire on 13 March 1978 extensively damaged the mill. A new mill was built with staff of 33 and 15 in

the field, hauling contractors being Olzard and Allery. A further expansion followed in 1988.⁶⁷

Lars Andersen erected a sawmill at Blackbutt in 1903. E. Emmerson was planning one in the area in 1904 and erected it by 1905, first listed as Stonehouse, from 1908 as Blackbutt.⁶⁸

James Brett was manager of Anderson's mill, floated in 1910 as the Blackbutt Timber Company Limited. It was in the centre of Blackbutt, off Hart Street, adjacent to the residence still standing in 1988. Two traction engines hauled sawn timber while Benarkin was still the railhead.⁶⁹ This mill was listed to 1924.

Around 1914, William E. Houston erected a mill a mile out of town. It was listed to 1929 but from 1935 it was listed again, from 1941 as Houston Pty Ltd. The mill was destroyed by fire at some time.⁷⁰

Syd Gould and H. Ogilvie established a sawmill on land facing Hart and Margaret Streets, Blackbutt in 1919, sawing mainly hardwood and Harry L. Ogilvie was listed as a sawmiller from 1925 to 1929 and was sold to E. Nutt in 1930 and moved to land facing Hart Street bounded by Margaret, John and Crofton Streets. The business was sold to R. Downing during the war and later sold to W. & C. Crumpton's Blackbutt Sawmills. The property was auctioned in 1983 and the mill closed.⁷¹

The hardwood mill founded by Doug Ogilvie around 1947 was the only operating hardwood mill in Blackbutt in 1988.⁷²

Other sawmillers were Fred Hamlin, at Blackbutt 1910-24, and several post World War II. The sawmillers in 1950 were K.L. Griffin, W.E. Houston Pty Ltd, Lysaught, Miss C.E. Muller and D.L. Ogilvie. Les Muller operated the Nukku Timber and Case mill from 1948 to 1960.⁷³

A two-chain loop siding was provided at Pidna near Yarraman for the Lands Department in 1920, for the Forestry Board, which intended to build a tramline - apparently of 3 foot 6 gauge - into the forest. Although some earthworks were prepared, the line was never completed or rails laid and the siding was removed in 1928.⁷⁴

Yarraman and Queensland Pine Company Limited

The Millars Karri and Jarrah Company (1902) Limited was formed in 1902 as an amalgamation of 8 timber companies and in 1909 had 26 saw-

mills, 560 kilometres of railway and 3500 employees, in Western Australia.⁷⁵ By 1908 the company had a sawmill at Yarraman Creek as well as at Indooroopilly, Kingaroy and Barker's Creek in Queensland.

The Queensland Pine Company Limited was floated in 1909 to acquire the assets of Millar's Karri and Jarrah in Queensland, at Yarraman Creek, under an agreement on 30 November 1908. The vendors were Hugh Owen Davies, William Dearden and Bertie Barr Smith and the company had a capital of 75,000 one pound shares, 16,500 issued to the vendors fully paid. The original subscribers were all Adelaide businessmen, the registered office being in Adelaide and the only Queensland shareholders were not sawmillers. The capital of the company was increased to £100,000 in June 1912. The company was renamed Pines and Hardwoods of Australia Limited in 1922 and five years later it was wound up voluntarily.⁷⁶

The Queensland Pine Company controlled the former Miller's Karri and Jarrah Company mills from 1909. In 1912 it established the pulp mill in Yarraman as the railway terminus reached the town, a canvas and timber construction town.⁷⁷

The mill was intended to use pine tops which commonly were just treated as waste, although Forestry director N.W. Jolly considered much of the tops could have become sawn timber. The pulp works were put into operation in July 1913, with ten inch logs ground into pulp, just two weeks before Governor McGregor officially opened the railway to Yarraman and a private siding was provided for Queensland Pine. This was extended in 1919.⁷⁸

By 1924 the Yarraman sawmill was having difficulty getting enough logs. The problem was the cartel arrangement of the sawmillers association which resulted in the association buying the whole log quota and dividing up so that logs were railed to Brisbane sawmillers while the Yarraman mill received insufficient. Queensland Forest Service decided to solve the problem by purchasing the mill in June 1926 and giving it a guaranteed supply.⁷⁹

A tramway was constructed from the pine mill in an easterly direction a little more than 4 kilometres with steel and wooden rails, through Yarraman passing the school and with a single switchback in a steep sided gully. The limit of locomotiveworking was just beyond the switchback. The tramline continued through a cutting, over a grid at a fence line, curving sharply to

cross a creek and then curving gently, apparently terminating at a loading bank from which an track continued in line to a Forestry Camp ("Stables"). A short section of wooden rail was still visible in 1971. There were also concrete remains at the site of the pulp mill.⁸⁰ Part of the route has now been made into a walking track.

The sawmill was destroyed by fire in 1929, rebuilt on a small scale and sold to Yarraman Pine Pty Ltd in 1933 with the Taromeo Mill and Newstead yards for £16,000.⁸¹ (see State Sawmills)

The pulp mill was "the first commercial wood pulping operation in Australia using the then relatively new kraft pulping process and used chips made from the waste timber from the sawmill, a conservation measure which did not become widespread in Australia until the 1970s. Pulp production commenced in 1913 with the pulp being supplied to the Sydney Paper Mills. However production was very spasmodic due to frequent inadequate water availability and this, together with the cost burden of the freight to Sydney, caused the pulp mill to close about 1920."⁸²

In the 1930s J. Gammie had a sawmill and L. or T. Cislowski operated the Union Sawmills in the 1940s at or near Yarraman. F. Sibbles had a mill in the 1940s at Upper Yarraman. In the early 1900s Fletcher's Sawmill was apparently operating near Kooralgin.⁸³

Endnotes

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4. *Brisbane Valley Star* 28 June 1957.
5. *Coominya-from settlement to Subdivision*, p. 11.
6. QT 7 October 1913 p. 7.
7. QT 6 May, 27 May, 15 July 1902.
8. Esk Shire Council Minutes 19 January 1921 p. 49; 18 Oct 1924 p. 597; 10 Feb 1926 p. 26.
9. Q 9 July 1887; Esk Shire Council Minutes 1 June 1898.
10. Esk Shire Council Minutes 19 February 1936.
11. QT 26 January 1951.
12. Colleen Gould, p.91.
13. *Coominya-from settlement to Subdivision*, pp. 12-3.
14. QT 23 March 1911 p. 5, 9 October 1913 p. 3; WN 256.
15. QT 27 August 1915 p. 6; WN 524.
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31. *Esk Record* 10 February 1934; QT 26 October 1968 p. 8 re Beam Creek.
32. QT 25 July 1933; Esk Shire Council Minutes 18 May 1904, 22 June, 3 August 1904.
33. QT 14 October 1893.
34. Esk Shire Council Minutes 12 December 1928 p. 682.
35. Esk Shire Council Minutes 13 June, 14 November 1907, 20 February 1908.
36. QT 24 August 1911 p. 2, 10 November 1911 p. 2, 23 February 1912 p. 2.
37. Esk Shire Council Minutes 22 December 1915 pp. 155-6, 18 December 1918 p. 539.
38. *Brisbane Valley Advertiser* 8 September 1926; Esk Shire Council Minutes 3 August 1932 p. 745.
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40. as 39.
41. BC 30.8.22 p7.
42. Joe Walker, p. 57, the winder described in detail pp. 55-71.
43. Refer also J.D. Kerr and M.M. Philpott, *Queensland Heritage* Vol. 2 (Nov. 1973) pp. 21-9.
44. Joe Walker, pp.55-71.
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47. R.S. Kerr, *Confidence and Tradition* p. 61; Esk Shire Council Minutes 26 March 1908 p. 120; File 1914.1526, A/12458, QSA.
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51. *Brisbane Valley Advertiser* 4 August 1937.
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57. E.J.T. Barton, p.346.
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Vic 3111, 21 September 1996, Forestry Department,
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Toowoomba and Northern Downs

This section gives an overview of sawmilling in the Toowoomba area including the Perseverance area and west to the border of the study area.

