

Churchill family

The economic, social, and, in all probability, political, life of the Parish during the opening years of the 19th century continued to be largely dominated by the numerous Churchill family,¹ in particular by the descendants of Benjamin (1713-1783), the younger brother of Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780), through their involvement in trade, grocery in particular, and the legal profession.

The eight children of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), the younger brother of Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780), and his wife Philippa Hitchcock of Swalcliffe, were:

Bartholmew junior (1736-1806), eldest son of Benjamin, married Margaret Carter of Tadmarton Manor

Benjamin (born 1738)

John (1740-1796), became an auctioneer in Woodstock

Samuel (1743-1808), attorney, father of Samuel junior (1773-1840), attorney, and John (1785-1863), coroner

Joseph (born 1745), became a grocer in Watlington

Sarah, married Edward Greenwood of Haddesdon (Waddesdon ?) in 1775

Mary (born 1752), married Samuel Field of Thame, attorney, in 1774

Henry (1755-1811), youngest son of Benjamin, became a grocer in Deddington

The founding father of this branch of the family may be taken to be **Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780)**, the elder brother of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783). Bartholomew the elder was a grocer, tallow-chandler, dealer in brandy and hop-dealer, and the builder of [Deddington House](#) in New Street, opposite Leadenporch House. He died in 1780, a widower, without issue.

Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), the younger brother of Bartholomew the elder, appears to have had no particular claim to fame, save that his progeny, or some of them, were to assume prominent positions in the commercial and social life of Deddington, if not elsewhere.

Bartholomew the elder allowed his younger brother, Benjamin, to live in his new house in New Street, when it was built in the late 1770s.

The first bequest in his will read:

¹ For a comprehensive history of the numerous Churchill family, see:

'*The Churchill Chronicles*' by Major General Thomas Churchill, published 1986:

http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/12912/ChurchillChroniclescilckablecontentsjan15.pdf

'*The Churchill Family of Deddington*' by Dr. G.R. Tibbetts, 1999:

http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/12685/ChurchillsFin3.pdf

I give to my dear and only Brother Benjamin Churchill all that new built messuage or tenement he now lives in situate in Deddington aforesaid with the appurtenances to the same belonging to hold to him his heirs and assigns for ever.²

It is unclear whether Benjamin continued to live at Deddington House until his own death in 1783, since there were attempts to let the house in 1780 and 1782. Although it appears Benjamin did not leave a will, Deddington House almost certainly passed to Bartholomew (1736-1806), his eldest son, on his death in 1783.

Bartholomew (born 1736), the eldest son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), was taken into, and ultimately succeeded to, the business of his uncle, Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780). Whilst a nephew of Bartholomew Churchill the elder, he is referred to as **Bartholomew Churchill junior** in various newspaper notices and advertisements from 1768 onwards.

Bartholomew Churchill junior (1736-1806) married Margaret Carter of Tadmarton. Their eldest son, Bartholomew (1768-1824), in due course inherited Tadmarton Manor in 1799 and a large sum of money under the will of Margaret's father, Crescens Carter senior, on condition that he took and used the surname and arms of Carter. Bartholomew Churchill Carter became an attorney in London. See separate article on [Legal profession](#).

Bartholomew Churchill junior (1736-1806), nephew of Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780), became sufficiently integrated with the county gentry that he was shortlisted to become High Sheriff of Oxfordshire had he not, for reasons unknown, moved to Chobham in Surrey. In November 1791 his was the third nomination in the list of gentry to be 'pricked' by George III, and in November 1792 he was second in line. His name did not go forward in November 1793, however, which coincided with attempts to sell Deddington House in August 1793, and to auction the house and its contents in September 1793, and an advertisement to let in April 1794 confirming that he had "left that Place".³ He died at Chobham in 1806.

The fourth son of Benjamin (1713-1783) was **Samuel Churchill senior (1743-1808)**, who became a prominent attorney in Deddington in partnership with Samuel Field from Thame. He lived in Leadenporch House in New Street. In 1772 he married Priscilla Greenwood from Haddenham, near Thame. The Greenwoods seem to have been a legal family.

Samuel Churchill senior was clearly highly successful, and newspaper notices evidence that he had a finger in a great many pies. At the time of the 1808 enclosure

² Will of Bartholomew Churchill the Elder of Deddington, Gentleman, dated 14 June 1780 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 15 July 1780. The National Archives, ref. PROB 11/1067/262.

http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/az/wtext/churchill_002

³ In his will dated 13 October 1800, with Codicil annexed dated 18 July 1804, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 28 April 1807, he is described as Bartholomew Churchill of Chobham Esquire. The National Archives, ref. PROB 11/1459/245.

award, the year of his death,⁴ Samuel Churchill senior owned 369½ acres in the Parish, including land in Clifton, the fourth largest landholding after the holdings of the three (non-resident) lords of the manor.

In 1806, whilst attending a reception at the Star Inn, Oxford's most exclusive hostelry, Samuel Churchill "was hustled, and had his pocket picked of his pocket books, containing notes to the amount of £200".⁵

Samuel Churchill's eldest son, **Samuel Churchill junior (1773-1840)**, also became an attorney. He joined his father's legal practice when he came of age in 1794,⁶ subsequently taking over many of his father's positions, such as clerk to the trustees of a number of turnpike trusts.

He married Elizabeth Macfarquhar of Putney in 1808, and a newspaper notice in 1809 records the birth of a daughter to "his lady" at Stone Hall (or Hill) in Deddington.

