
THE CHURCHILLIAN

Churchill Society of Tennessee

Spring 2020

Churchill Symposium in Nashville!



London's Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast, photo courtesy of Randolph Churchill

Upcoming events:

April 4, 2020 - 2nd Annual Churchill Symposium, Belle Meade Country Club, 9am to 1pm

June 6, 2020 – “Churchill and Art” at the Nashville studio of Artist Shane Neal, 4pm to 6pm

October 10 - Annual Formal Banquet at the Brentwood Country Club, 6pm

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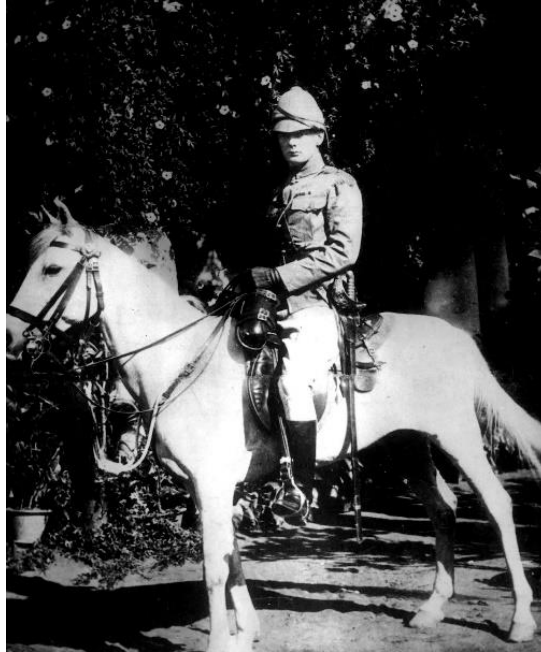
From the President

Churchill Speeches - “Sleep to Gather Strength for the Morning”

Article - “Winston and Jack the Churchill Brothers” by Celia Lee

Book Review - HRH The Duke of Kent: A Life of Service

2nd Annual Churchill Symposium
“Churchill in War and Peace”
April 4, 2020
Belle Meade Country Club, Nashville TN



Speakers:
David Freeman PhD
Klaus Larres PhD
Douglas Russell JD

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Address: 815 Belle Meade Blvd, Nashville, TN 37205
Times: Breakfast at 9:00 - Presentations: 10:00 to 13:00
Ticket Price: \$45 per person - includes breakfast and refreshments

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Make Reservations at:
www.churchillsocietytn.org
PayPal

-
or mail payment to
Lynne Siesser
2009 Overhill Drive Nashville, TN 37215-3414

2nd Annual Churchill Society of Tennessee Symposium

You are invited to attend our 2nd Annual Churchill Society of Tennessee Symposium. We have gathered three expert speakers from across the country. The topic this year is “Churchill in War and Peace”.

The symposium will be held at the beautiful Belle Meade Country Club in Nashville, TN from 9am to 1pm. The morning will start with a buffet breakfast. The speakers will begin at 10am. Each speaker will have one hour for their presentations and Q&A. Some of the speakers will have their books for sale and will be available to inscribe them for you at the conclusion of the talks.

Here are the bios for this year’s speakers.

David Freeman PhD



David Freeman is the Director of Publications for the International Churchill Society. He has served as editor of the society’s journals *Finest Hour* since 2015 and the *Churchill Bulletin* since 2013. He teaches history at California State University, Fullerton, where he has been since 1999. In addition to his editorial duties for the Churchill Society, he regularly fields questions about Winston Churchill for the international media and has helped to organize each of the society’s international conferences for the past four years. Dr. Freeman has written many articles and book reviews connected with Churchill and other aspects of twentieth-century British history and frequently speaks about Churchill in North America and the United Kingdom. During the Cold War he qualified as a nuclear reactor operator on a US Navy fast-attack submarine.

David Freeman’s presentation is titled: *Churchill's speeches to Congress in 1941, 1943, and 1952*

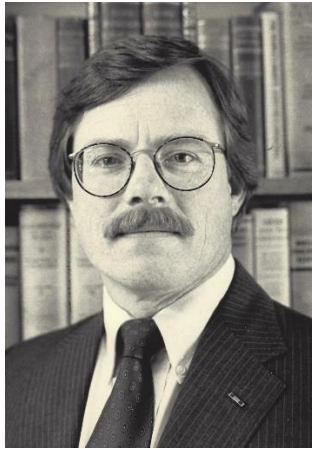
Klaus Larres PhD



Prof. Klaus W. Larres, Ph.D., is the *Richard M. Krasno Distinguished Professor of History and International Affairs* at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC. He has recently served as a *Counselor and Senior Policy Adviser* at the German Embassy in Beijing, China. Larres also was a Visiting Professor at Schwarman College/Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and a non-residential Senior Fellow at the think tank *Center for Transatlantic Relations* at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, DC. Recently he has been appointed to serve on the 'International Board' of the *Bundestkanzler-Willy-Brandt-Stiftung* in Berlin and on the board of directors of the *Carolina China Council* in Raleigh, NC. He also is a senior adviser to the Chinese-American Friendship Association (CAECA) in Raleigh, NC, and board member of the Berlin based foreign policy journal *WeltTrends*.

Klaus Larres presentation is titled: “*Churchill and Crisis Diplomacy in War and Peace*”

Douglas Russell JD



Douglas S. Russell was educated at Grinnell College and the University of Iowa College of Law. He served in the United States Army, Military Intelligence. He is the author of *Winston Churchill Soldier*, *The Military Life of a Gentleman At War* (2005) and *The Orders, Decorations and Medals of Sir Winston Churchill* (1990). He is a longtime member and former officer and board member of the International Churchill Society. He lives in Iowa City, Iowa and serves as a Senior Judge of the Iowa District Court.

Douglas Russell's presentations is titled: "*Winston Churchill's Military Career*".

From the President



Dear Members,

Greetings everyone and welcome to another edition of the newsletter. Our goal is to bring interesting topics and engaging activities to our membership. As you can see in the upcoming events, we have a terrific slate of activities lined up for you and more to come in 2020.

