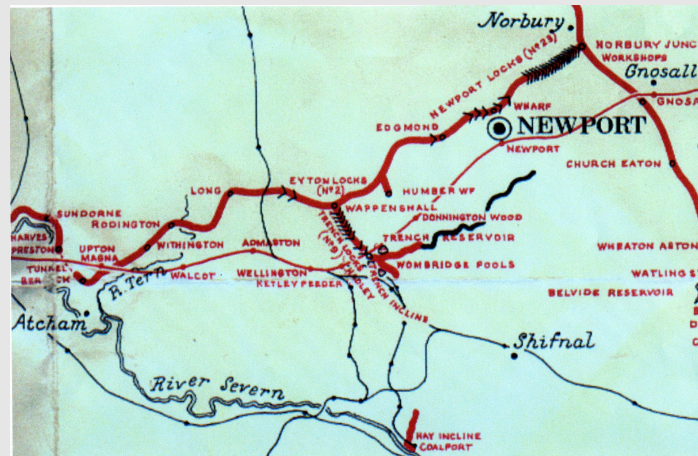


Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Timeline

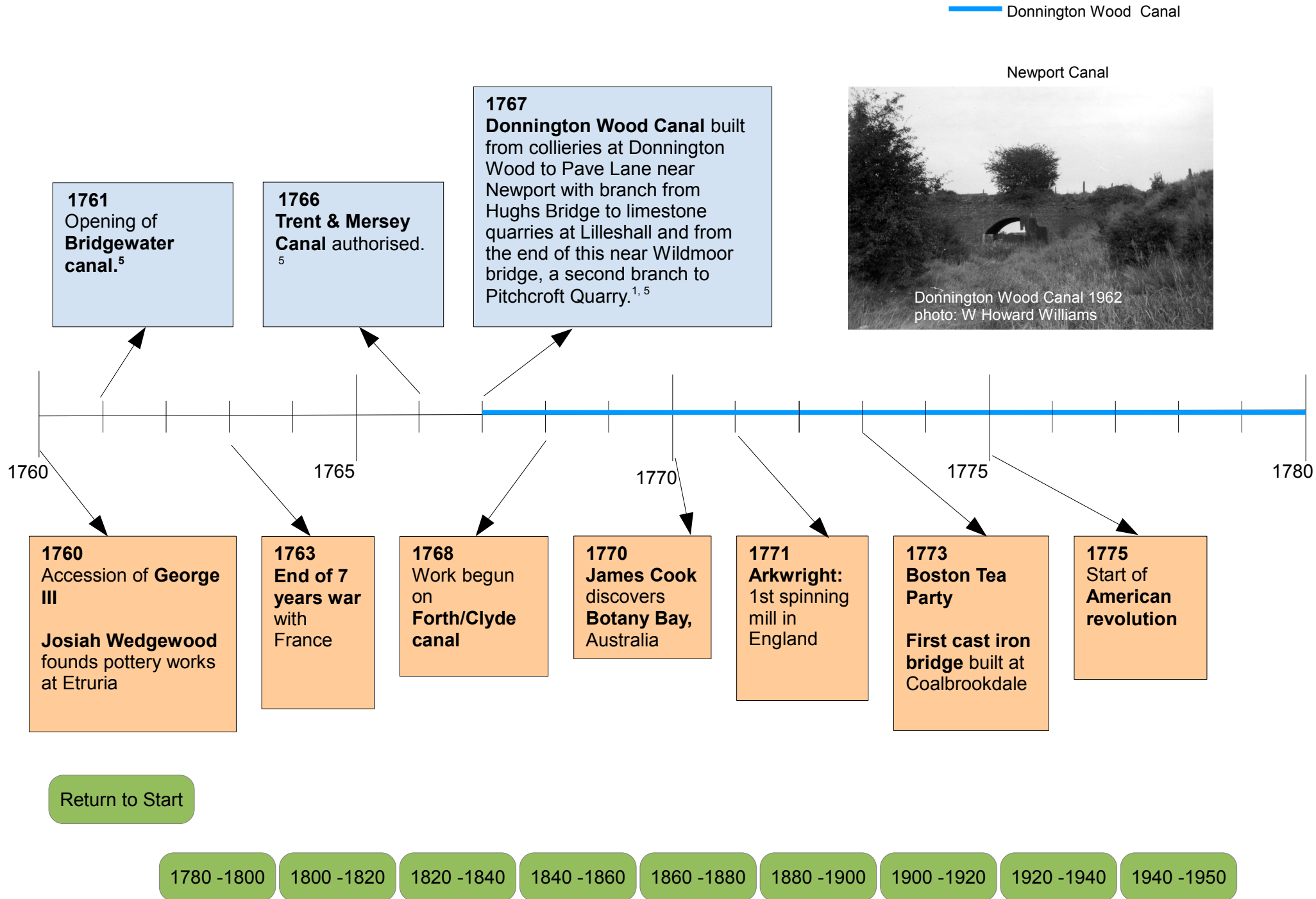
The history of the tub-boat canals and the Shrewsbury and Newport canals and some things that were going on in the country at the time



