



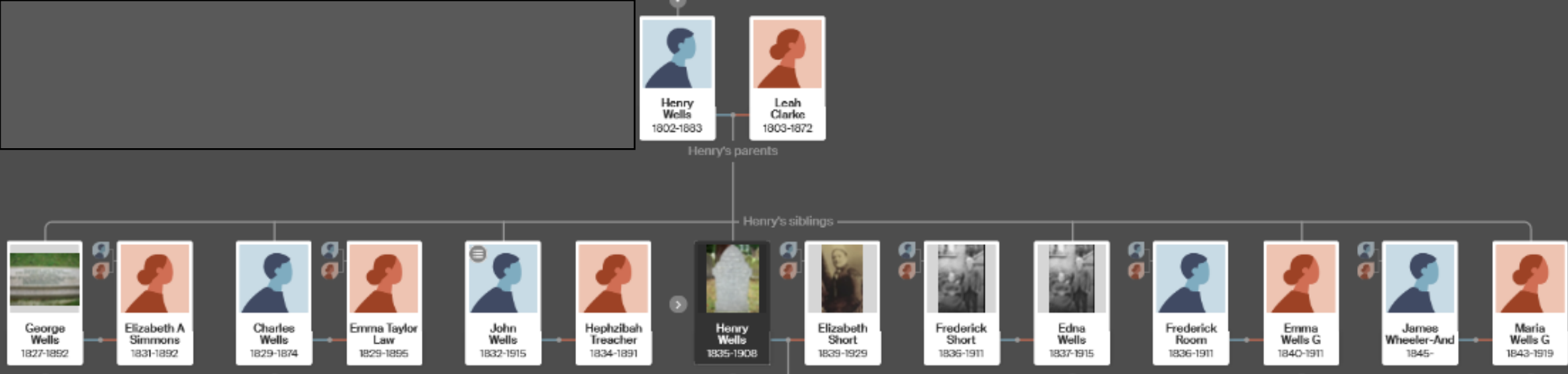
Henry Wells

1835 - 1908

England in the mid Nineteenth Century

- the Napoleonic Wars that ended with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815
- late 1840s and early 1850s, England was undergoing vast social and economic change
- the Agricultural and then the Industrial Revolutions
- Population was booming; huge swathes of this population was on the move from the countryside to the towns and cities

Henry Wells, (son of Henry Wells) was born on 25th January 1835 into the home of the agricultural labourer, Henry Wells at the village of Ivinghoe in Buckinghamshire.



Straw plaiting



Commencement of the Crimean War in 1853-1856; a war that saw England with its allies France, Turkey and Sardinia fight against the common enemy, Russia.



