

my investigations into the CHURCHILLS and Rowse in England have cost me about £200, but I am not cadging for cash by any means. I mention this fact to impress you that I have found the enquiry most interesting, and, in the end, if I manage to shake hands with that fine old gentleman, INSTON CHURCHILL, I shall consider that a fine reward for my efforts. I am quite ready to provide as many copies of my book as the family may need, free buckshee entirely, as I believe it will be appreciated very greatly indeed, even by posterity out in Australia when we are all fitted with wings.

However, being human, if anyone insisted on throwing something into the "kitty" I would of course, pick it up with a smile - if you fully understand what I mean? I am not a rich man, but I am not a poor man, and am expecting no financial help whatever from anyone at all. As I have said, this has been a labour of love, and ~~my~~ family history is so very interesting I shall not begrudge one single penny of the cost to make everyone happy. That is, if any one asks for a copy, or copies, of my book to enable them to preen their feathers and prove they are not descended from convicts, at any rate! I have been in the very house where our grandma was born, at Woodstock, and expect to be there again this coming week-end. There is a dear old lady living there now, with her nephew and others. It is a wonderful place - built out of the same material as was used in Blenheim Palace - the Ducal home of the very famous family of Marlborough.

By the way, should you decide to answer this letter, Eileen, please be kind enough to give me details of your own children, names dates of birth &c. to complete my family

tree as much as possible.

I trust this finds you all well and happy and may I offer my very kindest and sincere regards?

All the best,
Your cousin

Eric

ADDRESS:

MR. C. ERIC THOMPSON,
6, HOLMBURY COURT,
UPPER TOOTING RD.,
LONDON, S. W. 17.
England.

P.S. Could I write to dear-old Nellie, do you think?

6, Holmbury Court,
Upper Tooting Rd.,
London, S. W. 17.

August 7, 1947.

Dear Eileen,

Greetings, cousin! Remember me?

It is a mighty long time since we met and maybe you have forgotten me entirely? The name appears at the end of this letter; this may stir up some sort of recollection?

I saw Aunt Clara at Totties in December, 1935, and she very kindly gave me some notes regarding the Churchills and Rowsells over in this Old Country of England. I was able to make some use of the information recently, and my mother told me that Tottie was writing you to ask if you had any further papers of the family? As I can get no satisfaction from anyone in this indirect manner, I have taken the liberty now of writing you direct, and I hope your lord-and-master does not tear his hair about it! Cousins and all that sort of thing you know....so please excuse me.

Well Eileen, if you have any old documentary evidence, old papers, letters &c. perhaps you would be kind enough to lend them to me? You can have them back again if you wish as I could easily make copies of them. I know I had some from Aunt Clara about 1922, but they were returned to her shortly afterwards as I was not then interested in tracing whether we are descended on our grandma's side from The Dukes of Marlborough, or from the very Devil himself. I wish I had taken copies of

of those papers at the time, as they would have saved me no end of time and money during my serious researches into family history. I remember there was a Memorial-card amongst those papers of your mother's, of a Rowsell tombstone in Tintinhull, Somerset - hearing a date in the 1790s. I was down at Tintinhull and Exeter last summer but I could not find the tombstone. Maybe in the years since then the lettering has become a bit worn, eh? However, I will leave this to you now, Eileen, and hope that you might be kind enough to do what you can - if you have any documents, of course. Also, what about old photographs? I would dearly like to borrow one of your Mother, that very kind ladylike person, my Aunt Clara. Also, other photographs would be gratefully received and after having them re-photographed I could send them all back to you again. Old photographs particularly are interesting, though I wouldn't say no! to recent ones of yourself and family also.

You see, Eileen, I have now traced the families right back into centuries ago, even into the days before Sir Francis Drake, and I have hundreds of pages of most interesting notes which would give you quite a thrill to read. I have been to Woodstock, Oxford, and to Buckinghamshire, Somerset &c., many and many a time, and have got all the information possible now. Would you like to know whether you may claim descent from a Duke?

