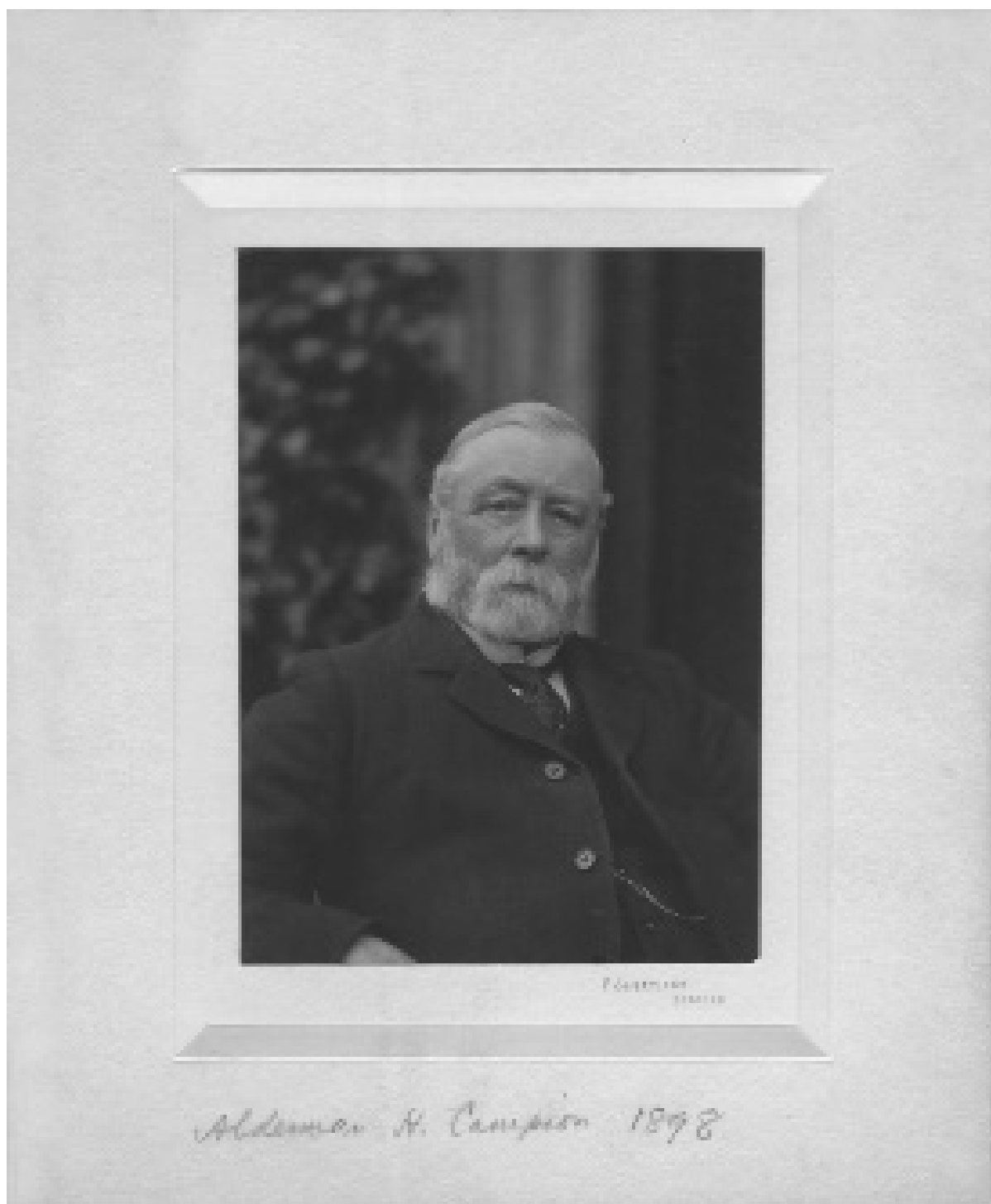


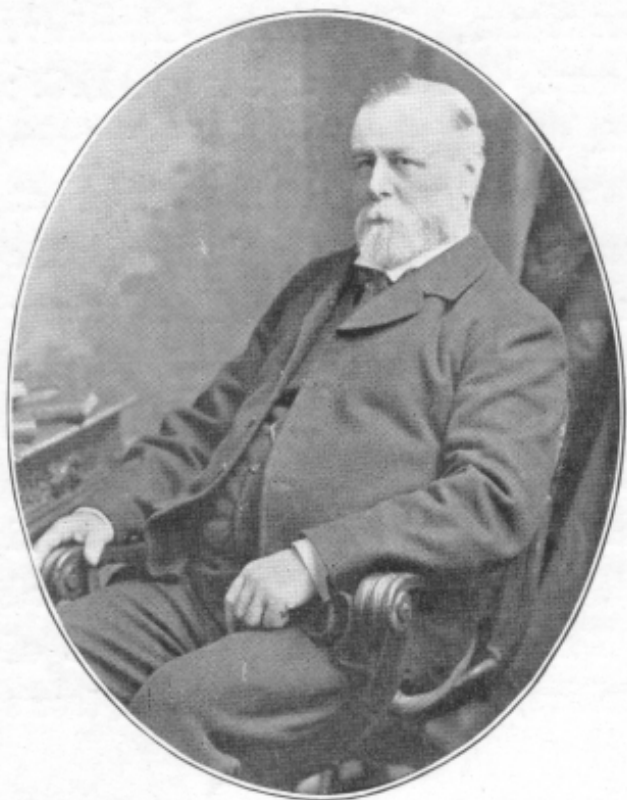


Henry Campion, c1907 CCV33-17.jpg Although the picture is titled 'Alderman H. Campion, 1898', the date probably refers to his appointment as an Alderman of Bedfordshire County Council in that year. Since Frank Sweetland, the photographer, was only active in Bedford from c1905 to 1915, the picture certainly dates from that period. Sweetland may have been commissioned by the County Council to produce the portrait for their gallery of members. Henry, was the son of Edward, and his brother also Edward was Agent of Lord St John's Melchbourne Estate. Family patronage obviously played a part in the Campions and their relatives holding the tenancies of many major farms in the Melchbourne Estate, notably, Bletsoe Castle, Knotting Manor, Knotting Strawberry Hill, Knotting Fox, Bletsoe Bourne End, Riseley Lodge & others. Henry married his cousin Eleanor, daughter of Job Campion of Riseley. After a short spell on a farm at Hinwick, Henry took on the tenancy of Dean Waypost Farm, then moved to Bletsoe Castle Farm in 1881. He was a keen agriculturist, stockbreeder, breeder of shire horses, an expert rider and harness driver, but nonetheless a progressive farmer, making use of machinery wherever possible. He was variously Churchwarden, Chairman of the Parish Council, a School Manager, and represented Bletsoe on the Bedford Board of Poor Law Guardians. He became an Alderman of Bedfordshire County Council in 1898, retiring in 1919 at the age of 84 due to increasing deafness. Following the death of his eldest son, Edward, in January 1916, Henry retired at Michaelmas of the same year and in April 1917 moved with daughters Louise (Louie) and Emily to 13 Oaklands Road, Bedford.



