Surfing Sources From The Sofa
Using the Web to research the history of a place

Peter Burnhill
formerly Edinburgh University Data Library, DCC & EDINA

IASSIST & CARTO 2018
Once Upon a Data Point: Sustaining our Data Storytellers
‘Historical GIS and Telling Stories About the Past’
Montréal, Canada. 29 May -1 June 2018.
PART 1: A Village in 1850s

The Age of ‘Pax Britannica’

village as pivot
MONTREAL, C. E.—The largest and most populous City of British North America, and chief seat of commerce, principal Port of Entry for the Canadas, is situated at the head of sea or outward navigation; and at the foot of the great chain of River, Lake, and Canal navigation, which extends westward to Chicago and Fond du Lac, a distance of about 1400 miles, embracing an almost unexcelled extent of inland water communication. It occupies one of the most commanding

OTAWA, C. W.—One of the chief Cities of Central Canada, situated on the Ottawa River, 87 miles from its confluence with the St. Lawrence, and at the mouth of the Rideau River. The City obtained its original name from its founder, Colonel By, an officer of the Royal Engineers, whom the Imperial Government commissioned in 1827 to superintend the construction of the Rideau Canal. In 1854, Bytown, by an Act of the Provincial Parliament, was created a city, and its name changed to that which it now bears. The Canal divides the City into Upper and Lower

QUEBEC, C. E.—The chief seaport and stronghold of military power in bound promontory formed by the junction of the Rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles. It is strongly fortified and garrisoned, completely commanding the navigation and impenetrable. The City is reputed to have derived its name from the words of adventurous discoverers when first its site broke on their astonished view.

TORONTO, C. W.—The Metropolis of Upper Canada, is situated on the spacious Bay, or beautiful sheet of water, somewhat oval in form. The City with singular regularity, the streets intersecting each other at right angles. Of the site of the City rather flat, Toronto presents at a distance no striking aspect from the Lake, however, it gradually unfolds itself, till, passing through the

CANADA DIRECTORY
FOR 1857-58:

NAMES OF PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS MEN,
AND OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS,
IN THE
CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES
THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE;

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORIES

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, POST OFFICES & POSTMASTERS

RAILWAY AND STEAMBOAT ROUTES
THROUGHOUT CANADA.

CORRECTED TO NOVEMBER, 1857.
Following exercise at Chobham in June 1853, Prince Albert supports Army’s choice of Aldershot Heath as site for a military training camp.

December 1853
Government votes £100,000 to commence building at Aldershot.

⇒ Portsmouth Naval Dockyard
⇒ Empire and Foreign Parts
“Rough plan of the country ...
14 Sept 1853
4 inches to one mile

Lt Colonel Hall,
‘Inspector of Fortifications’,
Royal Sappers and Mines

from website:
The plan of Aldershot Heath drawn by the Royal Engineers in 1853. Aldershot village is shown in the lower centre, around the Parish Church and the Manor. The area which would become the new town centre is fields, and the whole of the area which would become the garrison is the empty Aldershot Heath. (Courtesy of the Prince Consort’s Library, Aldershot.)

‘good copy’ from Paul Vickers
with kind permission by
Prince Consort’s Library, Aldershot
Decision taken in 1855 that the Camp be made a permanent training facility for the British Army.

By 1856, 29,000 troops had returned from Crimea. By 1860 brick buildings housed 15,000, including some married quarters.

Within 5 years, instead of two village pubs there were “about twenty taverns and forty beerhouses”...
Census Reports record big increase in population

1851 : 875
1861 : 7,775 [+ military & their families]

PART 2: My Research Questions:

Q1. What happened to the villagers?
Q2. Who were the [non-military] incomers?

Research Design: ‘Before & After’ Arrival of Army

1851 [1855] 1861

=> O₁ X O₂

maybe, just maybe … add a ‘Contrast’ area: O₁₁ X O₂₁ in England, Ireland, India, Canada? O₂₁ O₂₂
Applied to Data Archive
via Edinburgh University Data Library

- Started downloading I-CeM data files
- Generated lots of summary tables

Helpful pointers at outset from Matthew Woollard & Kevin Schürer, but errors my own.

Half (49%) the village aged 19 or less

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village in 1851</th>
<th>1851 Census Reports</th>
<th>I-CeM Records</th>
<th>diff</th>
<th>Study Population</th>
<th>removing records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>875</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>- 108 in ‘Poor Law’ School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“an agricultural and nice productive little parish …” William Cobbett (1835)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Increase %</th>
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<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

inward migration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of birth, as stated in 1851 Census</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>locally in parish %</th>
<th>surrounding parishes %</th>
<th>‘remote’ %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heads of Household</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wives</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Open’ Village : Typical Occupations

1851 ‘NATIONAL’ rural database Dennis Mills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>‘National’ %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer &amp; Landowner</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related to sea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic service</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade/Crafts</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professions /Retail/ Others</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 10 Years On

(6 yrs since 1854)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census Reports</th>
<th>I-CeM Records</th>
<th>diff</th>
<th>Study Population</th>
<th>Re-allocating records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village in 1851</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>- 108 in ‘Poor Law’ School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Town’ in 1861</td>
<td>7755</td>
<td>8292</td>
<td>+537</td>
<td>4,603</td>
<td>- 3,689 in Military Dwellings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total of 15,000 in Aldershot Camp)

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**Net increase of 3,837! 500%**

(Q2. Who were those townsfolk?)