Like his father, Samuel Churchill junior was prominent in local affairs, and was granted the freedom of the Borough of Woodstock in 1812. Samuel was a keen member of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and was Lieutenant of the Wootton Hundred North Troop for a number of years. In 1819 he is recorded as being one of the promoters of the establishment of a Diocesan Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

Sometime before 1808 Samuel Churchill junior moved into Deddington House, almost opposite his father's house. Unfortunately, Samuel junior began to run up large debts, and ultimately was declared bankrupt in 1827, owing £77,000. Samuel junior's bankruptcy was not wound up until 1865, 25 years after his death. Creditors received in total little more than 5/- in the pound.

The third son of Samuel Churchill senior (1743-1808),⁷ **John Churchill (1785-1863)**, was also a lawyer, and was elected **Coroner** for North Oxfordshire in 1839, a position he held for 23 years. He later lived at the White House (now Ilbury House) in New Street, almost opposite Deddington House.

The third son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783) was **John Churchill (1740-1796)**, who became a successful auctioneer in **Woodstock**, and was also Mayor of Woodstock. After the death of his first wife in 1771, he married Elizabeth Turner. There was a close working relationship between his firm and his brother's legal practice. See separate article on [Property sales](#).

⁴ The will of Samuel Churchill Esquire dated 17 April 1808, with Codicil annexed dated 18 April 1808, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 19 July 1808. The National Archives, ref. PROB 11/1482/163. http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/az/wtext/churchill_001

⁵ *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 27 December 1806, page 3. It is unclear whether the report refers to Samuel Churchill senior or junior. On a balance of probabilities, it is suggested that it is more likely to have been Samuel Churchill senior.

⁶ The Deddington Parish Registers record that Samuel junior was baptised on 2 May 1773. The *Churchill Chronicles* are incorrect in saying he was born about 1777.

⁷ Samuel Churchill senior's second son was the Rev. Benjamin Churchill, who was born in 1778.

The youngest son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783) was **Henry Churchill (1755-1811)**, who is described as a grocer. In Georgian England, grocers were also involved in supplying a wide range of high value commodities such as tea, sugar, spices and tobacco.⁸ In the City of London, grocers ranked second in order of precedence amongst the Great Twelve City Livery Companies. Henry was also the owner of the Crown and Tuns Inn in New Street.⁹

Henry, like his elder brothers, was upwardly mobile, and the lists of Oxfordshire gentry taking out Game Duty certificates from 1800 up to his death in 1811 include Churchill, Henry, gentleman, Deddington, alongside his brothers and nephews.

The second daughter of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783) and his wife Philippa, **Mary Churchill (baptised 1752)**, married Samuel Field of Thame in 1774. Field was an attorney and moved to Deddington to practice. Samuel Field and Mary Churchill had a son Samuel Churchill Field (1775-1833), who also became an attorney, and entered into a partnership with Samuel Churchill senior and junior in 1799.

Samuel Churchill Field married Miss Catherine French of Sandford in 1802. Their son, another [Samuel \(1804-1886\)](#), likewise became a lawyer in Deddington.

19 June 1802, page 3

Oxford News.

On Saturday laft was married, at Sandford, in this county, Mr. Field, Attorney, of Deddington, to Mifs French, of Sandford.

29 November 1806, page 3

Oxfordshire Yeomanry.

THE WOOTTON HUNDRED NORTH TROOP is defired to mufter for Exercife, at North Afton, on Monday next, the Firft of December, at Eleven o'Clock.

S. CHURCHILL, jun. Lieutenant Commanding.

Deddington, Nov. 25th, 1806.

7 December 1806, page 3

Oxford News.

On Monday laft the different inns and public houfes, in this city, were opened for the entertainment of Mr. Burton and Mr. Wright's friends. At the Star inn, Mr. Wright, and Colonel Sheldon, (as Mr. Burton's Reprerentative) prefided, where, as well as at the other places of feftivity, the utmoft harmony and conviviality prevailed.

⁸ See [price list](#) for Commodities sold by Bartholomew Churchill, at Clifton, circa 1780.

⁹ Will of Henry Churchill of Deddington, grocer, dated 8 October 1809 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 17 March 1812. The National Archives, ref. PROB 11/1531/256.

On the fame evening, while Samuel Churchill, Efq. of Deddington, was ftanding at the Star inn, he was huftled, and had his pocket picked of his pocket books, containing notes to the amount of 200l.

5 September 1807, page 4

Oxfordshire - Game Duty, 1807.

List of grantees of certificates (cost 3 gns.) includes:

Churchill, Henry, Gent. Deddington.

26 November 1808, page 3

Oxford News.

On Monday laft was married, at Putney Church, by the Rev. B. Churchill, Samuel Churchill, Efq. of Deddington, in this county, to Mifs Elizabeth, daughter of the late David Macfarquhar, Efq. of Jamaica.

Sun (London), 28 August 1809, page 4

Births: On the 25th inst. the Lady of Samuel Churchill, Esq. of Stone-Hall, Deddington, of a Daughter.

Pilot (London), 29 August 1809, page 4

Births: The lady of Samuel Churchill, Esq. of Stone-hill, Deddington, of a daughter.

30 June 1810, page 3

Oxford News.

On Tuesday last was married, at Thame, Mr. John Churchill, of Deddington, youngest son of the late Samuel Churchill, Esq. to Miss Stratford, eldest daughter of the Rev. Mr. Stratford, Rector of Holton, in this county.

8 August 1812, page 3

Oxford News.

On Monday last the Mayor and Corporation of Woodstock unanimously presented Samuel Churchill, Esq. of Deddington, with the freedom of that Borough.