Henry Campion, c1907. Detail from CCV33-17

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Mr. Henry Campion.

Herbert, Bucks Yeomanry, fifteen months in South African war, one medal, and five clasps, who also for four years won the Mile Championship of Bedfordshire, winning the Cup outright.

Campion.—HENRY CAMPION, Bletsoe Castle, Bletsoe ; son of the late Edward Campion, who was steward for the late Lord St. John twenty-five years ; born at Melchbourne, November 13th, 1835 ; educated at Kimbolton Grammar School. Farmer ; Alderman Bedfordshire County Council for nine years ; twice elected Chairman Bletsoe Parish Council ; Churchwarden of Parish Church ; was for twenty-eight years Poor Law Guardian, retiring when elected Alderman of the County Council. Recreation : hunting in his younger days. Married Eleanor Ann, daughter of the late Job Campion, and has issue five sons and six daughters ; one son, Walter Ernest, Major 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment (now in Burma), served in Mounted Infantry in South African war, going out as Lieutenant and returning as Major, Queen's Medal, four clasps, King's Medal, two clasps, won point to point races at Aldershot and Pretoria ; and Frank

Portrait & biographical sketch of Henry Campion, c1907

Although Henry's place of birth is given here as Melchbourne, LDS records show birth entry as 'Roade, Baptist', other details being identical.

EB68 (*Contemporary Biographies*, 1907)