

Chapter 4 Part 2 The 1910s
Rowhills Estate, Weybourne

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Let us remind ourselves of what was happening in Rowhills (Row Hill) Estate, Heath End around 1914. John Henry Wells owned Woodlands and lived there with his children. Ten children had been born but his son Sydney Wells had died in 1916 age 12 and another adult son Reginald Wells later died in 1919.

John's father Henry Wells had died in 1908. In his will, Henry had gifted ownership of Rowhills Copse to his sons. John's brother Alfred, a building contractor, had become eligible to vote in Surrey once he owned land in Rowhills, even though he lived in Abercarne in Church Lane, Aldershot, Hampshire. Alfred's address and profession were entered on his daughter Joan Elizabeth Well's baptism in 1910 at Holy Trinity church, Aldershot.

Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1917 for Joan Elizabeth Wells							
Aldershot, Holy Trinity > 1905 Oct-1910 Nov							
1	Born Feb 25 th 1910	1910 Feb 25 th No. 684	Joan Elizabeth	Alfred Elizabeth Ann	Wells	Abercarne Aldershot	Contractor J. Alfred Wells

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Reginald Courtenay Welch			
Guildford > 1914			
Wells, Alfred	Abercarn, Church lane, Aldershot	Freehold land	Rowhills
Wells, John Henry	Woodlands, Row Hill estate, Hale	Freehold house and land	Rowhills

The Rowhill Estate, at this time, was known generally as the Wells Copse, being owned by various members of the Wells family. This must have been very evident when parts of the tracks became gated.

Making our way next from Heath End through the Wells Copse, we arrive at Mr Todman's market garden in Weybourne. Old Mr Daniel Todman died in 1904 and his son, the current Mr Henry Joseph Todman had one son Roy working for him. Henry completed the 1911 census, a bit wobbly in the handwriting.

1	Henry Todman	Head	60	Male	Married	25	3	3	Gardener market
2	Mrs Henry Todman	Mistress	60	Female	Married	25	3	3	
3	?? Clift	Visitor	60	Female	Single				
4	Roy Todman	Son	20	Male	Single				Gardener market

Henry Todman	Head	Mar	60		Market Gardener (own account)	Suffolk
Mrs Henry Todman	Mistress	Mar	60			Berkshire
?? Clift/Clifton	Visitor	Sing	60			Reading
Roy Todman	Son	Sing	20		Market gardener, worker	Farnham

It is interesting to see how Henry Todman completed the form, referring to his wife of 25 years as Mistress, as in 'Mistress of the house'. It is possible that employees at the market garden might have referred to Mrs Todman as 'Mistress'.

Henry Joseph Dodman had taken over the Weybourne market garden that his father had established. His son Roy was following in grandfather's footsteps. The Todmans had three sons. Where were Roy's other brothers Nelson and Leslie Todman?

Nelson Victor Todman had left home and in 1911 was in port at No 1 Dock, Barry, South Wales as a Merchant Seaman 2nd mate crew member of the steam ship Khorazon.

1911 Wales Census for Nelson Victor Todman									
Glamorgan > Barry > ALL > 33									
No.	Name	Relation	Age of Males	Age of Females	Marital Status	Live Births	Children Living	Deceased Children	
3	Nelson Victor Todman	Crew	23		Single				2 nd Mate

SCHEDULE FOR VESSELS.	
Prepared pursuant to the Customs (Great Britain) Act, 1910.	
This space to be filled up by the Customs Officer WHEN DELIVERING the Schedule.	
Name of Vessel.	Khorazon
Official Number.	118100
No. of Tonnage and Tons.	2094
Port or Place in which the vessel is registered.	Liverpool
Tonnage.	2094
Description and whether steam or sailing.	Steam
Name of Master.	Joseph Goad
Name of Mate or Person in charge of the vessel.	Lawrey, Eg
Place at which the Schedule is delivered to the Board.	Portland Dock
Date of Delivery.	31.3.11

Merchant shipping was engaged in war work during the Great War but in January 1915, Nelson was granted a pass for leave and returned home to marry his sweetheart Annie Gertrude Mitchell. She was a 24-year-old elementary school mistress working in 1911 for Surrey Education Committee then later teaching in Kent. Days after her Whitechapel, London wedding, Annie and her parents-in-law received news that was devastating.

