

Chatterholt,
Cassington Road,
Eynsham,
Oxford.
26th May 1982

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

A colleague of mine in Australia has sent me your name knowing that I was interested in a family of Churchill that emigrated to Australia. I think she found your name from a list issued by the Australian Society of Genealogists which gave members interests.

When I began work on the Churchill family of Oxfordshire some thirty years ago, I visited the Society of Genealogists and discovered that most of my work up to that date had already been duplicated by a Mr. C. Thompson who had come over from Australia specially to do research on the Oxfordshire Churchill family. He was descended from John Churchill who emigrated from Bladon in Oxon. where he had been a carpenter in that part of the parish of Bladon known as Hensington. I myself am descended from Benjamin Churchill who was also a carpenter from the same place and was about seven years older than John. Benjamin died in 1842 aged 36 and by 1845 John had emigrated to Australia with his family. I had assumed that these two were brothers. I had looked around and found that Benjamin Churchill of Woodstock, a malster (1768-1830) had had two sons, Benjamin and John whose dates of birth were approximately (within 5 years) the same as the Bladon Benjamin and John. I therefore equated the two sets of brothers and traced my descent back through the elder Benjamin to Thomas Churchill of Deddington (died 1658). I found that Mr. Thompson had already done exactly the same. Later I discovered that this descent was wrong and that I had to rethink the whole problem. I then attempted to contact Mr. Thompson but failed.

About 1961, I visited a friend of my family living in Deddington by name Mr. Harry Manchip whose mother had been a Churchill and he told me that Mr. Thompson had been to England again and had visited him in Deddington. He left notes with Mr. Manchip which the latter allowed me to copy, which showed that he still held the same theory with regard to his ancestry which I could now prove to be wrong. He also mentioned something which gave me a clue to what I believe is the correct ancestry - one which I had originally considered when I first began to jot down Churchill names from Deddington, but later rejected.

Mr. Thompson showed Mr. Manchip some Churchill (U.K.) photographs which were in his possession i.e. of Mr. T's U.K. relations from the late nineteenth century and Mr. M. recognised these as being copies of

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 22, ARNCLIFFE, 2205

With Compliments

23/7/84

John L. Reynolds

Chartered Accountant

I HOPE THIS MAKES YOUR DAY

R

Telephone 599-8600

15B Belmore Street,
Arncliffe, 2205

photographs that were in the possession of his family in his youth. I infer from this that Mr. Manchip and Mr. Thompson are fairly closely related i.e. from the same stock from the mid 19th century and that my own family would also be from the same stock. Not only was there a vague tradition in my family about this, but my Churchill ancestress and Mr. Manchip's mother who were approximately the same age were very much alike and regarded themselves as "some sort of cousins".

What I have now done is to equate Benjamin Churchill of Bladon (b.1806) [my ancestor] and John Churchill of Bladon (b.1813) [the Australian ancestor] with the two brothers of Charles Churchill of Deddington (Mr. Manchip's grandfather). We know that Charles Churchill had two brothers Benjamin and John baptised in Deddington in 1806 and 1813 respectively and nothing else is known of them apart from their baptismal entries. All three were children of Joseph and Esther Churchill of Deddington who was a carpenter as were all the other children (except Charles who was a butcher) and of course so were Benjamin and John in Bladon.

Now my Australian correspondent when giving me your name also gave me your interests. Churchills of Deddington 1700-1740, Sandford St. Martin 1740-1760, Great Tew 1780-1900(?), Bladon 1820-40 and several Australian locations and this leads me to suppose that you are aware of the correct ancestry of John Churchill of Bladon rather than Mr. Thompson's wrong one. I am therefore enclosing a tree showing the various connections and hope you will let me have some comments.

My main problem is that I have no real documentary proof of the Bladon Churchills being the sons of Joseph of Deddington: only the connection indicated by the photographs which I have never seen and which I could not identify if I saw them. One form of proof would be an official statement from an Australian record that John Churchill of Maitland and Port Macquarie N.S.W. was born in Deddington U.K. in 1813. Mr. Manchip has been dead now for some years and for all I know Mr. Thompson may be dead too. I was never able to contact him.

I would be interested to hear from you and discuss any other problems that exist about the Deddington Churchills and if you could solve my problem of documentary proof I would be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,



G.R. Tibbetts.