I am about to commence writing the whole history, for publication in book form, and if you are interested yourself, or even your children, just tell me how many copies of my book you would like in due course! So far

Children of Benjamin and Sarah Churchill, Blacksmith of Deddington

— Ellen, born 1863 (not Deddington) living 1871
Richard Claydon, born Eynsham 1864 died Deddington ca 1950
Mary, born 1868, (not Deddington) living 1871
Benjamin, born 1871 died Wantage ca 1945.
Harry, born ca 1873 (not Deddington) lived in Lincolnshire, first
children born in Oxfordshire.
Adelaide, bapt. in Deddington 23 Oct 1875
Laura, bapt. in Deddington 23 Oct 1875, died young.
Sarah Ann, bapt. in Deddington 12 Aug 1877
Laura, bapt. in Deddington 12 Aug 1877, married.
Flora, bapt. in Deddington 12 Aug 1877
Elsie, bapt. in Deddington 28 Mar 1880
Walter Lionel, bapt. in Deddington 7 May 1882
Evelyn Emily, bapt. in Deddington 13 Jun 1886

— I knew Walter Lionel who lived at Middle Barton and he mentioned eight
children; Richard, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Harry, Jane, Laura, Lionel, Evelyn.

Children of Frederick William Churchill, Innkeeper of Deddington and son of
Charles the Butcher. His wife was ~~Marion~~ Caroline Elizabeth Wheeler

Agnes, bapt. 14 Aug 1870
Henry Frederick Churchill, bapt. 28 Apr 1872
Randolph John Churchill, bapt. 13 May 1883.

Children of Richard Claydon Churchill (see above) Carpenter of Deddington.
His wife was Thirza or Thurza.

Henry George S Churchill, killed in the war 1914-18
William Thomas Churchill, bapt. 18 Nov 1889, died young?
Edgar John Churchill, bapt. 17 Jul 1892, died young?
Thurza Lizzie Stratford Churchill, bapt. 13 May 1893, died young?
Percival Edward Churchill, bapt. 24 May 1896, died May 1950
Richard Claydon Churchill, bapt. 7 May 1899, married with a family,
lived at North Aston, died ?
William Spencer Churchill, bapt. 1 Dec 1901, died 1982, a bachelor.
Ivy Churchill, born ca 1905 married Frederick Price.

REVISIONS OF
MR TIGBETH
CHARTS

SARAH CHURCHILL, born at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England, on 22nd July, 1837, came to Australia with her parents, John and Ann Churchill, about 1844, and was married to WILLIAM ROWSELL, born 1834, at Yeovil, Somerset, England. Their marriage took place at Rollands Plains, Wilson River, on 27th October, 1859.

Their children were :-

	George Henry	Born	21st November, 1861
	Alfred Edwin		13th November, 1863
1	Clara Ann		1st January, 1865
	James Charles		20th August, 1866
	Frederick William		10th June 1868
2	Ernest		April, 1870
3	Eliza		18th July, 1872
4	Joseph Davis		2nd May, 1874
5	Evelyn Mary		10th April 1876
	Percy John		25th April 1877
	Albert Churchill		19th July, 1878
	Eugene Harold		9th May 1880

1 Clara Ann Rowsell married James Joseph Mooney

2 Ernest Rowsell died 16th Dec. at Welford Hospital, Macleay Street, Sydney, aged 33 years, and was buried at Telegraph Point, 24th Dec. 1903 (Bright's disease)

3 Eliza Rowsell married Charles Thompson at Port Macquarie Presbyterian Manse, on Tues. 24th December 1889

4 Joseph Davis Rowsell married Christina Chelman, now widowed and living in Ackroyd Street, Port Macquarie.

5 Evelyn Mary Rowsell married - Mooney. She is still living at Telegraph Point, aged 89 years. 15.2.63!

The children of Eliza Rowsell and Charles Thompson:

Ethel Maud	Born Telegraph Point	14th Jan. 1891
Ina Elsie	Pymont, Sydney	9th May. 1893
Charles Eric	do.	18th Dec. 1894
Cecil Edgar	Balmain, Sydney	10th March, 1897

Ina Elsie died at 37 Little Mount Street, Pymont, on 12th Dec. 1893, aged 7 months (convulsions). Interred at Presbyterian Cemetery, Rookwood, Section 8-B No. 1893 on 13th December, 1893 (Thompson)

COPY

In my room at KING'S ARMS HOTEL,

11 p.m.

WOODSTOCK, Oxford,

November 11th, 1947

My dear Ma,

I thought I might write a few lines to you before turning in as I feel very wide awake yet after a pleasant chat in the lounge this evening with the others over coffee after dinner, etc.

I decided on a couple of days break yesterday afternoon and arrived in Woodstock last night. They were all pleased to see me again and I feel quite at home here these days.

There is a new Town Clerk now and a very obliging chap too. I spent some time with him to-day at the Town Hall going through their old records dating back to 1400 A.D.! I got enough interesting information from them to round off my story, and intend walking through Blenheim Palace Park to-morrow to BLADON to settle "the mystery" of ANN NIXON, as I have unearthed some new clues. I have my camera with me and if it is a fine day I shall take some snaps, including one of Lord Randolph Churchill's tomb in Bladon churchyard. I hope to complete my enquiries this visit. I will go on to Deddington on Thursday morning, call on Mr. Manchip, then by bus to Banbury and train from there back to London. And, I expect there will be piles of work awaiting me.

