

The Churchill Family of Deddington

G. R. Tibbetts

1. Origins

The Oxfordshire family of Churchill presumably assumed its name from the village of Churchill near Chipping Norton. There are several notices of persons bearing the name de Cherchell in various forms in early fines and other documents. In 1327 a Richard de Cherchell appears in Burford in a Lay subsidy roll.¹ In Fuller's *Worthies*² Thomas Churchill is mentioned very close to other Chipping Norton names. Fuller, supposedly took his information from a subsidy roll of 12 Henry VI (1434) and this Thomas may quite easily be an ancestor and most certainly a connexion of the North Oxfordshire family found in the next century.³

The earliest person, however, to have a specific date and place of origin is William Churchill of Neithrup in Banbury who died in 1504 and left a will proved in the Prerogatory Court of Canterbury.⁴ Whether he was a native of Banbury is not clear, but he left his property there to his kinsman John Churchill and from that time until the latter half of the seventeenth century a succession of Churchills lived in Neithrup.

A John Churchill is found in the Lay subsidy roll of 1524, who may be the John mentioned above or a descendant. The Chancery proceedings record a battle over Churchill inheritance about 1570,⁵ and this deals with the estate of a certain John Churchill, yeoman of Banbury who had died some time previously. He is of course not likely to have been the man of 1504, but could have been the man mentioned in the subsidy roll in 1524. The pretender to this estate in 1570 was one Edward Maier, the son of Agnes the daughter of John's brother Robert. Edward brought a complaint to the court of Chancery against John Churchill of Chaddesden (Chadshunt, Warks?) and Henry Churchill of Fenny Compton who were both cousins of Agnes, and who were said to have usurped the inheritance. Unfortunately the result of the action has been lost, so we do not know who retained the property. Both Churchills and Maiers continued to dwell in Banbury.

With the beginning of the Banbury Church registers (1558), the ramification of this family can be followed in detail, and the wills of Henry Churchill, yeoman of Neithrup in 1581⁶ and of his son John in 1583⁷ make relationships evermore clear.

¹ E179/161/9.

² The history of the worthies of England. London, 1662, p. 341.

³ There are now considerably more early Churchill names known, but none of them link up to form a family. Similarly, quite a few names have appeared in connexion with Banbury, but so far no light has been thrown on the Churchill family as a whole in that place.

⁴ P.C.C. 28 Holgrave; translated in *Some Oxfordshire wills proved in the Prerogatory Court of Canturbury, 1393–1500* (Oxford Record series, v. 39) p. 85–6.

⁵ C2 Eliz Win 6/23.

⁶ P.C.C. 13 Darcy.

⁷ P.C.C. 7 Butta.

The Banbury family seemed to have died out in the next century, but it is possible that the Churchills who lived in Bloxham during the seventeenth century and those who lived for a short time in Farthinghoe were descendants of this Banbury stock.

The first Churchill to live in Deddington was Justinian Churchill about whom we know little apart from the brief records in the Deddington registers which began in 1631. However, his origin is not far to seek, for he was born in North Aston, the son of Henry Churchill, a yeoman of this place. The North Aston family is the origin of most of the other branches of the Churchill family in North Oxfordshire: at least one member of it was an intimate friend of one of the Banbury Churchills (see below) and this suggests a common origin for the two families perhaps both descended from the original John in Banbury. Churchills appear in North Aston from the beginning of the registers about 1570. A William was born in 1573, Timothy in 1575 (with no parents mentioned), Robert in 1576 and George in 1581 the last two being the children of Richard. "Old Richard Churchill" was buried 20 May 1594 and this entry suggests at least two Richards existed, one being the father of Robert and George. Of the same generation as Robert and George's father were probably the Henry mentioned previously whose first children were born in 1590 and Giles whose eldest child Joanna was born in 1585. Thus Henry, Giles and Richard may have been brothers or perhaps all of them may have belonged to one large family; the children of "Old Richard": in order Giles, Henry, William, Timothy, Robert and George. However, this is surmise: definite relationships only appear with the families of Henry and Timothy.⁸

Timothy married Margaret and the registers record five children, of whom at least one Bridget (b. 1608) survived to marry Henry Peight in 1634. Margaret died young two years after the birth of her last child.

Henry Churchill was more prominent, the early registers are filled with his name as father, husband and churchwarden and he left a will when he died in 1629⁹ showing that he was a prosperous yeoman.¹⁰ His first wife was Bridget of unknown origin and she bore him three sets of twins, the first in 1590 were baptised and buried on the same day. The second set were born in 1591 and survived. The third set appearing in 1593 included Justinian who later lived in Deddington, although his twin brother died in his second year.¹¹

After this Bridget produced four daughters, one of whom was Mary whose death aged 21 years is recorded in one of those interesting passages which are frequent in the early North Aston registers. "Mary ye daughter of Henry Churchill and Bridgett his wife was buried ye 16 day of August Anno dom 1620 and buried by me

⁸ The earliest reference to a North Aston Churchill is really the birth of "Old Richard" in 1522, but of course he may not have been born in N. Aston. He was 60 years of age in 1582. There are other references to him before 1570 but no genealogical information. He was a prominent yeoman and he had influential connexions locally. I still feel that there was only one Richard but he would have been 59 when George was born.

⁹ *Henry Churchill died and was buried in February 1628 (North Aston Parish Reg).*

¹⁰ Oxford Const. Ct. Series ii, v.6, p. 38; Bodl. Mss Wills Oxon. I2/3/18.

¹¹ Justinian also lived for a time in Banbury where there are notices in the Registers about his family.

Daniel Bitterton, vicar of North Aston: whose soule I trust and beleeeve God hath in Keepinge". The other three daughters survived their parents. Bridget herself was buried in 1625 with a similar entry – "Bridgett wife of Henry Churchill was buried the ix day of November 1625 being of the age of 60 yeares upon the ffeast Day of All Saints last past, with a funerall Sermon by Mr. fforwarde". Henry remarried ten months later, Margaret Howell of Marshe [sic] in Buckingham and died in 1635 and his will was proved in the Oxford Archdeaconry Court.

Henry's successor in North Aston was his eldest son John the elder of the second set of twins. He married, his wife Ellen dying in 1625 before any children were born and she is the subject of another long entry in the burial register. His second wife Dorothy bore him ten children whose fortunes I have not followed. His brother Henry left an only daughter. Justinian their only surviving brother moved to Deddington about 1630 and was buried there in 1651. His earlier children including his son Richard were baptised in North Aston, while the later ones are found in the Deddington registers. No more, however, is heard of them.¹²

The next Churchill to appear in Deddington parish was Thomas Churchill who appears as a yeoman in Clifton. He must have arrived in Clifton also about 1630, although he may not have been a permanent resident for only three of his six children were baptised in Deddington between 1631 and 1641. He appears with Justinian in the Protestation returns in 1641.¹³ Thomas was a prosperous yeoman – his will mentions £506 without allowing for the fact that he must have already set up his eldest son and perhaps his second son before he died. It was this Thomas who founded the Churchill family of Deddington.

Where did he originate before he came to Clifton? A clue may be sought from the one remaining area of North Oxfordshire which contained Churchills at this time – that is the Bicester area.

Giles Churchill of Blackthorn near Bicester who died in 1638 and whose will was proved in the Oxford Consistory Court in 1639¹⁴ was probably (certainly?) the same as the Giles of North Aston mentioned above and his daughter Joanna baptised in North Aston appears in his will as the widow of Thomas Ashe of Nether Arncot. Also his brother Robert mentioned in his will, most certainly the Robert Churchill husbandman of Ambrosden, may have been the Robert baptised in North Aston in 1576. Thus supporting the theory given above that all the contemporaries of North Aston were the one large family of Richard. Giles connexion with the Banbury area is substantiated by the complaint made by him to the Court of Chancery¹⁵ in 1624 against the suit commenced by the Kenwrickes of Kings Sutton in the Court of Common Pleas for his not honouring a bond for forty pounds obtained from Robert Kenwricke. Throughout, Giles name is coupled with that of Richard Churchill of Banbury, the son of Henry and a contemporary of Giles. The account of Elizabeth

¹² A son of John and Dorothy, William Churchill, emigrated to America and became Deputy Sheriff in Middlesex County, Virginia. He died in 1710 as Colonel William Churchill.