For our April 4th symposium in Nashville we have gathered some of the top experts in their fields to deliver what we know will be an entertaining and informative symposium.

Now, I would like to bring one more event to your attention. That is the [37th International Churchill Society's \(ICS\) annual conference](#). This year it will be in London, England from October 22 to 24. The conference always has a great list of speakers and there is the opportunity to meet Churchillians from around the world. Yours truly will have the honor of piping our guests to dinner on Saturday evening in the [Great Hall at Guildhall](#) (built circa 1411).

37th International Churchill Conference



THE INTERNATIONAL
CHURCHILL SOCIETY

www.winstonchurchill.org/London2020

Several of you have expressed interest in organizing a trip to visit many of the Churchill sites in England. We would like to put together a Churchill Society of Tennessee delegation to attend this year's ICS conference in London. Beyond the conference itself, depending on the package you choose, you will have the opportunity to visit [Chartwell House in Kent](#), the [Churchill War Rooms](#) in London, the [Churchill Archives](#) in Cambridge, [HMS Belfast](#) in the Thames and the [Imperial War Museum](#). It would be a challenge to organize all these activities on your own in such a short period of time.

This event is custom made for Churchillians and the opportunity of a lifetime. If you are interested in the ICS London conference and want more information about joining our CSOT delegation please contact me. Drury55@gmail.com

Don't forget to renew your membership and please invite your friends to join or attend one of our events. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Respectfully yours,

Jim Drury

Churchill's Speeches



As you know I try to include a Churchill speech with each issue. A while back I asked Randolph Churchill what were some of his favourite Winston Churchill speeches. He replied that this is certainly one of them.

[Here is a recording of that speech.](#)

Vive la France!

SLEEP TO GATHER STRENGTH FOR THE MORNING

By WINSTON CHURCHILL, Prime Minister of Great Britain

Delivered Over Radio from London, October 21, 1940

FRENCHMEN! For more than thirty years, in peace and war, I marched with you and I am marching still along the same road. Tonight, I speak to you at your firesides wherever you may be, or whatever your fortunes are. I repeat the prayer around the lous d'or—Dieu protege la France, God protect France.

Here at home in England, under the fire of the Boche, we do not forget the ties and links that unite us to France, and we are persevering steadfastly and in good heart in the cause of European freedom and fair dealing for the common people of all countries for which, with you, we draw the sword.

When good people get into trouble because they are attacked and heavily smitten by the vile and wicked, they must be very careful not to get at loggerheads with one another. The common enemy is always trying to bring

this about, and, of course, in bad luck a lot of things happen which play into the enemy's hands. We must just make the best of things as they come along.

Here in London, which Herr Hitler says he will reduce to ashes and which his airplanes are now bombarding, our people are bearing up unflinchingly. Our air force has more than held its own. We are waiting for the long-promised invasion—so are the fishes.

Predicts Air Supremacy in 1941

But, of course, this brush is only the beginning. Now in 1940, in spite of occasional losses, we have, as ever, the command of the seas. In 1941 we shall have the command of the air. Remember what that means.

Herr Hitler, with his tanks and other mechanical weapons and also by fifth-column intrigue with traitors, has managed to subjugate for the time being most of the finest races in Europe, and his little Italian accomplice is trotting along hopefully and hungrily, but rather wearily and very timidly, at his side. They both wish to carve up France and her empire as if it were a fowl—to one a leg, to another a wing, or perhaps part of the breast.

Not only the French Empire will be devoured by these two ugly customers, but Alsace-Lorraine will go once again under the German yoke and Nice, Savoy and Corsica, Napoleon's Corsica, will be torn from the fair realm of France.

But Herr Hitler is not thinking only of stealing other people's territories or flinging gobbets of them to his little confederate. I tell you truly what you must believe when I say this evil man, this monstrous abortion of hatred and deceit, is resolved on nothing less than the complete wiping out of the French nation and the disintegration of its whole life and future.

By all kinds of sly and savage means he is plotting and working to quench forever the fountain of characteristic French culture and French inspiration to the world. All Europe, if he has his way, will be reduced to one uniform Bocheland, to be exploited, pillaged and bullied by his Nazi gangsters.

Urges Spiritual Rearmament

You will excuse my speaking frankly, because this is not a time to mince words. It is not defeat that France will now be made to suffer at German hands, but the doom of complete obliteration—army, navy, air force, religion, laws, language, culture, institutions, literature, history,

traditional! are to be effaced by the brute strength of a triumphant army and the scientific, low cunning of a ruthless police force.

Frenchmen! Rearm your spirits before it is too late. Remember how Napoleon said before one of his battles—these same Prussians who are so boastful today were three to one at Jena and six to one at Montmirail. "Never will I believe that the soul of France is dead; never will I believe that her place among the greatest nations of the world has been lost forever."

All these schemes and crimes of Herr Hitler are bringing upon him and upon all who belong to his system a retribution which many of us will live to see. The story is not yet finished, but it will not be so long. We are on his track and so are our friends across the Atlantic Ocean and your friends across the Atlantic Ocean. If he cannot destroy us we will surely destroy him and all his gang and all their works. Therefore, have hope and faith, for all will come right. Now, what is it we British ask of you in this present hard and bitter time? What we ask at this moment in our struggle to win the victory which we will share with you is that if you cannot help us, at least you will not hinder us.

Presently you will be able to weight the arm that strikes for you and you ought to do so. But even now we trust that Frenchmen, wherever they may be, will feel their hearts warm and the proud blood tingle in their veins when we have some success in the air or on the sea, or presently, for that will come, upon the land.

Recalls Gambetta's Words

Remember, we shall never stop, never weary and never give in, and that our whole people and empire have bowed themselves to the task of cleansing Europe from the Nazi pestilence and saving the world from the new Dark Ages. Do not imagine, as the German-controlled wireless tells you, that we English seek to take your ships and colonies. We seek to beat the life and soul out of Hitler and Hitlerism—that alone, that all the time, that to the end.