Some more FACTS:

JOHN CHURCHILL (1740-1796) was Palace Constable in 1748
Hon. Freeman of Woodstock in 1780
A Common Council man in 1784
A Chamberlain (i.e. Treasurer) in 1788
Re-elected in 1787
MAYOR of WOODSTOCK in 1795.

His son BENJAMIN was no less than seven times Mayor of Woodstock, i.e., 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1808.

(The present Mayor of Woodstock is the Duchess of Marlborough, who was re-elected last Monday only, for a second year in office as Mayor.)

In 1784, John Churchill was the contractor who built the tower on Woodstock Church for £830. The same tower is now undergoing repair.

So, you may truthfully say that your great-grandfather was seven times Mayor of Woodstock, and your g.g. grandfather was also Mayor in 1795. He died in 1796.

Good night !

ERIC.

(Thompson)

'tata' following the lady's name is probably a term of endearment perhaps meaning 'darling'. Note the family motto on the scroll 'In on is al'. The lady wears the nebuly headdress. (Latin 'nebula' a little cloud).

On the S. wall is a small brass representing the Holy Trinity. Part of a memorial to William Reynesford Lord of the Manor in the 15th century.

Westwards of the Wilcotes' brass is a smaller one to the memory of Thomas Boulby and Agnes his wife. Date 1513.

The memorial to Lord Falkland, modern in structure, but of 18th century style, should be noted. His pious wife Lady Letice and her three sons have no memorial. The burial of each member of the family is recorded in the Parish Register.

The beautiful bench ends may be earlier than the year 1500. The benches were resealed some forty years ago.

The stone stairway leading to the Rood, after being built up and lost sight of was opened out sometime last century.

Apparently the church, like so many others, was formerly frescoed with sacred objects. Traces of colour may now be detected on the S. wall of the nave.

The hatchments are mainly those of the family of Keck who owned the manor in the 18th century. Lady Susan Keck was a sister of James 6th Duke of Hamilton. An amusing letter written by her is in existence giving an account of an election which greatly stirred Great Tew in the year 1752.

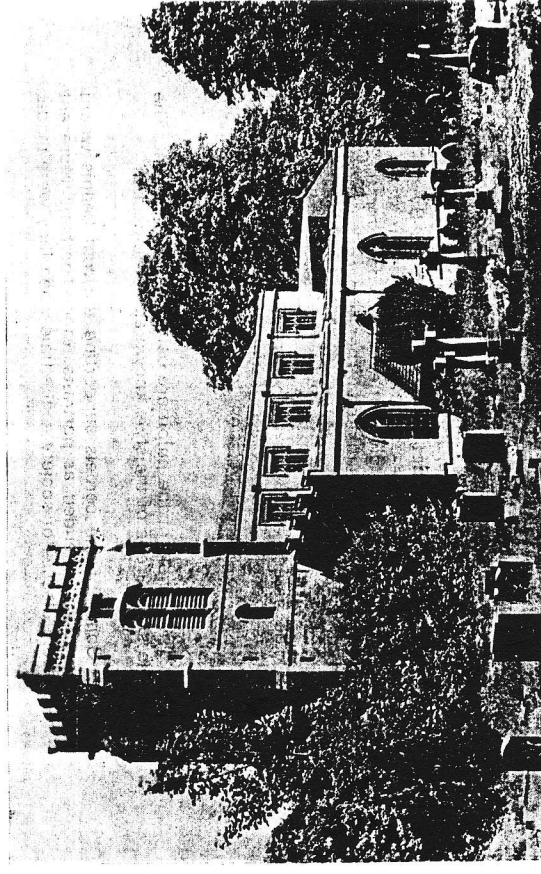
There is a fine peal of bells eight in number, together with a 'sermon' bell. The peal was the gift of Anthony Keck Esq. in 1709 as the tenor bears witness. Another has the inscription 'Prosperity to the Church of England'. The bells were rehung in a steel frame in 1925.

The Reading Desk is made out of wood from the old bell-frame, together with ancient bench ends.

The whole structure of the Church in its beautiful setting is a delight to visitors, and still more to those who have the care of it.

Great Tew Vicarage.

Castle Printers of Thame Ltd.



The Church of
S. Michael and all Angels
Great Tew

THE CHURCH OF

S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

GREAT TEW

The origin and meaning of the name are matters of conjecture only.