¹³ *Oxfordshire Protestation returns, 1641–2* (Oxford Record Series, v. 36, 1955) p. 79.

¹⁴ Oxford Cons. Ct., Bodl. Mss Wills Oxon, 13/2/13.

¹⁵ C2 Jas I 2/2.

Kenwricke's answer is amusing reading for Giles constantly escaped arrest and once "eskaped from of a bean ricke". The final result of the case has been lost.

In his will Giles shows that he had already set up his son Richard at Nether Arncot and most of his property which was valued at £474 was left to his younger sons William and John. Richard continued to live as a yeoman in Arncot but what became of his own sons Giles¹⁶ and Richard is not clear. William continued to live as a yeoman in Blackthorn where he was living in 1640. He probably lived and died a bachelor. His brother John, on the other hand, moved to Steeple Claydon, Bucks where he died in 1640, leaving his wife Bridget and four sons, Richard, John, William and Henry. Monumental inscriptions on the outside of the east wall of the south transept of Steeple Claydon church record this Richard and his descendants, but we lose sight of the other three sons.

However, John's will is an important link in establishing the origin of the Deddington Churchills for his overseers include his brother William of Blackthorn, thus connecting him with Giles of Blackthorn and North Aston, and also Henry Churchill his kinsman of Steeple Claydon.

From Henry's own will,¹⁷ we learn that Henry was the brother of Thomas Churchill of Clifton. Thus for Thomas' origin we require a family containing a Henry and a Thomas related fairly closely to the family of Giles and Robert of Blackthorn and Ambrosden and almost certainly originally from North Aston. The missing link is found in the will of Thomas Churchill of Blackthorn who died in 1615.¹⁸ Thomas must have died fairly young for his ten children are all under twenty one and he expects his wife to marry again. What is more interesting is that his overseers are Giles of Blackthorn and Henry of North Aston. Although he does not give the relationship, they were obviously kinsmen and it is most probable that he was another brother: the third to leave North Aston for the Blackthorn area. Among his children we have both a Thomas and a Henry and it therefore seems certain that these were Henry of Steeple Claydon and Thomas of Clifton. It is probable that after Thomas the elder's death, his widow, whose christian name is unknown married again and perhaps settled down in Steeple Claydon, for of Thomas' other children, Michael, the youngest, appears as a husbandman there in later years. Also an Ann Churchill married a Mordecai Barton in 1629, and she would be Thomas' daughter of that name. Thus four of Thomas' children are accounted for, although we do not hear of the others. Why the eldest son Thomas should return to Clifton is unknown, his brother Henry, however, remained in Steeple Claydon, becoming prosperous with two mansion houses, reckoned himself a gentleman and founded a family prominent in the area until the nineteenth century. His wife was Phyllis Adnell (or Oldnell) a sister or sister in law of Joseph Townsend of Princes Risborough. She survived him by eight months not long enough to have

¹⁶ Giles settled in Bledlow, Bucks and had a family.

¹⁷ P.C.C. 1653 367 Brent and again 515 Alchin.

¹⁸ Oxford Cons. Ct. Reg. Series II, v 3, f. 229.

his will proved of which she was the executrix.¹⁹ It was finally proved by his brother in Clifton. The eldest son of Henry, Tobias Churchill probably lived at Steeple Claydon and had children there. His son Tobias matriculated at Oxford in 1682, but the rest of that family is obscure.²⁰ Henry's second and third sons Henry and John died at Steeple Claydon in 1707 and 1706 respectively, probably as bachelors while a daughter Phyllis died at Fleet Marsdon in 1670 aged 27 leaving a will.^{21, 22} The fourth son Joseph after contracting what seems to have been a runaway marriage with a member of the Chalenor family²³ survived as a yeoman dying in Steeple Claydon in 1707. His will indicates that his second son John lived abroad.²⁴ His eldest son Joseph and his grandson Joseph continued to live in the area and possibly the Churchills of Castlethorpe, Bucks are their descendants.²⁵

Finally to round up, we must mention the branch of the Churchill family who lived in Bicester during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They are descended from a Robert Churchill who lived there in 1665. He is either Robert the son of Robert of Ambrosden mentioned above or Robert the son of Thomas the son of Robert of Ambrosden.

2. Yeomen and farmers (17th and 18th centuries)

The North Oxfordshire Churchills seemed to have been prosperous yeomen during the sixteenth century and some of them remained as such right into the nineteenth century. Besides those sons who inherited land from their fathers, several set themselves up as yeomen although many of the younger sons went into trade, thus following a standard pattern for village families of this social level. During the sixteenth century the Deddington Churchills are easy to follow because of their close relationship to the original Thomas, but by the end of the eighteenth century the family had become so prolific that it is impossible to keep track of all the various branches.

Thomas Churchill who settled in Clifton died in 1658 and then in his will he left his land in the fields of Deddington to his eldest son Thomas.²⁶ The hearth tax returns of 1666 show that three of the sons mentioned in this will Thomas, Henry and John all had houses of two or more hearths and were all presumably prosperous yeomen.²⁷ Samuel the youngest son was only 25 at this time and does not appear to possess his own hearth. Their two sisters were both married at the time of their father's death; Jane had married Edward Chamberlain of Sarsden at

¹⁹ See also note 17: Will and admon. to the eldest son Tobias, because the executrix Phillis has died. *Yearbook of probates* ed. Matthews, v.6, p. 230 (1653), v. 7 (1654), p. 64.

²⁰ Foster: *Alumnii oxonienses*, 1500–1714. Oxford, 1891, v.1, p. 276.

²¹ Bucks Archdeaconry Ct., 1670.

²² Thomas, son of Henry, lived at Bedfont in Middlesex.

²³ *Allegations for marriage licences iss. by the Vicar-General, 1669–79.* ed. by G. Armitage. London, 1892 (Harleian Soc, 34), p. 80.

²⁴ Bucks Archdeaconry Ct., 1707.

²⁵ A large family of Fleetwood Churchills who lived mainly in the Nottingham area are descended from Joseph. One of them appears in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

²⁶ P.C.C.

²⁷ *Hearth tax returns, Oxfordshire, 1662* (Oxford Record Series, v. 21, 1940) p. 127, 132.

Bicester in 1651 and Mary had married Francis Mantill. Thomas had made both of his sons-in-law overseers to his will.

Thomas Churchill the younger is not heard of again and he probably died a bachelor, his land merging with that of his brothers. A Thomas was buried in 1688 in Deddington Church and this may have been him. The other three brothers each founded a dynasty which was to last in Deddington until the end of the eighteenth century. Henry (b.1631) the eldest of the three and his wife Elizabeth produced three sons and three daughters between 1670 and 1678, but the eldest son died an infant. The other two survived their father when he died in 1707. Timothy (b. 1672) was mentioned in a deed now in the Oxford Record Office dated 1709²⁸ and Henry (b. 1674) died in 1743²⁹ and was buried in Deddington Church. His bond of Administration mentions his son John.³⁰ It is possible that this John was the ancestor of John Churchill (Gent. of Deddington who flourished around 1800 (see below) but we have no proof of this.³¹

Samuel, the youngest son of Thomas (d. 1658) married Francis Busby of Deddington in 1661 and Deddington Parish registers record baptisms of two sons John and Thomas (1662/3 and 1667/8) but nothing more is heard of either of them. However in the Registers in 1710 we come across the baptism of Busby Churchill the son of Busby and Elizabeth Churchill. This child died but a second Busby was born to them in 1716 who survived. Of all the numerous Churchills living in the parish in 1754 when the Oxfordshire election was held, only two had sufficient freehold land to warrant a vote. One of these was Busby Churchill.³² It is most likely that the elder Busby was the surviving child of Samuel Churchill and Francis Busby for it was a common custom in this part of Oxfordshire if not elsewhere to name a younger son after the wife's maiden name. Busby senior married Elizabeth Tey, a widow with a son, Joseph Tey. Busby Churchill junior (b. 1716) was her only surviving child from her second husband. She died leaving a will in 1752: both her husband and son are described as yeomen of Clifton.³³ The younger Busby married Catherine Wilkins of Deddington in 1738, and produced another Busby (bapt 1738/9). The Busby Churchill who died in 1748 may have been this child or may have been his grandfather. But neither he nor his brother John (b. 1757?) are heard of after their baptisms. John Churchill being such a common name it is possible that he survived but cannot be identified from documents.³⁴ Of

²⁸ Oxford Record Office, FilIII/xviii/b/10.