We do not covet anything from any nation, except their respect.

Those Frenchmen who are in the French Empire and those who are in so-called unoccupied France may see their way from time to time to useful action. I will not go into details. Hostile ears are listening.

As for those to whom English hearts go out in full because they see them under sharp discipline, oppression and spying of the Hun—as to those Frenchmen in the occupied regions, to them I say, when they think of the future let them remember the words which (Leon) Gambetta, that great Frenchman, uttered after 1870 about the future of France and what was to come: "Think of it always. Speak of it never."

Good night, then. Sleep to gather strength for the morning, for the morning will come. Brightly will it shine on the brave and true; kindly upon all who suffer for the cause; glorious upon the tombs of heroes—thus will shine the dawn.

Vive la France! Long live, also, the forward march of the common people in all the lands toward their just and true inheritance and toward the broader and fuller age.

Winston and Jack the Churchill Brothers

by Celia Lee

To access via the Lees' website, click below the photo of Celia



johnandcelialee.co.uk

[Winston & Jack The Churchill Brothers - Celia Lee](#)

Introduction

The current generations of Churchills were descended **NOT** via the male line, but via the female line of John Churchill the 1st Duke of Marlborough and Sarah (nee Jennings) the 1st Duchess of Marlborough of Blenheim Palace, Oxford. John Churchill the 1st Duke earned fame and renown, having fought at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. The only son of John and Sarah's marriage had died, pre-deceasing his father, and their second surviving daughter, Henrietta, at her father's death, was allowed to take the title of 2nd Duchess of Marlborough. At her death, the title then passed to the family of her sister Anne Churchill, who was married to Charles Spencer, and it is from this matrilineal Churchill/Spencer line, that the present-day Spencer-Churchills are descended. Anne had pre-deceased Henrietta but Anne's second, surviving son, Charles Spencer (1706 – 1758), became the 3rd Duke of Marlborough, hence the name being altered to Spencer-Churchill. The late Diana, Princess of Wales, whose maiden name was Spencer was descended from the same family line.

The modern Churchill family tree shows at the top, John Winston Spencer-Churchill the 7th Duke of Marlborough of Blenheim Palace, and his wife, Frances (nee Vane) the 7th Duchess, who was the daughter of Lord and Lady Londonderry. The Duke and Duchess produced eight living children, two of whom were sons. Their first son was George, who was heir to the title of the 8th Duke of Marlborough. Their second son was Lord Randolph Spencer-Churchill who married an American, Miss Jeannette (Jennie) Jerome, and they are the parents of the late Sir Winston Churchill and his brother John, known in the family as Jack.

Sir Winston Churchill dropped Spencer from his surname, because as a boy, attending Harrow Public School, when the boys were lined up for an event, he was last, due to 'S' being so far down the alphabet.

Spencer, however, remains officially part of the Churchill family's surname. As stated earlier, the late Diana, Princess of Wales was descended from the same line, and there was also an earlier Lady Diana Spencer, born 1710, who died young, aged only 25, in 1735.



Lord Randolph Spencer-Churchill

Political background in Ireland

Politics dominated the Churchills' lives. The 7th Duke of Marlborough who was Lord Randolph Churchill's father was sent to Ireland as Viceroy (or Lord Lieutenant), that is, Queen Victoria's representative, from December 1876, until the spring of 1880. The Duke and Duchess lived in the Viceregal Lodge, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Lord Randolph, Jennie, little Winston aged 2 years, and his nanny, Mrs Elizabeth Everest, lived in the White Lodge in the grounds. Lord Randolph who was Conservative member of Parliament for Woodstock, Oxfordshire, took up the position of unpaid secretary to his father. Dublin Castle was the seat of British rule in Ireland and was used also for political meetings and banquets.

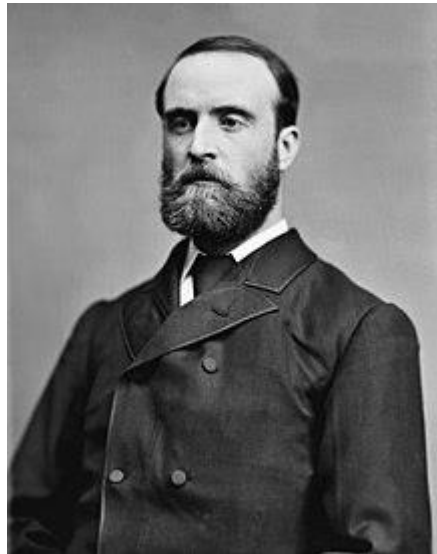
It was whilst they were in Ireland, that Lord Randolph went through a metamorphosis in political thinking, that would alter the Churchills' lives for generations to come. The spark that lit the flame that brought about this change in his formerly, quiet personality, lay in *what* the Churchills found in terms of poverty and squalor, amongst the Irish peasants and working classes, that shocked and horrified them.

Disaster threatened, when it poured with rain for months, and the potato and corn crops were lost, and there was no seed for future planting. Fear of famine like the one of 1845-9, when

one million people perished, and a further million emigrated mostly to America, now swept the land.

Charles Stewart Parnell and the Nationalist Movement

Heaped on top of that was the Nationalist Movement, arguing for an independent Ireland, and agitation to break away from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the leader of which was Charles Stewart Parnell. Parnell was the wealthy protestant landowner of a large estate and Avondale House, County Wicklow. It was unusual for a rich protestant to take up the cause of Irish nationalism which was mostly associated with the Catholic population in the south of Ireland. One of his biographers told me that Parnell was sent to the University of Cambridge to be educated and that during his time there he got into some kind of trouble and was 'sent down' in other words expelled. His demise in this respect may have turned him against the English, and he certainly harboured a deep hatred of their presence in Ireland.