Toowoomba and Highfields

Timber getting licences were issued in the Toowoomba area by 1850. After Affleck Brothers established their water-powered sawmill at Acacia Creek near Killarney in 1856, James Taylor financed one at Drayton in 1858. Another early mill was Dags at Warwick.¹

James Taylor, managing partner of Russell's Cecil Plains and other runs purchased the "seven to twelve horsepower steam sawmill at Redbank much to the chagrin of the Range pitsawyers who threatened to punch holes in its boiler, for it was capable of cutting 1000 feet of timber per day." He appointed G.J. Ballard as manager by July 1858 but the mill did not produce until late in the year for lack of labour and logs and then soon had to close to be enlarged, and was idle some months. It was again enlarged in October 1859 to install large frame saws and circular saws to double production. By January 1860 Ballard was the proprietor.² William Ballard was a sawmiller in 1860.³

Possibly because Taylor was merely the financier, the *Courier* of 1874 credits Ballard and Cocks as starting the first saw and flour mills in the district but Morrison says Cocks purchased it from Taylor in 1863 and in 1864 erected the Toowoomba Flour Mill and subsequently had a sawmill at Merritt's Creek. The Toowoomba sawmill operated as Cocks until 1884.⁴

James Broadfoot arrived in Toowoomba in 1859, working as builder and contractor until 1884 when in partnership with Robert Filshie he purchased the Toowoomba and Hampton (Merritt's Creek) sawmills from Cocks, operating as Filshie, Broadfoot and Co., the Toowoomba mill being at the corner of Ruthven and Bridge Streets, at least in 1894. Morrison indicates the Toowoomba Sawmills were only erected at the start of 1888 although Pugh lists Filshie, Broadfoot as sawmillers at Russell Street from 1884, which may be the site of the original Cocks Mill. A siding was provided for the [new] mill in 1887. The 1888 mill was a large one employing 40 hands turning out 150,000 super feet of timber per month. It could be that the Merritt's Creek machinery was moved into Toowoomba at this time. The works in 1888 had modern boiler, horizontal steam engine, steam saw sharpener,

planing machine by Robinson of Rochdale and its own well.⁵ The site was adjacent to the railway and Toowoomba Foundry.

Filshie and Broadfoot acquired a number of branch sawmills, Crow's Nest, Hampton, Perseverance Creek and Townson but the Toowoomba sawmill closed and the site and railway siding were taken over by the Foundry in 1944.⁶

John Cameron and Hebbel had a sawmill at the railway station from 1880 to 1890.⁷ Cameron and Company were listed in 1892 as having a sawmill at Pipeclay Creek (2 miles south east of Hampton on the Crow's Nest line).

Archibald and Duncan Munro trading as A. & D. Munro erected the Argyle Sawmills at Highfields or Geham in 1874, opening a yard or sawmill in Margaret Street Toowoomba at the same time. From 1902 the Toowoomba mill or yard was at Bridge Street, and by 1916 A. & D. Munro had a private rail siding off the Toowoomba Foundry siding. Munro's were not listed as sawmillers at Toowoomba after 1907 but the siding was in their name until 1939 although out of use. In 1939 it became Hood Brothers Siding and in 1952 was deleted from the list of sidings.⁸

E.W. Pechey was a partner of Degen and Haege in the Victoria Steam Saw Mill at Highfields. He subsequently obtained control of the Albert Sawmills at Pechey which succeeded the Victoria Sawmill, and by 1873 had a yard or branch mill at the railway station yard, Toowoomba. His land adjoined the railway, giving rise to correspondence in 1884-1887 over the need to correct the survey boundaries.⁹ After his death the executors continued the business, which from 1907 was listed as at Mill Street, Toowoomba. Edward Pechey decided in 1918 to close the Toowoomba depot (suggesting it was not a sawmill) and move the office to Pechey.¹⁰

There were many other sawmills or timber yards in Toowoomba, it often being difficult to distinguish. By 1900 Hampson Brothers had a wood depot off Ruthven Street with a railway siding; this may be the same as later called J. Freyling's wood depot for which shunting charges were abolished in 1943, indicating closure.¹¹

Morgan H. Simon operated a sawmill at Snell Street, Toowoomba in the 1940s with others at Jandowae, Chinchilla, Cooyar, St. Aubyn and Emu Creek in various years in the 1940s. Maslins Sawmill was in Hill Street 1920-1923 and Gratton Hardware Milling Company at Mylne Street, 1934-40. Also in the 1940s, listed sawmillers included Hiram Philip at 1 John Street, the Toowoomba Timber Company in Victoria Street, F.W. Adams (with other mills at Ravensbourne and Kumbarilla) and several listed in 1949 for the first time.

Amos Neden had a sawmill at Meringandan in 1882 for about a year before moving to Brisbane where he operated the Beaumont Sawmills.¹²

Around 1900 Sam Dodds had a water powered mill at the head of Ballard Creek in the Highfields area.¹³

A. & D. Munro erected a sawmill in 1874 on the Highfields Road about 14 miles from Toowoomba, a locality later known as Geham. The sawmill was on Geham Creek, and Mrs D. Munro christened it Argyle Mills in August 1874.¹⁴ The mill operated until 1900 when Munro erected a new mill at Perseverance Creek. In 1895 there was a village at the Geham mill, with houses for married and single employees, store and blacksmith shop. The mill in 1895 had 24 horsepower steam engine, frame saw and circular saw to break up large logs, planing machine and tonguing and grooving planes. There was a 7 foot frame band saw and four foot circular saws, with Mr Huey in charge of the band saw.¹⁵

Peter Degen, Henry Haege and Edward W. Pechey formed a partnership and in 1864 erected a steam sawmill at Highfields, 15 miles north of Toowoomba, and not far from the route of the railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba then under construction. They asked to be able to use the railway; subsequently a station was provided, known as Highfields and subsequently and now called Spring Bluff.¹⁶ The sawmills were burnt down on 14 October 1865, only 19 months after they opened on 21 March 1864. Charles Jones became a partner from the beginning of 1866 and the new mill, the Albert Mill at what is now Pechey, was begun in August and completed in December 1866 with 30 horsepower engine and Jones as manager. The mill had vertical frame saws carrying 24 blades at a time and two jobbing benches. The company built a church cum school building and the firm had a depot in Ruthven Street, Toowoomba.¹⁷ The 1866 Balance Sheet, held by Mrs Pechey, lists 450 acres near the Victoria Mill and the Victoria Mill itself as a

£5000 asset as well as the Albert Mill £7000; the Victoria Mill was either a book entry or the mill had been rebuilt after the fire.

Pechey retired from the partnership on 16 October 1866. The Highfields Steam Sawmills Company as the partnership was known in 1866, mortgaged the mill to the Bank of New South Wales in December 1866.¹⁸

E.W. Pechey entered a partnership with Robert J. Rotton trading as E.W. Pechey and Company but from 1 February 1868 this partnership was also dissolved. As they were trading as saw millers and timber merchants at Highfields and Toowoomba, Pechey and Rotton had by then taken over operation of the sawmill, presumably the Albert Mill. Rotton on 5 May 1869 sold to Pechey all his interest in the lease of the Highfields Steam Saw Mills for £50 cash. Other papers refer to the Victoria Mill site, suggesting that this mill was not rebuilt after fire.¹⁹

Brady Brothers were sawmilling at Taylor in 1918, and James Brady was listed at Taylor 1941-1947, and T.P. Brady at Highfields 1947-49. The Hampton Sawmill, at or on Merritt's Creek, is referred to under Toowoomba; it may have closed in 1888 or operated until 1899 and Hampton was listed under Filshie, Broadfoot and Company in 1897-1899.

Perseverance Creek

There was a long sequence of milling around Perseverance. Cameron and Hebbel moved their sawmill from Murphy's Creek to Perseverance in 1879, the first mill in the area. Cameron and Hebbel were operating to 1895; the next two years James Kean and Company were listed at Perseverance Creek.²⁰ The area was later known as Pine Tree. About 1895 Filshie and Broadfoot erected a mill on the eastern side of Perseverance Creek near the Perseverance Bridge, managed by Dave Broadfoot for about 15 years; it was listed in 1901.