²⁹ *Henry Churchill b. 1674 was buried in Deddington 10.9.1742 not 1743. This is confusing because the Burial register states Henry was the son of John (Deddington Par Reg).*

³⁰ Oxford Archd. Ct. Oct 31 1743.

³¹ John Churchill was not a descendant of Henry (see later). Henry Churchill, miller of Clifton, was the man who died in 1743 (*but see n.29 above*), leaving a son John. He may have been the son of Henry senior as stated here, on the other hand he could have been Henry the son of John and Mary Gill (1664).

³² *The Poll of the Freeholders of Oxfordshire... April 1754.* Oxford, the Theatre, 1754, p. 105.

³³ Oxford Archd. Ct., Admon Bk., 19, f. 368.

³⁴ I still believe that Busby senior was the son and heir of Samuel. A John Churchill married and lived in Steeple Barton and produced Busby Churchills and he must have been the John mentioned in this paragraph. Later members of this family were labourers living in Steeple Barton or Glympton.

Busby and Catherine's six daughters, three may have survived the infant stage, but only one Catherine (b. 1746) seems to have married and produced a family. She married William Hopcraft of Deddington in 1775. No member of this family except Elizabeth (Tey) Churchill has left a will proved in the local courts. I have not examined the P.C.C. Calendars, but if wills exist here, they may help to clear up the descent of this branch and solve the important questions: was Busby Senior really the son and heir of Samuel and did Busby's land finally devolve on the Hopcraft family or are some of the nineteenth century Churchills derived from this branch?

There remains the family of John Churchill, the third son of Thomas (d.1660) and also a yeoman. This is by far the most numerous and important of all the branches and almost all the surviving Churchills of the nineteenth century in Deddington and Clifton belonged to it.

John himself was baptised in Deddington on April 11 1638; married Mary Gill at Deddington on Nov. 24 1659 and was buried there on June 20 1719: Mary died in 1712.^{35,36} John did not leave a will. Their family was ten in number and consisted of seven sons and three daughters. Of the later Mary (b. 1667/8), Alice (b. 1672) and Katherine (b. 1673/4) I have no further information. Of the sons, the third, Henry (bapt. 1664) died an infant and the fourth Samuel is not found again, although I have seen a statement to the fact that he died in 1715 and was the father of a Joseph Churchill who died in 1700: I cannot verify this information.³⁷ Thomas the eldest son (bapt. 1660) likewise disappears. The Thomas who died in 1688 may have been him, although this was most likely his uncle Thomas. The other four sons of John, John (b. 1661/2), Bartholomew (b. 1670), Joseph (b. 1676) and Benjamin (b. 1678) all appear in later records and three of them founded large families. John and Joseph were yeomen in Clifton while Bartholomew and Benjamin took up trade. The yeomen sons will be dealt with first.

John, the eldest, married Sarah Bates of Deddington in 1696 producing one daughter Mary who married Benjamin Green in 1735, and five sons, John, Henry, Edward, Samuel and Joseph of whom only John remained in Clifton as a yeoman farmer. Samuel may have remained a bachelor and died in 1763 but this is uncertain. John the younger married Elizabeth Colegrove of Souldern at Barford St. Michael in 1737. This seems to have been a popular place for the marriage of Deddington residents about this time, especially for Churchills. His surviving children included two sons John (bapt. 1746) and Henry (bapt. 1749) who do not appear to have resided in Clifton. Thus with the death of the younger John in 1759, this branch seems to have died out in Clifton unless Thomas Churchill who was born about 1700 was the eldest son of John and Sarah and his baptism has escaped record.

³⁵ Mary's family came from Banbury and were armigerous. I have her ancestry back to the 1400s.

³⁶ Mary was the youngest daughter of Edward Gill of Banbury. A pedigree of this family can be found in *Misc. geneal. et herald.*, Series 4 v. 5, 1912, p. 145–6; but Mary was born after this pedigree was completed and after her elder sister Mary had died.

³⁷ From the personal notes of Mr. C. Thompson in possession of Mr. H. Manchip of Deddington.

This Thomas Churchill was a considerable farmer in Clifton in the early part of the eighteenth century. He died in 1746 aged 46. His origin is obscure, but he must have been heir to one of the earlier yeoman properties, either the eldest son of John and Sarah or the ultimate heir of Henry Churchill (1631–1707).³⁸ Thomas married in 1725 also in Barford St. Michael Church, Hannah Humphries of Willscot in Cropredy and three children were born to them in Deddington: John (b. 1727), Mary (b. 1727/8) and Sarah (b. 1730). John succeeded to his father's farm and married Ann Mayer (1758) of Deddington and they produced one son Thomas (bapt. 1759) who is also described as a farmer. Three tombstones in Deddington Churchyard side by side mark the remains of this family. The first one belongs to Thomas the son who died 11 Dec 1786 aged 27. Next lies Ann his mother who died on 22 June 1780 aged 71 (51?). Next lies John the father who survived them



The three tombstones side by side: Thomas, Ann and John

both, dying on 25 October 1792 aged 66. John³⁹ left a will arranging for the education of his grandchild Hannah Churchill – Thomas had married Ann Wilson in 1782. He leaves her in charge of his sisters Mary Coles and Sarah Gibbs, the daughters of Thomas and Hannah. What happened to this young Hannah and her property, I do not know.

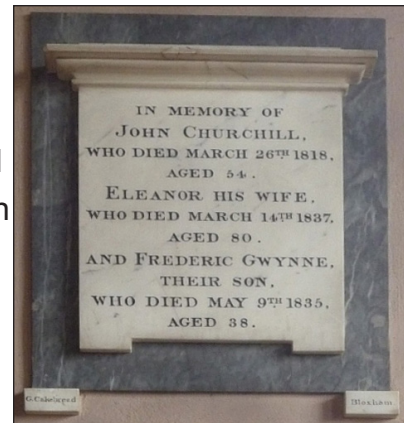
Another unattached family which survived into the nineteenth century is that of John Churchill, Gent,⁴⁰ and his wife Eleanor, whom I have mentioned before. Whether he is descended from the elder Henry or from the two yeomen Johns of Clifton is not certain. He died in 1818 aged 54 which means that he was born in 1764 and therefore not baptised in Deddington. Of all the Churchills in Deddington he is the only one who entitled himself “gentleman” until a new era arrived and the lawyers could call themselves Mr. or Esq., without a quibble. He was not married in Deddington either but his children were baptised there; Mary Ellen in 1787, Thomas 1789, Eliza 1794 and Frederick Gwynne in 1797. In the Enclosure award

³⁸ Thomas seems to have been certainly the son and heir of John and Sarah. His ultimate heiress Hannah married Thomas Humphries of Great Rollright.

³⁹ Oxford Cons. Ct., 1792 (L 257).

⁴⁰ I now know that this John was the eldest son of Thomas Churchill, butcher of Park St. London who was the son of John of Clifton and the Thomas (b. 1638) mentioned below on p.9. Thomas Churchill of Caernarvon was the greatgrandfather of my friend Maj.-Gen. T.B.L. Churchill. This family has been researched in great detail and definitely proven.

of 1808 he appears prominent and lived in the High Street, probably at a farm on the north side of Grove House. In his will John mentions his sons Thomas and Frederick.⁴¹ The latter died a bachelor in 1835 and there is a monumental inscription to him in Deddington Church.⁴² Thomas was presumably that Thomas Churchill of Caernarvon who had properties at Grove Corner in 1852, the surviving remnant of his father's farm.