Charles Stewart Parnell

Parnell had American roots, he was born in Avondale House, the 3rd son of John Henry Parnell and an American mother, Delia Tudor Stewart of Bordentown, New Jersey, who was the daughter of the American naval hero, Admiral Charles Stewart, that was the stepson of one of George Washington's bodyguards. Parnell's great-grandmother, belonged to the Tudor family, so Parnell had a distant relationship with the British Royal Family which must have been an embarrassment to the British aristocracy and landed gentry. John Henry Parnell was a cousin of one of Ireland's leading aristocrats, Viscount Powerscourt, and was also the grandson of a Chancellor of the Exchequer in Dublin Ireland's Grattan's Parliament (1782), Sir John Parnell, who lost office in 1799, when he opposed the Act of Union.

To return to Charles Stewart Parnell; having served as a Member of Parliament from 1875 to 1891, he was Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, 1882-91, and Leader of the Home Rule

League, 1880-82. His party held the balance of power between William Gladstone's Liberal Party and Lord Salisbury's Conservative Party in the British House of Commons, during the stormy, Home Rule debates of 1880-82. It was during this time he came into conflict with Lord Randolph who, though opposing fiercely Home Rule for Ireland, held a certain respect for Parnell, probably because, strictly speaking, they were from the same social class and to some degree spoke the same language. In other words, they were both gentlemen in the understanding of that term of their time.

Famine relief promoted by the Churchills in Ireland

During the years the 7th Duke of Marlborough was Viceroy in Ireland, Lord Randolph persuaded the British Government to set up a small commission, on which sat he, and the expert on Irish affairs, Lord Justice Gerald Fitz Gibbon, the Law Adviser at Dublin Castle, and they enquired into the condition, management, and revenues of Ireland's schools.

Together, Lord Randolph and his wife Jennie travelled the entire thirty-two counties of Ireland to assess the situation. The Duchess of Marlborough assisted by Jennie set up a Famine Relief Fund, with Lord Randolph as its secretary. Its purpose was to provide food, clothing, fuel for the fires, and small sums of money to keep able-bodied men, temporarily in distress, out of the workhouse. Grants were made available to schools that they might provide meals for the children. Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, and all the great families of the mainland donated money, and the fund raised over £135,000 pounds (sterling), today's equivalent of over US\$21million. It was this reformist and humanitarian policy that would later influence greatly, Winston Churchill, when he became a Member of Parliament, and he has been ever recognised as a Liberal Conservative.

Prior to their departure to live in Ireland and whilst Lord Randolph was living in London and attending the House of Commons as a newly-elected Member of Parliament, he had sat on the back benches and said little. He didn't want to be a politician and it is recognised he only stood for election to represent Woodstock under pressure from his father in order to persuade him to agree to his marrying Jennie Jerome. The Duke and Duchess are known to have been lukewarm on the marriage due to Jennie's parents being separated, with Leonard living in New York and Clara living in Paris with their three daughters. A further reason for the Duke's opposition to the match was that Leonard being an American was not an aristocrat and was a speculator on the New York stock exchange. At one stage the Duke is reported to have described him as a 'common sort of fellow'.

Influence on Lord Randolph of Dublin style of politics

It was the Irish experience that changed Lord Randolph and turned him into a fighting politician. He used to sneak into the political meetings of Charles Stewart Parnell, and there he discovered a very different kind of political oratory. These powerful, Irish speakers could

shout and bang their fists on the table and be heard in a packed hall of hundreds, and at street meetings of thousands, and they knew how to rouse a crowd to their cause. As they were speaking in Irish his understanding of what was being said was sketchy from what key words in Irish he had learnt from Fitzgibbon. Lord Randolph disguised himself by growing a beard and pulled up his collar and wore a cap to make himself look like an ordinary man. Then one night he was recognised and got kicked out of a meeting. These were tales that would be told around the Churchills' firesides years later in the presence of his grandson Peregrine, who related them to this author.

Lord Randolph continued to travel back and forth by boat to attend to his ministerial duties at the House of Commons in London, and the leading issue of the day was the Irish Question. The years he spent in Ireland, turned him into an expert on Irish Affairs, and he was recognised as such. He would soon take to the rostrum in both halls and public meetings in England, where he would bellow out his political message and in the House of Commons, he was now a force to be reckoned with.

Birth of John Strange Spencer-Churchill (Jack)

In the midst of all the upheavals in Dublin, Jennie gave birth to another son, February 4, 1880, named John Strange, known as Jack. Later that year, the Duke of Marlborough's term as Viceroy came to an end, and both families returned to live in England. Despite the work put in by Marlboroughs, and the money they had raised for relief of the poor and starving, such was the depth of anti-British feeling, that a crowd gathered and stoned their carriage as it left Dublin.

Winston and Jack as schoolboys

Now we come to Winston and Jack as schoolboys. A comparison between the brothers shows that Winston was ever in trouble at school. He performed poorly as an academic and failed the entrance exam for Harrow Public School. The Headmaster took him in, due to the high political status of his father whom he admired. Lord Randolph later had to send Winston to a cram school so that he could pass the exams to get into Sandhurst Military School (today Academy).

In contrast, Jack who was over five years younger, was by far the clever of the brothers. A visitor to the Churchills' home one day asked Jack if he was 'a good boy' to which he replied, 'Yes, but brother is teaching me to be naughty'. At age seven, Jack was sent to Elstree preparatory boarding school, and unlike Winston, he took to learning like a duck to water. He was mostly at or near the top of his class. He sat the entrance examination for Harrow Public School a year early and passed and was admitted. Throughout his entire education, he was never once punished and was a model pupil. He of course expected rewards for being good and a typical letter home read: 'I have been top of my form three times', and he wanted more money, food hampers, sweets, more visits from his mother and the nanny Mrs Everest, and he would demand: 'Bring me a hamper and two tins of sardines'. The letters from both brothers

