

Soldier settlement records



DR2645 - A Soldier's home, Mt Gravatt, Brisbane, October 1918

Research Guide to soldier settlement records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

Queensland State Archives holds records about soldier settlements following the First World War and the Second World War. Under the *Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1917* and associated regulations, every discharged member of the armed forces was entitled to apply for land and financial assistance. This Act included war workers, munitions workers, and the dependents of a deceased soldier or sailor such as a widow, mother, sibling, or child who was dependent upon earnings 12 months prior to enlistment. The main purpose of this Act was to place 'willing and suitable settlers on the land'. It also aimed to open new land for settlement and at the same time to provide employment and assistance for the thousands of discharged soldiers.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM – QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR – Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR – Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S – Series (for series of records)
- A – Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

If you are researching soldier settlers who served in the First World War, begin your research by searching for the name of the soldier settler in [ArchivesSearch](#), and in the following online indexes:

- [Perpetual Lease Selections of soldier settlements 1917-1929](#) - Discharged Soldier Settlers who applied for and took up Perpetual Lease Selections 1917 to 1929
- [Discharged Soldier Settler Loans 1917-1919](#) - Discharged soldiers' loans for erecting or purchasing dwelling houses under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1917*
- [Soldier Settlement 1917-1929](#) - Ledgers for soldier settlers from Coominya, Cecil Plains, Maria Creek, and Mount Gravatt which provide details of money allocated to each settler.

If an [online QSA index](#) is available, we recommend researchers search this. The content of online indexes has been sourced directly from original records. Digitised copies of many original registers and indexes are also available in the [QSA catalogue](#), and digitised copies of some microfilmed original records are available on the Reading Room computers.

Perpetual Lease and other land selections

Index to non-current lessees of Crown Land

Circa 1/8/1885–31/12/1993

[S14000](#)

This card index is used to find land files including perpetual lease selections, land selections, occupation licences, special leases, non-competitive leases and road lease files in Dead Farm Files, [S14050](#). The cards are arranged alphabetically by name of selector.

S14000 microfilms are digitised and available on Reading Room computers in *Finding Aids in Search Procedures* folder. For a quick reference listing of the specific Items in this series with microfilm numbers, refer to PDF file titled *Card index of non-current lessees, S14000 – M/F numbers*.

Dead Farm Files

[S14050](#)

Circa 1/1/1917–31/12/1997

To find files, try searching by name of selector in [ArchivesSearch](#) and in the online indexes. If no file numbers are found, try searching the registers of selections and other series listed below for information.

Applications for perpetual lease selections were made under the provisions of the *Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act of 1917*. The files may contain the certificate of discharge, certification of qualification to apply for land, notice of approval of application to select a perpetual lease selection, license to occupy a perpetual lease selection, letters to the Lands Department about improvements like clearing, fencing or buildings, reassessment and adjustments of rents, maps, the description of the land, transfers, changes of tenure, and the application for freeholding. Files typically begin with either the application for a perpetual lease selection (under the Act) or a certificate of qualification to apply for land.

Registers of Selections

Circa 1/1/1885 - 31/12/1981

[S13955](#)

Grazing and agricultural selections were kept in separate registers although the numbering was sequential in each Land Agent District, e.g., Brisbane. Some Land Agents kept registers of specific types of leases, e.g., soldier settlement. Selections under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act 1894 were also compiled in separate registers. These registers of selections were under the Crown Lands Act 1884. From 1885 until the 1930s, information was recorded in volumes then transferred to register sheets. Files include selector name, selection number, date land opened to selection, Government Gazette reference, application date, lease date, terms of lease, payments made, transfers, changes of number (when the boundaries of Land Agents' Districts were changed), and what happened to the selection, e.g., purchased, surrendered, forfeited, or subdivided.

The main records from S13955 are:

Brisbane, selections by soldier settlers

24/12/1920 - 7/7/1921

[ITM23293](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement at Mount Gravatt

3/5/1919 - 13/2/1934

[ITM23588](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (b) Enoggera

26/11/1920 - 8/7/1925

[ITM23638](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (c) Woombye

20/4/1921 - 8/1/1926

[ITM23639](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (d) Highlands

5/1/1921 - 14/8/1926

[ITM23640](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (e) Bald Hills

12/3/1921 - Circa 31/12/1930

[ITM23641](#)

Brisbane. Agricultural selections for soldier settlement purposes (e) Bald Hills

22/3/1921 - Circa 31/12/1930

[ITM23642](#)

Batch file: Freehold land for soldier settlement; lists of alienated lands; Crown lands; reserves in outer Brisbane: Batch 569

1/1/1917 - 31/12/1920

[ITM25374](#)

Correspondence re freehold lands for soldier settlements, lists of alienated lands, crown lands, and reserves in outer Brisbane. The file includes reports on land at Kuraby, Sunnybank, Beenleigh, Lawnton, Nerang, Currumbin, and Virginia districts; a copy of a report under the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act*, 1917 to 1920, and maps and plans.

