

## Legal profession

The notices in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 1800-1819 demonstrate the dominance in the local legal community of the partnership of Samuel Churchill senior (died 1808) and his son, Samuel junior, with Samuel Churchill Field, which was formed in 1799. Their offices were in The Hermitage at the Horse Fair end of Market Place.

Churchill and Field built-up an extensive conveyancing, probate and bankruptcy practice in the district, as well as a virtual monopoly of local positions such as:

- Clerk to the parish Vestry;
- Secretaries/treasurers of (e.g.) the Deddington Association and the Deddington National School Society;
- the clerkships of five turnpike trusts in the locality;
- Stewards of all three manors in the Parish (Duchy, Windsor and Christ Church);
- Insurance company agencies.

Churchill and Field had a close working relationship with Churchill and Turner, a firm of auctioneers in Woodstock, founded by Samuel Churchill senior's elder brother, John. Edward Turner (died 1819) may also have been a relation.<sup>1</sup> Judging by the number of newspaper auction notices virtually every week, Churchill and Turner were one of the leading firms of auctioneers in Oxfordshire.

In the case of larger or more complex transactions, London solicitors might also be involved. In these cases, Churchill and Field would normally choose to work with the firm of B.C. Carter of Staple Inn.

B.C. Carter was in reality Bartholomew Churchill, the eldest son of Bartholomew Churchill junior (1736-1806), himself the eldest son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783). Bartholomew Churchill junior had married Margaret Carter of Tadmarton. Bartholomew their eldest son (1768-1824), in due course inherited Tadmarton Manor and a considerable sum of money under the will of Margaret's father, on condition that he took and used the surname and arms of Carter.

In 1812 Robert Weston joined the partnership,<sup>2</sup> which became styled as Messrs. Churchill, Field and Weston. It seems Robert Weston had moved to Deddington from Brackley, but he resigned from the partnership and moved back to Brackley following his marriage to Miss Shorter of Brackley in 1814, prompting a 2-day sale of the furniture in his leased house in Deddington.

The expertise of Churchill and Field, together with its above connections, enabled the firm to punch well above its weight. Its professional standing in the district was probably as high as any Oxford firm.

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<sup>1</sup> After the death of his first wife in 1771, John Churchill married Elizabeth Turner.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Weston of Aynho, gentleman, steward to the Cartwright family, who died in 1814, was perhaps the father of Robert Weston, solicitor, and may have been the Robert Weston who was one of the two Commissioners who determined the Deddington Inclosure Award in 1808.

The only other legal practitioners in Deddington 1800-1819 were William Apletree (or Appletree) and Messrs. Fidkin and Haynes.

William Apletree was descended from a well-established Deddington family, and lived at Blount's Farm (now Castle End and Monks Court/Applewood).<sup>3</sup> The limited number of newspaper notices 1800-1819 mentioning his firm indicate that he had a modest conveyancing, probate and bankruptcy practice. Some of the notices state that he could be found at the Buck and Bell Inn in Banbury on market days, and in several Deddington is referred to as "Dadington". Apletree was instructed in the sales of The Plough in 1811 and the Three Horse Shoes in 1815. He died in 1820 aged 67.

The firm of Thomas Fidkin and William Haynes had an even more modest profile, being mentioned in no more than nine newspaper notices during the period.

**1 May 1802, page 3**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION,

By CHURCHILL and TURNER,

At the King's Arms, in Deddington, in the County of Oxford, on Saturday the 15th Day of May, 1802, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as shall be then and there produced, - A very defirable FREEHOLD MESSUAGE and old-accustomed BAKE-HOUSE, in excellent Repair, with the Appurtenances, situate in the New Street, in Deddington aforefaid; confisting of a good Sitting Room, large Parlour, Breakfast Parlour, Bread Room, a convenient Pantry, and Back Kitchen, with a large Bake Houfe, Oven, four good Bed Chambers, and two large Garrets; three Barns, three Stables, Pig Stye, large Garden, well planted with Fruit Trees, an Orchard or Clofe of about one Acre, with feveral thriving Timber and Fruit Trees, and a Piece of Land in the Open Field of Deddington, near the Orchard, with feveral young Elms growing thereon.

For a View of the Premiffes apply to the Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Churchill, Baker, and for further Particulars, of him, or Mr. Apletree, of Deddington, or to him, at the Buck and Bell, in Banbury, on Market Days; or of the Auctioneers, in Woodstock.

A confiderable Part of the Purchase Money may remain upon the Eftate.

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/publishedhistories/mvt/5.deddingtonfolk>. After the 1808 enclosure award William Appletree was the fifth largest landowner in the Parish with a holding of 166 acres. Blount's Farm was subsequently known as The Poplars later in the 19th century.

**16 January 1808, page 2**

Notice to creditors and debtors of George Whetton of Deddington, yeoman.

Estate and effects assigned to Edward Hatten and John Robinson of Deddington in trust for creditors. Deed of Assignment left at the Office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, Solicitors, Deddington, for signature by creditors.

All Persons indebted to the said George Whetton are desired to pay their respective debts to one of the Trustees, or to Messrs. Churchill and Field forthwith.

**6 May 1809, page 3**

Notice of auction by Churchill and Turner at the Star Inn, New Woodstock, of a freehold messuage in New Woodstock in the occupation of Mr. John Hitchman.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Fidkin and Haynes, solicitors, Deddington, Oxon.

**28 April 1810, page 3**

Notice of auction by Churchill and Turner at Thame in 3 lots of land in Shabbington, Bucks.