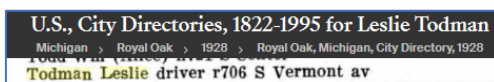
On 30th January 1915, the steamship SS Oriole was sailing from Dungeness, Kent to Le Havre and was hit by a German submarine U20. All 21 hands were lost, presumed drowned. They were sunk without warning. A bottle found by Guernsey fishermen had been sent by a carpenter on board saying "hit by torpedo and sinking". Two of the Oriole's life buoys landed at Rye, Sussex.

TODMAN, 2nd Mate Nelson Victor. S.S. "Oriole" (London). Presumed drowned 30th Jan., 1915. Age 27. Husband of Annie Gertrude Todman (née Mitchell), of Oakwood Lodge, Old Rd., Crayford, Kent.

Annie Todman threw herself into her teaching and stayed in Kent. Nelson Todman's parents, in their grief, must have feared for their other son Leslie. Leslie Todman had gone to Canada, working as a farmer. But once the calling came to "fight for your country", Leslie Norman Todman, age 21, enlisted into the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.

Canada, World War I CEF Attestation Papers, 1914-1918 for Leslie Norman Todman	
ATTESTATION PAPER.	
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.	
QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.	
1. What is your name?	Leslie Norman Todman
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what County were you born?	Weybourne, Norfolk
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	Henry Joseph Dodman
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	Weybourne, Norfolk
5. What is the date of your birth?	25.10.1893
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	Farmer
7. Are you married?	No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?	Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?	No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? (If so, state period of service.)	No
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?	Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?	Yes

Leslie survived the 1914-1918 war, and returned to Canada then America. By 1927, he was living in Detroit, Michigan, USA and he was listed in the Royal Oak, Michigan city directory as a driver in 1928.



Leslie's mother died in Weybourne in 1927 so in 1929, Leslie took a trip from Montreal to London to visit his widowed father. Leslie was now a welder and on his return journey to America he stated he was a welder/machinist.



In 1930, Leslie was single, living as a lodger and working as a truck driver in the creamery industry. Clearly, he missed his old lifestyle and by 1933, Leslie was back on the Weybourne voting register in Surrey. The market garden was now called The Gardens, Weybourne.



In January 1938, Henry Todman died and the market garden ceased trading. His son Roy worked as a labourer, moved to Aldershot and died in 1952. Leslie Todman went to Kent, married his brother's widow Annie Todman in 1938 and worked as a motor tug driver in Crayford, Kent. Annie died in Weybourne Road in 1974 and Leslie Todman died in 1979.

Rowhills Estate in 1911 still had the two large houses Rowhills and Rokeby in Weybourne but the house Rowhills had no entry on the 1911 census. However, the voting register for 1911 showed that at Rowhills lived Major James Thomas Crockatt Murray. Actually, the voting register showed it as Major Murray James but we will presume this is a typing error.



Major James Murray was born in 1873 in Edinburgh. He was in the Territorial Force, the 1st Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) and served in India, South Africa, France and Belgium. Major Murray received the Distinguished Service Order award, was wounded in France and died of his wounds in February 1915. He was 42 years old. Major Murray is buried at Lillers Communal Cemetery Extension in France. The Dorking Museum has more information on Major Murray. (<https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/major-james-thomas-crockatt>)

The large house called Rowhills, Weybourne was owned by Francis Darracott and formed a useful investment for renting out to military personnel. Francis lived at 10 Cargate Avenue, Aldershot but ownership of a freehold house in Surrey gave him parochial voting rights.

