

THE CHURCHILLIAN

Newsletter of the Churchill Society of Tennessee

Spring 2021 Issue



*The cover art is of an original oil painting of Winston Churchill by CSoT Board member, Michael Shane Neal

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www.churchillsocietytn.org

Churchill Society of Tennessee

PO BOX 150993

Nashville, TN 37215 USA

615-218-8340



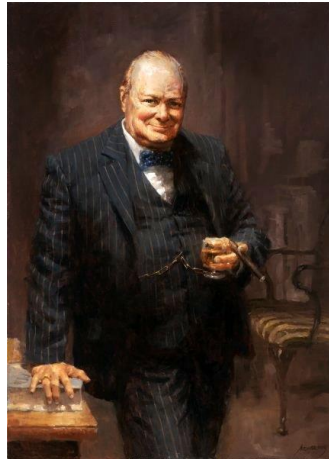
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Summer Picnic

June 26, 2021

Cheekwood Botanical Estate & Gardens

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Annual Formal Banquet

October 2, 2021

Brentwood Country Club

The Churchill Society of Tennessee presents Governor of Tennessee Bill Lee with a portrait of Sir Winston Churchill



CSoT President Jim Drury, and member of the Board and renowned artist Shane Neal, present Governor Lee with a portrait of Sir Winston Churchill. The original oil painting by Shane was presented to the Governor on Capitol Hill to acknowledge his public service to the people of Tennessee.

The Archbishop of Canterbury mourns the loss of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh



Press Association

"I join with the rest of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in mourning the loss of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, and give thanks to God for his extraordinary life of dedicated service. Prince Philip continually demonstrated his unfailing support and unstinting loyalty to Her Majesty The Queen for 73 years.

"He consistently put the interests of others ahead of his own and, in so doing, provided an outstanding example of Christian service. During his naval career, in which he served with distinction in the Second World War, he won the respect of his peers as an outstanding officer.

"On the occasions when I met him, I was always struck by his obvious joy at life, his enquiring mind and his ability to communicate to people from every background and walk of life. He was a master at putting people at their ease and making them feel special.

"In his powerful advocacy for conservation his was a prophetic voice for over half a century, as he brought people from around the world to a new concern and commitment to action for the future of our planet.

"As we recover and rebuild after the terrible trial of the coronavirus pandemic, we will need fortitude and a deep sense of commitment to serving others. Throughout his life Prince Philip displayed those qualities in abundance, and I pray that we can take inspiration from his example.

"I also join many people in giving thanks for the marriage of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, and for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Theirs was a marriage grounded in friendship and mutual respect and sustained by shared faith in Christ.

"I pray that God will comfort Her Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family at this time. May His Royal Highness rest in peace and rise in glory."

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

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Winston Churchill and Dr Otto Pickhardt: His Accident, Lecture tour and Prohibition

Allister Vale and Jim Drury

In December 1931, Churchill no longer held high political office, and his aim in going to the United States was to recoup some of the money he had lost (more than \$75,000; equivalent to \$1,300,000 in 2021) on the New York stock market. He had been contracted to give 40 lectures during his visit for a guaranteed minimum fee of \$50,000 (more than \$800,000 in 2021).

On 13 December 1931, Winston Churchill, who was then 57 years old, suffered multiple injuries following a road traffic accident in New York. The medical aspects have been described in detail.¹

Churchill's care at the Lenox Hospital was supervised by Dr Otto Pickhardt, who summarized Churchill's injuries as follows:

Multiple bruises and abrasions, particularly of both shoulders and right elbow; a three inch jagged laceration of Churchill's forehead from the bridge of his nose up deep to bone, a laceration of the nose and right nostril; fractures of both nasal bones with dislocation of Churchill's nose to the left; a traumatic pleural haemorrhagic effusion of the right lung; fractures involving the distal phalanx of the first toe of the right foot and the middle phalanx of the second toe of the right foot with no displacement of fragments and possible linear fractures of the 8th and 9th ribs without displacement.²

Pickhardt considered that Churchill would have a permanent scar on his forehead and the right side of his nose and residual pain in the

region of the right lower chest and both shoulders and upper limbs.²

Dr Otto Pickhardt (1887-1972; Fig. 1)

Pickhardt attended Columbia University, New York and became a surgeon. He joined the Department of Surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, in 1914 and remained affiliated with the Hospital until his death in 1972.³

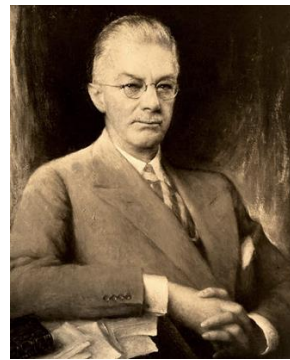


Fig. 1. Dr Pickhardt painted by Adolfo Muller-Ury

Pickhardt served in the medical corps in both World War I and World War II. He was drafted into WWI in January 1918 and served as a Captain until October 1919. He served overseas and was stationed with the American Expeditionary Forces at the Russian Prisoners of War Camp at Sagan, Germany, in 1919. In 1941, Pickhardt, who was then 55, again entered the Army as a lieutenant colonel. In March 1942, he established the 12th Evacuation Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital Unit, which was made up of doctors, nurses and enlisted men. The Unit was brought to the UK in January 1943 and was the first American military hospital

based in tents in Britain. After the war, Pickhardt returned to the Lenox Hill Hospital, serving as Director from 1945 to 1952.