The memorial to John, Eleanor and Frederick Churchill

One other yeoman family of Churchills lived in Deddington parish and these were the descendants of Joseph Churchill the sixth son of John (1638–1719).

Joseph seems to have set himself up as a yeoman although he was a younger son and his older brothers had become tradesmen. He was born in 1676 and died in 1732 and seems to have amassed considerable property because besides his farm in Clifton, which he left to his son John, his will mentions houses and shops in Deddington which he left to his widow Ann.⁴³ Joseph had married Rebecca Coles, the sister of his brother Bartholomew's wife in 1700 but she died in 1708 after bearing him three children. In 1712 he then married Ann French who survived him. There was no family from this second marriage. The children of Rebecca were John (bapt. 1701/2), Mary (bapt. 1702) and Ann (bapt. 1704), Ann was unmarried at her father's death but Mary married Zachariah Prentice at Barford St. Michael in 1728. He was a Clifton yeoman and was the overseer of Joseph's will but he died himself soon after and Mary married William Lodell of Marston near Oxford. John, the son, continued like his father as a yeoman in Clifton. His wife's name was Ann and he probably died fairly young, about 1751. Ann bore him a family of nine of whom five sons and one daughter survived and the daughter Ann married William Matthews in 1757.⁴⁴ Of the eight Churchills appearing in the Land tax records for Deddington and Clifton in 1760, five of them are the five sons of John. Of these five Samuel the second, was a yeoman of Clifton. He was born in 1725 married Ann Matthews the cousin of William above in 1757 and died in 1778 with no family. His wife died in 1780 and left a long and interesting will donating things to numerous French and Matthews cousins and also to the other four Churchill brothers, a spoon each engraved S.C.⁴⁵ Thomas the youngest brother, baptised in 1738, is mentioned in several wills and owned land in Clifton into the 1790s when the name disappears.⁴⁶ The other three brothers John 1721/2, Henry and Benjamin who do not seem to have been baptised in Deddington, all founded families.

⁴¹ Oxford Archdeac. Ct. 1819, 30/64.

⁴² *The register of electors entitled to vote... for the county of Oxford.* 1852.

⁴³ Oxford Archd. Ct., 1732, 122/4/8.

⁴⁴ No, it was John's widow who married William Matthews in 1757.

⁴⁵ Oxford Cons. Ct., 1792 (L 251).

⁴⁶ cf. Land tax records (Oxford Record Office).

John married at Barford St. Michael when he was 20 years old, Mary Wyatt of Water Eaton (the next village to his Uncle William Lodell's Marston) and she bore him three daughters and three sons of which two of each survived.

John moved to one of the farms at Grove Ash in Sandford Parish and there in 1752 Mary died and was buried in Sandford Churchyard. John married Elizabeth Summerton [on/own?] in the next year and she survived him. He died in 1787 (Elizabeth in 1793) and produced a will leaving property in Deddington, Clifton, Sandford to his son Joseph and pasture land in Wigginton to his wife.⁴⁷ He is buried with his wives in Sandford Churchyard to the east of the Church where tombstones mark his grave and that of his daughter who married a Sandford man. This was Ann, the eldest who married James Preedy in 1764. Mary the other daughter in 1768 married John Ryman of Gt. Tew. Of John's two sons, John the younger was alive when his father died and the elder son Joseph will be mentioned later.

John Churchill's brother Benjamin was also a yeoman farmer: he was the fourth son of John of Clifton (1701–51?) and must have been born about 1729. He married Sarah Porton in 1753 at Chipping Norton,⁴⁸ though they were both natives of Deddington.

Benjamin lived in Deddington until about 1760 when he moved to Adderbury. There seems to be no real reason for his migration but both in Adderbury and Deddington he rented land from the Duke of Buccleugh and he continued to farm this land until 1795 when he probably died.^{49, 50} His Adderbury land was taken then by John Churchill and that in Deddington by a John Roberts. Of his children born in Deddington the eldest Ann (b. 1754) married Robert Kilby junior a yeoman farmer of Clifton, Sarah (b. 1757) and Mary (b. 1759) are not heard of again. Thomas, the eldest son (b. 1755) married his cousin Ann Churchill in 1776 and two children were born to the marriage, Ann (b. 1777) and Martha (b. 1783).⁵¹ Thomas probably died in 1786 for he does not appear in the land tax records when his father died. His wife Ann may have been the Ann Churchill who held land in Clifton from 1786 to about 1810. Some of this was occupied jointly with Benjamin the father and some was later occupied by her brother-in-law Robert Kilby junior and again by his son Robert Kilby after his death in 1796. Benjamin's last children to be born in Deddington were twins John and Elizabeth (bapt. Dec. 1760). These may have both been buried less than a month later, but it is possible that John survived and inherited his father's property in Adderbury which he soon sold. If so then he is presumably that John who married Mary Timms of Barford in 1781. Their eldest son Henry was baptised in Adderbury, but subsequent children were baptised

⁴⁷ Oxford Cons. Ct., 1787 (L 93).

⁴⁸ *Oxfordshire Parish Registers: Marriages* ed. by W.P.W. Phillimore. London, 1909, p. 49. Her parents were married in Banbury in 1706; see *Marriage Registers of Banbury*, part two 1724–1790 (Banbury Historical Society, 1961 p. 5).

⁴⁹ Land tax records.

⁵⁰ He actually died in 1822 over ninety years old, although he had ceased to own his land twenty or so years before.

⁵¹ There was a son Samuel who was not baptised in Deddington and he succeeded to the property and produced a family not mentioned but who lived in Deddington and Banbury during the 19th century.

in Deddington. It is also possible that Benjamin had other children after leaving Deddington although they were not baptised in Adderbury. A Joseph Churchill of Adderbury married to Hannah produced a son Samuel who was baptised in 1777. Joseph may have been a younger son of Benjamin. Samuel judging by the age alone must have been that Samuel Churchill of Clifton who purchased land in 1800, occupied by William Irons and held this land at the Enclosure of 1808 and finally died in Clifton in 1856.⁵² He seems to have been a bachelor.⁵³

Henry Churchill, the third son of John of Clifton (1701–51?)⁵⁴ was a baker and the owner of the Kings Arms. However, it seems more suitable to place him here amongst the farmers for his immediate relations were farmers and he appears to have been more of an owner of agricultural property than a tradesman. In the 1787 Land tax records there are nine different lots of property owned or rented by him. His first wife was Ann who bore him ten children, one of which died an infant. Three other children died within a week of each other in February 1771, presumably of some disease. Of these Samuel was 12 years, Henry 9 years and Mary 7 years old.



A portrait miniature of Henry Churchill (1751–90) by George Engleheart



Tombstone of Henry and Ann Churchill

Another son Richard died three years later aged 5. Henry's wife Ann was buried in 1777 and two years later he remarried to Hannah Monkland, who survived him and bore him one daughter, Elizabeth (bapt. 1779). Henry died in 1790 leaving his property to his three surviving sons and making special provisions for Hannah and her daughter Elizabeth.⁵⁵ Two of his property lots, one owned and one rented from Bartholomew Churchill, were left to Hannah and when she died in 1795 one was left in the hands of the Trustees of Elizabeth Churchill. Of the daughters of Henry's first wife, Sarah (b. 1775) was unmarried at Henry's death being only 15 years old. His eldest child Ann (b. 1756) was married to

Thomas Churchill mentioned above, Henry's brother's son. Henry's heir seems to have been his son Benjamin; at least he took over all his property in Deddington. His eldest son, however, was John (b. 1760) who was mentioned in his father's will and, in 1790, land rented by Henry in Clifton but belonging to a Samuel Churchill (most likely the lawyer) was taken over by John and then handed on by him to Benjamin in 1795. He may have died then, also he may have been the John who married Mary Timms and not his cousin from Adderbury,

⁵² cf. 1851 Census returns of Deddington and Clifton. Samuel appears in the Electoral registers for 1857–8 but not in those for 1858–9.

⁵³ This is wrong. This Samuel was the one mentioned in note 51 above.