(Parochial Electors only.)

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962			
Guildford > 1914			
REV. Darracott, Francis	10 Cargate avenue, Aldershot	Freehold house	Rowhills

Other listings for hiring the property Rowhills were George Seymour in 1914, Colonel Charles Victor Haggard (Royal Irish Rifles) in 1918 and later Captain Thomas Standley Ivens. Captain Ivens had been a Lieutenant in the Cheshire Regiment but went on to be a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force. Then from 1918-1923 Sydney Frank Charles Stephens was in Rowhills, Weybourne. Quite a lucrative investment for Francis Darracott, in addition to his other shop businesses.

The 1911 census for the other house called Rokeby in Weybourne showed Captain Charles Peter Berthon (East Yorkshire Regiment, OBE) as a usual resident but he was away at the time with his parental family (headed by Major-General Thomas Porter Berthon) at Cleeve Court, Yatton, Somerset. Instead, his wife Angela completed the form.

1911 England Census for Angela Berthon
Surrey > Farnham > ALL > 07

Line No.	Name	Relation	Age of Males	Age of Females	Marital Status	Years Married	Live Births	Children Living	Deceased Children	Occupation
No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)										
			Ages of Males	Ages of Females	and upwards.	If less than one year write "under one."	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)
			3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	Angela Berthon	wife	—	26	Married	5	4	3	1	
2	Angela Iryda Berthon	Daughter	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
3	Aedine Barbara Berthon	Daughter	—	one month	—	—	—	—	—	
4	Frances Shannon	servant	—	14	Single	—	—	—	—	Nurse (domestic)
5	Lily Deadman	servant	—	19	Single	—	—	—	—	General servant (domestic)

Before his marriage, Charles Berthon had served in South African campaigns (Boer Wars) from 1899 to 1901. Once married, Charles and his wife travelled abroad together. The deceased child shown on the census, was Nigel, born in Bengal, India but dying in Somerset upon their return.

The two-year-old daughter Angela Iryda Berthon had been born abroad in Burma (now Myanmar) but was a British Subject by parentage.

The new one-month-old baby Adeline Barbara Berthon, recently baptised at St John the Evangelist, Hale was being cared for in 1911 by 17-year-old nurse Frances Shannon.

Surrey, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1917 for Louise Angela Berthon						
Hale, St John the Evangelist > 1904-1917						
1911	March 31st	Adeline Barbara	Charles Pelin & Louise Angela	Berthon	Rokeby Weybourne	Captain Saint John Rpt. Abkhasia vicar.
No. 660						

Military records are not always easy to read, with the text sometimes resembling shorthand but the records below show Charles Berthon serving in France in the Great War. He became a Major in 1915 and a Colonel in 1922.

Campaign — 1914-18 *France*

(A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included or entry
(A) BERTHON	Saint Yvelines	2nd Lt.	67100	OFF 125 13
(B) C.P.				do do

Qualifying date: EF/9/23, EF/9/41

Correspondence.

Claims submitted by Lt. Col. D.A.M. & M.F. 4.T.

M.S. 4 forwards nominal Roll of Officers entitled to the Emblem

679 reg. in D. 3/10/21.

30.1.20.

To demonstrate how transient the residents were in Rokeby, another listing for 1911 was Australian Lieutenant Miles Fitzroy Beevor, later Colonel. He served in the Dardanelles, Egypt, in the Palestine Campaign against the Turks and his Australian records show a detailed list of his many war injuries.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Miles Beevor			
Guildford > 1911			
181	Beevor, Miles, Lieut.	Rokeby, Weybourne	Dwelling house Rokeby