Start Here

To move through the years, click on the date buttons at the bottom of each page

1760-1780



1780 - 1800

- Donnington Wood Canal
- Wombridge Canal
- Ketley Canal
- Shropshire Canal
- Shrewsbury Canal
- Newport Canal

1788

William Reynolds built private **Wombridge Canal** from Wombridge to western end of Donnington Wood canal to take coal from mine at Wombridge to blast furnace at Wrockwardine Wood, 2 miles long.^{4, 5}

Ketley Canal from Oakengates to Ketley opened. 1½ miles long

Work started on northern end of **Shropshire Canal** from Donnington Wood canal to Southall Bank and from there by 2 branches to river Severn. Eastern branch via Blists Hill to Coalport, Western branch via Horsehay to Brierley Hill above Coalbrookdale.⁵

1794

Shrewsbury Canal from Donnington Wood Canal at Trench to Shrewsbury, incorporating eastern part of **Wombridge Canal**. Branches: **Newport Branch, Humber Branch**. First use from Trench inclined plane to Long Lane Wharf^{2, 5}

Shropshire canal: Brierley Hill shaft lifts replaced by inclined plane down to plateway.⁵

1797

Donnington Wood Canal: tunnel & shaft system at Hughs Bridge replaced with inclined plane⁵

Western end of **Wombridge canal** went out of use⁵

1796

Shrewsbury Canal: cast iron aquaduct at Longdon-on-Tern. Whole canal opened⁵

1789

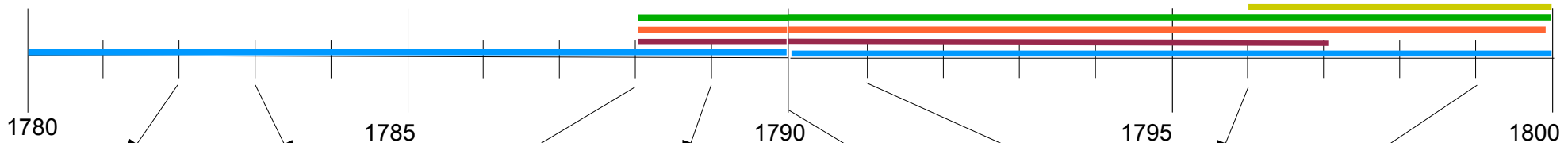
Shropshire Canal: work started on Eastern Branch³

1791

Shropshire Canal opened⁵

1792

Shropshire Canal: western branch finished⁵



1782
James Watt invents double-acting rotary **steam engine**

1783
GB recognises **independence of US**

1788
"Daily Universal Register" becomes "**The Times**"

1789
The start of the **French Revolution**

1790
Building of **Firth-Clyde & Oxford-Birmingham canals** begins

First **steam powered rolling mill** built in England

1791
Abolition of the Slave Trade

1796
Edward Jenner: **smallpox vaccine**

1799
Nelson destroys French fleet in Abukir bay

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1820 -1840

1840 -1860

1860 -1880

1880 -1900

1900 -1920

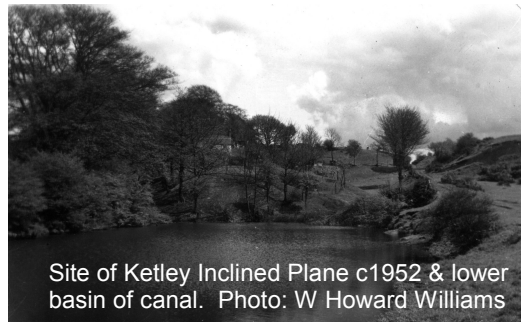
1920 -1940

1940 -1950

1800 - 1820

- Donnington Wood Canal
- Ketley Canal
- Shropshire Canal
- Shrewsbury Canal
- Newport Canal

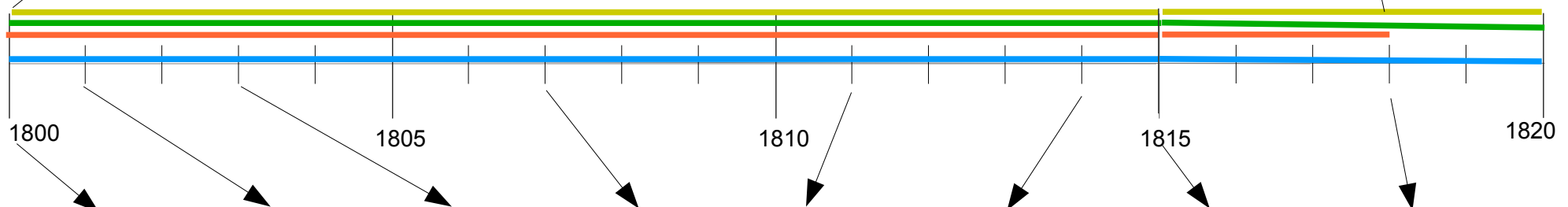
1800
Shropshire Canal:
Plateway laid along towpath from Brierley Hill to Horsehay so this section of canal abandoned⁵



