

*Your writing is  
lovely. you sound  
like an ex railwayman.  
(Pass Officer)  
address*

933 Canterbury Road,  
BOX HILL. Vic. 3128.  
24th July, 1979.

3336

Dear Mr. Llewellyn,

*circumstances*  
How nice it was to receive your letter yesterday - we have been travelling - concerning Eaglehawk and the history which your friend is engaged in writing. My folk did come from Eaglehawk and although I took me away from Bendigo for many years I did return to commence work at the Bendigo Locomotive Depot in 1926 remaining there for three years. Many a time I missed the last tram home after seeing a girl to "The Hawk" or "Cal Gully."

The drill- invented by my grandfather, William Agnew - was not to prevent dusting of the lungs (Miners' Phthisis). Its virtue lay in the fact that it could drill rock four times as fast as any then known rock drill.

This information was contained in a "History of Victoria", comprising several volumes. One volume contained a photograph of my Grandfather, the story of the drill, but did not give any technical details. It did mention that he was partners in an engineering company with a man named Ralph. These volumes would probably be available in the Melbourne Public Library or perhaps the Bendigo Library.

My uncle (again Bill Agnew) lived at 49 Page Street, E Albert Park. I understand he held a top position in Lancelles Foundry (Manager perhaps), and subsequently ran his own foundry in South Melbourne. His youngest son, my cousin Alan, celebrated his 80th birthday last May - I still have a fair way to get that far. My father, commonly known as Jack Agnew, was also an engineer, but he passed on in 1918 aged 36.

Once again its good to hear from someone in Eaglehawk, and particularly a welshman or one who is at least from Welsh extraction - my Mother was Welsh.

With kindest regards and best wishes to your friend.

*Frank Agnew*