Littlecott, Heath End and Hillview (Hill Side View), Weybourne

Littlecott, Rowhills, Heath End

Which came first? Build a new home in Rowhills for the Wells family and rent out Woodlands or rent out Woodlands and build a new home? The name of this new home Littlecott had its complications because there were variations of the spelling, such as Little Cott or Littlecot. Maybe the title resembled a small cottage but small it was not.

In 1921, Littlecott was a 7 roomed property and home to 8 adults.

		rator.
Females.	Persons.	Rooms
2	8	W
	D	Persons.

Why this location in Rowhills? We will never know but it was sited within the 86 acres that Henry Wells had purchased in 1902 and the woodland scenery will have been peaceful.

The location for the new home is understood but no sketches or photographs of the property have been found. The house was lived in by Marjorie Wells, daughter of John Henry Wells from 1920 until her death in the 1970s with only two further owners before the property was demolished.



In 1921, seven of the eight surviving Wells children were living at Littlecott with their widowed father John Henry Wells. There were no live-in servants at the property so the two elder women Dorothy Gertrude Wells and sister Marjorie May Wells supervised the running of the house.

Control of the Contro		Lauren	mostha					CI I
1 John Henry Wells	Head.	56	2	m	Widower	aldershot, Haut		Relied, Buildery 5030 Contractor
2 Dorothy Gertrude Wells								Home Duties
3 Tharjory May Wells	Daughter	25	5	y.	Single {	aldershof, Kants		Home Dulies
4 Albert John Wells	Sim'	22	-	m	Ligle {	aldershot, Houts		Inotore Engineer Royal aircraft Factory 702
5 Perey Douglas Wells	Son.	20	1	m	Single {	Ulders hot, thank		Metal sheet worker Royal averaft factory Out of work tarnogurly
6 Leolie Wells	Son.	18	1	m	Tingle {	alderahot, hout		Antor Engineer Fawn & archer Motor Dorko Out of work. Aldershop 177
7 Raymond dionel Wells	Son.	14	//	m	nother {	Aldershot, Canto	Whole- line.	Haus /
8 Maurice Dennis Wells	Son.	18	3	M.	mother {	Beathing, Farnham.	Whole time.	
					(

The missing sibling from the household was Winifred Muriel Wells. 22-year-old Winifred Muriel Wells was a patient at Brookwood hospital although for what reason we do not know.



Since father John was now a retired builder and the three sons of working age, Albert, Percy and Leslie were out of work, income to support the large family was coming from investments such as the rent from Woodlands.

When it comes to the (unsavoury?) discussion about money, it is worth looking back in time to 1902 when Henry Wells, (father of John Henry Wells) purchased 86 acres of Rowhill Copse.

IT WAS WITNESSED that in conson of the sum of £7500 as purchase money on or before etc. paid by the sd Henry Wells to the sd Edward Over (receipt acknowledged) the said Edward Over as Beneficial Owner thereby conveyed unto the said Henry Wells

ALL THAT estate pieces or parcels of land (part of the Rowhills Estate) comprising about 86 acres 1 rood and 17 perches of woodland and pasture situate (between Heath End and Weybourne and the Farish of Aldershot) in the Farish of Farnham in the County of Surrey and more parlarly

MR. H. WELLS, J. P.

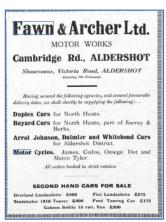
PROBATE GRANTED.

Probate of the will, with two codicils, of the late Mr. Henry Wells, J.P., of Llanover House, Aldershot, contractor, and Councillor for the County of Southampton, who died on November 6, 1908, was granted on December 29, 1908, to John Henry Wells, of Woodland, Heath End. Farnham, contractor, and Percy Harold Edward Wells, 10a, Grosvenor-road, Aldershot, architect, sons and executors. The value of the estate is placed at £57,961 10s. gross, and £838 15s. 8d. net personalty.

On Henry's death in 1908, the land became part of a Trust and the £57,000 or so of Henry's estate was passed to his children. This is worth some £10 million in today's terms. John Henry Wells and his siblings were by no means impoverished.

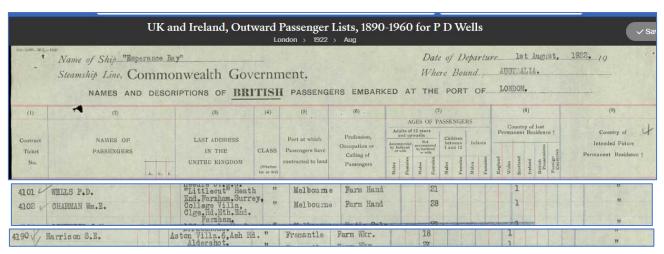
Both of Henry Wells' grandsons twenty-two-year old Albert John Wells and twenty-year old Percy Douglas Wells had been working at the Royal Aircraft Factory in Farnborough. Eighteen-year-old Leslie Wells had been a Motor Engineer at Fawn & Archer Motor Works in Aldershot.