1854 Aldershot, a small backwater village, just off the London to Winchester turnpike road.

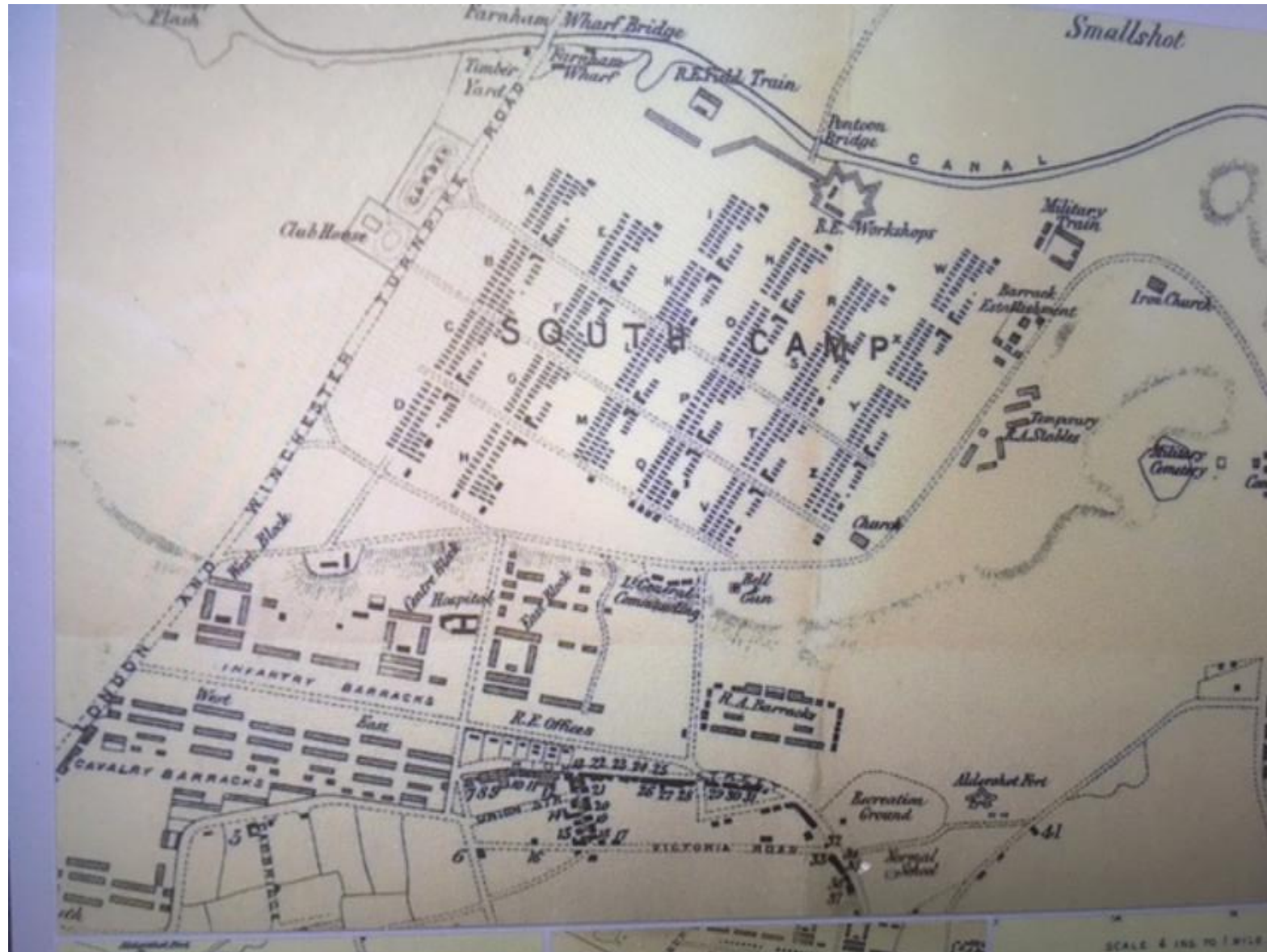
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The Workers for The Camp at Aldershot

- In 1854, Lord Hardinge's (the Commander in Chief of the Army) recommendation to the British Government, purchase of over twenty-five thousand acres of land at Aldershot, selling at £12.00 an acre
- Construct a camp for the British Army, being the first time such a camp had ever been envisaged in Britain
- The Basingstoke Canal had been built by 1794 for the transportation of agricultural produce to London
- Royal Engineers, oversee the mass of men and materials descending on the village to build 'The Camp'. Soldiers were housed in a vast township of canvas tents.

South Camp



North Camp and South Camp, Aldershot



Timber huts at South Camp, Aldershot



Cavalry Barracks, Aldershot



Work 1854-1859. Provision was made to house some 20,000 men.

The first permanent buildings were 800 timber huts on brick foundations to house the soldiers, and an additional 460 huts for officers' quarters, administrative offices, mess rooms, kitchens, hospitals.