Archibald and Duncan Munro's main mill was on the left bank at the head of Perseverance Creek. There was a dynamo to provide lighting permitting night time work in the mill.

It is stated by R.K. Morgan, based on Keith McDonald's note, that A. & D. Munro applied to the Highfields Divisional Board for permission to construct a tramline along roads in 1896. By 1898 the tramline was extended to Hampton siding on the Crows Nest branch railway. There were railings of more than a thousand tons of low-rated

goods to Geham ending in the first half of 1902, suggesting that the Argyle Sawmills at Geham operated until early 1902. Those thousand plus tons could have been logs brought to Hampton via the tramway and then railed to Geham (but could have come from other stations such as Crow's Nest). The railings of timber from Hampton were 2835 in 1897-88 and 3778, 4622, 5447 and 4457 in 1899-1900, 1900-01, 1901-02 and 1902-03. The drop could reflect reduced demand, or the change from railing log to sawn timber.²²

Munro, proprietor of Geham Sawmill, opened a mill at Perseverance Creek in 1900 and sent the sawn timber by the Crow's Nest Railway.²³

Hauling a hundred tons of timber each week over the tramway was heavy work for horses up steep grades and besides replacing worn out wooden rails in steel, Munro decided to adopt steam traction. To get legal authority for steam (and not by poor business practice as suggested by Morgan) Munro sought legal authority in the form of the private bill which became the *Munro's Tramway Act of 1904* which authorised 10 miles of line, and provided a degree of legal indemnity for the consequences of using steam. At this time, late 1904, the tramway ran 7 miles to the sawmill and was to be extended another 3 miles.²⁴

Once this extension was built, logs to the mill came on a tramway which ran out from Palmtree Sawmill through Ravensbourne to Bunker's Hill terminus (called Perseverance) with a pumphouse near the Hampton-Esk Road. The Strohfled brothers did much of the felling in that area.²⁵

The whole tramway was officially opened on 1 April 1905 with Premier Morgan present, riding in springless timber wagons out to the mill and seeing the cable or incline tramway. Munro had purchased a geared locomotive for his tramline in America. The line had been opposed by some Labour members as a private railway; those members believed all railways should be government owned.²⁶ Munro allowed farmers to use the tramway for their produce, a boon in wet weather. A condition of the 1904 Act was that Munro be a common carrier.²⁷

The locomotive was a small Shay from the Lima Company, and the second, ordered in 1908, was a similar but larger Shay.²⁸

A. Munro attended a meeting of the Esk Shire Council in 1915 seeking permission for his

tramline to cross the Esk-Ravensbourne Road. It was granted.²⁹

The sawmill, on Subdivision 2 of Portion 841 and maximum capacity of 8000 super feet per day, was still operating in 1936, and on 24 December A. & D. Munro Pty Ltd applied for registration of the sawmill. The mill was inspected on 27 January 1937, and had boiler and engine, breaking down frame, Canadian bench, Nos. 1 and 2 benches and docking saw. Munro advised on 12 April that the company was in voluntary liquidation and neither Toowoomba nor Perseverance sawmills had worked since 1 January 1937.

Bob Walker had managed the mill for many years but in 1935 Tom Munro took over. The business was leased to Bob Walker for another 12 months and closed in 1936, and was sold up. The rails were sold to scrap merchant J.J. Bloomer of Brisbane and removed in 1937. The winch for the incline section was abandoned in the bush at Ravensbourne.³⁰

There was also a mill on Portion 5 Deongwar operated by J. Barbour (Licence 472) purchased by Summers and Zwisler for amalgamation with their mill at Builyan in 1943. The mill was previously held by Brennan and Anderson.³¹

The first sawmill in Ravensbourne was erected by Peters and Easton on the property of Michael Dalton, later owned by Sam Taylor.³² Filshie, Broadfoot & Co. had a mill at Ravensbourne in 1902. From 1927 to 1942 Simons had a hardwood mill on the flat near Geoff Patch's property.³³

Owen Afflick had a sawmill, originally at the head of Oakey Creek near Fred Zropf's property north east of Ravensbourne, and later at the site at Perseverance. It was moved because the road was impassable in wet weather. E. Strohfled still operated and managed the mill at Perseverance in 1992.³⁴

Afflick's sawmill was established by the Downs Finance Company which bought 1200 acres from the Brennans, recalled Tom Case. It was later moved to Perseverance, the one mill still operating in the 1990s. Afflick came from Legume, NSW (near Killarney) to build the mill. It was a mile from the Peters and Easton mill.³⁵ Owen Affleck was recorded as mill proprietor at Ravensbourne from 1936 to 1946. The mill had been steam powered but was diesel operated. In 1992 the mill, on the western side of Ballard Creek and beside the Hampton-Esk road was operated by the Ravensbourne Sawmilling

Company which had bought the mill from F.W. Adams (the owner in the 1947 listing) in 1948. Ownership of the company changed from the Walker families and Les Grey to G. Fleming and Wally Byers and eventually to the Gatton Sawmilling Company. The mill changed to electricity when the supply came in 1961.³⁶

Charles (W.C.) Wackerling and Herb Shum set up a sawmill about 1949 on Wackerling's property, Ravensbourne.³⁷

Bob Andersen of Esk installed a flying-fox just above the Ravensbourne National Park falls to harvest hoop pine south of Mount Misery with 3/8 inch cable across the gorge and 300 feet above it. The logs were trucked to Brown and Broad, Brisbane for plywood.³⁸ The date of this operation is not clear, possibly postwar?

Pechey

Edward Wilmot Pechey, born in Colchester, England, in 1841 came to Newcastle in 1857 and then to Brisbane in 1859, working for the Surveyor-General on the survey of the Downs. In his early twenties he joined Degen and Haege in the Victoria Steam Saw Mill at Highfields. After it was burnt down, the Albert Saw Mill was built further north at what became known as Pechey. After marrying Ellen Bond in 1872, Pechey built a homestead on the hill above the mill. The sawmill was located beside the creek, its water supply.

The 1893 financial depression and bank crashes left Pechey technically bankrupt as he had borrowed heavily. His son William Wilmot Pechey, aged 21, left the business for gold-rich Western Australia, then the only booming economy in Australia. He worked for the Canning Jarrah Timber Company, eventually becoming its General Manager. Younger brother Alfred Edward, aged 17, joined him and found work with the Karri and Jarrah Mills. Both returned when their father died in 1904 and began to pull the business back, William manager at Mill Street, Toowoomba and Alfred at Pechey. They built a new mill at Mount Binga near Cooyar. After William died in 1915, Alfred finally wound up his father's estate. The mill at Pechey closed in 1924 after another slump in timber prices. The buildings were dismantled and were used to build Emmerson's Power House in Crow's Nest. The store, hotel, school, hall and cottages remained at the village. Queensland Trustees Ltd, who had been in charge of the estate since 1904, advised by the Pechey Brothers, advertised the estate for sale as a number of farms. Alfred also turned to

farming, building a new house called Listening Ridge on the eastern part of the estate. His son William (1917-1986) became president of the Tropical Grassland Society in 1981 and Mrs Shirley Pechey holds the surviving records of the sawmilling enterprise.³⁹

The name Pechey was in use at least since the railway opened on 6 December 1886. A siding to the sawmill had been laid out in 1884 prior to construction. The sawmills were a factor in the 1883 decision to route the line to Crow's Nest to pass by the sawmill.⁴⁰

Queensland Trustees Ltd requested a three chain extension of the siding in 1909 when they were enlarging the sawmill. By 1910, the prime blocks for Pechey were coming from the Mount Binga Mill, railed from Crow's Nest.⁴¹ The Mount Binga Mill was built largely using machinery displaced at Pechey in the enlargement.