1810
Shropshire Canal: new basin dug at Coalport to take 60 tub boats & wharves extended⁵

1815 - 1830
Rebuilding of Holyhead Road⁵

1818
Ketley canal abandoned⁵



1800
Trevithick:
light pressure steam engine

Volta
produces electricity from cell - 1st battery of zinc & copper plates

1801
Union Jack
becomes the official flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

1803
Building of **Caledonian Canal** begins

1807
First **Ascot Gold Cup**

Gas street lighting in London

1811
George III insane, **Prince of Wales** becomes Prince Regent

Luddites destroy machines in NE

1814
George Stevenson:
first practical steam locomotive

1815
Nelson & Blucher defeat Napoleon at **Waterloo**

1818
"Savannah"
first steamship to cross Atlantic

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1880 -1900

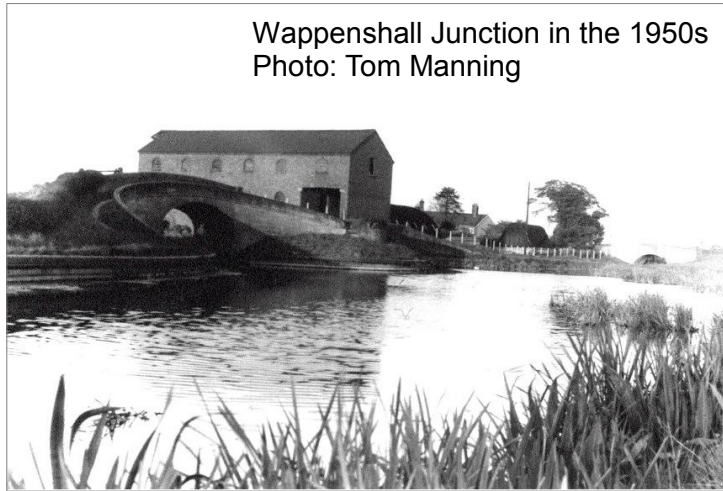
1900 -1920

1920 -1940

1940 -1950

1820-1840

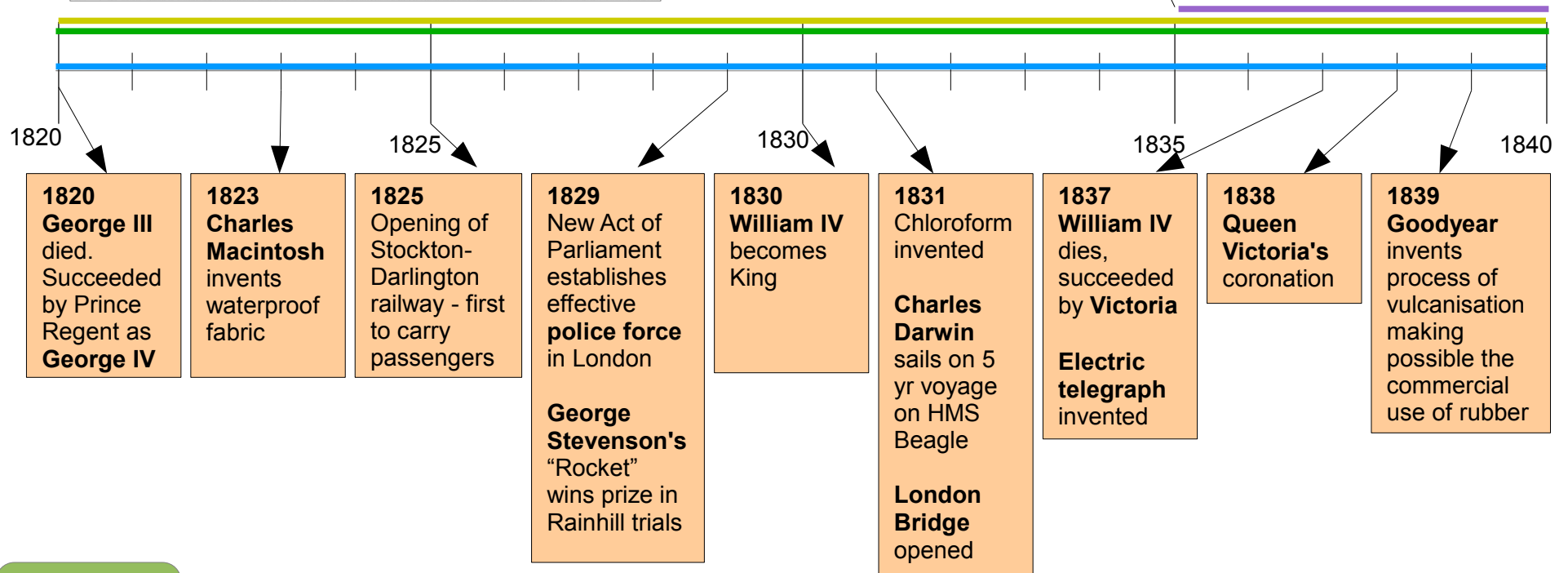
- Donnington Wood Canal
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1835
Birmingham and Liverpool
Junction canal opened. ⁵