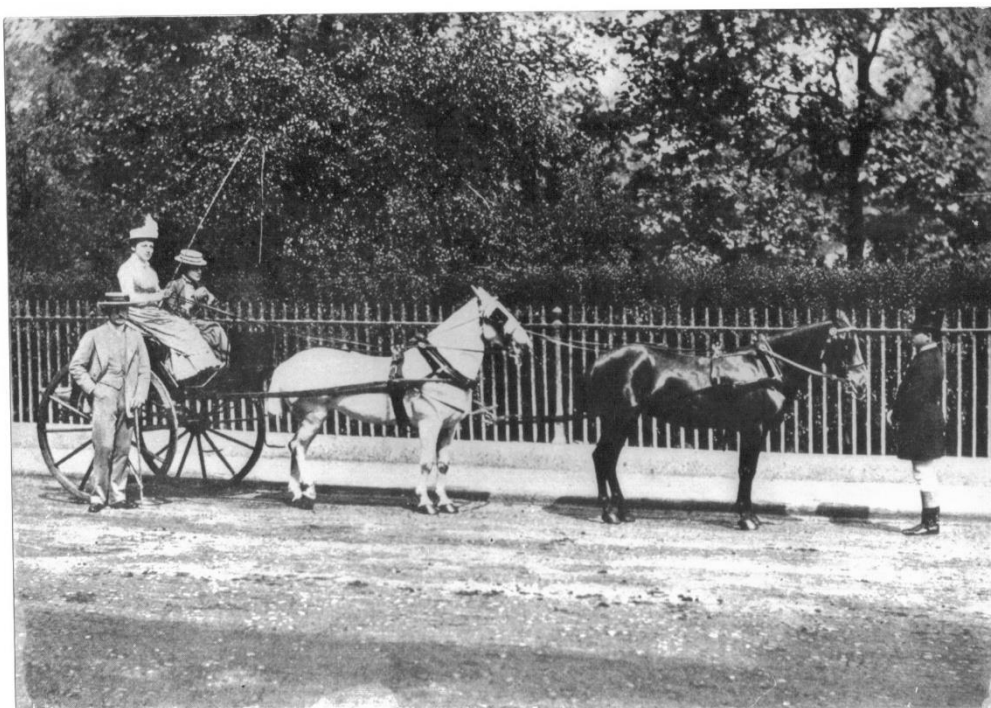
to their father, however, were more to do with which horse won which race, and how much were the family's earnings from the winnings. Being the sons of 'The coming man' in politics meant that both boys were looked up to at school, and they made extra pocket money by cutting out their father's signatures from his letters and selling them to their classmates. A number of these letters that have missing signatures have survived as proof!

The young Churchills' careers

Winston and Jack grew up as part of a family that was obsessed with politics. Randolph and Jennie frequently entertained other Members of Parliament to lunch at their home, and 12-year-old Winston would sit amongst them at the table, where he learnt political debate, and discussed politics with the adults. Another force, however, had prior claim over the Churchill brothers from their earliest years – the huge wall-to-wall tapestries at Blenheim Palace - espousing the fame of their illustrious ancestor, John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and his triumph at the Battle of Blenheim. Initially, both boys wanted to become full-time soldiers and had collections of model soldiers that were added to each Christmas by parents and relatives. Winston possessed an entire modern army, but he allowed Jack only coloured troops and no artillery. Their father having made both boys superb horsemen, entered Jack's name into an army class at Harrow School and arranged for him to meet Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, in the Head-Master's House. Lord Randolph would later approach the Duke of Cambridge, also a former Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, asking that both his sons' names be put down for the elite 60th Rifles of which the Duke was Colonel-in-Chief.

Jennie campaigns for Randolph

Lord Randolph was fiercely popular with the people and he fought the old guard in the Tory Party, eventually becoming Secretary of State for India in a Conservative Government, and later, Leader of the House of Commons and Chancellor of the Exchequer. If fate had not decreed otherwise, his next step would have been Prime Minister. Jennie supported her husband all the way, even to the extent of going out on a horse and trap with his sister, campaigning for him and sporting his horse-racing colours. It was a move that was unheard of for a woman in her day, but she was clearly eager to be the first American lady into No.10 Downing Street. With her liberal, American, political stance, she would probably have been the best thing that ever happened to it! When Lord Randolph felt obliged to resign as Chancellor of the Exchequer, having refused on a point of both political promise to the people and as a matter of principle, not to make swingeing cuts, a messenger was sent to the Churchills' house who asked to buy his robes for his replacement. Farsighted Jennie answered the request with: 'No! I am preserving them for my son,' – meaning Winston! How prophetic those words would be for the then schoolboy that later as grown man and politician, would become Chancellor of the Exchequer, would retrieve these same robes out of mothballs and wear them in the House of Commons.



Jennie, Lady Randolph Churchill (far right) and Lord Randolph's sister Georgiana, Lady Howe, campaigning for Randolph's re-election, 1885, at which time he was Secretary of State for India.

Death of Lord Randolph Churchill

In 1894, Lord Randolph was struck down by a fatal illness and died on 24th January 1895. It was like an earthquake in his sons' lives. Winston was then just approaching his 21st birthday and was an officer cadet at Sandhurst Royal Military School. At such a time he really needed his father. Jennie would step in acting as both father and mother to him and, it was she who built up Winston's confidence, encouraging him that he could achieve anything, and they were more like brother and sister. Jennie now saw Winston as filling his father's shoes and taking his place at the House of Commons despatch box. Lord Randolph did not have a good relationship with Winston due to his son's inability to apply himself to his studies at school, pass exams, and keep out of trouble. Much of Lord Randolph's problem was however his nerves, due to political pressures and ill health.

Winston goes to Cuba as a journalist

That autumn, Winston took leave of absence from Sandhurst, and went to the Americas to observe the Spanish army in its campaign against rebels in the Cuban War of Independence. Jennie was a friend of Democratic Congressman, Bourke Cockran, and he met Winston at the harbour and welcomed him to his home at 5th Avenue, New York, where he treated him to fat cigars and fine wine. Cockran would become a kind of father figure in Winston's life, advising him on books to read from his large library, and he took him to West Point where he was 'greeted like a general'.