George Myers



- George Myers worked on the building of the first North and South Camps.
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- Albert, the Prince Consort commissioned a library
- Royal Pavilion for Albert's wife Queen Victoria
- George Myers closely associated with famed architect Augustus Pugin; vast range of ecclesiastical projects across the country

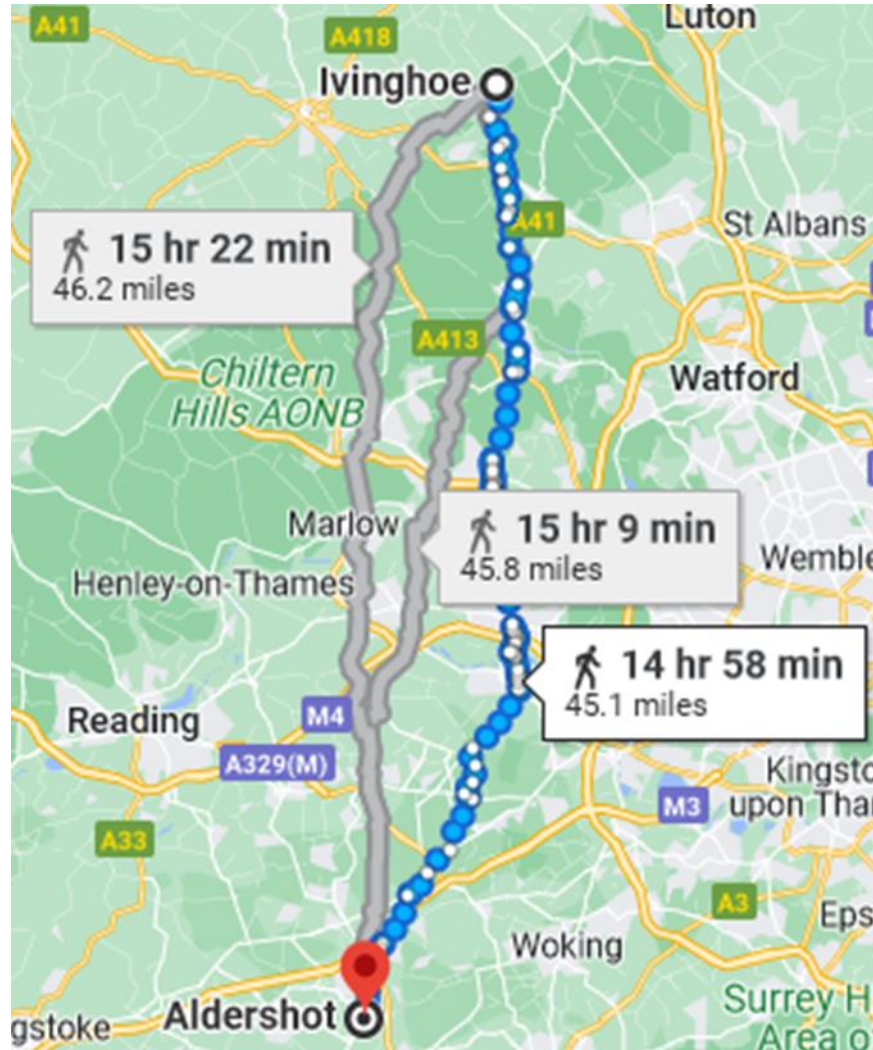
Railway Navvies (The word '*navvy*' came from the '*navigators*' who built the first navigation canals in the 18th century, at the very dawn of the Industrial Revolution)