The **Newport Branch**
built from Norbury to a new junction
with the **Shrewsbury Canal** at
Wappenshall connected Telford
canals to main line. ^{1, 2}

Shrewsbury Canal widened to
take narrowboats



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1860 -1880

1880 -1900

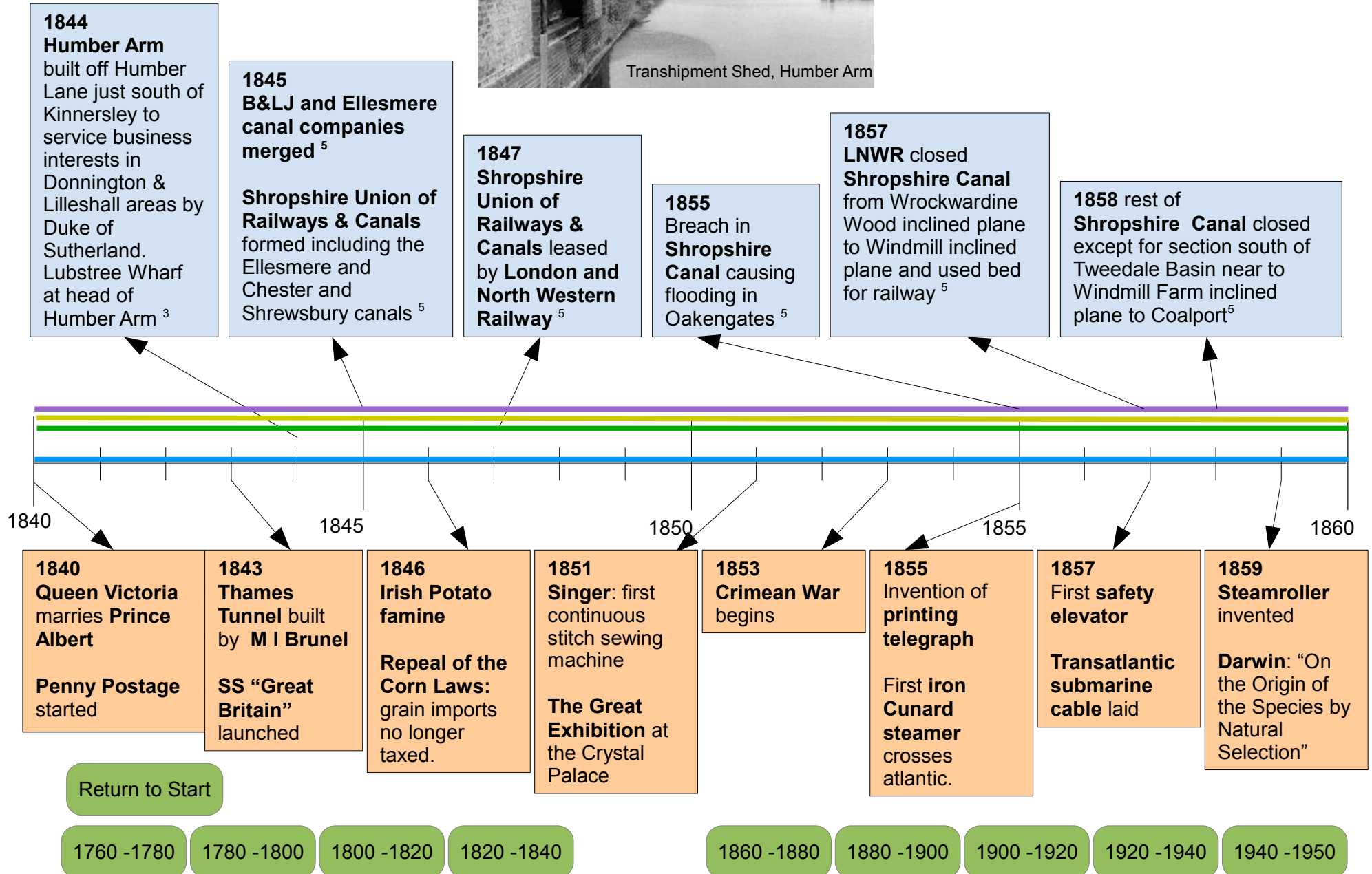
1900 -1920

1920 -1940

1940 -1950

1840-1860

- Donnington Wood Canal
- Shropshire Canal
- Shrewsbury Canal
- Newport Canal



1860 -1880

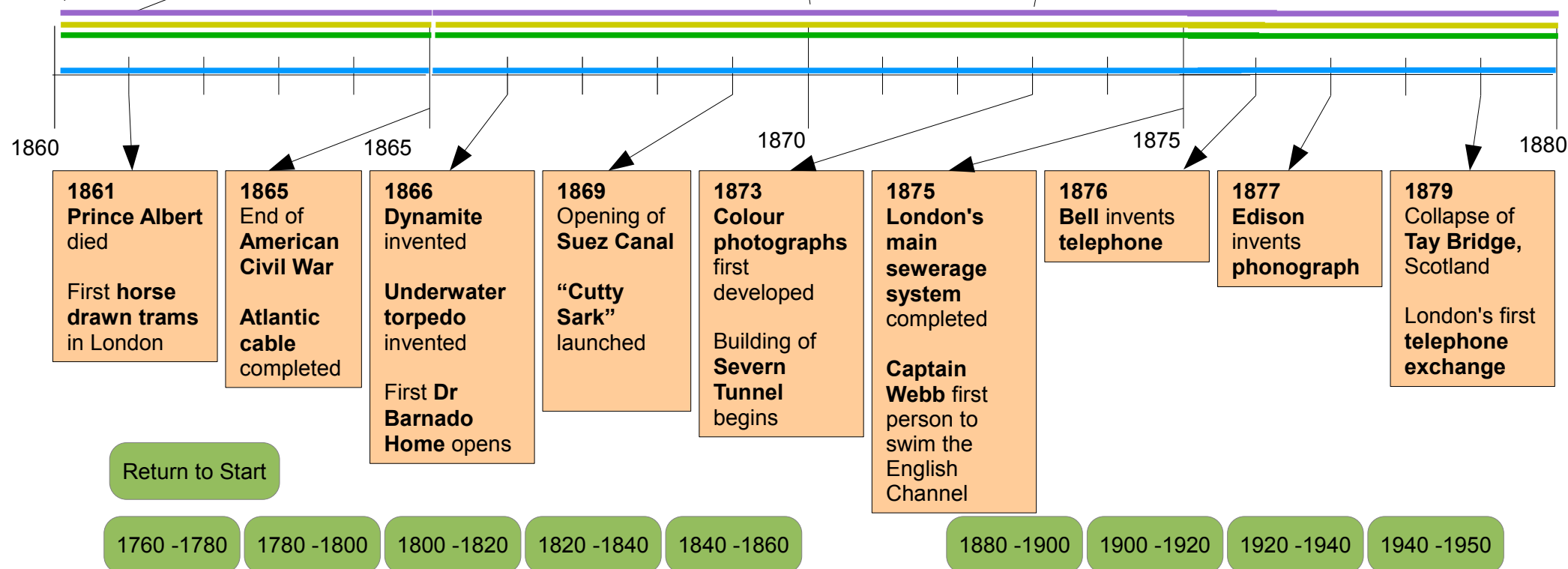
- Donnington Wood Canal
- Shropshire Canal
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1860 Most traffic from remains of **Donnington Wood & Wombridge** canals transferred to Lubstree Wharf on Humber Arm.⁵

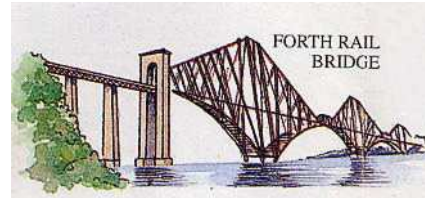
1861 Railway from SUR&C line at Hadley to Coalport opened. Stirchley tunnel converted to cutting.⁵

1870 Shropshire Union Canal Carrying Company took over running of Lubstree Wharf at head of **Humber Branch** (from 3rd Duke)³