Selections by Discharged Servicemen

13/9/1916 - 1/12/1928

[S13911](#)

Alphabetical list of parishes showing portions allotted for selection by discharged servicemen, other than in soldier settlements. Information includes name of settler, parish, portion, area, date of allotment, date of notification, under which Act, the number of the selection, district, and notes (forfeitures, transfers or surrenders). A separate page in alphabetical sequence lists the soldiers who were selected at competition. Information includes portion, parish, area, under which act, selection type, number and district, and name of selector.

Papers relating to Soldier Settlement

27/3/1914 - 3/7/1931

[S13912](#)

Papers and correspondence concerning the soldier settlement schemes in the various Land Agents' districts. The files include reports, maps, letters from settlers, material relating to specific settlement areas, and a petition from residents of Taabinga.

Batch Files on Soldier Settlement

3/8/1944 - 18/5/1962

[S14034](#)

These batch files, maintained by the soldier settlement section within the Lands Department, were kept to administer the *War Service Land Settlement Acquisition Act 1945 and War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act 1945*, and the *War Service Land Settlement Act 1946* and the *War Service (Sugar Industry) Land Settlement Act 1946*. There is a small amount of departmental correspondence from 1944.

Files re Lands Opened for Soldier Settlement

Circa 1/1/1915 – 31/12/1961

[S14035](#)

A typical file includes maps of the property, notification in the Government Gazette, description of the land, reports by the surveyor, and a schedule of tenure.

Soldiers Settlement Ledgers

8/11/1917 - 31/12/1929

[S13910](#)

These ledgers recorded departmental expenditure in the Soldier Settlement Branch. Accounts were headed with the name of the area or function, e.g., New Sites, Saw Mill Stanthorpe, Retail Store Beerburrum, Road Construction, Canning Factory, Pikedale Co-operative C J & P Coy Ltd., Stock Atherton, General Expenses - Ridgeland, and Training Farm Stanthorpe. The first volume includes trial balances for each account.

File - land selection [Beerburrum]

- [ITM3011228](#) DAVIES, Morgan 24/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011229](#) JENNINGS, Ernest Alfred, 24/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011234](#) HUBNER, Ernest John, 24/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011235](#) BURNETT, John, 15/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011237](#) DUNCANSON, George, 23/12/1920 - 16/2/1945
- [ITM3011239](#) McDERMOTT, John Thomas, 23/12/1920 - 8/8/1932
- [ITM3011240](#) RICKETTS, Jesse Rose, 23/12/1920 - 19/4/1926

Land selections for soldier settlers can also be found in other land selection records. Refer to the Search Procedure on Land Selections available in our Reading Room for more information.

Survey Office

Plans of Soldier Settlement Leases

Circa 1/1/1920–31/12/1960

[S18295](#)

These soldier settlement survey plans are mainly for the Toowoomba area. Plans include soil types, e.g., dark grey clay with slight surface sand, and type of trees or grass, e.g., open gum forest with dead ringbarked trees, diagrams of homesteads and woolsheds, and locations of windmills, tanks, dams, wells, and bores.

Soldier Settlement Batches

1/8/1932 - 11/12/1962

[S10205](#)

Research Guide to soldier settlement records

These batches are about resumption of land for war service land settlement purposes. They include reports on land portions, guidelines for determining if land is suitable for a desired purpose, analysis of soil samples, maps, and plans.

Non-competitive leases

Registers for Non-Competitive Leases

27/2/1917 – 31/12/1981

[S9549](#)

The register is a record of both Town and Country leases. Details include name of lessee, lease commencement date, land description, area measurement, and rent details.

Non-Competitive Lease Files

Circa 1/1/1882 - 9/11/1997

[S17964](#)

These files were created by the Lands Department to record all documentation relating to the granting of non-competitive leases. Included in a typical file is a copy of the lease, related documents often pertaining to special conditions applicable to the lease, and all correspondence about the lease.

Loan records

***Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1917* Loan Register**

16/7/1917 - 19/12/1919

[S3960](#)

This loan register for the purposes of erecting or purchasing dwelling houses includes the applicant's name and address, cost of dwelling, and particulars of the land.

Housing for Servicemen (HS) Loan Register

17/7/1944 - 7/12/1945

[S3956](#)

This loan register records financial assistance to applicants for the purposes of erecting or purchasing dwelling houses. Registers include date of application and approval, amount applied for, applicant's name and address, valuations of dwelling, land and fencing. Applications were for a perpetual lease selection, perpetual town lease, or perpetual suburban lease. The Department of Public Lands was responsible for the allocation of land and the Queensland Government Savings Bank advanced the financial assistance.

Photographs

Photographic Album – Soldier Settlement in Queensland

8/11/1916 – Circa 31/01/1920

[S181](#)

Photographs of soldier settlements at Beerburrum, Mount Gravatt, Stanthorpe, and Pikedale.

Photograph Album - Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement Vice-Regal Visit

6/11/1916

[S18681](#)

On 6 November 1916 the Governor of Queensland, Sir Hamilton John Goold Adams, visited the Beerburrum Soldiers' Settlement. These photographs are of the official party, settlers, and activities in the area.

War Service Records

Requests for war service records for service personnel should be addressed to the National Archives of Australia (NAA). For World War I and World War II military service records, as well as some post-World War II service records, search and order through [RecordSearch](#). If you have a general enquiry, you may submit a request [here](#).

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.