BEEVOR, Col. Miles Fitzroy, V.D., F.C.A. Aust., F.I.C.A., Vice-Pres. C'wealth Inst. of Accountants 1940: son of Miles H. Beevor, Adel.; b. Feb. 27, 1883. Nth. Adel.; ed. various schs.; Chief Acct. in Aust. for Eng. and Aust. Copper Co. Ltd. 1907-14; Mgr. in S.A. 1914-19; in practice as Public Acct. since May 1919; Chrmn. Dirs. Army and Navy Stores Ltd., S.A., 1925-33; Dir. Mt. Osmond Country Club Ltd., 1935-43; Col. Aux. Forces; m. May 23, 1925, Ethel, d. Peter McD. Morrison, Balcanoona Stn., S.A.; recreations, golf, bowls; clubs, Naval and Mily., Adel., Mt. Osmond Country; address, Mutual Life Chmbrs., Grenfell St., Adel., and Branthwayt, Kingswood, S.A.

Lieut. Col.

Major M. F. Beevor.

52nd Battalion

Wounded in action at the Dardanelles.

11.7.18

Admitted to Hospital, Manchester.

Wounded in action at the Dardanelles.

11.7.18

Admitted to Hospital, Manchester.

18.6.18. Wounded. Then advised to Hospital.

11.10.18. Wounded. Referred to duty Egypt.

20.10.18. Reported from Hospital Wounded to E.F.O. Paris on 7th 18.11.18.

Returning to join the 52nd Bn on 7th 14.1911.

No. Com. No. 6. 4. 16.

Wounded on 2.12.18 427/7065 2 wounds 15/1/19

W. O. K. Advised Wounded

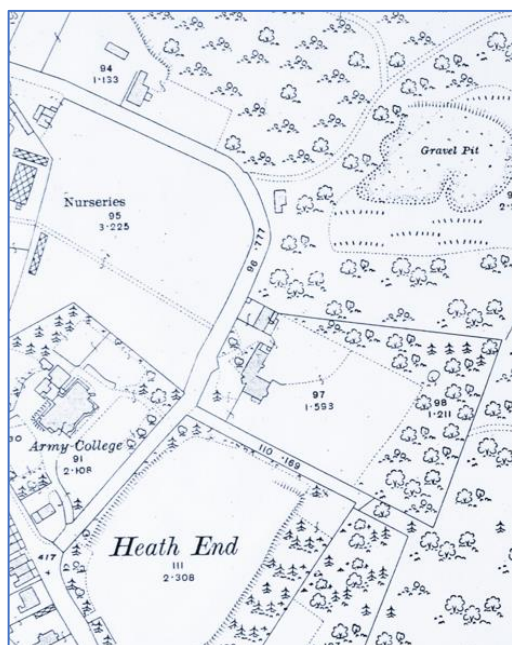
139/7090 H 18.20.18

SEP 25 1918

SEP 27 1918

List 15/21 AM 99

Surrey has no published voting data between 1915-1917 since voting was suspended during the 1914-18 war with thousands of men serving abroad. It does have a voting list from 1918 onwards. After the war, building of houses re-commenced. We can hear the noise of the builders in several places. Perhaps the builders working for Martin, Wells and Co. will be happy to tell us some details whilst they take a rest.



Walking down the track from Woodlands towards The Warren and the Army College, we can see a new large house being built on the curve, where the rough track goes deep into the copse towards the gravel pit. The large Wells family from Woodlands seem to be taking a great interest. Why would that be? The track from that corner goes into their beloved grand-papa Henry "Wells Copse". Even though Henry Wells died in 1908, the grand-children still think of the woodlands as belonging to him, not to their father and uncles.

And between "The Warren" dwelling and the Army College cricket field, a carriage-way has been built for another grand house. The foundations look to be sizeable. An estate of eight acres, the workmen said.



North west of the houses Rowhills and Rokeby, Weybourne, we can see more clearing of trees for another dwelling.

There is a bathing pool being built. What is that house going to be called? Who will live there? All very exciting.



Will the Society ladies of The Warren know more? Let us visit them next.