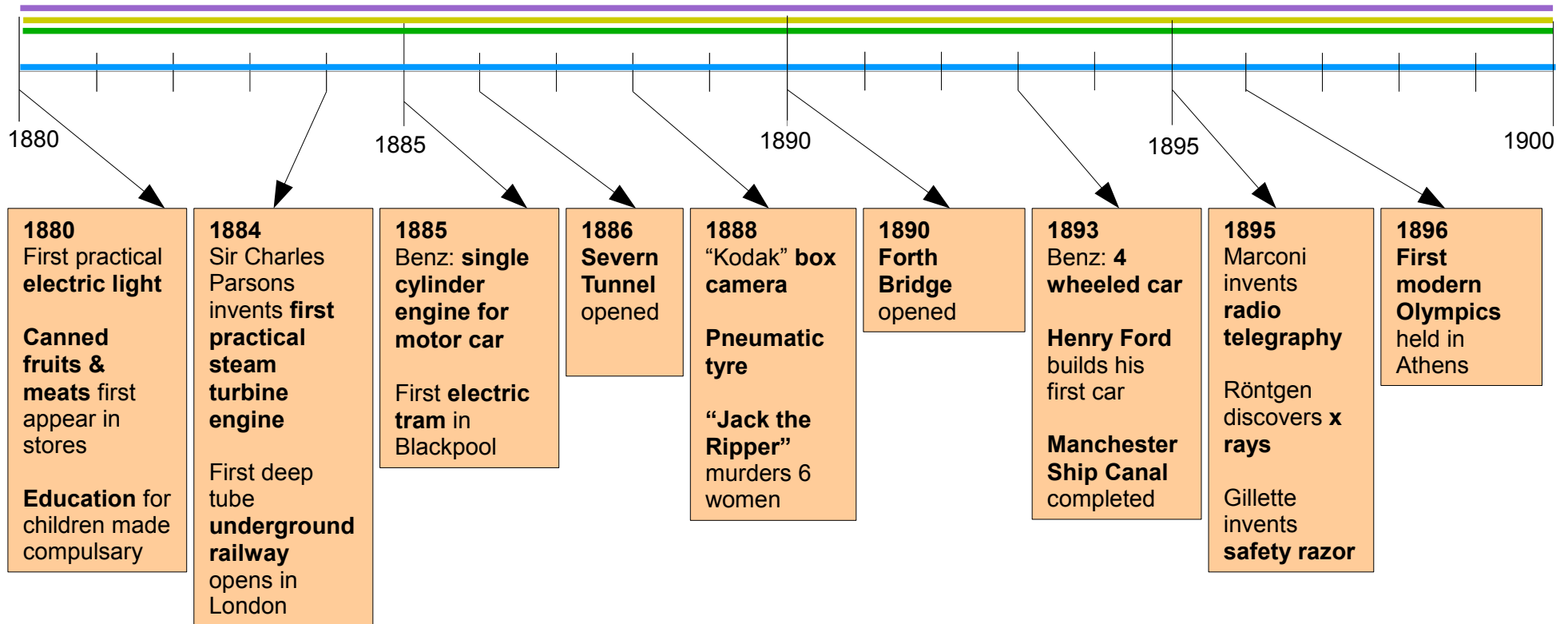
1873 Lilleshall branch of **Donnington Wood Canal** abandoned & section east of Muxton Bridge became disused. Part of former canal bed used as one of driveways to Lilleshall Hall⁵



1880 - 1900



- Donnington Wood Canal
- Shropshire Canal
- Shrewsbury Canal
- Newport Canal



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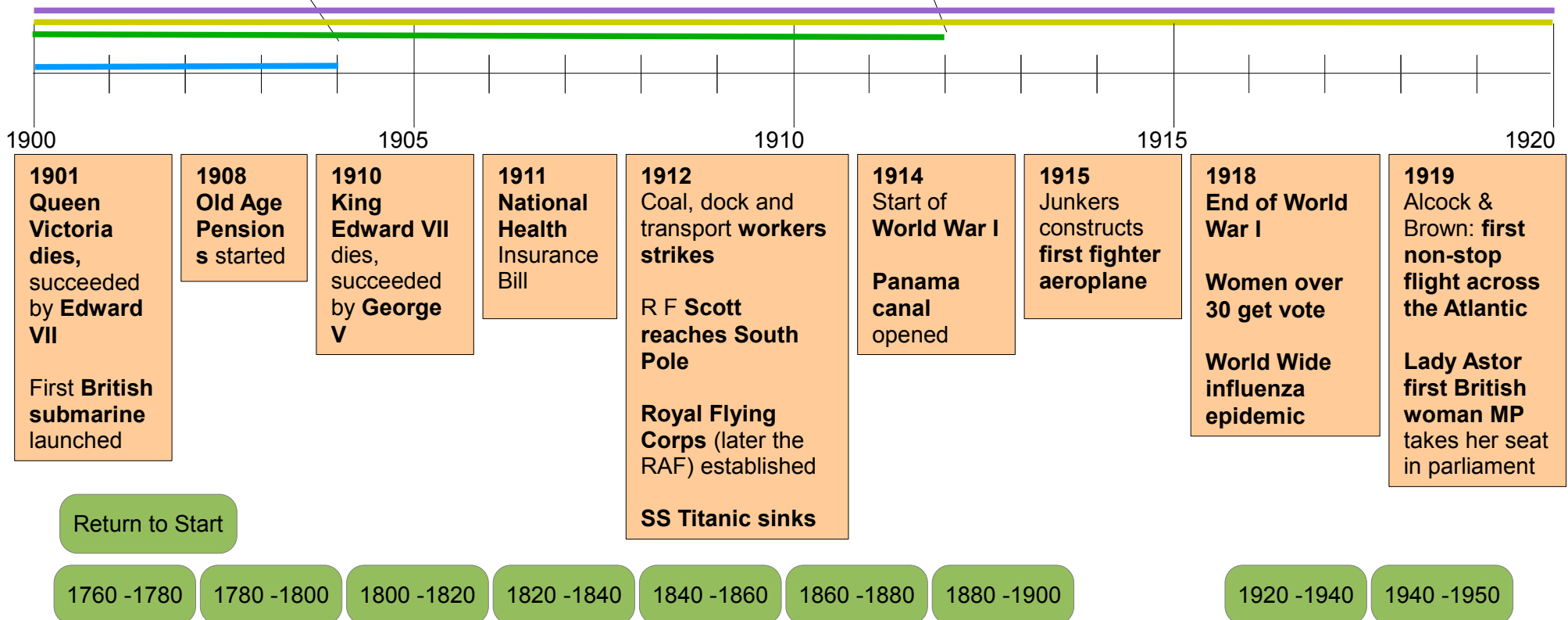
1900 -1920