⁵⁴ *John of Clifton was buried in October 1751 (Ded Par Reg).*

⁵⁵ Oxford Archd. Ct., Reg. wills, Bk 26, f.l.

but it is difficult to sort out these minor branches of the family. The second brother was Thomas (b. 1765) who was also alive at his father's death, but is not heard of again.⁵⁶ Benjamin the third son, however, survived as a farmer in Deddington. Born in 1769 he married Ann Breakspear of Chipping Norton in 1794 and they had several daughters and one son William (b. 1809). Benjamin lived in Castle St. Deddington where he died in 1829. His widow carried on here and the son William continued to farm, until after 1841. Ann died in 1853 and William with his wife Mary and two maiden daughters lived in Clifton in 1861 where he was a "dealer".

3. Tradesmen and lawyers

The first Churchills in Deddington to turn to trade as opposed to the land were Bartholomew and Benjamin, the fifth and seventh sons of John Churchill of Clifton (1638–1719).

Benjamin, the youngest of the family was baptised at Deddington in 1678 and became a tallow chandler in Deddington. He married in 1699 Ann Henn of Launton but died the following year aged 22. In his will he leaves all his property to his wife: there were no children.⁵⁷

Bartholomew was a mercer in Clifton with property in Deddington itself. He seems to have been very successful and began the policy of aggrandisement which characterised his numerous progeny. Several deeds exist in which he appears as the purchaser of land.⁵⁸

He was born in 1670 (bapt. April 5) and died January 31 1735. His wife was Mary Coles the daughter of William Coles yeoman of Deddington and she is descended from the Coles who in the 15th century leased the Windsor manor of Deddington; one of Deddington's oldest yeoman families.⁵⁹ She married Bartholomew in 1704 and died on January 30 1720. Together they are buried under a table tomb im-



Table tomb of Bartholomew and Mary, their son also called Bartholomew and his wife Jane; and their son Benjamin and his wife, Philippa

mediately to the east of the south porch of Deddington Church. Their eldest son Bartholomew was a Chandler of Deddington. He was born in 1707? (bapt. 1709) as the elder of twins but his twin brother Benjamin died an infant. He married Jane Stone of Clifton in 1735/6 and died in July 1780 aged 73, while his wife died in Sept. 1778 at the age of 71. Both are commemorated on the elder Bartholomew's table tomb. There were no children of the marriage.

⁵⁶ Of these sons of Henry (d. 1790) Thomas was the executor and really seems to have succeeded his father. However, he disappears soon after and Benjamin becomes the head of the family. John the eldest son is mentioned in the will in such a way that I think he might have been mentally or physically deficient. He may therefore have been the John who died in 1798. I wonder if he was not affected by the same disease which killed his young brothers and sister in 1771.

⁵⁷ Oxford Archd. marriage bond, 1699; Will Oxford Archd. Ct, 1700 Bodl Mss. Wills Oxon 121/2/13.

⁵⁸ Bodleian Ms. Ch. Oxon 3625.

⁵⁹ Colvin, H.M: *A history of Deddington*. London, 1963, p. 85, 96n, 109.

After the twins, the elder Bartholomew had another son (bapt. 1712/3) who was given the name of Benjamin after his deceased brother. This Benjamin was apprenticed a Carpenter and as such he appears in Great Rollright in 1735/6 when he contracted a marriage bond for marrying Philippa Hitchcock, the daughter of William Hitchcock of Swalcliffe. They were married at All Saints Church Oxford but their first two children were baptised at Swalcliffe Church. These were Bartholomew in 1736 and Benjamin in 1738. Benjamin and Philippa must have returned to Deddington to live about this time, although his profession there is not known. His other children were baptised there from 1740 to 1755 and from 1764–1771 he was churchwarden, his signature regularly appearing on the Bishop's transcripts of the registers during those dates. The Land tax records of 1760 show that he owned land in Deddington, while his brother Bartholomew held land in both Clifton and Deddington. In 1762 Bartholomew is missing altogether, but Benjamin now held the land formerly held by him in Deddington. Benjamin has now become Mr. Benjamin Churchill. Benjamin died on Oct 10 1783 and was buried on the 12th; his wife Philippa dying before him in 1781. He does not seem to have left a will. He and his wife are also commemorated on his parents' tomb.

Benjamin's children and grandchildren divorced from their ancestral holdings in the fields were all tradesmen and professional men and most of them property holders. Three sons are holding property in the 1786 Land tax records, presumably both their father's former holdings and new holdings purchased by themselves. Henry a younger son appears in 1795.

This family set about establishing itself in earnest, most of them succeeding in becoming the elite of the Deddington Churchills if not the elite of Deddington itself. The eldest son, Bartholomew born in Swalcliffe was first a chandler and may have succeeded to his uncle and namesake's business. The origin of his wife Margaret is unknown,⁶⁰ but they are known throughout in the Parish registers as Mr. and Mrs. Churchill.⁶¹ Margaret bore him thirteen children from 1765 to 1789 few of whom survived the infant stage, only one daughter ever occurs later and then her name is missing, although she must have been one of the two eldest Mary or Margaret. She married Benjamin North of Symonds Inn in 1788 the first time that we have had cause to mention the legal profession in connexion with the Churchill family, although it is not the first in point of time. Margaret died in 1789? but Bartholomew's end is rather a mystery. He may have died in 1790 but from the land tax records, Bartholomew's occupation continues through to 1806 when for a year the holdings were accorded to the Trustees of Bartholomew Churchill. In 1808 they are divided into two between Bartholomew, the carrier and John Churchill of Chertsey in Surrey. Bartholomew had two sons, Bartholomew who was

⁶⁰ *Margaret Churchill, wife of Bartholomew Churchill, was Margaret Carter b. 1744 Tadmarton. I cannot locate Margaret's death but it has to be after 1789, burial not in Deddington.*

⁶¹ Through Maj.-Gen. Churchill I have learned more of this family. Bartholomew became a lawyer and lived for a time at Cobham, Surrey, where he died in 1803 and left a very interesting will. Margaret was the daughter of Churchill Carter of Tadmarton, gentleman, and their son Bartholomew inherited the Carter property, changed his name to Carter and adopted the Carter coat of arms. Their other surviving son was John Churchill of Chertsey in Surrey.

born in 1769 and John in 1774, but both seemed to die as infants according to the registers. However the names John and Bartholomew are so common by this time that these heirs of Bartholomew in 1808 may have belonged to some other branch of the family, perhaps the children of Bartholomew's cousin, the son of Joseph or grandchildren of Bartholomew through one surviving son. The whole cannot be solved without further evidence.

The second son of Benjamin and Philippa, Benjamin born at Swalcliffe in 1738 married Susannah Gibson of Northampton in 1759 and their son Benjamin was baptised in Deddington in 1760. Benjamin and Susannah seem to have settled in Northampton, although I do not know what his profession was and have not attempted to follow his descendants.

The third son John and the first to be born in Deddington (in 1740) took up residence in Woodstock. He followed his father's profession as carpenter, although at a later date he is described as an auctioneer.⁶² He was a prominent citizen of Woodstock, being an alderman for several years and also Mayor of Woodstock before his early death in 1796. He occurs in many of the Woodstock Borough records and was to some extent responsible for the rebuilding of the Church tower there and in his capacity as carpenter must have reaped considerable benefit from its rebuilding.⁶³ He was also a property collector: besides his Woodstock property he owned land in Waddesdon in Bucks and held property in Deddington. He married twice, first to Mary Weller in 1766, she being of an old Woodstock yeoman family. She bore him a son Benjamin, baptised in Woodstock in 1768 and died in 1771. He then remarried, this time to Elizabeth Turner of Woodstock who bore him a daughter of the same name and survived him by two years. They are all three commemorated on a table tomb on the south side of Woodstock church. John's son Benjamin became a malster in Woodstock and like his father was Mayor and alderman of the Borough and died in 1830. His wife Matilda Townsend came from the famous family of masons and architects from Oxford whose work survives in many of the University and College buildings. It was one of this family who rebuilt the tower at Woodstock in the time of John Churchill.⁶⁴ Benjamin's half-sister Elizabeth married Gamaliel Bobart another councillor and Mayor of Woodstock, while his eldest daughter married Henry Thomas Titley Palmer, surgeon and yet another Mayor of Woodstock. Of Benjamin's three sons who survived their father, Benjamin became a farmer at Tackley, Samuel was apprenticed Surgeon to his brother-in-law and the youngest son moved to Birmingham, although he married a local girl. Elizabeth and Gamaliel Bobart continued to hold John Churchill's property in Deddington for a long time after his death in 1796, but finally sold it and this branch of the family ceased to have any connexion with Deddington.⁶⁵ The

⁶² As a carpenter he appears in Colvin, H.M: *The rebuilding of Woodstock church tower*. (Oxfordshire Archaeological Soc. report no 87 (1949) Oxford, 1951) p.9-14; as an auctioneer in *The Universal British directory of trade, etc.* v.4, p. 825.