**Q1. What happened to the villagers?**

- **Think longitudinally …**
  
  ... about careers of households, families, individuals
  
  ... tell the stories of those 158 households

**Q1a: What might have happened had the Army not arrived?**
Why I turned to BD$M?

findmypast.com

+ve reasons:
1. Obtain and search on name
2. Some location information
3. Birth, Death & Marriage data

Bonus: Could strengthen Research Design by adding prior datum

1841 & 1851 [1854] 1861 : \( O_1 O_2 X O_3 \)
Combining Data Points enables Stories to be told of Life & Family in those 158 Households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1841 Morland Cottages</th>
<th>1851 Lloyd</th>
<th>1851 Loyde</th>
<th>Chart Area: Loyde's Farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loyd</td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>25 1816</td>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Ag Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>31 1820</td>
<td>Farmer W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ester</td>
<td>2 1839</td>
<td>12 1839</td>
<td>Schooler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>0 1841</td>
<td>10 1841</td>
<td>Schooler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>- 1843</td>
<td>8 1843</td>
<td>Schooler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>- 1845</td>
<td>6 1845</td>
<td>Schooler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Osborn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodger U 26 1835</td>
<td>Carpenter SI Paddington, Bedfordshire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perhaps key to good fortune & upward mobility was Robert's marriage to Ann Harding, the only daughter of farmer Thomas Harding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1841 North Lane</th>
<th>1851 North Lane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harding</td>
<td>Harding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas 40 1801</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann 40 1801</td>
<td>Head W 52 1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah 75 1766</td>
<td>Annuitant Farnham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Knowles 15 1826</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Marshall 10 1831</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Barnett</td>
<td>Servant U 24 1827 Lab Aldershot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Williams</td>
<td>Lodger U 67 1784 Pensioner Chelsea Farnham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| First name(s) | Robert |
| Last name     | Lloyd  |
| Marriage date  | 15 Apr 1838 |
| Marriage place | Aldershot |
| Spouse's first name(s) | Ann |
| Spouse's last name | Harding |
| First parent's first name(s) | Thomas |
| Second parent first name(s) | Ann |
| Parish | Aldershot |
Guidebooks, published in 1857 & 1859 for visiting ‘Society’

Yea, true it is, that not more than four years since, Aldershot was one of the most pleasant and picturesque hamlets in Hampshire. The population of the whole parish—the village and all its detached farmhouses included—did not reach 900 souls, chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits: the poor hardly knew the use of coals; for their fires were made of the turf which the Common abundantly supplied them, and which they could cut at pleasure.
TO LET, with immediate possession.—The above most desirable FARM, comprising a substantially built and commodious Dwelling House, with suitable Farm Buildings, and 144 Acres of Land, nearly the whole of which is drained; comprising 113 Acres of Arable Land in a high state of cultivation, 4½ Acres of good Hop Land, 20a. 1r. of very useful Meadow Land, and the rest Hedge Rows and Coppices, with Labourers Cottages and Gardens.

The Property is 3½ miles from the Farnborough Station, 2½ miles from the Ash Station (on the Reigate line), and 3 miles from the Market town of Farnham, where there is a good weekly Corn Market and a Cattle Market every fortnight. The whole of the Manorial rights of the Manor of Aldershot, including Sporting, Pasturage for Cattle, and also cutting Peat and Turf, belong to the Farm.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Trinder and Eyre, 1, John-street, Bedford-row, London; or Samuel Eggar, Esq. Jenkins Place, Bentley, Farnham, Surrey.
Some defunct, but led to contact with local historians

1. **Yateley Local History** - The Baigent Crondall Records part 6.

2. **Kingsclere Heritage & Genealogy**, 1086 Domesday Survey - "Alwin Wit [Alwin White] holds 2 hides. He himself held it before 1066. Then it answered for 2 hides; now for ½ hide. Land for ½ plough. The plough is there, and 2 slaves. 1 villager and 1 smallholder with ½ plough. The value was 40s; now 30s.

3. **Kingsclere, A history & its People** - "Alwin Wit [White] continued to hold one and a half ploughlands which he had held of Wigoth, for protection, (possibly Wigoth of Wallingford, butler and kinsman of King Edward)."

4. **From the records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (www.lds.org)**
   Robert White was born in 1370 in Yateley. He died 18th May 1464 in Farnham Surrey. He was married in 1421 to Alecia Alice from Swanborne, Hampshire. Parents were John White.