E.W. Pechey had taken a lease over the Albert Mill and the yard at Toowoomba on or soon after its construction, in partnership with Robert J. Rotton trading as E.W. Pechey and Co., but this was dissolved on 1 February 1868. By 1876 Pechey was running the business from Toowoomba with I.F. Wells, whose postal address was Albert Mills, Highfields, apparently managing the sawmill. By 1888 E.W. Pechey appeared to be resident at Pechey, leading the application for a school at Pechey. He described the district as rich in blackbutt, gum, ironbark and turpentine pine with most of the buildings of sawn hardwood. The school opened in 1889.⁴²

In 1895, only months after borrowing or seeking to borrow £8000 to £9000 from McEvoy & Co. of Melbourne, Pechey was insolvent and the company in liquidation. The whole of the mill machinery including two traction engines, was given to the Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Company in late 1895 which financed the continued operation of the enterprise. A valuation at this time showed the estate included 7768 acres of land. At first Pechey had to capitalise some of the interest on the loan.⁴³

The sawmill, as listed in the valuation, measured about 72 by 72 feet, with 30 horsepower engine and boiler, vertical frames, rack bench, two jobbing benches, planing machine, saw sharpener, blacksmiths and wheelwrights shops, traction engine shed, house of six rooms plus kitchen, stables, Aubigny Masonic Lodge Hall, provisional school and six cottages. workmen's cottages, well, general store, butchers shop and slaughter yards and railway siding, all on Portion

103 Parish of Douglas. Another 6-room house and 4-roomed kitchen, four cottages and other sheds were on portion 936.

William Pechey used Albert Mills, Pechey as the postal address in 1905 when Euston Nolan the engineer asked to give up management of the Pechey mill and Ned (A.E.) Pechey took over. Thackeray became mill and yard foreman. The state of finances may be judged by William's offer to Albert: £3 per week plus free house and rations. By 1910 Alfred J. Robinson was the engineer at Pechey, and E.A. Pechey was being paid just over £6 per week.

The Mount Binga operation started in the second half of 1908. It was similar to Pechey in that Pechey & Co. operated a store there, presumably as the workers lived at this isolated place. According to the estate letterhead, Mount Binga, Blackbutt Range, was a pine mill.

The firm also owned land at Yarraman, Portion 170v in the Parish of Cooyar, offered for sale in 1917.

The whole estate was offered to the government in 1918 but the Works Department reported against its acquisition and Hunter, the Lands Minister, had to be convinced the department could work the sawmill profitably. Negotiations continued with Lands Minister, Coyne until July.⁴⁴

In 1918 Edward Pechey decided to close the Toowoomba depot and move the office to Pechey. At this time, a New South Wales buyer was taking the entire output of either Pechey or Mount Binga. The firm had practically ceased riling logs in August 1916.⁴⁵

The Supreme Court order dated 25 July 1904 which enabled Queensland Trustees to carry on Pechey's business was renewed in 1912 and in 1916 to 1921. Queensland Trustees advised in a letter 2 June 1921 that the mills were closed down and questioned the need for a further extension. The Mount Binga mill was dismantled in 1922, the mill buildings, machinery and plant there sold through R. Sinclair that year.

The sale of Pechey Saw Mill took place on 21 March 1924, to Walter Richard of Boldery at auction for £25,250 (also through Sinclair) payable in instalments. Boldery advised Queensland Trustees that did not intend to operate the mill but except for the "few items we require for our mill at Yeerongpilly" sought to sell all the plant,

buildings and sawmill land by auction, which he was permitted to do.⁴⁶

Thomas Blinco started the first sawmill in Crow's Nest, on the corner of Emu Creek Road and Blinco Street; it was listed from 1901 to 1919 in the Post Office Directories, with a branch mill at Blackbutt 1914-1919.⁴⁷ When the timber cut out they moved the mill to Jandowae.⁴⁸

Edward Emmerson in 1888 went to Anduramba with his family, selecting his own land in 1896 soon after he turned 21. In 1904 with brother Thomas he became a sawmiller, buying steam boiler, saw bench and belting, some or all from the Ipswich Railway Workshops, hauling it up the Blackbutt Range with his horse team. In 1907 he relinquished his share in the Blackbutt mill to Thomas, and went to Crow's Nest. He established a sawmill at Anduramba, apparently in 1907, and erected a planing mill at Crow's Nest beside his house. In the 1930s he bought an electric plant to supply the town of Crow's Nest, switched on 1 January 1937.⁴⁹

Emmerson had a sawmill beside the railway yards at Crow's Nest 1908-1936 and also erected an electric power station serving the township. He moved the sawmill to Chinchilla about the same time Blinco moved his mill.⁵⁰

Tigell's sawmill at Jones Gully near Crow's Nest was formed in 1947 and apparently still operating in 1988.⁵¹

John Harrison erected a steam sawmill in the Pierce's Creek area in the 1920s. The steam engine was shifted to the mill on Old Woman's Hut Creek in the early 1930s and Ben Harrison operated this mill until 1950 when he set up a new electric sawmill on Emu Creek Road, Crow's Nest. It was sold to Clarks Sawmilling Pty Ltd in 1963 and was still operating in 1988.⁵²

John Emmerson and son Ted and Tom Armstrong in 1907 set up a sawmill at Anduramba. It was steam powered. The sawmill hands included Jim Hayden, Percy Emmerson (son of Ted), Tom Burnes and Aug Lindemann.⁵³

William Petrie took an option over Portion 15v in the Parish of Anduramba in February 1919, chiefly for its pine.⁵⁴ Bill Petie erected a steam driven mill at Anduramba.⁵⁵

Filshie & Broadfoot opened a sawmill at Emu Creek (near Djuan) in 1905 but shifted it to Kooralgin in 1914 to cut pine. Filshie, Broadfoot and Company listed a sawmill at Crow's Nest in

the period 1892-1901. If at Crow's Nest proper, it preceded Blinco's mill and may have been moved in 1905 if the dates in *From Tall Timbers* are correct.⁵⁶ In the 1930s, Charles Frost and J. Harrison were listed at Emu Creek to 1940, and from 1941 M.H. Simon with Bartz, Clarke and Roats listed in 1946. From 1945 Simon's mill was listed as St. Aubyn, either a change of site or a change of name.

The E.W. Pechey Estate began work at Mount Binga by commissioning Thomas George McPhail, well boring contractor, in September 1908, to put down a bore on Portion 3 near Mount Binga. It was apparently successful, and the mill was erected in 1908 or 1909. An agreement was made in February with the graziers and teamsters Matthew Gleeson and Francis Mitchell of Emu Creek to haul timber from Mount Binga Mill to Crow's Nest.⁵⁷

In 1918 the Mount Binga Mill opened in early 1918, having been closed for a period of unknown length. The mill was 7 miles from Cooyar railway station. It operated until late 1921 or early 1922. The mill was closed and dismantled in 1922. Some of the machinery went to the Wengenville mill of Lars Anderson, apparently including the large flywheel.⁵⁸

Goombungee and Cooyar

Albert, August and Ernest Kowatz were saw-milling at Goombungee from 1903 to 1911. William Prenzler began milling around 1907, and continued to 1934, possibly selling out to Gray Brothers. Others were milling in the 1940s.

There were sawmills at Oakey, Acland, Muldu, Rosalie Plains (T.W. Hawkins 1903-1912), Kulpi, Peranga and Wutul, many of them dating or recorded from the 1940s or late 1930s.

Cooyar was a railhead with access to substantial log resources. A. & D. Munro had a mill at Cooyar before the railway was built and by 1927 there were three mills, the largest Dale's on Cooyar Creek, and 11 miles up the creek, Boydcott's and a mile further on, Bow's mill; these were not actually in Cooyar itself.⁵⁹ C. Crabb operated in the 1930s and Morgan H. Simon of Toowoomba, Chinchilla and Emu Creek had a Cooyar mill from 1941.

Daly Brothers, reputedly the first to start a butter and cheese factory on the Darling Downs, included a steam boiler and engine and circular saw bench in their factory built in 1889 at Quinalow. Breaking down of logs was still done

by pit sawing. In 1903 they built a larger mill at Quinalow and engaged in the timber trade, the mill being just behind today's Kraft factory. A planing machine was added later. The mill employed 12 men housed in barracks and later houses for married workers. In 1905 the Daly Brothers bought a steam traction engine for carting sawn timber to rail.⁶⁰ The Post Office Directory lists John J. Daly 1906-1909 and then Keane and Hawkins 1910-1912.