⁶³ Colvin's article *op. cit.*

⁶⁴ Colvin's article, *op. cit.*

⁶⁵ Descendants remained throughout the nineteenth century as farmers in Tackley, and Mr. W.J. Churchill of Birmingham was a grandson of the malster (cf. Transactions of the Birmingham and

fourth son of Benjamin and Philippa was Samuel (bapt. 1743), the first Deddington Churchill to become a lawyer.⁶⁶ In 1772 he married Priscilla Greenwood from Haddenham, Bucks near Thame. The Greenwoods seem to have been a legal family and this branch of the Churchill family seems to have had interests in the Thame area. John Churchill of Woodstock, as I have mentioned before had property in Waddesdon not far away. Priscilla died in 1798 and Samuel himself in



Deddington House (in 1907)

1808. Whether he was the first Churchill to live in Deddington House I am not certain, but in the last year of his life when the enclosure map was drawn, Samuel owned the two properties immediately to the north of Deddington House, presumably living in the northern one as the other is shown having no buildings. Samuel and Priscilla are commemorated by a tablet in the Church, together with Philippa their infant daughter born and died in 1777. In addition they had one other daughter Priscilla and three sons. Priscilla married Edward Marshall⁶⁷ at Deddington in 1803 but died in 1805. Edward Marshall married again and became the father of the Rev. E. Marshall, the nineteenth-century historian of the area.⁶⁸ Samuel's eldest son Samuel junior succeeded his father as a lawyer and property owner and was the owner of Deddington House. He was living in it in 1808 before his father's death and probably lived there until 1836 when the Rev. W. Cotton Risley went to live there. It was finally sold to the Rev. Risley in 1839, Samuel now being bankrupt.⁶⁹ Samuel must have amassed considerable property in Deddington and around; most of which seems to have been sold in 1839. Samuel died in 1843, but I have not seen a will. After Samuel's death his family do not seem to have resided in Deddington.

Samuel senior's second son was the Rev. Benjamin Churchill who was born in 1778. He obtained a B.A. degree at Oxford in 1798 and became an M.A. in 1801. He was fellow of Queens College until 1812, when he became vicar of Appledrum,



Memorial to Samuel and Priscilla, and their daughter Philippa; also their son John and his wife Mary Anne

Midland Institute (1884–5) "Some unpublished letters of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough relating to the building of Blenheim Palace".

⁶⁶ Except for his elder brother, Benjamin, whose occupation was uncertain at the time of writing this article.

⁶⁷ *Priscilla married the Rev. Edward Marshall.*

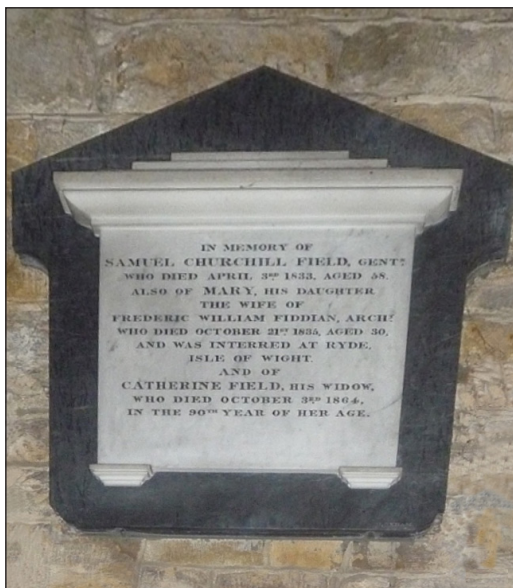
⁶⁸ Marshall, E: *Enstone*. Oxford, 1868 oppos. p. 78, and *Memorials of Wescott Barton*, 1870, p. 58.

⁶⁹ Turner, M.V: *The story of Deddington*. Brackley, 1933, App. VII, p. 91.

Sussex. It is most unlikely that he had any family. His youngest brother John was Mr. John Churchill, Registrar and County Coroner in Deddington and was such a familiar figure in nineteenth-century Deddington that I will mention him and his family later when dealing with the nineteenth century.

To return to the children of Benjamin and Philippa, the fifth son was Joseph (bapt. 1745). Joseph left Deddington and became a grocer in Watlington and here married Elizabeth Edoe in 1774 who bore him thirteen children. Of these only three are of importance. George (bapt. 1783) continued the grocery business in Watlington until he died in 1839 without issue. His sister Mary Ann (bapt. 1775) is mentioned in his will: she was a spinster.⁷⁰ Joseph Churchill of Kidlington, Gent. (1800–60?) was the youngest son of Joseph Churchill of Watlington.

Benjamin and Philippa's elder daughter must have been the next in the family although her birth is not recorded in the Deddington registers. She married



Memorial to Samuel Churchill Field and his wife Catherine

Edward Greenwood of Haddesdon,⁷¹ Bucks in 1775. He was the brother of her brother Samuel's wife Priscilla. Mary the second daughter was baptised in 1752 and married Samuel Field (in 1774) a lawyer of Thame who came to have a practice in Deddington. Their son Samuel Churchill Field was also a Deddington lawyer whose offices were near the Market Place opposite the premises of Stockton Sons & Fortescue.

Henry the youngest son of Benjamin and Philippa may have been another lawyer, although he is also described as a grocer. He was born in 1755 and the early part of his life was spent in Oxford, where he married

Jane King (1778) and where his eldest son was born. He also lived at Witney. His other children were baptised in Deddington between 1784 and 1795: he had three sons and a daughter and had begun to acquire property in Deddington by 1795. His wife was buried in Deddington Churchyard in 1809 and Henry with her in 1811, where their tombstone is still to be seen. The eldest son, Henry Churchill, became a grocer, and his family remained in Deddington during the nineteenth century and will be mentioned later.

Henry senior's second son Thomas does not seem to have survived, but his daughter Jane held land in Clifton when her father died which she shared with a Mary Ann Churchill who must have been a cousin but whose identity is doubtful. There was also another daughter.

Finally there remains in this branch of the family the youngest son of Bartholomew and Mary and their two daughters. The elder daughter Mary was

⁷⁰ Oxford Archd. Ct., Reg. Bk. 32, f. 114.

⁷¹ *Haddesdon: should this be Waddesdon?*

baptised in 1707 and married Thomas Rainbow of Southam, Warwickshire (1728), the younger one was baptised Alice in 1710 but is not heard of again. Joseph the youngest son was born in 1714 and married Elizabeth Griffin at Deddington in 1740. Joseph and Elizabeth had two children, Ann and Bartholomew about whom no more is known unless Bartholomew has been confused with his cousin Mr. Bartholomew, the chandler⁷² and lived side by side with him in the Parish. This confusion I have mentioned earlier when dealing with the Chandler.

4. The nineteenth century

The nineteenth century has been dealt with separately because for the first time we have available adequate overall records of the population of the parish of Deddington. Admittedly the Land tax records exist continuously from 1785, but this only gives us the generation immediately preceding the nineteenth century and the land tax records of 1760–2 are only isolated documents although useful. Thus for the period preceding 1785 for the Churchill family we have to rely on personal documents where they have survived with only an occasional survey of the parish; whereas in the nineteenth century (from 1785) we have an annual survey of a large percentage of the parish, i.e. those owning and occupying freehold land – for the land tax records were followed by the electoral registers. From 1841 we also have a decennial survey of the whole parish in the census returns. In addition, numerous other surveys of a recurrent nature such as the commercial directories become more frequent as the century progresses and local newspapers begin to include the sort of information that we require. Thus we can use these records as a framework and base the personal and family documents round them and not the other way round as we have done for the previous centuries.

