

## The Churchills of Deddington

The economic, if not political, life of the Parish during the second part of the 18th century seems to have been largely dominated by the numerous Churchill family.<sup>(1)</sup>

This section describes the members of that branch of the family which ceased to farm their land holdings themselves and instead turned to trade, grocery in particular, and the legal profession:

- Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780), grocer, tallow-chandler, dealer in brandy and hop-dealer, who built Deddington House;
- Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), younger brother of Bartholomew;
- Bartholomew junior (1736-1806), eldest son of Benjamin;
- Samuel (1743-1808), attorney, fourth son of Benjamin;
- Samuel junior (1773-1840), attorney, eldest son of Samuel;
- Henry (1755-1811), grocer, youngest son of Benjamin.

We shall start with **Bartholomew Churchill the elder**, who was born in Deddington in 1709, and died a widower, without issue, in 1780. The son of a mercer of the same name (who died in 1734), Bartholomew was a grocer and tallow-chandler in Clifton and Deddington, diversifying into being a dealer in brandy, and subsequently becoming an 'eminent' hop-dealer. "By unwearied Application and Diliigence [*sic*] he acquired a handfome Fortune, with Credit and Reputation", *Jackson's Oxford Journal* 8 July 1780.

In 1761, whilst carrying on the trade of a tallow-chandler and grocer at Clifton, an apprentice called John Phipps 'eloped' from Bartholomew's service. A notice in the *Oxford Journal* on 14 March 1761 offered a reward of one guinea for securing his return.

Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780) continued to prosper, and close to the end of his life built a new house in New Street, which was to become Deddington House (see separate article).

Bartholomew had a **younger brother called Benjamin (1713-1783)**, whom he allowed to live in Deddington House. The first bequest in his will (made shortly before his death) read:

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<sup>1</sup> 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/ChurchillChronicleclickablecontentsjan15.pdf](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/12912/ChurchillChronicleclickablecontentsjan15.pdf)  
'*The Churchill Family of Deddington*' by Dr. G.R. Tibbetts, 1999:  
[http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/12685/ChurchillsFin3.pdf](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.<sup>(2)</sup>*

As a young man Benjamin was apprenticed to a carpenter in Great Rollright, but his trade on his return to Deddington is unknown. He had eight children, 3 of whom became grocers and one, Samuel, an attorney, as discussed below.

Whether Benjamin (died 1783) remained at Deddington House after his brother Bartholomew's death in 1780 is unclear, in view of the attempts to let the house (furnished) in July 1780 and August 1782 (*post*). Enquirers were directed to Mr. Bartholomew Churchill (Benjamin's eldest son) at Deddington in 1780 and to Mr. B. Churchill in Deddington in 1782. Although it appears Benjamin did not leave a will, Deddington House almost certainly passed to his son, Bartholomew, on his death in 1783.

Bartholomew (born 1736), the eldest son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), was taken into, and ultimately succeeded to, his uncle's business. He is referred to as **Bartholomew Churchill junior** in various newspaper notices and advertisements which appeared between 1768 and 1774.

On the day before Christmas Eve 1767, Bartholomew Churchill junior was the recipient of a barely literate letter, addressed to "Moufter Chirhil deddington Groser", demanding payment of "teenn ginis" (10 guineas), to be left in Tay's Gateway, otherwise " al that you have fhall be Deftroid in a fhort time". Bartholomew placed a notice in the *Oxford Journal* offering a reward of 50 guineas for the discovery of the author(s) of such 'incendiary' letter. Unfortunately the outcome is not recorded.

The next references in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* to Bartholomew Churchill junior were 3 notices in 1770-1771 when he was acting as one of the assignees for the creditors of a bankrupt. An advertisement for a shop assistant by "B. Churchill, jun. Grocer and Tallow-Chandler, at Deddington" appeared in the newspaper on 23 May 1772.

Amongst Bartholomew junior's other business interests, an advertisement on 7 May 1774 indicates that he was behind the launch of a weekly stage coach service between Deddington and one of the London coaching inns.