There were also mills at Bell and Kaimkillenbun, Maida Hill and Spring Flat in the Bell area, all close to the Bunya Mountains.

Endnotes

1. Maurice French and Duncan Waterson, pp. 87-8.
2. Maurice French, *pubs, ploughs & peculiar people*: pp. 93, 95, quoting *North Australian* 8 Dec 1857; *Moreton Bay Courier* 14 Jul 1858; *Darling Downs Gazette* 8 Jul 1858, 16 Sep, 16 Dec 1858, 13, 20 Jan, 3 Feb, 17 Mar, 26 May, 6 Oct 1859, 12 Jan, 18 Oct 1860.
3. Robert Dansie, Morass to Municipality, celebrating Toowoomba's 125th year as a Municipality, DDIE Press 1985 p.26.
4. BC 15 July 1874; WF Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued.
5. CR 1887 p. 122; WF Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued; *Toowoomba Chronicle* 25 May, 1 June 1988, notes by Bob Dansie from 1888 files.
6. WN 49/44.
7. WF Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued.
8. WF Morrison Vol.2, unpagued; WN 5/39, 17/52.
9. Correspondence held by Shirley Pechey, Listening Ridge, Pechey.
10. Letterbook pp. 359-60, held by Shirley Pechey, Listening Ridge, Pechey.
11. *South Queensland Pioneer* 20 January 1900 p. 4; WN 45/43.
12. WF Morrison, Volume 2, unpagued.
13. Colin E. Beutel, p.58.
14. BC 15 July 1874, 13 August 1874 p. 3.
15. *Toowoomba Chronicle* 5 December 1995, Bob Dansie.
16. Partnership papers held by Shirley Pechey, Listening Ridge, Pechey; Letter 2485/64, LWO/A17, QSA.
17. BC 6 January 1866 p.1; *Toowoomba Chronicle* 3 October 1866.
18. Document held by Shirley Pechey; BC 6 December 1866 p.2.
19. Papers held by Shirley Pechey.
20. Q 1 November 1879 p. 551.
21. Colin E Beutel, p. 41.
22. R.K. Morgan, "Munro's Hampton Tramway", p. 5; Commissioner for Railways Annual Reports.
23. *Journals* of the Legislative Council 1900,3,1462; 14/12/1900.
24. PP 1904-05 Vol. 2, pp. 681-5.
25. Beutel, p.9.
26. Q 8 April 1905 p. 38.

27. *Queensland Parliamentary Debates* 97,93 (31 March 1906).
28. Morgan, "Munro's Hampton Tramway", p.7.
29. Esk Shire Council Minutes 7 July 1915 p. 116, 28 July p. 119.
30. Morgan, "Munro's Hampton Tramway", p. 16; R.S. Kerr, *Confidence and Tradition* p. 62.
31. Copy of correspondence from District Forester Yarraman 7 February 1950, M. Kowald.
32. Beutel, p. 58.
33. *Tall Timbers*, p. 234.
34. Beutel pp. 55-6, 62.
35. Beutel p. 10; *From Tall Timbers*, p. 232.
36. Beutel p. 41.
37. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 233.
38. Beutel p. 9.
39. Shirley Pechey in *From Tall Timbers* pp. 61, 63, 67-8, 74-6, 82.
40. CR 1884 p. 135, CR 1883 p. 132.
41. File 1910/1697, A/12392, QSA.
42. Papers held by Shirley Pechey, Listening Ridge, Pechey.
43. Shirley Pechey papers.
44. Shirley Pechey papers.
45. Letterbook p. 359-60, 301-2 and Vertical File papers, letter R; held by Shirley Pechey.
46. Shirley Pechey papers.
47. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 235.
48. Fred G. Mathieson, p. 61.
49. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 234.
50. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 35, 164; Mathieson, p. 61.
51. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 235.
52. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 234.
53. *From Tall Timbers*, p. 120; * History of Anduramba * pp. 46, 57-8.
54. Papers held by Shirley Pechey.
55. History of Anduramba p.46. *
56. Papers held by Shirley Pechey.
57. Agreement dated 12 February 1910, Shirley Pechey papers.
58. Letterbook pp. 146, 150-2, 156 and Journal, 1922, Shirley Pechey papers; Lesley Jenkins, *Queensland Cultural Data Audit*, p. 96.
59. W.G.L. Ramsay, p.23.
60. Fred Reimers, pp. 16, 25, 33.

Bunya Mountains

Albert Kowitz had a sawmill at Maidenwell around 1914. Albert Kowitz selected land in 1908. Bob Coleman offered him a site for a sawmill on Middle Creek and Kowitz and his brother George moved a small mill they owned in the Millmerran district to the site, about 2 miles from where the Maidenwell hotel was built in 1914. It cut hardwood and pine for a short period and Albert resumed farming. By this time Tom Munro had a well-equipped pine mill on Deep Creek and Dennings had a pine mill at Tarong.¹

Tom Clapperton had a block of fine timber on top of the Bunya Mountains and after the government foreshadowed a new tax on private standing timber, he approached Lars Andersen of Esk and arranged that if Andersen erected a mill, he would provide the timber.

Andersen erected the Wengenville mill near Maidenwell was at the junction of Wengen and Tureen Creeks, operating from 1922, and incorporating the flywheel (said to be the largest in Queensland) and much other machinery from the Mount Binga sawmill.²

Bob Andersen was mill manager, Les Juillerat yard foreman and Donald Barr operated the Canadian bench.

Hyne and Sons, fearing the exhaustion of kauri pine on Fraser Island and Cooloola, bought Wengenville in 1928 to give access to Bunya Mountains timber. The mill closed in the depression and then Hynes leased it to Jim Hayden, Julius Shire and Peter Morris in 1931. They operated it for 3 years with Hayden as manager. (These years were 1935-37 as judged by the Post Office directory; perhaps 1934-36 is more accurate). Bert Argo with a Thorneycroft truck carted logs from Little Saddletree Creek. Hynes then resumed operations (1936?) and until it closed in 1960 and cut close to 3 million super feet of hoop and bunya pine annually.³

A provisional school was established at Andersen's mill and named Maidenwell in 1926. The former Tureen school was 3/4 mile from the mill and had closed. Brooklands and later Tarong were used as railheads. In the 1950s chainsaws and crawler tractors replaced crosscut saw and bullock teams before the mill closed in 1960 or 1961.⁴

To get the logs down from the top, a few earth chutes were used in the head of Saddletree and also Wengen Creeks but the logs were splintered and picked up stones damaging the saws.

Lars Andersen decided to build a tramway like that at Cressbrook Creek and asked Hugh Connolly to build it. The 4 kilometre surface tramway with 3 x 3 inch hardwood rails and sleepers buried in the ground to permit horse traction was completed in 6 to 9 months. The mountain incline tramway was then built with three steel rails with a centre loop of four rails for passing, and wire rope. It was completed in 4 months and both tramways worked for 6 years 1922-28 and were dismantled after the sale to Hyne. There were two trolleys on the incline connected by rope to a brake drum at the top and up to 3000 super feet could be let down at a time, a drop of about 800 feet.⁵

For timber at the head of Little Saddletree Creek, Andersen bought an engine and built a 10 horsepower winder into the bed of the creek from a spot about 80 metres above the head of the incline tramway (which is in 1997 still marked by a Bunya pine beside the bitumen road). This was later combined with a flying fox with long heavy cable strung across the gorge, with 4 hp Campbell engine and 5-speed Albion gear box and 3 speed winch. Martin Langton worked the tramway. Logs were lifted out of the creek bed, conveyed upstream, dropped onto skids, rolled onto the trolley of the winder, winched up, pulled by horse teams worked by Jim Hedges to the top of the incline, down it, along the surface tramway and then by teams to the sawmill. The amount of handling was uneconomic and Hyne quickly ended the tramway operations. In six years Andersens had cut about 13 million super feet of pine and they sold as the operation was not paying.⁶