We are fortunate that in Deddington we have a fairly comprehensive survey in the enclosure award right at the beginning of the century, 1808, and this contains a very useful map;⁷³ so that not only have we a list of Churchills at this date who owned property of any sort but we can also see where they lived. This enables us to trace actual properties in the Electoral registers and land tax records and in some cases trace them through to the 1841–51 censuses.

Among the numerous Churchill-owned properties in the Enclosure award, it is possible to track them all down to ten individuals: three Samuels, three Johns, Bartholomew, Henry, Benjamin and Joseph.

The largest Churchill landowner at this time was Samuel, the lawyer. He owned – including leasehold, copyhold and freehold – 369 and a half acres or 26 separate allotments in the award. This included three homesteads in Clifton and numerous houses in Deddington. His main property – presumably where he lived – was the house described as ‘farm and homestead’ immediately to the north of Deddington house. Samuel’s son Samuel junior occupied Deddington House itself. I have mentioned these two earlier when I stated that Samuel junior became bankrupt

⁷² i.e. the lawyer.

⁷³ Enclosure map copy in Bodl. Ms Top. Oxon. a. 63.



The front of Ilbury House in the 1970s

some time later and practically all of this property was sold.

Samuel senior's third son John appears in the Land tax records as early as 1805, but does not seem to be mentioned in the Enclosure award unless he has been confused with another John. A small copyhold property of three poles extent in Deddington and assigned to a John Churchill may have been his, he later lived in Ilbury house which was owned by Nathaniel Stilgoe(?) in 1808.⁷⁴

Another John Churchill held 89 acres at the time of the Enclosure and lived further to the North on the western side of New St. This was presumably John Churchill gent., the husband of Eleanor mentioned above. This property too was destined to pass into other hands, for no male descendants of this John

survived in Deddington beyond 1835.

Henry Churchill who is described as a grocer and held a house and garden in Hempton Road, owned the Crown and Tuns in New St and other property, freehold and leasehold with land in the fields totalling over 29 acres. Henry was the brother of Samuel Churchill senior and his family remained in Deddington until after 1860 and have been mentioned earlier.

Bartholomew Churchill, a carter of Clifton who owned Skillman's close and a house in Clifton just to the east of the present Duke of Cumberland's Head, a total area of just over an acre, may have been one of the heirs of Bartholomew Churchill, the Chandler⁷⁵ and therefore a nephew of Samuel senior. Another heir of this Bartholomew was probably John Churchill of Chertsey, Surrey who owned 21 acres in Clifton fields, copyhold from Christ Church. Both of these men have been mentioned above.

The remaining Churchills mentioned in the Enclosure award were all from the yeoman branch of Clifton descended from Joseph and Rebecca. Benjamin who held 46 acres copyhold from Christ Church together with a house in Castle End from which he farmed was the only surviving representative of Henry who owned the Kings Arms in the eighteenth century. His family has been mentioned earlier. Samuel Churchill of Clifton held 35 and a half acres copyhold from the Windsor Manor. He lived and farmed from a house in the village at the corner of the road which went south to North Aston, almost opposite the Duke of Cumberland's Head.

Samuel⁷⁶ as mentioned earlier, was probably a grandson of Benjamin Churchill

⁷⁴ *There is no evidence that Nathaniel Stilgoe lived in Ilbury House.*

⁷⁵ Again, the lawyer of Cobham. His son was presumably Bartholomew Churchill-Carter not Bartholomew Churchill, carter.

⁷⁶ Samuel of Clifton is now less obscure. He was the son and heir of Thomas Churchill of Adderbury who married Ann Churchill of Deddington, and was therefore the ultimate heir of Benjamin of Adderbury (1729–1822). Thomas had died in 1789 when Samuel was six years old and grandfather Benjamin and sister Ann held his property until he came of age. He had a large family but his son

of Adderbury, he acquired this land in 1800 and owned it until his death in 1856. Finally Joseph Churchill held a freehold cottage in New St and some 12 acres copyhold in the fields. In Deddington he was a grocer, although he had been a farmer at Great Tew, a son of John Churchill of Grove Ash who had held freehold property in Deddington at the poll of 1754. It was his family that flourished particularly in Deddington in the nineteenth century and must now be described.

Thus although the nineteenth century opened with a fairly representative collection of Churchills living in Deddington and Clifton, the number declined rapidly so that only three families remained in Deddington and two in Clifton. The family of Joseph Churchill produced five separate Churchill households in Deddington by 1861 and is the only one surviving into the 20th century. The other families slowly die out or move away during the later part of the century.

Mr John Churchill, Registrar and County Coroner and younger son of Samuel senior was well known in North Oxfordshire throughout the first half of the century. Although his appearance in the Enclosure award is doubtful, he later lived at the White House, now called Ilbury House and was succeeded by his third surviving son Henry (Harry Churchill) as solicitor and coroner.⁷⁷ Harry Churchill was married but childless and was the last of the Deddington lawyer Churchills. John the Coroner was born in 1785, married in Thame in 1810 to Mary Ann Stratford and died in 1863, his wife surviving him by two years. They had five sons and four daughters, but two sons died in infancy. The survivors, were John, b. 1812;



Memorial to William, 2nd son of John and Mary Anne



Tombstone of John and Mary Anne; also their children William, Emma, Elizabeth Maria, Priscilla and Mary Ann

Benjamin, b. 1815; Henry, b. 1820; Harriet Elizabeth, b. 1816; Mary Ann, b. 1818; Caroline, b. 1826; Matilda Frances, b. 1830. The daughters were all spinsters and living at home in 1861. John and Benjamin both entered the church: the former was M.A. Oxon and a fellow of Worcester College, 1835–44; he then went to India as chaplain and returned to be rector of Crowell till his death in 1879. Benjamin was at Queens College and New Inn Hall and finally became vicar of Bearley in Warwickshire and died in 1871.⁷⁸ At times he must have acted as curate or vicar in Deddington for quite a few burial and baptismal entries in Deddington registers are signed by him.

William lived in Clifton as a horse dealer during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

⁷⁷ Turner: *op. cit.* p. 34,49.

⁷⁸ Foster: *Alumni oxonienses, 1715–1886*. London, 1888 v. 1. p. 252.

The Coroner's first cousin Henry Churchill, the grocer, was born in 1783 and died in 1860, and his wife Anne came from Oundle. His sons left Deddington and were both settled in Lambeth in 1861, the elder Henry was a doctor and the younger John Ellis Churchill a warehouse man.⁷⁹ Henry also had two daughters. His younger brother Thomas may have been that Thomas Churchill who was described as an agricultural labourer in Earls Lane but this fact is doubtful.^{80, 81} Thomas' wife was Elizabeth and their two children disappeared from Deddington, although a grandson Charles Churchill was apprenticed in Deddington about 1860 to William Power, the Cooper. Thomas was living in the almshouses in 1861. Henry's sister Jane was given land in Clifton when her father died in 1811, which she shared with a Mary Ann Churchill who must have been a cousin but whose identity is doubtful.⁸²

We must now return to the family of Joseph and Elizabeth Churchill who moved to Deddington from Great Tew in the last years of the eighteenth century. Joseph, the elder son of John of Grove Ash, succeeded to Grove Ash and other properties. However he had married Elizabeth Busby in 1772, the daughter of John Busby of Great Tew, and seems to have lived in Great Tew until his stepmother's death. He then lived in Sandford (Grove Ash) for a short time, but left about 1796 for Deddington, where he bought property and set up as a grocer. He died in 1817 and left everything to his wife Elizabeth. The land tax records show that he had land in Great Tew until 1790, in Sandford between 1789 and 1795, and in Deddington from 1796.