Other thematic websites,
* on potteries & brickfields *
led to other local history groups.

=> Then up a church belfry & back down a time shaft …
Locked strongbox discovered in Church Belfry, 1857

[Baigent's "The Crondal Records", 1891
Scanned and ROUGHLY checked by R H Johnston April 1996]

Hampshire Record Society

THE CRONDAL RECORDS

HISTORICAL AND MANORIAL

A COLLECTION OF RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HUNDRED AND MANOR OF CRONDAL IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

PART I.

HISTORICAL AND MANORIAL

BY FRANCIS JOSEPH BAIGENT

St Michael’s Church engraving 1856

1. 1550s: HENRY VIII & Reformation
   - Sir John Whyte of Aldershott, Wool merchant; Lord Mayor of London
   - Crondal Customary, 1567: more data on land ownership
   - Tichborne brothers marry Sir John’s granddaughters
   - Ancient landed Catholic family: wrong side of history

2. 1248: First mention of Alreshutte
   - Comptus de Crundel
   - Names & data on land ownership for 24 manors

3. A Tithing of the Crundall Hundred in Anglo-Saxon Wessex
   - Confirmed by 1085 Domesday Survey: ‘always with the Bishop’
   - Gifted by King Edgar to the monks of Old Monastery, AD 976
   - Mentioned in the will of Alfred the Great, AD 899
PART 3: Thoughts on Surfing The Web for Sources on History of a Place

Provenance

Errors & Ethics

Serendipity

What’s Special about the Spatial?

Citation

??
1. Errors & Ethics: Open Questions

“If a figure looks interesting, it is usually wrong” Claus Moser, LSE
“Now computer error becomes historical fact” RJ (Jack) Fisher, LSE

a) Transcription errors abound
   – access to facsimile of base documents

• Whether to, and how to ‘correct’ the record found in sources?

b) ‘uncovering family secrets’
   – combination of Census and BDM records can lead to suggestion &/or proof of illegitimacy, bigamy etc.

• Whether to, and how to publicly disclose?
2. Provenance: Citation & Verification

Reproducibility when using web resources

– Should enable reader to access the evidence base
  a) Citation of sources
  b) Data Citation
    • database content & facsimile of documents

• Both imply existence of some form of ‘Fixity’
• But the Web is ‘Web Now’: it changes

‘Reference Rot’ = Link Rot + Content Drift

* Pecha Kucha *

‘Web Today, Gone Tomorrow?’
3. Impact of Serendipity

At the outset
Impact of Aldershot Camp upon ‘The Village of Aldershott’, 1851 to 1861

The diversion of Prior history has led to:
Before The Army Came The Church

** Focus of present writing **
Re-imagining Aldershot Before The Army

Still plan to answer the question:
Q2. Who were the incomers?
& write up the larger work:
Impact of Aldershot Camp upon ‘The Village of Aldershott’, 1841 to 1861
• From Clay, Heathland & Hops To Bricks, Soldiers & Shops

But having paid £25 to the County Record Office for CD of the 1843 Tithe Map, the postman knocked...
A large scale 1843 map with detailed information on owners and occupiers of properties and plot

... and local historian Sally Jenkinson recently supplied spreadsheets for that and for an 1856 update on ownership of the same by those who registered interest in proposed Enclosure Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowners</th>
<th>Occupiers</th>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collins, Charles</td>
<td>Collins, Charles</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>House Pottery and Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles, Joseph</td>
<td>Newell, John and Others</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Cottages and Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulkner, George</td>
<td>Darbridge, Joseph and Other</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>Cottages and Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashton, Ann</td>
<td>Robinson, Robert</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>Homestead Garden and Orchard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faulkner, George</td>
<td>Faulkner, George</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>Homestead and Meadow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derber, Thomas</td>
<td>Derber, Thomas</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>Cottage and Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight, John</td>
<td>Nicholls, Charles Jnr</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>Cottage and Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osborn, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Deacon, Henry</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>House Garden and Buildings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. What’s Special About The Spatial?

a) Visualisation
   – Twin role of map as study device and for display of results

b) Context
   – Main use of maps thus far
   – Map as record of how world was regarded

But not always of how it actually was ...

- Cruchley’s 1856 map put Aldershot in Surrey!

He added railways to Cary’s Ordnance Survey plates, designed and produced cheaper maps for general public with slogan:

“Half the Scale, Half the Price”
However ...

‘Locality’ of the ‘place’ includes Farnham & the Surrey parishes
4. What’s Special About The Spatial?

c) Referencing is what is really special!!
  – Digitally unpacking the map into its separate functions, as database and as display device

* Spatial referencing is means to transform findings into long-term asset *
  – Starting to scope prospects for a N-level multi-parish GIS
  – Opportunity to collaborate with local historians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1248</th>
<th>1568</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>1842</th>
<th>1843</th>
<th>1851</th>
<th>1861</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Land Parcel</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for listening

peter.burnhill@gmail.com
@strollerman