Winston and his companion, Reggie Barnes, then set out to Cuba as observers, Winston in the role of journalist for the London *Daily Graphic*. On his 21st birthday he was in the thick of the fighting, following General Valdez, leader of the Spanish army, who was at Sancti Spiritus. Three days later, whilst they were all relaxing from the fighting and bathing in a river a volley of shots rang out, that went whistling over Winston's and Barnes' heads and it was, according to Winston, a near thing!

After his return to England, Jennie, encouraged by Bourke Cockran, hatched a plan with Winston, that he should serve in the army for a spell and make a name for himself, and then go into politics. Winston passed out well from Sandhurst and joined the 4th Hussars and went with them to India. But he found it all to be a complete bore and a waste of time and returned home.

Jack had been Lord Randolph's favourite and now that he was dead, there was no one to fight Jack's corner. In his final days at Harrow School, aged 17, in 1897, the Headmaster Dr. Welldon was making plans for him to enter Oxford University to study for a degree.

The Churchills money problems

Now we come to the big obstacle of money! In his will, Lord Randolph had left sufficient to provide for his wife and sons. When Jennie was a child, living in New York in the late 1850s, her father was reputed to be worth \$10million about \$500 million in today's value. She had been raised in fabulous wealth and luxury, and in adulthood, she didn't understand the value of money, and she was something of a shop-a-holic. She soon squandered the money on herself, and provided large handouts to Winston who was often getting into debt. She insisted she could afford to put only one son through an army career, meaning Winston. She sent Jack to France for a year to learn French and, with his usual diligence, he really applied himself to the subject and became fluent.

Jennie knew Ernest Cassel who was a stockbroker that handled the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII's) investments and who was nicknamed 'the King's banker'. She took Jack to stay at the Prince's country estate, Sandringham, Norfolk, where she introduced him to Cassel. As Jennie's father, Leonard Jerome had been a speculator on the American stock market, *she got it into her head*, that Jack should become a stockbroker and as she put it 'make million' for the family. Winston put up fierce opposition, but she over-ruled him saying 'I know best' and she didn't want either of her sons 'risking your necks in the army'. All this she put in writing in letters to Winston!

In January 1898, just three years after her husband's death, Jennie made it known to her sons that she had to find a staggering £17,000 pounds sterling to buy up all the loans she had taken out. It amounted to a sum that today, in the year 2020, is equal to approximately £1,400,000 or

US\$131,169. She wanted Winston to guarantee £700 per annum to pay the interest on her loans, and Jack was cajoled into agreeing to pay half of this sum.

Just prior to taking up his appointment with Cassel, towards the end of January 1898, Jennie allowed Jack to satisfy his interest in the army by joining the Oxfordshire Hussars, a part-time Yeomanry Regiment. After a month's training, he could balance the two pursuits, working in the City for Cassel during the week, and joining his regiment at weekends. This is how good he was - he was promoted up through the officer ranks from 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant to Captain, and then to Major.



Major John S. Churchill in the Oxfordshire Hussars

The City of London in those days was not considered to be a fit place for a gentleman, still less the grandson of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. There existed an aristocratic disdain of those engaging in 'trade'. Jack applied to join the Jockey Club and was turned down as they accepted only those engaged in gentlemanly pursuits, and stockbroking did not meet that criteria. As it turned out, Jack was for years only Cassel's clerk and secretary, having had to learn shorthand and typing. He worked long hours in the claustrophobic heat of a City of London office, organising Cassel's business meetings, taking down the minutes and typing them. His son Peregrine who asked me to write a new biography of the Churchill family told me that he suspected that his father had not in the beginning been paid a salary and that his earnings had been forfeited in instalment payments to Cassel for a loan he had given Jennie. He also told me that when his father died, he (Peregrine) was the executor of his will,

and he discovered that for years Jack had been paying off Jennie's debts, despite her having died in 1922, and there was still in 1947, £80 owing and he paid it.

Jack in Egypt

Cassel was heavily involved in the Aswan Dam project and when he went out to Egypt in January 1899, Jack accompanied him. He wrote a series of letters to his mother of his misery. Passing through Vienna on a train in the dead of winter he said: 'We have just been through field after field of deep snow and it is freezing here.' In contrast, they arrived in the sweltering heat of Cairo for the laying of the foundation stone for the Barrage Ceremony of the Aswan Dam. Writing again to his mother, he told her he saw articles about her in the fashionable magazines of the day, saying how she was enjoying herself at balls. In contrast, 'There is nobody here of interest'. Cassel gave a large dinner for thirty people and Jack had to arrange it 'doing galloper' meaning he had to run around after these people like a gofer or dogsbody. Later at Cassel's Daira Company, Jack wrote to his mother: 'I have been all day in a factory with a temperature of over 100 degrees.' His birthday had come and gone whilst he was there, and she had forgot it.

Winston and Jack in the South African Boer War

Winston went out as a war correspondent to cover the Boer War in South Africa, (1899-1902), and was soon captured. His sensational escape and subsequent life on the run, - wanted dead or alive – made his reputation. He then joined the South African Light Horse where he met up with Jack, who was commissioned as a Lieutenant and Troop Commander, 1st February 1900. Jack was wounded in the ankle in his first action, February 11th and was the first officer casualty to be treated on the hospital ship *Maine*.



*Jennie, Lady Randolph Churchill as Sister Jennie
Attending to her son Jack on the hospital ship Maine during the Boer War*

There, he was greeted by his mother, who had been the driving force behind raising the money for the fitting out of this a former, cattle-ship, and who had travelled on it in the role of administrator, but wearing a form of nurses uniform and being addressed by everyone as ‘Sister Jennie’. Jack returned from his injury to active duty with his regiment, and served in Natal under Sir Redvers Buller, where he saw months of gruelling anti-guerilla operations, punctuated by some sharp battles, in which he conducted himself with gallantry.



The house in South Africa where Winston sought refuge with the mine manager when he escaped from the Boers and was on the run with a price on his head – dead or alive!