The approach to the church is through an 18th century archway. On the left lie the series of walled gardens once attached to the house where Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland, entertained his learned friends in the time of Charles 1. There is a tradition that the land on the right of the pathway was once the village green. It may have been enclosed in the 18th century at the time when the archway was built.

The church represents many periods and styles of architecture. The S. doorway is Norman, early 12th century, with billet nailhead and zigzag ornament. The porch is 13th century work (note the Latin cross with scroll over the gable). It would seem that the doorway must have been twice removed and rebuilt. First when the Norman church gave place to Early English in the 13th century; and again when the aisles were widened in the early 14th century. On the second occasion the decorated tympanum, which fills in the arch was inserted.

The Norman Church probably stood on the site of the present nave. The spandrels over the arcades may be part of the Norman walls. The present arcading and columns are of the early 13th century. The E.E. aisles were widened a century later: that on the S. side probably fifty years later than that on the N. (Some competent authorities say they are of the same date).

The Clerestory is Perpendicular or 15th century work.

The Tower which is in four tiers is probably of a date about 1400 A.D. That is to say it belongs to the transitional period between the Decorated and the Perpendicular styles. The upper part in lighter stone may be two centuries later. Note the beautiful lines of the tower arch inside.

The Chancel is of various dates. The N. and S. windows are 14th century. The E. window is 15th century and is an insertion in an earlier wall.

The window towards the W. in the N. wall of the chancel and the corresponding window in the S. wall were formerly of double lights. Half of each was removed when the beautiful Chantry memorial was erected in 1834. In Skelton's sketch (1824) three open windows are shown on the S. side. From the outside a third window may be seen, and also an early priest's door.

The present vestry was formerly a chantry chapel, probably of the Knight and his Lady whose effigies lie close by. These good people were probably responsible for the widening of the N. aisle. The Knight is poetically supposed to be sheathing his sword after life's battle. The crossed legs are a graceful pose and do not indicate a crusader. By means of the aliettes, or shoulder protectors, the figure is dated 1320 A.D. And this perhaps gives the correct date for the aisle. The Dec. piscina is mutilated. The former E. window has been built up.

The screen enclosing the vestry is ancient. Whether or not it is the old Rood Screen is doubtful. It may have been moved to its present position to form a vestry as the 16th century.

The panels of the pulpit are believed to be ancient. The whole structure is of the style known as 'three-decker'.

Some of the corbels supporting the roof beams would seem to be intended as portraits, others perhaps represent different classes of society at the time when they were made.

The chancel arch is buttressed on the S. side by the wall of the aisle. On the N. side it is unsupported. Half a century or more ago it began to splay, hence the present buttress in the vestry.

Monuments in addition to the two effigies in stone: A large brass on the floor of the chancel, date 1410 A.D., to the memory of William Wilcotes and Alice his wife. The Knight is wearing a Lancastrian collar, formerly ornamented with enamel. The inscription is in Latin hexameters. The word

This is the last Will and Testament of me
John Churchill of Combermere Park, Wilton, River
in the County of Macquarie, in the Colony of
New South Wales, Farmer and Grazier:
I first direct the payment of all my just
debts, funeral and other expenses, by my
Executors hereinafter named, and I give and
bequeath all my Freehold Property, and also
my Household Furniture and effects, and all
my personal property whatever, together with
all outstanding debts promissory notes, and
moneys, that may be in my possession at the
time of my decease, unto my beloved wife Ann
Churchill; and I also appoint her to be sole
Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.
Given under my hand and seal this Seventeenth
day of September the thousand eight hundred
and sixty nine

This is the last Will and Testament of me
John Churchill of Combermere Park, Wilton, River
in the County of Macquarie, in the Colony of
New South Wales, Farmer and Grazier:
I first direct the payment of all my just
debts, funeral and other expenses, by my
Executors hereinafter named, and I give and
bequeath all my Freehold Property, and also
my Household Furniture and effects, and all
my personal property whatever, together with
all outstanding debts promissory notes, and
moneys, that may be in my possession at the
time of my decease, unto my beloved wife Ann
Churchill; and I also appoint her to be sole
Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.
Given under my hand and seal this Seventeenth
day of September the thousand eight hundred
and sixty nine

John Churchill

Signed, sealed, published, and declared
by the said John Churchill, the Testator,
as and for his last Will and Testament
in the presence of us, who in his presence
at his request, and in the presence of
each other have hereunto subscribed
our names, as Witnesses thereto:

James Smith
James Hume
Henry Brown
all of the Parish of Macquarie