On the surface tramway, horses could pull 3 trolleys of logs. There was a dump at the end for transfer to bullock wagons or steam traction engine. The sawmill was steam powered. Bob Andersen had plans to convert a T model Ford to use on the tramway but it was not a success and horses were used to the end.⁷

There were numerous chutes on the slopes of the Bunya Mountains, 14 in all according to Joe Walker.⁸ Daly's chute down a spur into Walker's Creek served Daly and Walker's mill in 1908. The Old Cedar Chute was 400 metres long and ended 3/4 mile from a mill on the north branch of Koondai Creek. Vohland's Chute at the head of Cattle Creek was heavily timbered to reduce friction. Short posts 3 feet apart were inserted down the slope at 20 feet intervals and supported six inch ground plates and round logs 6 to 18 inches in diameter were secured to the plates, forming the slippery slide. Where the ground was

rocky posts could not be inserted and the round logs were spiked together. Where the timber ended was a 400 feet earthen chute to slow the logs down. The logs were hauled a mile to Barron's mill where a steam boiler remains. Peter's Chute was at the head of Cattle Creek, about 3/4 mile long with logs having to be towed down. There were three chutes in Russell Park, all ending in the northern valley of Myall Creek, No.1 3/4 mile south-east of the Guest House. Carbine's Chute was not far from Munro's Camp on a bald knoll at the head of Horse Gully, the oldest chute and used for cedar. Stan and Tom Armstrong worked the first crawler tractor on the Bunyas and built a chute, pushing logs part of the way with the tractor. These were all on the western slope.⁹ In 1972 the Vohland family erected a plaque at the top of Vohland chute which operated 1911-13.¹⁰

Cedar getters were operating sawpits in the Bunyas from the 1860s with quite a settlement in 1862. Pickering's sawpits were over in the next valley, Horse Gully. Later Joseph Carbine and others arrived. Carbine constructed a chute. More than 25 sawmills operated on or around the Bunyas.¹¹ The Bunya Mountains Club led the opposition to logging.¹²

At the end of World War I W. McKenzie secured a contract for 27 million super feet of timber over 9 years; Jack and Hector McKenzie constructed the first sawmill on Brown's Flat at junction of Horse Gully and the main Bunya Creek; timber could be brought down Horse Gully or Bunya Creek to it. It was steam driven with boiler and engine set in concrete. Workers houses and a store were erected. Old chutes were reused and new ones built. The well was deepened, apparently the old one for Great Bunya Sawmill. Martin Reedy, Les Hymphrys getting logs. Jack McKenzie installed a planing machine. Bunya Mountains school opened nearby in October 1919.¹³

In March 1865 a steam engine was hauled through Dalby for a sawmill at the Bunyas using circular saws. It was taken up the creek to the edge of rainforest and the sawmill set up, run by Waddell and Greenwood and competed with the sawpits. W.A. Greenwood later established a timber yard at Dalby with a manager for the mill in the mountains.¹⁴

The Great Bunya Sawmills was one of the most notorious sawmilling enterprises in Queensland. In 1882, Sam Grimley sought a loan from the Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Company for £16,250 to secure about 13,000

acres in Parish Cumbillenbar. The property was then lent to the Darling Downs and Western Land Company. In January 1883 Grimley borrowed £7000 for another 1273 acres and £2500 for a sawmill. Henry Ensor was commissioned to build the Great Bunya Sawmill on the north branch of Myall Creek about three quarters of a mile up from its junction with Horse Gully. It began operating about 1883 with Sam Grimley as manager and secretary. The mill had steam engine, boiler, vertical saw, circular saw and a crane which most mills lacked. Grimley lived in the Mount Victoria homestead a few kilometres from the mill. The mill produced 35,000 to 40,000 super feet of pine weekly and a planer was installed. Chutes were used to bring timber to the mill. In a fire the planing mills were destroyed.

On 26 November 1888 the QILM Company issued a writ against the four local board members and Grimley for £66,264. The civil trial began in November 1891 heard by Chief Justice Lilley with his son representing the company. The judge overruled the jury and so damaged his own reputation that he resigned two weeks later.¹⁵

The Queensland Investment & Land Mortgage Company took control and the mill was last listed in 1895. Denis Sheedy was listed with a sawmill at Bunya Mountain in 1897 to 1899 which could also be the former Great Bunya mill.

Arthur Gosper and Eddie Natalier set up a sawmill at the Lucerne Patch where the Dandabah Holiday units are now. It was a small mill with no roof at first. Fred Otto was benchman and Eddie Natalier tailer-out. Arthur Gosper and Alf Otto did the breaking down. Alf Langton moved the huge logs to the mill.¹⁸

A 1904 map shows Walker's Old Sawmill site below the range south-south-west of Mount Haly and also shows Webb and Paton's Sawmill as 2100 feet above sea level.¹⁷ I have no other record of Webb and Paton's mill.

In 1930s Les Grey dismantled the mill at the Lucerne Patch for Neubauer and Collingwood and set it up on the site of the Great Bunya Sawmill, circa 1933. It closed after 18 months and was taken to Yamsion and moved from place to place.¹⁸

On the Cooyar Range two sawmills and cottages were built. The Dennings from Fernvale established the mill on Tanduringie Creek at Peron in 1911 and it remained until 1934. Tom Munro from Cooyar built a mill on Tanduringie Creek

over the road from the 1980s school and it closed about 1921.¹⁹

The last sawmill on top of the Bunyas was Reg L. Cullen's erected in the 1940s (listed in 1949), on his property adjacent to the Lucerne Patch, a small mill powered by tractor which cut case timber but it did not reopen after 1950.²⁰

A sawmill was operating at Munro's Camp on the Bunya Mountains by 1930 with Bill O'May manager. The timber came mostly from Clapperton's property, then operated by Gracey and Newton.²¹

In 1934 (when Hyne ceased milling at Wengenville) the Clapperton family of Tarong approached the Denning family who had been milling in the Peron district for years asking them to sell and shift the mill to Bunyas. George Clapperton identified a route along the ridge between Saddletree and Little Saddletree Creeks (now the Nanango to Mount Mowbullian road) which became Clapperton's Road. The Dennings set up the saw benches, powered by steam with a steam donkey engine in the creek and upright boiler to pump water up to the mill. The mill cut pigeonberry ash, plentiful, then red cedar. The site was at the head of Little Saddletree Creek. Tom Clapperton purchased two solid-tyred International trucks second-hand. The mill was later leased to Newton and Grace and later to Hancock and Gore who also had a mill in Nanango. The remains were visible in 1982 near the top grid on the Maidenwell-Bunya Mountains main road.²²

In 1941 Hancock and Gore (who had a mill at Nanango) established a mill at the Bunya Mountains using a boiler obtained from the Cooby Dam [construction]. The Mowbullian provisional school opened on 13 February 1943 but the mill closed at the end of 1946 and the school was later shifted to the Lucerne Patch.²³ Note that *In the Shade of the Bunyas* suggests this was the same as Clapperton's mill.

From 1923 and in the early 1930s Charlie Rose and sons operated a mill in the Pimpimbudgee area, commencing operations on Middle Creek. The sawn timber was carted to rail at Cooyar.²⁴

Endnotes

1. *In the Shade of the Bunyas: A history of the Maidenwell- Wengenville District 1882-1982*, p. 18.
2. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, pp. 18-22; Ray Humphrys, p. 119.

3. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, pp. 21-3; Kerr, J.D. & Philpott, M.M., pp. 21-9.
4. Ray Humphrys, p. 169.
5. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, pp. 18-22.
6. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, pp. 20-21. Ray Humphrys, pp. 124-8.
7. Ray Humphrys, pp. 118-24.
8. Joe Walker, p. 47.
9. Joe Walker, pp. 48-51.
10. Ray Humphrys, p. 102.
11. Ray Humphrys, pp. 33-4, 37.
12. Ray Humphrys, pp. 152-3.
13. Ray Humphrys, pp. 113-4.
14. Ray Humphrys, pp. 35-6.
15. Ray Humphrys, pp. 62-6.
16. Ray Humphries, pp. 150-1.
17. PP 1904-05,2,203.
18. Ray Humphrys, p. 165.
19. *In the shade of the bunyas*, p. 17, quotes by Lesley Jenkins.
20. Ray Humphrys, p. 168.
21. Ray Humphrys, p. 165.
22. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, pp. 25-7.
23. Ray Humphrys, pp.168-9.
24. *In the Shade of the Bunyas*, p. 17.