Winston becomes a Member of Parliament

Having served during the war, while publishing articles in the newspapers, Winston now returned to England a war hero, ripe for politics. Oldham in Lancashire was a two-seat constituency, and Winston stood for one of the seats that came up for election. For many years, Jennie had learnt politics alongside Lord Randolph. But before she arrived, Winston made an outrageous speech, attacking the Government and Tory Party position over a Clerical Tithes Bill. It was a tactical blunder and he lost the election. Shortly afterwards the second seat came up for election and this time he waited until Jennie arrived. She advised him how to make speeches and what not to say, and he captured that seat.

Jack is obliged to return to the City

Jack left South Africa in late October 1900, when the war was thought to be near its end, returning home with the ringing endorsement of his commanding officer Colonel, Julian Byng. During his absence his mother had remarried, Lieutenant George Cornwallis-West who was the same age as Winston, both having been born in 1874, within a few weeks of each other in the year of Jennie’s first marriage to Lord Randolph. Jennie made it known she didn’t want either of her sons living with her at the expensive house she had purchased in Great

Cumberland Street, London. Jack complained to his mother, ‘I have to return to that horrid city’.

Winston career as a politician begins

Winston was elected to Parliament, October 1, 1901, and was now set on a long political career that would be rocky to say the least. Jennie was for the rest of her life the driving force behind him. He could continue from where his father left off six years earlier, taking up his powers of oratory on the public platform and in parliament, even to the extent of copying how he had worn his hat. Perfecting his use of the English language, he fought *everyone* who stood in his way. It was this inherited combination of powerful oratory and reformist policies, that was the glue that held Winston Churchill’s politics together, and set him apart from other politicians. When, in 1904, he deserted the Conservative Party and famously crossed the floor of the House of Commons to join the Liberal Party, he would pursue reforms that alleviated the working classes, introducing factory tea-breaks, and planning the embryonic Welfare State. When he was wartime Prime Minister, he said in a Radio broadcast, 21st March 1943: ‘There is no finer investment for any community, than putting milk into babies.’

Jack becomes a stockbroker

By 1906, Jack had been made up to partner in Nelke Phillips as a stockbroker. For much of the rest of his life, he would sort out the Churchills finances, investing their money wisely for them, and he and Winston tried to stop their mother squandering her money at the gambling tables in Paris.

Both brothers married in 1908, Jack in August to Lady Gwendeline Bertie, and Winston in September to Miss Clementine Hozier.

The Churchill brothers in the First World War

When the First World War broke out, 1914-18, Jack immediately joined his regiment the Oxfordshire Hussars, and went first to Flanders on the Western Front, serving with distinction at a crucial stage in the First Battle of Ypres. Thereafter, his command of the French language saw him appointed to British General Headquarters in France. He was able to keep Winston fully informed of the army’s progress in their constant stream of letters.

As Jack was one of the few staff officers with immediate practical experience of combat, General Sir Ian Hamilton asked for him to serve on his staff, when leaving for the Gallipoli expedition, March 1915. He served throughout the campaign as the Camp Commandant, General Headquarters, a vital posting, that ensured the headquarters functioned at peak efficiency for the duration of the campaign. Hamilton was recalled in October, but Jack remained in post until January 1916, when the last troops were evacuated to Egypt. He then returned to the Western Front and joined the staff of the 1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps the ‘Anzacs’ and served with them throughout the fighting from 1916 to 1918. In 1917,

he was able to give Winston a guided tour over some of the recent battlefields. He ended the war as Military Secretary to the Fifth Army, and came home in 1919, with a Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his particular service in liaising with the French Army.



*Major Jack Churchill kneeling; Winston Churchill, standing;
Eddie Marsh standing on his right; Lille, October, 1918.*

Jack returned to the City of London as a stockbroker, and, in 1921, was made a partner in Vickers da Costa. He was especially useful to Winston during the great financial upheavals of the late 1920s and early 1930s. In 1929, he accompanied Winston on a three-month tour of North America. The Great Crash occurred while they were there, and Jack was busy thereafter, supervising the retrenchments necessary in Winston's normally extravagant lifestyle. He also managed the family's tax affairs and was able to direct their investments into some very far-sighted and successful areas, including copper and gold mining, Marks and Spencer, and Gaumont British Films.

Throughout the Second World War, Jack was helping Winston in the underground bunker that is today the Cabinet War Rooms in London, whilst continuing to hold down his full-time job

in the City. He organised a staff canteen at Downing Street that greatly improved the productivity of Winston's immediate staff. Amongst Jack's papers I found pre-prepared letterheads that bore Winston's stamped signature, and when I asked Peregrine for an explanation, he told me that his father had acted as an extra secretary to Winston during the war.

Jack's paternity called into question by historians

In the years ahead, Jack would sink into obscurity to the extent that few people knew he ever existed. A whisper circulated, and several modern authors have claimed he was not Churchill at all, and that he had been fathered by any one of about half a dozen men. As he was born in Dublin the majority of these men never set foot in Ireland. The most prominently offered 'father' for Jack was one John Strange Jocelyn, 5th Earl of Roden, clearly because Jack had been named after him. I contacted the present Earl of Roden and by a lucky co-incidence the estate as it existed then was as the crow flies about 20 miles from where I was born. I asked the Earl of Roden if the house-book that people signed on entry at the hall door of the estate house that was inherited by Jocelyn was still in existence. He told me it was, and I asked him when John Strange Jocelyn signed in. The answer I received was '13th January 1880'.