- Donnington Wood Canal
- Shropshire Canal
- Shrewsbury Canal
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1904 Donnington Wood canal closed.^{2, 5}

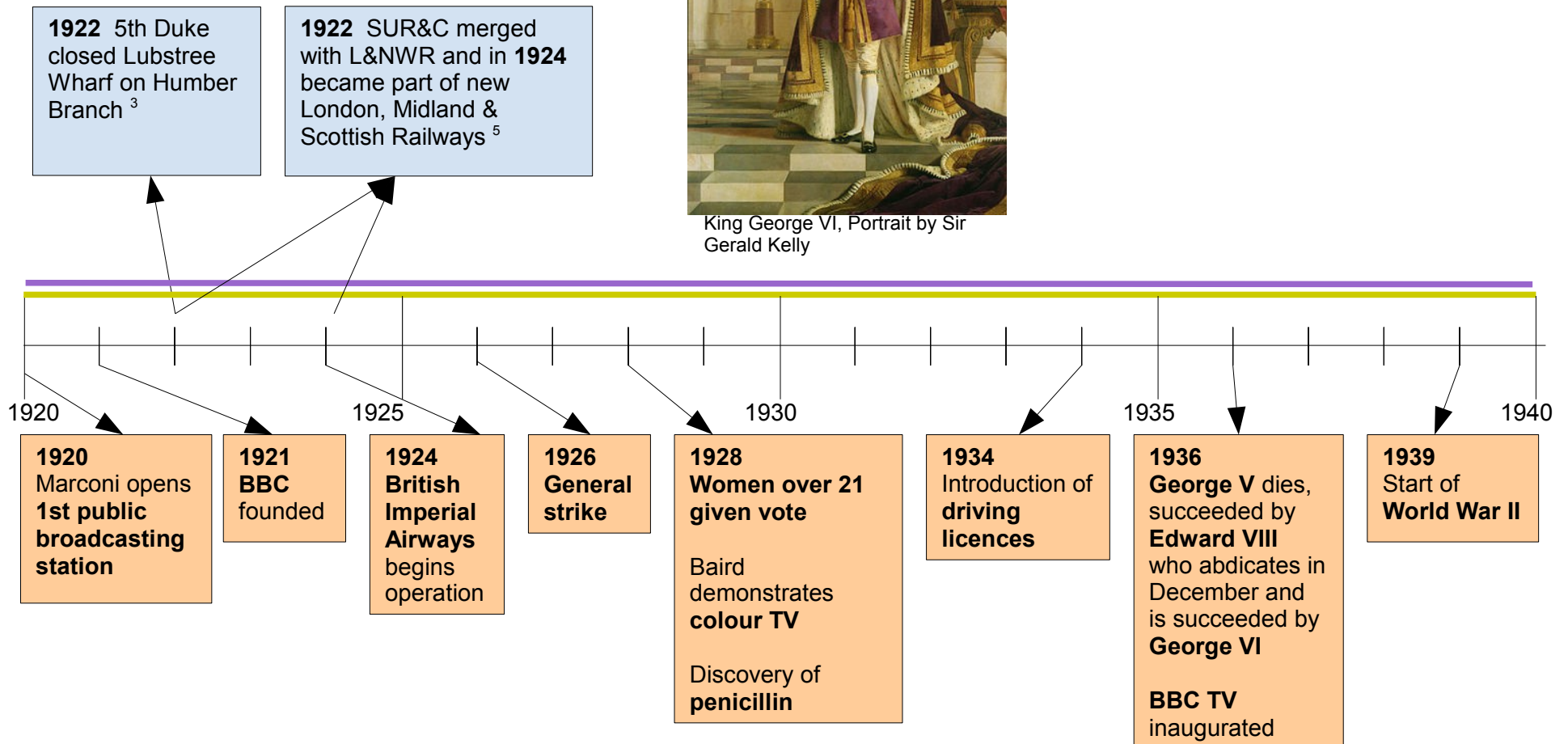
1912 Shropshire canal closed except last bit running to top of Hay incline.^{2, 5}