Bartholomew junior (1736-1806) married Margaret Carter of Tadmarton. Their eldest son, Bartholomew (born 1768), in due course inherited Tadmarton Manor and a large sum of money under the will of Margaret's father, on condition that he took and used the surname and arms of Carter. Bartholomew Churchill Carter became an

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<sup>2</sup> 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](http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/az/wtext/churchill_002)

attorney in London, and, as Mr. Carter, is mentioned in the advertisements for the sale or letting of Deddington House in 1793 and 1794 (*post*).<sup>(3)</sup>

Bartholomew Churchill junior (1736-1806), nephew, became sufficiently integrated with the county gentry that he was shortlisted to become High Sheriff of Oxfordshire had he not 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, 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" (*post*).<sup>(4)</sup>

Another of the nephews of Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780), the fourth son of his brother Benjamin (1713-1783), was **Samuel Churchill (born 1743)**, who was an attorney. He lived in Leadenporch House in New Street, almost opposite Deddington House. He was appointed Master Extraordinary in the Court of Chancery in 1769.

Samuel (1743-1808) must have been highly successful, as frequent notices in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* evidence that he had a finger in a great many pies, including:

- an extensive conveyancing practice in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties, frequently teaming up with his elder brother, John Churchill of Woodstock (1740-1796), who was a successful auctioneer;
- an extensive bankruptcy practice, per the newspaper notices;
- acting as clerk to the trustees of several turnpike trusts;
- receiving tax payments, and issuing certificates or licences, for several of the excise duties introduced by the Government in the early 1780s;
- steward of all three manors in the Parish (Duchy, Windsor and Christ Church);
- clerk to the parish Vestry;

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<sup>3</sup> A notice on 21 September 1793 for the auction of Deddington House states that further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Carter in London, Mr. Churchill, Attorney, Winslow, or John Churchill, auctioneer in Woodstock. Mr. Churchill, Attorney, Winslow, was Crescens Churchill (born 1770), the second surviving son of Bartholomew and Margaret. He qualified as an attorney, and practiced as a lawyer in Winslow for a short time before becoming a Lieutenant in the Northampton Regiment of Fencibles. He died in 1797 aged c.27, in his will leaving everything to his father: [http://www.winslow-history.org.uk/winslow\\_will\\_churchill1798.shtm](http://www.winslow-history.org.uk/winslow_will_churchill1798.shtm)

<sup>4</sup> 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.

- founder of the Deddington Society for the Preservation of Property (1783) and the Deddington Provident Society (1788).

At the time of the 1808 enclosure award, the year of his death.<sup>(5)</sup> Samuel Churchill senior owned 369½ acres in the Parish, including land in Clifton.

Samuel Churchill's eldest son, **Samuel Churchill junior (1773-1840)**, also became an attorney. He was appointed Clerk to the Kidlington and Deddington Turnpike Trust in 1793, and joined his father's legal practice as a partner when he came of age in 1794.<sup>(6)</sup>

At an indeterminate time 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 youngest son of Benjamin Churchill (1713-1783), was **Henry (1755-1811)**, who is described as a grocer. He was party to the attempts to let Deddington House in 1782 and 1783, when he was living in Oxford, and in the mid-1780s he operated a tax office in Deddington for the payment of various government excise duties (see article on 'Excise Duties'). Henry was also the owner of the Crown and Tuns in New Street.<sup>(7)</sup>

Henry, like his elder brothers, was upwardly mobile, and the lists of Oxfordshire gentry taking out Game Duty certificates published in 1794, 1798 and 1799 include Churchill, Henry, gentleman, Deddington, alongside his brother Churchill, Samuel, gentleman, Deddington.