The two younger sons Raymond Lionel and Maurice Dennis Wells were both still at school.

Two brothers Percy Douglas and Leslie Wells become of interest to us because they take a risk and go on an adventure to a faraway land. They had ample opportunities and certainly family finances to enter respectable professions staying in the country but something had grabbed their heart-strings to seek an alternative. There was a chance of a different life elsewhere. On the $1^{\rm st}$ August 1922 the manifest of the ship Esperance Bay, part of the shipping line Commonwealth Government, showed embarkation at London bound for Australia and we can find three $3^{\rm rd}$ class passengers from Farnham and Aldershot aboard that ship.



Surrey,	Eng	land,	Electoral Registers, 18	32-1962 for Ella Marjorie	Charman
			Farnham > 19	022 Spring	
337	НО	но	Charman, Ella Marjorie Charman, Louise	2 College Road Heath End Nursery	De She
338 339	R	0	Charman, William Edward		100

Two names are familiar to us although we do not recognise their occupation as Farm Hands. P D Wells of "Littlecut", Heath End, Farnham, Surrey was 21-year-old Percy Douglas Wells and Wm E Charman of College Villa, Clge. Rd, Hth. End, Farnham was William Edward Charman living with his wife Ella Marjorie at 2 College Road (now Upper Weybourne Lane).

The third person was 18-year-old S E Harrison of Aston Villa, 6 Ash Road, Aldershot who was Stanley Edward Harrison. Did they know each other? Percy and William certainly did. In 1917, when lightning struck Percy's house Woodlands, it was William's mother who had telephoned the fire brigade and his father had arrived with a chemical fire extinguisher. These young men had grown up as close neighbours.

There is a possibility they knew Stanley from Aldershot but they headed for different destinations; Melbourne for Percy and William and Fremantle for Stanley.

It should be said that another two young men from Ewshott near Farnham were also travelling 3rd class on the same manifest headed for Freemantle.

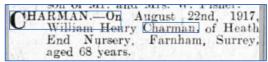
4197 DIXON F.C.	Brickyard, Ewshott, Nr. Farnham. Surrey.	ii	Fremantle	Hand yman	20
4198 / CRANSTON J.	School Lane Ewshott, Nr. Farnham Surrey.	11	Fremantle	Gardener	21

William Edward Charman had married Ella Marjorie Stewart in 1915 in the Parish church St Andrews, Farnham. He was a soldier stationed at Abingdon, Berkshire. Their daughter Marjorie Babette Charman was born a year later in 1916 in Farnham.

Sciumas.	1	2	3	4		8	0 1	
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname,	Age.	Cendition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname,	Rank or Profession of Father
150	now 30 K	William Edward Charman	21	Bachelor	Soldie	abingdon Berk,	William Heury Charman	Florist
190	19_/5	Ella Marjonie	23	Spinder	_	Fairfield Farnham	William George	Eleck
Tarri	ed in the Paris	1. Church according to	the Rit			blester Elunch		

Due to serving in France in the Great War in 1917, William Charman had been unable to attend the funeral of his father William Henry who had died at Guys Hospital in London that year.



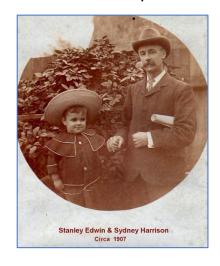


William had no interest in continuing in the family business as a nurseryman. By 1921 William was an electrical fitter at the Austin Motor Company, Longbridge, Birmingham and their address was in Longbridge, Northfield, Warwickshire. Their son William James Charman had been born there in 1920 but sadly he died as an infant in 1922 and his death was registered in Farnham. The family had clearly moved back and were living in College Road, round the corner from William's widowed mother who was running the floristry business at Heath End Nursery.

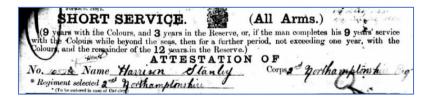
Why go to Australia leaving your wife and daughter behind? Why go out as a Farm Hand when your occupation has been in the car industry as an electrical fitter? Australia needed to populate their country with English speaking workers from the "mother country" and it is likely there was some government scheme to pay or help pay the passage of (farm) workers.

