

273
NEIL WALKER.

Neil Walker was born in Cambelltown, Scotland in 1833. His father was a Captain on a sailing ship. His mother died when he was six years of age, and his father took him on board and educated him on the ship. His brother James Walker arrived in Bendigo in 1852 when the diggings were down as far as the area we call Short Street. He and three mates sunk a shaft where the City Family Hotel is now located. James made enough to go back to Scotland and marry. He brought his wife and brother Neil back to Australia, arriving in February 1855. Neil went to Sydney Flat, where he had a puddling machine.

Margaret Bain, a daughter of William Bain, a tailor in the British Army stationed in Jibraltar went to Thurso in the North of Scotland when her father retired. Her brother, working on ships on the Yarra River, sent the money home for her to come to Australia. On arrival at Melbourne, she found that he had drowned when a plank capsised on the side of the ship. She came to Eaglehawk, and obtained a position at a hay and corn store in Sydney Flat. (My mother's report to me) She married Neil Walker in April 29th 1857. She wanted Neil to build where the super market is now situated, but he thought that people would know your business, so he built in Violet Street. I think a Miss Doran lived in the house before it was destroyed.

In 1864 Neil Walker was a share holder in the Saxby mine on the right hand side of Caldwell's Road going towards Harvey Town.

Share Holders.

Jno T Caldwell	3/10 share
Geo Staley	2/10
Neil Walker	2/10
A.W. Hamilton	2/10
Wm Holland	1/10

Neil Walker was my Grandfather on my Mother's side. Neil kept the books of the Saxby mine. Vic Palmer in his book "The Gold Mines of Bendigo" shows the Saxby starting in 1857.

In 1865 Neil received 12000 bricks from Thos Hughes. G Harris agreed to build the house and find a labourer for £21. G Harris agreed to sink and build a tank for £8, I to find all material. Wm Marshall plastered the walls at 9 pence a square yard.

Neil Walker opened an office next to the Camp Hotel and was called the Camp Chambers. He dealt in shares and was the returning officer for Eaglehawk, Strathfieldsaye, Marong and Elesian Flats. I have no records to confirm it, but from stories handed down, he was the first Auditor of the Eaglehawk Borough Council.

Walker Crescent was named for Neil Walker. If you went up Walker Cresc. you would have walked straight into his house. In the old days, they used to say that they lived at the head of the Gully.

Councilor Jack Taylor told me the the Council thought Walker had been a Councilor of the Borough. Thought this bit of history may have been of interest

Allan W Llewellyn

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PS The house opposited the Croquet Lawn was built by Neil's son W.B. Walker for £ 1300 odd around 1906. I could look up the details if needed. He called his home "Thurso". Neil's photo is on the walls of the MUICOF hall in High St Eaglehawk.