Further particulars may be had, and the whole or part of the Estate treated for by private contract at the Office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington, Oxon.

**29 September 1810, page 3**

Notice of auction by Churchill and Turner at Woodstock of 940 acres in Tackley, and of the well-accustomed Inn called Sturdy's Castle.

Printed particulars of the sale may be had at the office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington, Oxfordshire; of Mr. B.C. Carter, Staple Inn, London, of the auctioneers, and of the place of sale, Woodstock; at the Star Inn, Oxford; King's Arms, Bicester; and White Lion, Banbury.

**16 March 1811, page 3**

*Desirable RECTORY, in Oxfordshire.*

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, - The NEXT PRESENTATION to a valuable RECTORY, in the county, and within 20 miles of the University of Oxford. - The present incumbent is nearly 80 years of age.

Particulars may be had of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington, Oxon, who are authorised to treat for the sale.

**23 March 1811, page 1**

First of recurring advertisements in 1811 by the Globe Insurance Company. Lists of agents in Oxfordshire and Berkshire. 6 agencies in Oxfordshire include:

*Deddington, Samuel Field.*

**11 May 1811, page 3**

Oxford News.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mr. Field, solicitor, of Deddington, in this county, a Master Extraordinary of the Court of Chancery.

**24 August 1811, page 3**

*Manors of Middle Barton and Westcott Barton, Oxon.*

WHEREAS the GAME on the above Manors has of late years been much destroyed, *Notice is therefore hereby given*, that all unqualified persons found sporting on the said Manors will be prosecuted; and qualified persons (as the stock of Game is very low) are requested not to sport thereon.

CHURCHILL and FIELD, Stewards.

**24 July 1813, page 3**

*OXFORD CANAL SHARE.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By CHURCHILL and TURNER,

At the Star Inn, in the City of Oxford, on Saturday the 7th day of August, 1813, at One o'clock precisely. - One long SHARE, or £124 Proprietary Interest, in that very advantageous and improving Concern, the OXFORD CANAL.

For further particulars apply at the office of Messrs. Churchill, Field, and Weston, solicitors, Deddington; or to the auctioneers, in Woodstock.

**19 March 1814, page 2**

Notice to debtors and creditors of William Malings, of Deddington, Victualler. Estate and effects assigned to Wm. Maynard, of Bicester, John Gilkes, of Deddington, and John Platford, of Adderbury, in trust for the benefit of creditors.

Deed of assignment open for signature at the office of Messrs. Churchill, Field, and Weston, solicitors, Deddington.

**21 May 1814, page 2**

*NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS*

ALL Persons having any demand on JOHN ROSE, of Dadington, in the county of Oxford, maltster and dealer in corn, are desired to send their respective accounts to Mr. Apletree, of Dadington, aforesaid. And all Persons who are indebted to the said John Rose are desired immediately to pay the same to the said Mr. Apletree.

May 20, 1814.

**10 December 1814, page 3**

*DEDDINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
by CHURCHILL and TURNER,

At the King's Arms Inn, Deddington, on Saturday the 24th day of December, 1814, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, in four Lots, four newly built and convenient COTTAGES or TENEMENTS, with out-buildings, yards, and garden ground, situate in Philcock-street, in Deddington, and in the several occupations of Richard French, Joseph Ell, John Hedges, and Samuel French. The Premises are Copyhold under the Manor of Deddington, for two lives, and a widow's Estate; and may be seen, and further particulars had on application to Mr. Richard Castle; or at the office of Messrs. Churchill, Field, and Weston, solicitors, Deddington.

**29 July 1815, page 1**

Notice of auction of Great Tew Park Estate, comprising the whole parish, 23 farms and 3,665 acres.

Particulars may be had from various inns and agents, including Messrs. Churchill, Field, and Weston, solicitors, Deddington.

**2 September 1815, page 2**

*OXFORDSHIRE.*

To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, or LET for a term, with immediate possession, A valuable LEASEHOLD DAIRY FARM, inclosed and tithe-free, in Clifton, in the parish of Deddington, in the county of Oxford; consisting of a small newly-erected Tenement, with barn, stabling, and other convenient out-buildings; and several inclosed Grounds, properly subdivided for occupation, containing together, by

statute measure, 311 Acres, or thereabouts, and principally very rich Meadow and Pasture Land.

Clifton is in the neighbourhood of Banbury and other good market towns.

For a view of the Farm apply to Mrs. East, of Clifton; and to treat for the purchase, or the tenancy, of it, at the office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington, Oxon, where a plan of the Estate may be seen, and further particulars had.

N.B. If purchased, a part of the money may remain on security, if required.

**21 September 1816, page 1**

TO be LET, and entered upon at Michaelmas next, - A MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, Grocer's Shop, roomy Out-buildings, large Garden, and an Orchard and Close adjoining, situate at Clifton, in the parish of Deddington, Oxon, now in the occupation of Mrs. Elizabeth East.

Application to be made to Mr. Fidkin, Deddington.

**8 February 1817, page 1**

*Mr. Richard Ordway, deceased.*

ALL persons who have any claim or demand on the Estate of RICHARD ORDWAY, late of Deddington, Oxfordshire, surgeon, deceased, are requested to deliver an account of their demands at the Office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington, in order to their being discharged: and all persons who stood indebted to the said Richard Ordway, at the time of his decease, are desired forthwith to pay the amount of their respective debts to Messrs. Churchill and Field, who are authorised by the Administratrixes to receive the same.

*Deddington, Feb. 5, 1817.*