Percy Douglas Wells was no farm worker because he will have had the finest education available to the son of a gentleman but during his childhood, he had on his doorstep brickfield workers and forestry workers in the Wells Copse as well as his enormous garden in Rowhills and even casual work at Heath End Nursery. He had uncles as a solicitor and an architect. Percy's fine hands from an academic schooling might have needed roughing up a little.

Stanley Harrison (born 1904) from Aldershot like Percy Wells had also come from a large family of ten children and was the youngest. His father Sydney Harrison was a Master builder and here there is a possibility of a link with the Wells family of builders. Stanley's mother Esther had died within a year of his birth so he never knew his mother.







Stanley enlisted in February 1919 at Northampton with the 2^{nd} Corps of the Northamptonshire Regiment as a 14-year-old drummer boy. Why, when the Great War was over? There was still British and American intervention in the Russian Civil War. Months later, Stanley was found guilty of theft, with 14 days detention. The Regiment went out to India but when Stanley returned, he was discharged as being no longer physically fit for war service. The medical grounds were based on an assessment of feeblemindedness. He was still only 16, on a 6-month disability pension of £1 a week.

So now we need to take the month-long voyage from London to Fremantle, Western Australia and Melbourne, Victoria (Australian cities some 7500 miles apart). Tragedy struck very soon. 10 weeks after being in Australia, 18-year-old immigrant Stanley died of heart failure, pneumonia, pleurisy and pericarditis. He was buried in the Anglican section of the Bridgetown cemetery, Western Australia and a memorial to this young life was placed on his mother's headstone in the Redan Road, Aldershot cemetery.





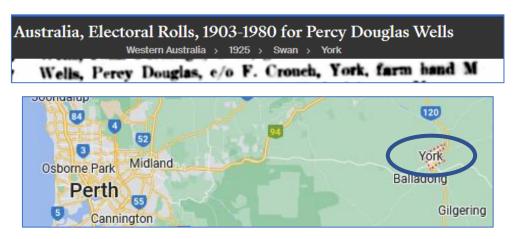
Next, back to Fremantle. Despite the Melbourne intention, both Percy Douglas Wells and William Edward Charman were on the list as disembarking at Fremantle, registered as a Farm Hand and Farmer respectively. It was not so uncommon after a long sea voyage for passengers to change their original intended destination and disembark sooner.

Fremantle, W		Passenger Lists, 1 el 044: Aug 1922 - Nov 1922	897-1963 for	Percy D Wel	ls	✓ Saved ✓
Mr.PERCY D.WELLS	"	/-	1		H	Farm Hand
		1 /-	1 1		*	Tie seman
Fremantle, Western		Passenger Li eel 044: Aug 1922 -		'-1963 for	William Ch	arman

As an aside, the two passengers from Ewshott near Farnham also disembarked at Fremantle.



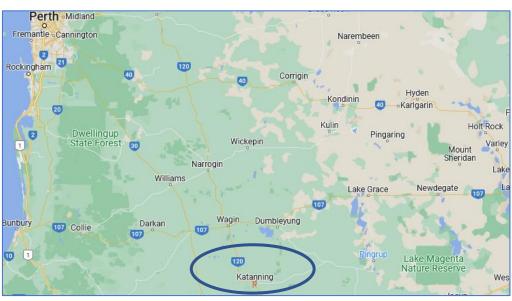
We next find Percy Douglas Wells on the Electoral Roll in 1925, working as a farm hand and at an address c/o F Crouch at York, Western Australia, an old inland town in the "Wheatbelt".



Percy stayed in the area and became a farmer so we will re-visit him in the 1930s. If he stays in touch with his family in Rowhills, he might inherit some money when his father dies?

William Edward Charman who disembarked at Fremantle as a farmer found work using his previous skills as an electrical fitter. By 1925 he was living at King George Hostel, Katanning, a very small town south east of Perth working as an electrical fitter.





This attempt at settling down in Australia was not to be for William Charman. He returned from Fremantle to Tilbury docks in 1931, a 37 year-old electrician and his new address was not Heath End, Farnham but Norleigh, York Road, Guildford.

UK and Ire	land, In		senger Lis	sts, 1878-1960 for \ 31 → Jul	W E C	Charman	
Fremantle	TILBUAY,	J COOPER	Mr A.S.	Nr Bucks.	3rd	Farmer	30
100 11	TILBURY.	T CHARMAN	Mr W.E.	Norleigh, York Rd, Guildford.Sy.	nt	Electrician	37

It is not known if he kept in touch with his family. His wife Ella moved in with her parents at Iffley, High Park Road, Farnham.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers,	•
Charman, Ella Margery	Iffley, High Park Road

Ella Charman stayed in the Farnham area and died in Tilford in 1960 age 68. William Edward Charman died in Weston-super-Mare in 1977 age 83.