The Southern Darling Downs

This section provides an overview of sawmilling in the study zone south from Toowoomba to the Border. It includes a small section of the cypress forests.

The first steam sawmill on the Downs was erected at Drayton in 1858.¹

R.S. and A.L.S. Walker erected a sawmill on railway land just on the Toowoomba side of Drayton station about 1948.²

Adam Rickert had a sawmill at Broxburn in the 1896-1911 period. Evans Brothers and later Schmidt Brothers were milling at Pittsworth from the 1890s. Samuel Wilson's mill (1912-15) may have been the last there.

John Gallagher had a sawmill at Clifton in the early 1900s.³

Allora was a settlement in the sawpit days. Later Adam Rickert had a small mill powered by donkey engine on the corner of Herbert and Warwick Streets. In the 1880s Hall Brothers erected a steam sawmill in Drayton Street. It was sold to Andrew Gordon who operated it 1884-1901 by which time he moved it to Goomburra, closer to the timber. Joseph Sharp & Sons operated in Allora or nearby from 1903 to 1924.⁴

It is stated that William Anderson erected a sawmill at Rosella Point on Glengallan but it was sold to Cocks of Toowoomba in 1859 and operated as Cocks Saw and Flour Mill for many years.⁵

Hannay Brothers were milling at Leyburn in the 1890s and Albert Evans 1908-12 and others following, and two mills in the 1940s, one by Kowitz Brothers.

John Keleher erected a steam saw mill cutting hardwood at Darkey Flat, now Pratten, by 1880.⁶ In the late 1930s C.W. Russell was milling at Pratten.

Warwick and Killarney

There were several sawmills at or near Warwick.

John W. Gillam started his sawmill at Millhill on the northern edge of Warwick in May 1898, powered by portable steam engine. In 1902 he obtained a multitubular boiler and two horizontal engines and installed a planing machine. In 1910 he replaced the rack bench by a Waterous Canadian log carriage for breaking down logs.

The mill was destroyed by fire in 1922. G. Thomas became a partner, possibly by 1917 or in 1922 to finance the reconstruction. It appears that the Hampstead Timber and Box Mill Company acquired the mill about 1945. In 1956 the siding - and the mill? - were taken over by C.L. Henry and Company. Esso Standard Oil acquired the siding at the start of 1964, either the end of the mill or maybe it had simply switched to road transport.⁷

There were timber getters in the Warwick area from the 1840s; the first land sales were in 1850.

J. McKeachie was listed as sawmiller in 1877 by Pugh, and Wallace and Gibson with Planing mills in Dragon Street from 1883.

The American Saw Mill Company Limited was incorporated on 19 September 1884 with its office at Warwick. F.H. Needham, James D. Smith and John D. Macansh Jr. were the chief shareholders and first directors. The company sent in no returns and was struck off in 1892.⁸ Its operations may have been in Killarney.

The Warwick Saw Milling Company, with J. Carr as manager, was listed from 1891. J.W. Hewetson established a sawmill near Legume, New South Wales, in 1898 and around 1921 took over the Federal Timber Company premises in Warwick including its private siding. It had a sawmill at Tooloom, NSW, and the Warwick premises may have just been a timber yard, but from 1923 to 1946 J.W. Hewetson and Company was listed as a sawmiller under Warwick.⁹

Post World War II, C.C. & V.M. Boldery had a sawmill at Upper Freestone. James Pidgeon owned a small sawmill at Cunningham's Gap employing four men, Elmslie Dieckmann of Kalbar being the manager.¹⁰

The Killarney branch railway, opened to Emu Vale in 1884 and Killarney in 1885, was a major factor in the exploitation of timber east of Warwick although the first sawmill predated it by a quarter century.

John and Peter Affleck [or Afflick] established a water-powered sawmill on Canning Downs near the former Killarney Cattle Station around 1858. The mill had four circular saws and Thomas Hall

Jr, whose father was involved in the project, recalled, half a century later, there was hardly a mill on the Downs to beat it.¹¹

In 1909 Eastment erected a sawmill at the head of Swan Creek.¹² H.T. Eastment was listed at Yangan, the nearest township, 1916-18. Robertson and Gazzard also had a mill at the head of Swan Creek. It milled a lot of cedar in the short time it operated.¹³ Lamb's mill was listed at Yangan in the 1940s.

Emu Vale became a sawmilling centre with the railway opening. Thomas and Alexander Hall were milling at Emu Vale (listed under Warwick) from 1886 to 1905. From the 1940s Hancock and Gore were sawmilling, riling timber on the old ballast siding across the creek from the station.¹⁴ This may have been a sawmill site long before 1940. The Emu Vale Timber Company was a subsidiary of Hancock and Gore and it appears that the building still stands, put to a different use.

R.A. Hoffman was sawmilling at Tannymorel in the 1940s. There was mention of a sawmill at Tannymorel in the 1880s, but I have no details.

Killarney began its role as a sawmilling centre with the railway opening. Some were near or beside the railway or North Killarney township, or nearer the border at the South Killarney township or area. Killarney was so close to New South Wales that it became the outlet for timber from the adjacent border areas.

McIntosh and Dumigan were at North Killarney (listed under Warwick from 1883) until 1913. Thomas Reid operated the American Saw Mill in the 1890s (listed 1897-99). Reid was listed under his own name as a sawmiller 1906-1912. It could be the site of the American Saw Mill with its office at Warwick, or maybe Reid bought the mill after the company's demise and moved it.

David Mercer milled at Killarney from 1925 and in 1932 had a siding. There was a sawmill siding at Killarney from at least 1916, still in use in the 1950s.¹⁵

R.A. Howell operated the Jubilee Saw and Planing Mill, Killarney South, and also the Mountain Sawmills in the period 1895 to 1926, and Richard Howell operated 1916-1946.

There were sawmills in the range, a ply mill at the head of Farm Creek on Selection 110. Back in 1876 Barnes and Evenden were operating the Farm Creek Sawmill, supplying Warwick.¹⁶

Another steam sawmill was built in 1920 on the creek bank where Emu Creek and Emu Creek South join. It was built by Boldery and Brett and worked until around 1950.¹⁷

Sam Smith operated a case mill opposite the short road into Queen Mary Falls, just on The Head side of the kiosk and houses near the falls. It was powered by portable steam boiler. Although electricity has been connected, possibly since it effectively closed, the portable steam boiler remains in situ and the sawmill, although small, is complete and comparatively well preserved.¹⁸

A number of sawmills operated at The Head (of the Condamine River). John Watson built his sawmill - just inside Queensland - in the 1890s; it was listed in 1902.¹⁹

Three sons formed Peterson Brothers and in 1907 started a sawmill at The Head property, Riverdale. The plant had a vertical frame saw able to cut logs 5 feet 6 inches in diameter, a Canadian breaking down saw, Kirchner band saw and three other band saws and various benches, planing mill and box printing machine. Power came from 70 and 30 horsepower boilers and the building measured 240 x 120 feet. There was also a drying kiln. The mill cut 8 to 10 thousand super feet of timber per day. The firm had a yard and siding at Killarney railway station, with up to 12 teams arriving there daily. In 1922 the mill was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and was at work six months later.²¹ Note, however, that the Post Office Directory under the Trades section does not list the firm after 1915.

James Cossart and Sons Pty Ltd of Dugandan had a branch mill at The Head; no dates were given.²¹ A sawmill at The Head, presumably Cossarts, was reported as still operating in 1975.²² Cossart's mill had post-1936 registration number 452 and was listed in the register copy held by the Department of Environment as Portion 260 Parish of Emu Vale and Portion 1774 Killarney, indicating it was operating until recent years. Some buildings, foundations and a boiler remain.