Of his ten children two died soon after birth and his two eldest sons, John (b.1773 in Great Tew) and Benjamin (bapt. 1780) and his youngest daughter Susan (b. 1785) are not heard of again. Five children are mentioned in connexion with their mother's will in 1831.^{83, 84} Elizabeth left legacies to her four daughters, Mary the wife of William Elkington of Banbury (m. 1822), Elizabeth the wife of William Butler (m. 1799), Rebecca wife of Joseph Butler m. 1804) both of Deddington and Sarah Churchill, 11, a spinster. Elizabeth Churchill made her two Butler sons-in-law executors, but by the time she died, both her executors were dead and the will had to be proved by her surviving son Joseph, who seems to have inherited her property in New St. but otherwise was not mentioned in the will itself. Sarah the daughter also died in the same year as her mother, but Rebecca Butler survived until 1858 when she died aged 82.

Joseph Churchill the son had been born in Great Tew about 1784 and arrived in Deddington with his parents about 1796 where he married Hester Gilkes in December 1805. He is usually described as a carpenter and lived in Castle End.

⁷⁹ Census returns for Lambeth, 1861.

⁸⁰ He may have been the brother of Samuel above (note 75).

⁸¹ Census returns for Deddington 1841 and 1851.

⁸² Land tax records for Deddington, 1813 (O.R.O.).

⁸³ Oxford Archd. Ct., Reg. Bk. B2, f. 299.

⁸⁴ I have recently discovered the gravestone of Joseph and Elizabeth in Deddington churchyard. I missed it years ago when I searched for Churchill graves.

He retained his family property in New St. till Joseph's death in 1860⁸⁵ which was occupied by William French.

Joseph and Hester had seven sons all baptised in Deddington and possibly one daughter. Four sons and one grandson set up as tradesmen in Deddington.

The eldest son Benjamin Churchill (b. 1806) became a carpenter in Bladon near Woodstock and took with him his younger brother John (b. 1816). There may have been some connexion between this carpenter's business and that of their cousin John Churchill mentioned above. Also their grandmother's sister⁸⁶ had married a carpenter David Bonner from Woodstock. Benjamin also had property in Bladon – purchased or inherited? – which his widow later sold to the Duke of Marlborough.⁸⁷ He married Jane Palmer in 1828, but he died in 1842⁸⁸ aged 36 leaving a widow and three young children. John married Ann Nixon, the daughter of a Bladon farmer, and soon after the death of his brother, he emigrated to Australia with his wife and three children.⁸⁹

Benjamin's elder son Richard Claydon Churchill (baptised in Bladon in 1831), was apprenticed to Thomas Byles, a blacksmith of Deddington.⁹⁰ In the late 1850s he purchased property in Chapel Square and set up a blacksmith's business there. His mother died in 1862 in Stanton St. John in the home of his younger brother Benjamin, who then moved to Deddington with his family, working also as a blacksmith. Richard Claydon Churchill married Ann Kilby about 1853, a greatgranddaughter of Robert Kilby mentioned above and descended from Benjamin Churchill of Adderbury (1729–1822). Their two sons Arthur and Benjamin succeeded to the business after Richard Claydon's early death in 1888 but soon after sold up and moved from the district. His brother Benjamin however produced a large family and several of his Churchill descendants live in the neighbourhood.



Grave of Richard Claydon Churchill

The second son of Joseph and Hester was Henry Churchill (b. 1809) who was established as a builder and carpenter in New St. His wife Maria came from King's Sutton. His only son John was living with him in 1861 presumably working in his father's business. The census returns of 1861 are the last record I have seen of this family.

Joseph and Hester's third son Joseph (b. 1811) became a carpenter in Deddington. He married Mary Ann Franklin in 1835 producing three sons and three daughters. They lived in New St in 1841 and in Philcock St in 1851 in which year his wife may have died. Joseph himself died aged 45 in 1857, his second son John

⁸⁵ Cf The registers of electors for Oxfordshire, 1850–60.

⁸⁶ *This was Ann Busby who m. David Bonner 1779, Great Tew.*

⁸⁷ N.R.A. Marlborough muniments, p.

⁸⁸ *Benjamin Churchill died in 1843 not 1842, aged 36, buried in Bladon.*

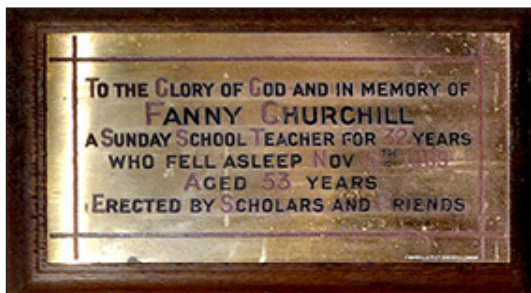
⁸⁹ *The three children were Sarah, Henry and Charles. A fourth child was born in Bladon but died aged 6 weeks in September 1843 (Bladon Par Reg).*

⁹⁰ Census returns for Deddington, 1851.

had died in 1855 aged 13, but what happened to the other children I do not know.

Joseph senior's fifth son was Charles Churchill (b. 1816). He is usually described as a butcher in the directories but sometimes as a grocer. He also lived in New St. He married Eliza Busby of Deddington and I have seen records of the baptism of six children. Of his sons, Frederick William Churchill (b. 1846) was for a time an innkeeper in Deddington but he died in the 1880s before his father; Harry Churchill was born in 1865 but his future activity is unknown. Of the daughters, one Ellen (b. 1850) married George Walton in 1874 and Elizabeth Jane (b. 1854) married Thomas A. Manchip in 1874, for many years school master in Deddington.

Joseph's sixth son Samuel Churchill (b. 1820) was also a carpenter. He married Lucy Chillingworth at Deddington in 1840 and was living in Castle St in 1841. However he must have left Deddington soon after.⁹¹ The youngest son of Joseph and Hester was William Churchill who was born on June 3 1822. He too was a carpenter living in Castle End. He married Mary Bruffet⁹² of Sibford in 1846 by whom he had two sons and four daughters. The second son Joseph died an infant, and Miss Fanny Churchill died in 1909, a tablet in memory of her exists in the church. William died in 1888 and his wife survived him until 1911. The surviving son William Churchill kept a grocer's shop near the Market Place until he died in 1899, his wife Elizabeth dying in 1912. The tombstones of this family are to be found in the churchyard on the north side of the church.



Memorial to Fanny Churchill



Grave of William and Mary, and their daughter Fanny



Grave of William and Elizabeth Churchill

⁹¹ I have discovered that he and his wife Lucy moved to Middlesex. There appeared to be no issue (Census returns).

⁹² William Churchill married Mary Prophett not Bruffet which does not feature as a surname in the Oxfordshire marriage index. Mary Prophett was the daughter of John Prophett Malster and born in Sibford Ferris 1825. She died in Deddington in 1911.



Churchill's Emporium in the Bullring, Deddington, early 1900s



Acknowledgements: The author Dr G. R. Tibbetts was a descendant of Richard Claydon Churchill (p. 21). He died in 1999 and we are grateful to his widow, Hazel Tibbetts, for her kind permission to reproduce the article. The text is Gerald Tibbetts' uncopy-edited original, with both typewritten and handwritten notes amalgamated into one sequential numbering. Additional notes in italics are by Jill Adams.

We came by a copy of the text through a chance meeting with Terry Brown from Sydney, Australia, another Churchill descendant who, with his partner Sue Ingham, were looking for Churchill tombstones in Deddington churchyard in October 2014. Our thanks to them for giving us the lead. Terry's great-great-grandmother was Mary Ann Churchill, the fourth child of John and Ann Churchill who emigrated in 1844 (see p. 21); Mary Ann was born in Australia. Terry's father kept copious records which have been sent on to us and will be uploaded to the History section of DoL in due course. They will be presented as they are without any attempt to cross-reference them with the present article.

The illustrations of memorials and graves are extracted from an Oxford Family History Society CD, and we are grateful for their permission to reproduce them here. The CD (OXF-MI-DED) is obtainable from OFHS at: <http://www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html>
- OXF-MI-DED.