Jocelyn only inherited the estate on the death of his nephew who died of tuberculosis in Paris the previous year. Jocelyn could therefore not possibly have fathered Jack. Peregrine told me that he obtained the family's history from his father, and that he told him when he was born, Jocelyn was on his way home to his estate in England which meant he would have taken a boat from Dublin. Along the way he called off at the Viceregal Lodge to visit the Duke. Jocelyn was not of Jennie's age or generation at all, he was a close friend of the Duke and was 56 years of old, whilst Jennie was 26. Jocelyn was a perfectly respectable man, married and living in England with his own estate and a wife and two daughters. He had not lived in Ireland from he was a boy. A smear had been put about that in his youth he was known for climbing drainpipes and entering women's bedrooms through the open window. When I investigated, I found that the story had been - to quote a modern phrase 'sexed up' - and the true version was rather different. When Jocelyn and his brother were youths they were staying with their parents in an apartment in Paris on holiday. The two went out for a night on the town and returning late, discovered they had forgot to take a door key to let themselves in. The parents were in bed but had left the living room window open, and John climbed the drainpipe and entered via the window and then unlocked the door and let his brother in. The distance from Dublin to the Roden's estate, Tullymore, County Down, that is today in Northern, is just over 140 kilometres. Yet one author tried to make out that Jennie went riding on Jocelyn's estate and became pregnant by him – even though he didn't live on the estate. When I was called in by Jack's younger son peregrine to write a new family history, I was able to tell from old family photographs that Peregrine bore a strong resemblance to his great-grandfather the 7th Duke of Marlborough. He also looked like Winston, and his elder brother Johnny, the artist who painted the mural at Chartwell, even more so. It was apparent to me they were Churchill through and through. Peregrine explained to me that Jocelyn was staying at the Viceregal Lodge when Jennie went into labour in the early hours of the morning. Jack

was premature and was a blue baby, meaning the oxygen had been cut off to him during delivery. The doctor thought he might not live so baptism took place right away. Jocelyn was roused from his bed to stand sponsor.



John S. Churchill (Johnny), elder son of Jack and Lady Gwendeline, and nephew of Sir Winston Churchill, who painted the mural at Chartwell,

Winston would emerge as the nation's hero, credited with winning the Second World War. Jack did not survive long to share in the glory of his brother's triumph. He had developed a tumour at his heart, and having suffered for three years, died February 22, 1947, a few days after his 67th birthday.

Book Review

HRH The Duke of Kent: A Life of Service



Main Author: Celia Lee

Co-author: John Lee

Portrait: Barbara K. Hamilton

[Contents: HRH THE DUKE OF KENT A Life Of Service](#)

His Royal Highness Prince Edward The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC(P), first cousin to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, has devoted his life to the service of his country. Even before he served twenty-one years as a regular soldier in the British Army, he was introduced to this life of service by his widowed mother, HRH Princess Marina, The Duchess of Kent, during an extensive tour of the Far East at the time of his seventeenth birthday.

His interest in modern technology, especially computing and engineering, in issues of health, fitness and social welfare, and in the development of the intellect, has seen him become the patron, president or active member of more than one hundred charities and social organisations.

His military service, and deep interest in military history, sees him making a particularly important contribution to many military-related organisations – the chief of which must be the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

At the time of his eightieth birthday on October 9, 2015, Prince Edward remains one of the busiest members of the royal family. This book is offered as a tribute to his life of service, and to the myriad organisations, large and small, local, national and international, that make up the fabric of the United Kingdom in the twenty-first century.

Sunday Express article written by Celia Lee about The Duke of Kent's 80th birthday can be found [here](#).



Portrait of HRH The Duke of Kent KG by Barbara K. Hamilton, Polish Hearth Club, London.

Left to right: John Lee, Barbara K. Hamilton, and Celia Lee, posing under Barbara's portrait of HRH The Duke Of Kent KG, on the evening of the launch (November 2015), at the Polish Hearth Club, South Kensington, of the book: *HRH THE DUKE OF KENT A Life Of Service*, pub. Seymour Books, September 2015.

***HRH The Duke of Kent – A Life of Service* – Reviewed by Major Gordon Corrigan MBE**

When in 1760 King George III handed over the income from the crown lands to the government in exchange for an annual grant to support the royal family, the 'civil list', it was the shrewdest property deal since the Dutch bought Manhattan Island for sixty guilders, for then and now the income from the crown lands far exceeds the cost of supporting the monarchy. When in the 1860s Queen Victoria withdrew from public life in mourning for her husband Prince Albert, there was a short-lived upsurge of republicanism. There may be some

in England today who espouse republicanism, but you would have to look very hard to find them, and one of the reasons that we live as loyal subjects of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, is amply explained in this book, appropriately subtitled *A Life Of Service*. Most of us would be aware that His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC(P) was a professional soldier. The entry requirements for the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst are no respecters of status, applicants under test being known only by a randomly allocated number, while once at the Academy all cadets are treated and assessed equally, regardless of breeding. HRH served for twenty-one years in the Royal Scots Greys now the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards but, with royal duties increasingly requiring his attention, he retired from the Army in the rank of lieutenant colonel. Those who served with him are strongly of the opinion that had he been able to stay he would have gone on to reach general's rank entirely on merit. Knowing that the Duke was first a soldier, most of us would also recall his presenting the prizes at Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, and his active involvement with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, including his presence at the dedication of the very first Cross of Sacrifice in the Republic of Ireland in July 2014, a milestone in the establishment of normal and friendly relations with that nation. The casual observer might however be forgiven for failing to be aware of the Duke's Vice Chairmanship of the British Overseas Trade Board, or his Presidency of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, his patronage of the Aidis Trust, the aim of which is to improve independence for disabled people, or his active membership of the PG Wodehouse Society and the Noël Coward Society. Again, they might not know that the Duke is a qualified French interpreter. After reading this magisterial work, however, there can be no excuse for ignorance, for the Duke's astonishing and unpaid workload is laid out in fascinating detail here. His involvement in charities, education, business, music, sport, military units and organisations and soft diplomacy overseas, is all here, along with much more. Should anyone ever wish to write a narrative biography of the Duke they will find that this book has done most of their work for them. The authors, already well known in the fields of social and military history, have done a great service by tabulating exactly what one member of the royal family does, mostly out of the public gaze and often unsung. It has truly been, and continues to be, a life of service to the nation and the Commonwealth.

Available in [hardcopy paperback](#) and [HRH The Duke of Kent: A Life of Service](#) Kindle edition.

Review by Laura Rainbow, pub. [LIFEBOAT RNLI](#)

Available at AMAZON: <https://www.amazon.com/HRH-Duke-Kent-Life-Service/dp/1517220602>

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