South of Warwick

There were many mills on the Granite Belt, many cutting materials for fruit cases. In the mid 1920s the Dalveen brickworks brought a 9 horsepower portable steam engine to their site. In summer the mill cut fruit case timber, hardwood and pine building timber. In winter the engine drove a pug mill for the brick works.²³ Pidgeon Brothers were recorded as sawmillers at Dalveen from 1929. Pidgeons of Dalveen were in the list of registered

sawmills at Portion 241 Rosenthal until recent time.

The Rural Sawmill was listed at Amiens in the 1920s, as was G. Emmert on Pikedale Goldfield and postwar S.E. and C.H. Pidgeon at Passchendale.

The Summit Co-operative Sawmilling Company Limited with a nominal capital of 5000 one pound shares (£5000) was formed in 1919. It erected a case mill with William Fraser as manager and a staff of four. The cooperative sold out to W. Howard and T. Russell, the Howard family managing the mill for another half century. It was located close to a supply of water for the boiler. It expanded to supply building timber and various kinds of dressed timber, chamfer boards and mouldings. A modern planing machine was imported from Germany and a kiln built for drying timber. The mill was described as the first in Queensland to cut Canadian cases.²⁴

At Stanthorpe, Bruce Jeffries was a sawmiller from 1908 to 1927 and the Stanthorpe Sawmill Company was listed 1916-1919. Others were sawmilling after World War II.

Margaret Allison had a sawmill at Sugarloaf in the area west of Stanthorpe in the period 1890 to 1920.

Further south, D. Walters and Sons had a sawmill at Glen Aplin from 1925. As registered sawmill 851 on Section 38 in the town of Glen Aplin it was in business at least until recent time. L.G. Gentle operated from around 1947.

Ballandean to the Border

Ballandean has been a sawmilling area since early this century. Jack Geyer established the first sawmill at Lyra in 1902 to cut fruit cases from cypress pine. R. Westbury operated the first sawmill in Ballandean in 1909, by a laneway near a spring half a mile south of the township. He supplied cypress pine case timber and building scantling and used a bullock team for log hauling. Johnson Brothers in 1910 ran a mill on their property opposite the railway goods shed. W. Cammack operated a mill in 1911 upstream from Moxley's Crossing on the Severn River. Soon after World War I, J.A. McNoulty established a small steam powered mill on the Severn River cutting hoop pine tops. About 1922 this mill was sold to Alex Johnston. In 1930 J. Geyer set up a permanent steam-driven mill adjacent to the Ballandean sportsground, cutting fruit cases. In 1948 it was sold to Curr and Johnston, and by

1949 C.N. Curr who operated it at least until 1984.²⁵

Geyer Brothers were listed as sawmilling at Wyberba 1914-17. J. McNoulty around 1922 in partnership with V. Barker and T. Curtain milled at Wyberba. After he sold out to his partners, they moved to mill near R. Newman's property at Ballandean and it operated on cypress pine for case timber until 1925. Geyer opened a mill at Bald Mountain (possibly the mill listed as Wyberba) and in 1928 moved to Marshall's Crossing for two years before moving to Ballandean.²⁶

At the border town of Wallangarra, Francis C. Leis had a sawmill in the 1892-97 period. This may be the mill on the corner of Merinda and Callandoon Streets in Wallangarra's early days.²⁷

There was little more sawmilling until after World War II. Robert (G.R.) Nicholson after supplying wood to the meatworks in the war, operated a small partnership with Marie Ditton from around 1947 to 1958. This mill was in Border Street, near the RSL. In the 1940s a mill was also operating in Callandoon Street.²⁸ In the early 1980s, after the meatworks closed, Green and McDonald formed Border Timbermart, and moved a sawmill from Kootingal, NSW, to Jennings, the NSW side of Wallangarra, but it closed after only a year in operation. It was sold in 1985 and moved to Mount McKenzie.²⁹

West of Warwick, Imray and Son had a sawmill at Greymare, 1927-1943. John Gallagher operated a sawmill at Thane from around 1899 to 1900, the name Keleher in Pugh and the Post Office directory indicating the first owner or a misreading of the spelling of Gallagher. The mill was located north of where the school was later built. It operated until around 1899. There was also a government sawmill in the early 1900s when the railway was being constructed by day labour, and part of the construction. Davey Washbourne's mill on the old coach road below the present Thane, a mile west of Thane's Creek was remembered by Alan Dickson. This was used to cut sleepers, possibly the government sawmill above.³⁰

C. Wickham operated a mill at St Aubyn, Karara in the 1940s, and J.O. Coleman and Pitken Brothers at Cobba-da-mana in 1941 and 1942.

Ben Bauer installed a sawmill for A.E. Girle and Sons at Magee in 1930 when the Texas railway was being constructed. Albert Girle had a contract for sleepers. G.E. Kemp brought a sawmill

to Fairleigh at Limevale in 1910 which operated only a few years.³¹ Carter & Company was listed at Limevale 1910-12 and C. Chandler 1927-33.

Texas was an area of mobile mills, largely cutting cypress pine and ironbark for railway sleepers. Thomas Chandler established a sawmill in Texas around 1897, listed as Texas Sawmills in Pugh's Almanac. It operated until about 1911. More mills were established after World War II. Charley Chandler built a sawmill on the Kenilworth property, operating in the 1930s and later sold to Albert Gundry (listed under Texas with a sawmill in 1946).³²

A.E. Girle and Sons had a sawmill at Silver Spur in 1908. They later moved the mill to Coventry's Lease and then to J.H. Rush's Hopewood, on to Brown's Creek, and the Dumaresq River at its junction with Brown's Creek. It seems it was known as the Tarwoona mill. In 1917 the mill moved to Yelarbon, west of the study area.³³

Harry Booth owned a sawmill at Beebo in the 1900s and Avery Brother's mill at Laguna was operating in 1908. McMullen Brothers operated at Beebo 1913-1922 and others post World War II. The Glenarbon Tobacco Settlement had its own sawmill in 1932 sawing the material to build houses in the settlement.³⁴

Endnotes

1. French & Watson, p. 88.
2. WN 3/48; Ernie Hills, 10 February 1997.
3. Beverley J. Irwin, p.73.
4. Marjorie Deacon, pp. 39-40.
5. Thomas Hall, p. 126.
6. Jan Ward-Brown, p. 666.
7. WN 39/56, 1/64; *Darling Downs Centenary Souvenir*, p. 111.
8. Company 50 Book 3, A/21373 and COM/1, QSA.
9. *Darling Downs Centenary Souvenir*, p. 111.
10. C.K. Pfeffer, p. 55.
11. Thomas Hall, p. 126.
12. Joseph McKey, p. 130.
13. Thomas Hall p. 130.
14. WN 44/50.
15. Railway Department, General Appendix List 1916-1950, WN 14,30/32.
16. Kevin Ahearn, *From Crosscut to Chainsaw*, p. 71 (quoting *Warwick Examiner and Times* 19 Aug 1876) and p. 72.
17. Kevin Ahearn, p.77-92.
18. Kevin Ahearn, p. 19.
19. *Fassifern Guardian* 4 March 1959, quoted in Angela Collyer, *Centenary Stories*, p. 67.
20. Joseph McKey, pp. 125-6.
21. H.A. Krause, p. 27.
22. Report on Features of the National Estate. Darling Downs Region. By Darling Downs Institute of

Advanced Education. August 1975, grid location Glengallan Shire SH56-2 444-871.

23. Jan Ward-Brown, p. 755.

24. *The Summit State School Golden Jubilee*, pp. 23-4.

25. *Ballandean State School 75th Jubilee 1984*, revised edition, p. 67.

26. *Ballandean State School 75th Jubilee 1984*, p.67.

27. Marie Ditton, p. 126.

28. Marie Ditton, pp. 86, 126.

29. Marie Ditton, pp. 127-8.

30. Jan Ward-Brown, pp. 701-3, 708-9.

31. Merlene Coastes-Freeman and Colleen Glasser, *Texas on the Dumaresq c 1840-c 1940*, Texas Historical Society, 1994, p. 50.

32. Coastes-Freeman and Glasser, p. 50.

33. Coastes-Freeman and Glasser, pp. 28-30.

34. Coastes-Freeman and Glasser, p. 50.