

Dear Mum

The carriage ride was horrific. Uncle Miller greeted us and brought us to his bowling saloon. Pa now works down at the alluvial gold panning area, while I make pins for the bowling alley.

Pa nearly got caught without a licence because another digger stole his as he couldn't afford his own. The Governor came to the goldfields and visited the bowling saloon today, which was good for our publicity because he played two games! I also work at the candlemakers to gain some experience and some extra pennies to tie us over. It really pays off when pa's had no luck on the diggings.

I went to school today and got caned many times as a result of not knowing how to behave properly. At least I know now. I've also been learning to pan for gold in order to help pa. By the time it took me to find a decent shovel, it was twilight. Lucky I took that long because... EUREKA!!! I found a little gold nugget! When I returned, pa wasn't home. I'm pretty sure he is in the shafts.

Pa got back the next morning holding my nugget! We're set for life! Uncle Miller is going to take some of my nugget

and we're keeping the rest to build a house on the Main Road! See you soon!

Love from your son, Taj.

A reflection of some of the learnings from my time at Sovereign Hill Camp 2017.