

Chatterholt,  
Cassington Road,  
Eynsham,  
Oxford,  
England.

25th August 1982

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

Thank you for your letter and the vast pile of photocopies which have just arrived. You should not have gone to the trouble of photocopying all that, although I found the various steps that you and Mr. Massey took to work out the descent very interesting. It is a shame that all this was done while not twenty miles away, I could have produced abstracts of all the registers, marriage bonds and wills that you required. Not only that but my friend Major General T.B.L. Churchill who now lives in Devon has also done most of the work independently and being a Churchill in the male line and with more leisure has many other documents which I have not had time to see. We get together once or twice a year and discuss current research.

I shall certainly go through all the records you have sent me - one is always coming across names which one has missed when going through registers and mistakes in dates crop up all the time.

I am terribly pleased to have proof that John of Bladon was the son of Joseph and Esther. I still have no documentary proof that Benjamin was son of Joseph and Esther, but there is no reason why not. Benjamin and John must have been brothers as they were both carpenters in a strange village and when Benjamin died, John must have decided to emigrate. Why they went to Bladon in the first place is still a mystery; all the other brothers stayed in Deddington although Samuel disappeared after his marriage (he may have emigrated). Benjamin may have been apprenticed in Bladon. There were other Churchills around who were distantly related. There is a tradition in our family that the original Bladon property was what is now the public house "The White House". It is a most unlikely building for a public house and could easily have been a carpenters yard with cottages. The tradition states that it was taken by the Duke of Marlborough and was originally the only property in Bladon not to have belonged to the Duke. This however is not true. In 1852 the Duke purchased (legally) some cottages from Richard Claydon Churchill and his mother and this may have been "The White House" but I cannot prove it. By the way I am descended from the eldest daughter of Richard Claydon and he was my great great grandfather. His gravestone is in Deddington

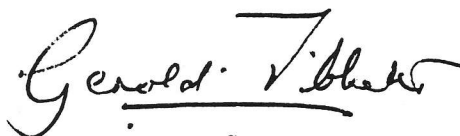
churchyard and I have his photograph. Claydon incidentally comes from his mother's family and would have no connection with you. I do have a note of a release of John and Ann Churchill on some property dated 1 Nov 1845. The property seems to have been originally Nixon property, but I have recorded no details. I can probably locate the basic details again, but full details you would have to obtain from the Duke of Marlborough's estate office.

Having written to you in the first place and now finding you very enthusiastic, I find that I have laid myself open to a great deal of extra work. I do not mind this as I like discussing genealogical problems but time is very limited. I am a librarian and work for the University of London Library. Living in Oxford involves a 63 mile journey every day by car, train and bus and this eats into my spare time. In addition I try to do an amount of non-genealogical research. When I have finally arrived at the spare time that I can devote to genealogy there isn't much and of course I am interested in other families besides Churchill. I feel that I must in time make the contents of my Churchill files available to you. I am afraid that the files are not in a state in which they can be photocopied and I shall have to sort the information out before I can let you have it. I therefore ask you to bear with me and I will see what I can do.

I had a bout of Churchill genealogy in the 1960's and produced a rough draft for an article for the Banbury Historical Society on the Churchill family of Oxfordshire. It is now out of date and wrong in places and I shall I think photocopy it and send it to you with comments. Most of the mistakes were discovered by comparing notes with Tom Churchill (the Major General) and since I have known him (about 1978) I have had several short bouts to add details. Of course every time I look at a new set of documents I keep my eyes open for Churchill. I also have a large rolled pedigree of the Churchill family and I have recently photocopied this in sections. I will let you have these in installments when I have checked that everything is still current and not superceded by later research (it was compiled in 1962). It would be better if I made notes on everything sent just to make sure it is clear.

As this letter has taken some time to prepare (we have been on holiday), I think I had better draw to a close and send it off, so that you do not have to wait too long for an answer from me. Since I began this letter I have photocopied the article mentioned above and hope to get some more information to you in the near future.

Yours,



Gerald R. Tibbetts.