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<sup>5</sup> 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](http://wills.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/az/wtext/churchill_001)

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-1780)**

**14 March 1761**

**Elopement of Apprentice to Mr. Bartholomew Churchill of Clifton [and Deddington], grocer and tallow chandler. 1 guinea reward for return.**

WHEREAS JOHN PHIPPS, Apprentice to Mr. *Bartholomew Churchill*, of Clifton, in the Parifh of Dedington, in Oxfordfhire, Tallow-Chandler and Grocer, eloped from his faid Mafter's Service on Sunday the Ift of this Infant March: *This is therefore to forwarn all Perfons*, not to employ, harbour, or conceal him after this Publication at their Peril. He is lufty made, about 20 Years of Age, near Five Feet Ten Inches high, has his own dark brown Hair, thin-faced, grey Eyes, and marked with the Small-Pox, with a Seam on his Forehead, over his right Eye: He had on when he went away a good brown ribbed Thickfet Frock, a black Waiftcoat, and good Bucfkin Breeches. Whoever will fecure him, fo that he may be brought to Juftice, fhall receive One Guinea Reward of his Mafter.

B. CHURCHILL.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17610314/014/0003>

**8 July 1780**

**Obituary of Mr. Bartholomew Churchill (73) of Deddington, eminent hop-dealer (and former grocer, tallow-chandler and dealer in brandy). Succeeded in business by nephew of the same name and place.**

On Saturday laft died, at Deddington, in this County, in the Seventy-third Year of his Age, Mr. Bartholomew Churchill, an eminent Hop-Dealer, formerly a Tallow-Chandler, Grocer, and Dealer in Brandy; which Bufineffes he had refigned in favour of his Nephew, Mr. Bartholomew Churchill, of the fame Place, who now alfo fucceeds him in the Hop Trade. By unwearied Application and Diliigence [*sic*] he acquired a handfome Fortune, with Credit and Reputation.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17800708/012/0003>

**Bartholomew Churchill junior (1736-1806)**

**9 January 1768**

**Notice by Bartholomew Churchill, jun., grocer and tallow  
chandler, Deddington, offering 50 guineas reward for  
information leading to discovery of author of incendiary  
letter demanding 10 guineas under threat of destruction of all  
his property.**

Whereas an incendiary Letter was picked up on the 23d of  
December laft, near the Houfe of Bartholomew Churchill, Grocer  
and Tallow Chandler, at Deddington in the County of Oxford,  
containing the Words and Marks following, viz,

"For Moufter Chirhil deddington Groser

"Moufter Chirhill you muft poot teenn ginis in a paper  
"and poot it in the further moft buntt hol in teas gate way on  
"the left and fide if you do not do it al that you have fhall  
"be Deftroid in a fhort time and if ane whon watches they fhall  
"loos there Lives and if you fhew this or lit be knwon it fhall  
"be the worfe for you and we will be Revenged of you there wil  
"be more that fhall be ferved fo for if the we moft and wil  
"have what we want you poot ther no wenfdays and let it be  
"untill fetch."

In order therefore to difcover the Author or Authors,  
Writer or Writers of the faid incendiary Letter, I hereby  
promife a Reward of FIFTY GUINEAS to the Perfon or Perfons who  
fhall make fuch Difcovery, fo as the Offender or Offenders may  
be brought to Juftice, to be paid on his or their Conviction:  
As Witnefs my Hand,

BARTHOLOMEW CHURCHILL, jun.

Deddington, Jan. Ift, 1768.

*N.B. The above Advertifement was fent for our laft Week's  
Journal; but by an unlucky Accident did not come to Hand till  
laft Monday.*

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17680102/005/0002>

**28 April 1770**

**Notice to debtors of William Barker of the Red Lion in  
Banbury, a bankrupt. Assignees in bankruptcy Mr. Hawtyn of  
Banbury and Mr. B[artholomew] Churchill, junior of Deddington.  
Attorney, Mr. Churchill of Deddington.**

All Perfons indebted to the Eftate and Effects of Mr. WILLIAM BARKER, of the Red Lion Inn in Banbury, Oxfordfhire, a Bankrupt, are hereby required to pay their refpective Debts to the Affignees under the Commiffion, Mr. Hawtyn of Banbury, and Mr. B. Churchill, junior, of Deddington; or to Mr. Churchill, Attorney at Law in Deddington aforefaid, who is duly authorized by the Affignees to receive and recover the fame.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0000073/17700428/005/0002?browse=true>

