

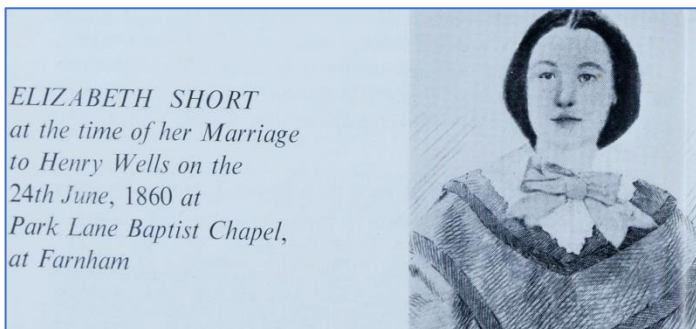
We have just explored Rowhills Estate in Weybourne and have worked our way back through the brambles in the copse to the big house The Warren. There was a very large sand and gravel pit that had to be avoided but we've made it.

Let's leave The Warren with their champagne glasses clinking and follow round the track, barely a road, with the Army College behind us. When we get round the corner, there is now a surprise. A new house called Woodlands built in 1907.

To understand better what is happening, the Ownership elector's list may help. Here in the list were two builders, father and son, the Wells family, living in Aldershot, Hampshire in 1907 but voting rights in Surrey. Why was this?

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Henry Wells			
Guildford > 1907			
1907 Wells, Henry Wells, John Henry	Farnham Llanover, Aldershot Penrhyn, St. Michael's road, Aldershot, Hants	Freehold land Freehold house and land Freehold cottages	Rowhills, Farnham Rowhills Upper Hale: in the 00
Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Henry Wells			
Guildford > 1908			
1908 Wells, Henry Wells, John Henry	Llanover, Aldershot Woodlands, Row Hill estate, Hale	Freehold land Freehold house and land	Rowhills, Farnham Rowhills

A certain Henry Wells (1835-1908) had been buying properties galore in Aldershot and land in Ash Common. He was also renting Rowhill Copse for the clay, in order to make bricks. When this land became available in 1903, Henry Wells bought over 70 acres in Rowhill Copse. The Copse became known locally as the Wells Wood or Wells Copse. Henry Wells, JP and County Councillor bought the land firstly for his building business but also as an investment with an eye for the future for his large family. He himself had a mansion-type house called Llanover House, The Grove, Aldershot on large grounds, which effectively had the goods yard and Aldershot railway station as the nearest neighbour.



ELIZABETH SHORT
at the time of her Marriage
to Henry Wells on the
24th June, 1860 at
Park Lane Baptist Chapel,
at Farnham



John Henry Wells (1866-1932) was the third son of Henry and Elizabeth (Bethia) Wells. His father Henry was a founder builder of Martin, Wells and Co, Aldershot, and John's uncle George Wells, John's older brother Alfred Wells and his younger brother Percy Harold Edward Wells were also builders and Government contractors in that company. This company was extensive and had 80 branches.

**Martin, Wells & Co. builders, carpenters, brick makers,
ironmongers, government & general contractors. Victoria rd**

On a 'beanfeast' to Margate in 1883, the Aldershot Military Gazette reported at least 300 employees plus some guests on the jaunty trip.

MARTIN, WELLS, AND CO.'S BEANFEAST.

The second annual beanfeast of the employes of Messrs. Martin, Wells, and Co., builders and Government contractors, of Aldershot, was celebrated on Saturday, 7th inst., the place of resort selected this year being Margate. Favoured with the loveliest of weather the employes and several visitors, the party numbering about 350, assembled in the best of spirits at a quarter to seven at the Aldershot Town Station, where they found a special South Eastern train in readiness to convey them to their destination. No

Just in Aldershot alone, 180 workmen of Martin, Wells and Co were given an afternoon off work to attend the funeral of their work colleague.



THE FATAL ACCIDENT IN VICTORIA ROAD.

On Friday, the 16th inst., the mortal remains of Mr. William Chuter, whose melancholy death we reported in our last issue, were interred in the Aldershot Cemetery, in the presence of a large assemblage of spectators, by whom great sympathy was evinced for the aged widow and relatives of the deceased. In order to enable their employes to attend the funeral Messrs. Martin, Wells & Co. closed their premises in this district at twelve o'clock, and all work was entirely suspended for the remainder of the day. At 3.30 p.m. about 180 workmen and heads of departments assembled in the firm's yard in Wellington-street, and afterwards proceeded to the deceased's residence in North-lane, and from thence to the cemetery, where the mournful procession was considerably augmented by numerous other workmen, between 200 and 300 being present. The body was conveyed to the chapel, where the Burial Service was commenced by the hymn "Why do we mourn departed friends," Mr. Lee, Baptist Minister of Aldershot performing the solemn ceremony. At the conclusion of the service Mr. Lee "improved the occasion" with a touching address. Amongst those who followed the deceased to the grave were Mr. H. Wells, Mr. G. Wells, Mr. A. Wells, and Mr. G. Wells, jun., of the firm of Martin, Wells & Co., by whom the whole of the funeral expenses were defrayed. We are pleased to state that a subscription has been opened for the benefit of deceased's widow, and that Messrs. Martin and Wells have headed the list with the handsome sum of £10.