The Railway Boom



About 1855 - Henry and his bricklayer brother John Wells move to Aldershot



1861 census for Farnham, No 1 Prospect Cottages

John Wells (age 29) – Bricklayer

Hephzibah Wells (age 24) – wife of John Wells

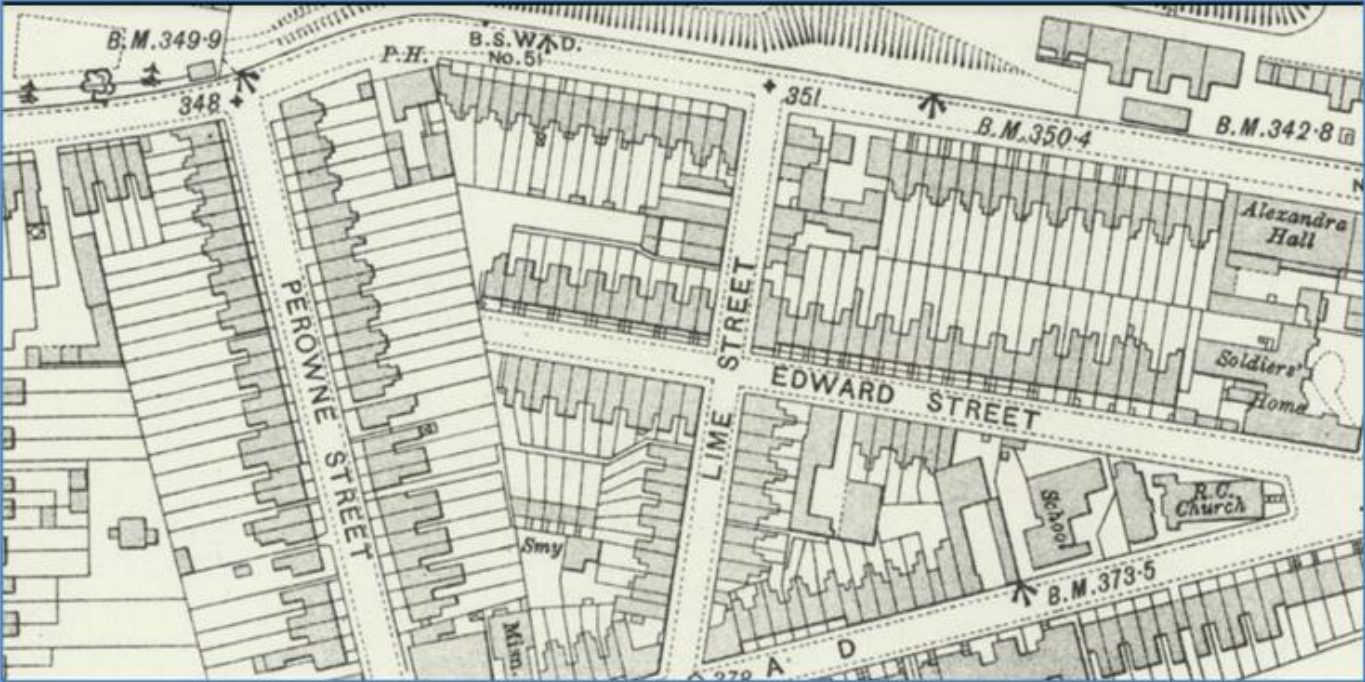
Henry Wells (age 26) – Inn keeper (possibly White Hart Beer House)

Elizabeth Wells (age 22) – wife of Henry Wells

1861 England Census for Henry Wells
Surrey > Farnham > Frimley > District 5

Household No.	Address	Name	Relationship	Sex	Age	Occupation
110	Prospect Cottages 1	John Wells	Head	Man	29	Bricklayer
		Hephzibah Do	Wife	Man	24	
		Henry Do	Brother	Man	26	Inn Keeper
		Elizabeth Do	Wife	Man	22	

1857 Henry had procured some land and built himself two houses. These may well have been cottages in the newly formed Edward Street, Aldershot.



1860 Henry married Elizabeth Short, whose home was also in Ivinghoe. They were married at the East Street Chapel (Independents) in Farnham. He was a foreman on a railway line.



1860. Marriage solemnized at the East Street Chapel Farnham in the District of Farnham in the County of Surrey & Hampshire

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
10.	Twentyfifth June 1860.	Henry Wells	25 years	Bachelor	Foreman on Railway line	Heath and Farnham	Henry Wells	Lassner
		Elizabeth Short	21 years	Spinster	—	Farnham	Charles Short	Butcher

Married in the East Street Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Independents by me,
 J. Kelley
 Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Henry Wells } in the Presence of us, { W. Jenkins }
 { Elizabeth Short } { X The Clerk of the Court. }

Baptist Church or rather the part of the Church known as the Particular rather than General.

Henry attended the 'Little Chapel' at Hale, every Sunday and supported the Baptist Church.

1858 Henry's elder brother George baptised at Bethel Baptist Church in Hale, Farnham

