

## **Former Stagg Glove Factory 33 Spensley St Clifton Hill**

One of Clifton Hill's factories that lasted into the 1980s was the Stagg Glove Company. In 2020 Darell Blewett wrote about his family's long connection with Stagg.



My father worked there as foreman from the 1930's through to the 1980's. My mother and sister were machinists there also. I recall going there several times (and loving the smell of leather). My father Cecil, who was foreman, was a 'clicker'. He used a curved knife to cut patterns. He used to make many of the patterns himself. It was very solid work as he had to wrap the hides around his body and then twist hard to stretch the hide before it was cut. He also used to repair all the sewing machines when they broke down. The women used to sit down one side of the factory at a long bench with machines along each side. At the rear of the factory were old weaving looms. I still have one of the 'flying shuttles' which were used but this was before my father's time I imagine.

They certainly did make gloves/mitts and jackets for the army as well as the police force. I believe dad even cut some gloves for the Queen when she visited first ('52?) and mum (Daisy) sewed them. Dad also measured men for motorbike jackets and pants.

Dad hated working with Rabbit fur which he had to cut to line jackets and gloves (I still have some gloves he made me). He used to breathe in the fur particles and cough and splutter, and it stuck to his clothes.

Here's a photo of Dad (Cecil) and Mum (Daisy) also a clicker knife used by dad and the 'Flying Shuttle' I flogged from the rear of the factory from the disused looms.

See also notes on 2015 Clifton Hill History Walk

<https://collingwoodhs.org.au/participate/walks-talks/>