John's other older brother Samuel Griffiths Wells was a solicitor partner in the law firm Messrs. Foster, Wells and Coggins, later Foster and Wells.

Wells Samuel G. solicitor & commissioner for oaths, see Foster & Wells

Foster William Edward (firm, Foster & Wells), solicitor, deputy coroner, solicitor & clerk to the urban district council, & commissioner for oaths, 126 Victoria road

John's sister Florence Elizabeth Wells had married well, into the Lloyd family with her husband Frederick John Lloyd being a partner in Friend and Lloyd, architects and surveyors in Aldershot.

Lloyd Frederick J. architect, see Friend & Lloyd

Friend & Lloyd, architects & surveyors, 49 Grosvenor rd



Frederick John Lloyd and Florence Elizabeth Wells on their wedding day, 1898. The wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church, and the bride was given away by her father, the late Henry Wells, J.P., C.C. This photograph was taken at the reception held at "Llan-over," The Grove, Aldershot



Frederick John Lloyd was married to Florence Elizabeth Wells in 1898.

John Henry Wells also had countless other male relatives who were bricklayers and builder's foremen, working in the building of Aldershot Garrison and the fast development of the town.

For John's teenage years, he was sent to a large established school for boys, Clifton House, South Terrace, Eastbourne as a boarder. Then John Henry Wells joined his family building firm and on his 1888 marriage at Holy Trinity Church, Aldershot to Gertrude Hacker, he stated he was a builder.

1888. Marriage solemnized at <i>Holy Trinity Church</i> in the Parish of <i>Aldershot</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
218	September 14 th 1888	John Henry Wells	23	Bachelor	Builder	Shannon House The Grove	Henry Wells	Builder
		Gertrude Hacker	19	Spinster	—	9. The Avenue	Henry Hacker	Clerk of Works R. E.
Married in the <i>Holy Trinity Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Licia</i> or after _____ by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us		<i>John Henry Wells</i> <i>Gertrude Hacker</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Edward Hacker</i> <i>Henry Hacker</i> <i>J. L. G. Harker</i> <i>Incurant</i>		

Gertrude Hacker was born in 1869 in Aldershot into a large family. Her father Henry Hacker was a Government Clerk of Works at Aldershot camp, at one time with the Royal Engineers department.

The couple set up home in Belle View Villas, Arthur Street, Victoria Road, Aldershot where infants Reginald Henry and Dorothy Gertrude were born in 1889 and 1891 respectively. John Henry Wells was now a builder's foreman.



Arthur Street, Aldershot in 1895 by the railway station
(In 1989, Rushmoor Borough Council offered Arthur Street for contract car-parking next to the railway station.)

With a growing family, the next house move was to Chudleigh, 13 St Michael's Road, Aldershot where Marjorie May, Winifred Muriel, Albert John and Percy Douglas were born in 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1901.

When this house was deemed too small, next came a move to Penrhyn, Church Lane, Aldershot. Another three children were born here, Leslie Percy G, Sidney and Raymond Lionel in the years 1903, 1904, 1906. One wonders if Mrs Gertrude Wells was starting to feel exhausted caring for her nine children. Surely only one more infant to come?

On 2nd March 1908, Maurice Wells was born at Woodlands, Heath End, Aldershot and baptised at Holy Trinity church, Aldershot on 1st April 1908.

Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1917 for Maurice Dennis Wills							
Aldershot, Holy Trinity > 1905 Oct-1910 Nov							
1908	Maurice Dennis	John Henry Wills	Wills	Woodlands Hall End Aldershot	Builder.	H. McKay	Born March 2. 1908
No. 122							

The size of the plot for Woodlands was extensive. One boundary was near the War department edge at Hallimore Hill. Much later, a further boundary was marked out in the Wells Copse.



Ten children had plenty of space to play in their own garden and grand-papa's Wells Copse. For now, we will leave Mr and Mrs John Henry Wells to enjoy their ten children in Woodlands and most certainly we will visit them again in the future, as the children grow up.

The Wells brothers Alfred, Samuel, John and Percy and their father Henry Wells had made some good business links when two of Henry's daughters Florence and Beatrice, married into the wealthy Lloyd family of Aldershot.

Just to get a feel for the level of wealth, the 1898 wedding at Henry Wells' home most certainly will have included the Mr John Henry and Gertrude Wells, our couple from Woodlands.



The Bridal Party with their guests at the Wedding Reception of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick John Lloyd, in the garden of "Llanover," The Grove, Aldershot, 1898

In 1956, a book was written on the history of the Lloyd family of Aldershot. What seems astonishing is that no biography appears to have been written on Henry Wells yet he was a highly influential figure in Aldershot and effectively was the 'father' of Rowhills. Maybe we should find out more about Henry Wells?