1920-1940



King George VI, Portrait by Sir Gerald Kelly



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1880 -1900

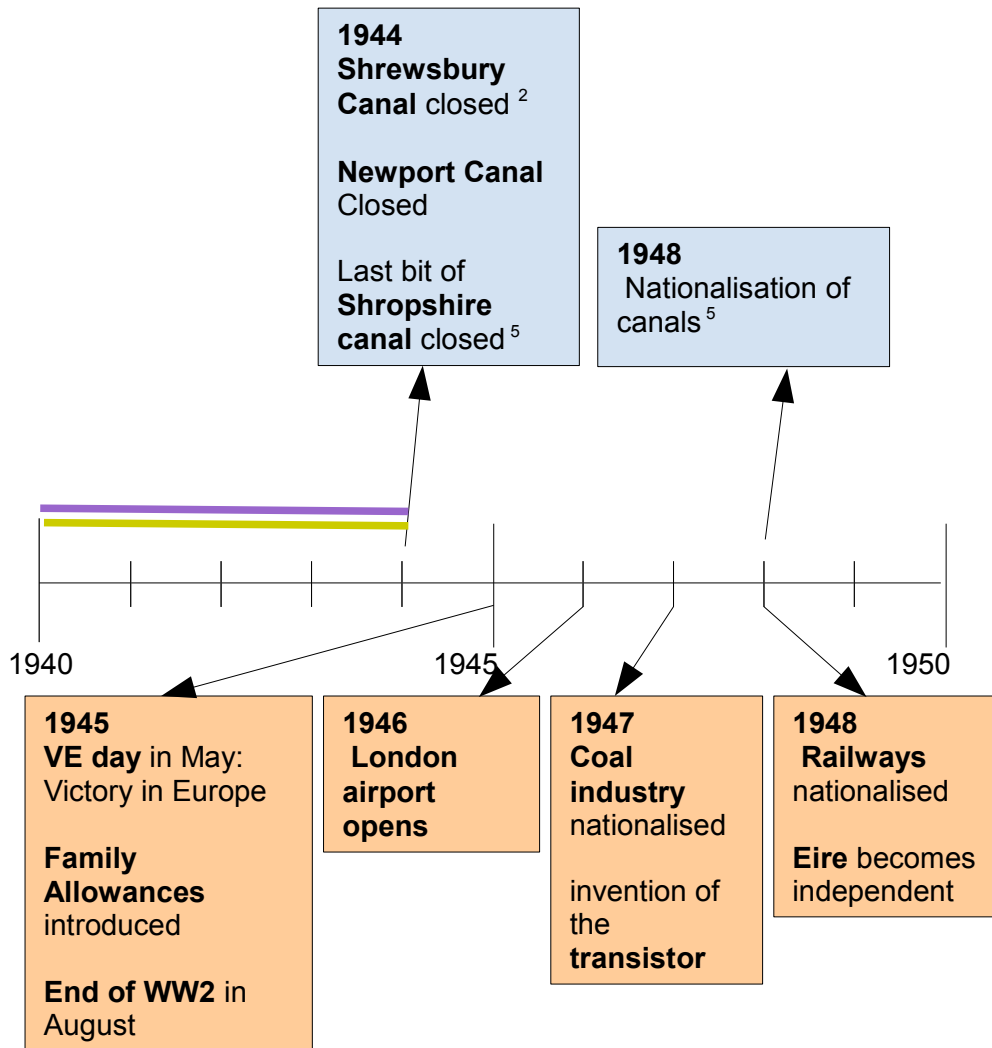
1900 -1920

1940 -1950

1940-1950

 Shrewsbury Canal

 Newport Canal



Sources:

¹. *British Canals, An Illustrated History* by Charles Hadfield, 1984

2. Wikipedia

³. Article in S&N News: Issue 44/1 2012

⁴. Alistair Price 25th November 2011 (article in S&N News issue 44/1 2012)

⁵ *Canals of Shropshire* by Richard K Morriss 1991
Shropshire Books, Shropshire Leisure Services,
Shrewsbury ISBN 0-903802-47-3

Severn Tunnel Map: by OS - OS Licensed under Public Domain Wikimedia Commons

Photo of Hay Inclined Plane: Ostrich at the English language Wikipedia [GFDL (www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html) or CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons

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Information in all orange boxes from:
Timetables of History by Bernard Grun

Compiled by S Lines 2013, amended 2014

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