**23 May 1772**

**Advertisement for a shop assistant by B. Churchill, jun.  
Grocer and Tallow-Chandler, at Deddington.**

WANTED, - A Man of good Character, who has served an Apprenticeship to a Grocer and Tallow-Chandler, or a Grocer only. He muft be Mafter of packing up Goods, active and civil in the Shop, and willing to confine himself to it; and find Sureties for his Honefty. Enquire of B. Churchill, jun. Grocer and Tallow-Chandler, at Deddington.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17720523/006/0003>

**7 May 1774**

**Advertisement for weekly Stage Waggon between Deddington and London launched by B. Churchill, Junior.**

NOTICE is hereby given, That a STAGE WAGGON fets out from Deddington, in Oxfordfhire, every Friday Morning, to the Oxford Arms, in Warwick Lane, London, through Blechington, Iflip, Wheatley, Tetfworth, Stoken Church, the two Wickhams, Beaconsfield, Uxbridge, &c. - Takes in loading for Deddington and the Neighbourhood, and returns from London the fame Road every Monday, and arrives at Deddington on Wednefdays. - Takes up Goods and Paffengers on any Part of the Road, and will call at convenient Places for that purpofe; but will not be anfwerable for Money, Bills, Plate, Jewels &c. unlefs entered and paid for as fuch. - This Stage is intended to be continued under the Direction of

April 28, 1774.

B. CHURCHILL, Junior.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17740507/006/0002>

**19 November 1791**

**Nominations for High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Third nomination Bartholomew Churchill of Deddington.**

On Saturday laft the following three Gentlemen, for each County, were nominated for the Office of Sheriff for the enfuing Year.

Oxfordfhire - Thomas Willetts, of Caverfham; John Caillaud, of Afton; Bartholomew Churchill, of Deddington, Efqrs.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17911119/003/0001>

**17 November 1792**

**Nominations for High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Second nomination Bartholomew Churchill of Deddington.**

*Nomination for the Office of Sheriff, for the Year 1793.*

Oxfordfhire. - John Caillaud, of Afton, Efq. Bartholomew Churchill, of Deddington, Efq. William Lowndes Stone, of Brightwell, Efq.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17921117/006/0002>

**Samuel Churchill (1743-1808)**

**18 November 1769**

**Judicial appointment for Mr. Samuel Churchill, Attorney, of Deddington.**

The Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor has been pleafed to appoint Mr. Samuel Churchill, of Deddington in this County, a Mafter Extraordinary in the High Court of Chancery.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17691118/011/0003>

**28 March 1795**

Aynho Division of the Burford, Chipping Norton, Banbury, Stow, and Aynho Turnpike Roads. Notice of adjourned meeting of Trustees at the Alfred's Head at Aynho Wharf, for the purpose of separately letting by auction the Tolls arising at the Swerford Heath Gate and the Clifton Bridge Gate. Samuel Churchill, Clerk to the Trustees, Deddington.

Repeated 25 April 1795.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17950328/006/0001>

**Henry Churchill (1755-1811)**

**13 September 1794**

GAME DUTY.

A LIST of the several PERSONS to whom CERTIFICATES at £3 3s. are granted under the Act of 31st George III for the Year 1794.

Lengthy list includes:

Churchill, Samuel, Gent. Deddington.

Churchill, John, Woodstock.

Churchill, Benjamin, Ditto.

Churchill, Henry, Gent. Deddington.

Latham, Robert, Clifton.

Prickett, Andrew, Clifton.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/BL/0000073/17940913/014/0004?browse=true>

*Other references to the Churchill family may be accessed by word searching the Index or the Compendium.*

*Transcripts of the advertisements for the letting, or sale, of Deddington House mentioned above may be found in a separate article on 'Deddington House'.*