Their only daughter Marjorie Babette entered the teaching profession and married George Cone in 1942. He had been a police constable in Farnham in 1939. Sadly, months later in May 1943, her new 24 year old, now pilot officer husband and his war-time crew from 27 Operational Training Unit, Bomber Command, were killed whilst flying a twin-engined Vickers Wellington. They were flying from their airbase at Lichfield, Staffordshire and flew into the ground one mile north of Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomery, Wales having had an engine fire during a night cross-country and bullseye exercise. George Cone gave his address as Iffley, High Park Road, Farnham. Marjorie Cone remarried in 1948 and died in 1981 age 84.

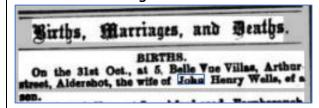
We return now to the Wells family and the out-of-work motor engineer Leslie Wells. He had followed his brother Percy abroad and travelled on 10^{th} April 1923, travelling 3^{rd} class to Australia, on the same ship The Esperance that his brother had used. Leslie called himself a Farm Labourer.

UK and Ireland,	Outward Passenger Lists, 189 London > 1923 > Apr	0-1960 for I	eslie Wells	
WELLS Leslie	11	Frementle	Farm Lab.	19

Leslie did not join his brother in Western Australia but headed instead to Melbourne where he later married an Australian, Elsie May Dennis in 1925; she had been born in Adelaide in 1898. He and his wife had three children Leslie Raymond Wells, born 1926, Jean Gertrude Wells born 1928 and Robert Spencer Wells born 1932. We can return to Leslie Wells when we visit the Wells family in the 1930s.

So, to summarise for John Henry Wells in the 1920s:- his wife Gertrude had died in Woodlands, Rowhills in 1911 having given birth to ten children. John's father Henry Wells died in 1908 in Aldershot leaving 86 acres of Rowhills Copse in a Trust and an estate of some £50,000 to his family.

In 1916 son Sydney Wells died followed by the death three years later of his brother Reginald. 1889 Birth of Reginald Wells



and in 1919 the eldest son Reginald Wells died.

By 1921 daughter Winifred Gertrude Wells was in hospital and the remaining siblings were living with their widowed father in Littlecott, Rowhills. In 1922 son Percy went out to Australia followed by another son Leslie in 1923. From 1923, the children living in Littlecott, Rowhills were the sisters Dorothy and Marjorie doing the house duties and brothers Albert John, Raymond Lionel and Maurice Dennis.

Even though Woodlands was rented out in the 1920s, John Henry Wells and son Albert John continued their voting rights using Woodlands as their address. Albert John had been marked as having a vote in absence in 1919 when he was away serving in the Army. He had registered at Guildford in 1916 as an 18-year-old motor engineer but actually he was 17 years old.

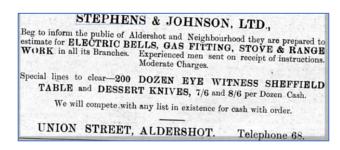
						-4			Descr	iption of I	Recruit.				Unit of Special
Regiment.	NAME. (Christian Name and Surname.)	Aį	ge.	Hei	ght.		sure- nt.	Weight.	lexion.	Eyes.	Hair.	Distinctive Marks.		Occupation.	Reserve or Territorial Force to which belonging
	Sumance,	Years.	Mons.	Feet.	Ins.	Girth when fully ex- panded, Inches.	Range of Expan- sion, Inches	Lbs.	Comp	+					(if any).
of Prince	Masthews IV	34		5	3	35=	"2	129			16	Suita ford	en	Rich	
PP AU	Hacke NOTO	35	7	5	,	30;		95		. (16		31	Carm	en

We now turn to the first Wells wedding from Littlecott with its name changed to Little Cot.

Solumna.	1	2	3	4	5	0	7	8
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.
469	Angust.	Albert John Wells	28	Bachelor	Fitter Engineer	Little bot Beath End Faznham Furrey	John Henry Wells	Retired
	1924.	Dorothy Helen	30	Spinster		Yloncester House 6. Upper ofms Road	Edward Povey	munager

On 30th August 1927 at Holy Trinity, Aldershot, a church built by his grandfather Henry Wells, Albert John Wells married Dorothy Helen Povey. Albert's sister Dorothy Wells was one of the witnesses. The bride's address was Gloucester House, 6 Upper Elms Road, Aldershot and her father Edward Povey was recorded on the marriage document as a manager. In fact, he had been the Managing Director of the ironmongery firm, Stephens & Johnson, 42 & 43 Union Street, Aldershot for many years.

Two advertisements for 1906 and 1909 show ironmongery ranges from electric bells through to cutthroat razors.





We will leave the newly-weds Albert and Dorothy Wells and re-visit them in the future.

Raymond Lionel Wells (born 1906) is the next son of John Henry Wells to read about. He followed in the footsteps of his uncle Percy Harold Edward Wells and trained as an architect and surveyor. Uncle Percy Wells, born 1879, an architect in Aldershot, was 14 years younger than Raymond's father, coming from a family of 12 siblings. Nevertheless, perhaps Uncle Percy was a relative to look up to when seeking professional guidance?

1929 was the date when siblings Raymond, Dorothy and Marjorie Wells first started registering for voting.

Surrey	, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962	2 for Raymond Lionel Wells
_	Wells, Raymond Lionel	Littlecot, Heath End
v —	TTT 11 TO 1 OI 1	Littlecot, Heath End
v —	777 17 75 . 75	Littlecot, Heath End

It is worthwhile back-tracking a little in the family business of builders, architects and solicitors.

Henry and brother George Wells had started the company Martin, Wells & Batchelor in 1869 with Edward Martin (1823-1885) and John James Stanton Batchelor (1837-1899).



This partnership dissolved in 1870. Then followed the building company Martin, Wells and Co Ltd which had long gone after the death of Henry Wells in 1908 and by the 1920s was called Wells Bros (or Messrs. Wells Bros) in Victoria Road, Aldershot. Their telephone number was Aldershot 11.

This company had been running very successfully up to 1920 and was probably beginning to tail off in the 1920s. Tenders for work were in hundreds of pounds but nothing like the 80 branches of Martin, Wells and Co., run by Henry Wells who had massive building works amounting to many tens of thousands of pounds.

UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946 England > Various English Counties > 1927 Kelly's Directory Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wells Bros. 162 to 170 Victoria rd. Aldershot

British Phone Books, 1880-1984 for Percy H Wells

339 > 1922 > Norwich / Colchester / Reading / Guildford / St Albans / Brighton and Tunsbridge Wells / Canterbury...

Aldershot ... 11 Wells Bros., Builders & Contractors.. Victoria rd Aldsht

Aldershot ... 335 Wells Percy H. E., Architect & Survyr

Rowhill copse

Weybourne Frnhm

Cargate House.

In a report of their special meeting, the Lighting Committee reported that tenders for work to the drainage of Cargate House were received from Mr. W. Tanner, £25, and Messrs. Wells Bros., £25 7s. 6d., and recommended that Messrs. Wells Bros. tender be accepted as the only tender which complied with the specification.

Mr. Ainger said they recommended a third tender, but it came too late, and the Committee decided it should not be opened.

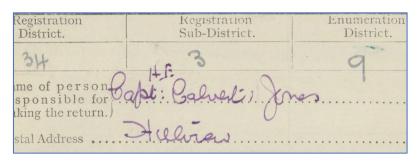
The tender of Messrs. Wells Bros. was accepted.

Uncle Samuel Griffiths Wells was a solicitor in the firm Messrs Foster, Wells and Coggins with offices in Aldershot, Fleet and Farnborough. Raymond also had an aunt Florence Elizabeth Wells married to Frederick John Lloyd, who was a partner in Friend & Lloyd, a firm of architects and surveyors. Builders, architects, surveyors, solicitors -the Wells family brought work to each other.

Raymond Wells was deeply involved in the properties built in Rowhills in the 1930s so we most certainly will come across him again. He is central to many of the current Rowhills properties.

The last child of John Wells we will look at is Maurice Dennis Wells, born 1908; the only infant born in Woodlands in the County of Surrey; his siblings were all born in Aldershot, Hampshire. Maurice was not seen on the voting registration until 1930 so we will return to him and the rest of this family in later years.

In 1921 the census enumerator visited Littlecott in Rowhills and then the next house recorded was called Hillview in Weybourne for the family of Captain H F Calvert-Jones. There appears to be an error here with this property name since the well-known Stevens family lived at Hillview, Weybourne. The property for Captain Calvert-Jones was actually Hill Side View, Weybourne, a small error in the 1921 census.



Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Hugh Calvert-Jones

Famham > 1922 Spring

Calvert-Jones, Hugh
Calvert-Jones, Vera

Hill Side View, Weybourne
Hill Side View, Weybourne

Time now to leave Heath End for Weybourne. We have done this previously, walking through the Copse to Weybourne. The land is still boggy but we know the way. Some new tracks have been cut in the Copse since our last visit and we can identify rhododendrons, newly planted. A pleasant walk and the woodsmen might have time for a chat with us.