Churchill's recovery and lecture tour with Pickhardt's support

Churchill was discharged from hospital on 21 December 1931 to his suite at the Waldorf Astoria. He was interviewed by The London *Daily Mails* correspondent (Walter Bullock⁴), who observed that Churchill's forehead and nose were still elaborately bandaged and that he could only walk a few steps.

Pickhardt was quoted by the *Daily Mail* as stating that: "His condition, on the whole is very satisfactory, and it can now be safely said that he will suffer no serious after-effects of his injuries. But he must have rest, as he has been badly shaken up." Churchill himself stated he would rest at the hotel during the Christmas holidays, and then, if well enough, pay a brief visit to Nassau in the Bahamas, returning to New York in time to deliver my first lecture...on 14 January 1932".

In addition to the interview, the *Daily Mail* published Churchill's account of the accident in two parts, which are now readily accessible in *Finest Hour*.⁵ The articles were syndicated all over the world and earned Churchill more than £600 (equivalent to £43,000 in 2021).

On 31 December, Churchill sailed from New York to Nassau, Bahamas, arriving on 2 January 1932. On 3 January 1932, Churchill sent a telegram to Pickhardt: "Although improving daily am convinced unfit begin lecturing before February one. Doctors here concur must regain vitality. Kindly cable your advice."⁶ Pickhardt responded on 5 January 1932: "Heartily endorse postponement of lecturing to 1 February. Remember forceful impact with shock and shaking of brain cells. Repeat real rest mental as well as physical imperative in building for your future and present usefulness."⁷

On 7 January 1932, Churchill sent a telegram to Pickhardt and requested him to kindly supply Phoenix Assurance Company with "necessary certificate disablement to twenty-eight instant. Phoenix will apply to you". To encourage him to comply, Clementine Churchill also sent a telegram to Pickhardt on 7 January 1932 confirming that Churchill was "not well enough to resume lecturing until end of month. Much undue pressure being put on him to start Fourteenth. Please see Alber [at] Hotel Vanderbilt".⁸ Louis Alber was the President of the Affiliated Lecture and Concert Association Incorporated with whom Churchill was contracted to give the lecture tour.

Pickhardt telegraphed the same day: "Agree with you. Long conversation Elliott Partner Alber. Emphasized possibility of breakdown in midst of western trip. Agreement reached health demands postponement first lecture to 28 January in Brooklyn. Shall attend Phoenix certificate."⁹

Churchill sent a telegram to Pickhardt on 8 January 1932: "Thank you very much am intensely relieved."¹⁰ He also wrote at length on the same day: "I arrived here physically very weak but with considerable mental energy, then all of a sudden I felt a great deal of nervous re-action and lassitude. Although my physical energy becomes each day much greater and I can walk and swim for short distance quite all right, I found a great and sudden lack of power for mental concentration and a strong sense of being unequal to the tasks which lay so soon ahead of me. In addition to this both my arms and right side are plagued with a kind of neuritis which makes them at times in each day almost as sore as two or three days after the accident."¹¹

Pickhardt wrote on 13 January 1932 to the Phoenix Assurance Company in New York City describing Churchill's injuries.² Churchill left Nassau on *SS Statendam*, a ship of the Holland America Line on 22 January 1932

and arrived in New York on 25 January 1932.¹² Before the lecture tour got underway on 31 January in Hartford, Connecticut, Pickhardt provided Churchill with a list of physicians in all the cities he was to visit.¹³

Churchill wrote to Pickhardt on 14 February 1932 informing him that he had "broken the back of the lecture-tour without feeling any ill effects".¹⁴ Churchill explained that despite the travel and speaking and fatigue of seeing people every day, and an attack of acute tonsillitis lasting three days, he was now able to do a very good day's active work.¹⁴ The tour included Nashville and Chattanooga and concluded in Boston on 9 March.

Churchill later described his experience: "I undertook a tour of forty lectures throughout the United States, living all day on my back in a railway compartment, and addressing in the evening large audiences. On the whole I consider this was the hardest time I have had in my life."¹⁵

By any standards, Churchill had a most successful lecture tour. His audiences were huge, between 4,000 and 8,000, and without doubt, were a measure of his reputation and international standing in the inter-war years. However, rearrangement of the lecture tour following his accident meant Churchill earned far less than anticipated originally (\$50,000). Nonetheless, Churchill's lecture fees of \$23,000 (equivalent to \$410,000 in 2021)¹⁶ were substantial, even by today's standards. We doubt that the amount paid (\$1,000 equivalent to \$18,000 in 2021) for a 15-minute interview on the radio on 10 March 1932¹⁷ could be matched today!

Following the lecture tour, Churchill left New York on 11 March 1932 onboard the White Star liner *Majestic*, which docked in Southampton on 17 March 1932.¹⁸

Churchill and Pickhardt after the accident

In April 1932, Pickhardt asked Churchill if he could use his article in the *Daily Mail* as part of a publicity drive among residents to bring in financial support for the Lenox Hill Hospital, which had been hard hit by the general recession.¹⁹ Churchill readily agreed and apologised that the article did not contain a direct reference to Pickhardt.²⁰ In a letter dated 4 May 1932, Churchill explained to Pickhardt that he had regained his full mental and physical vigour but tired more easily. "Especially I feel the nerves in the small of the back ache...I have also a very strange feeling of pins and needles, but I think it is going off. I have not seen any doctor since I returned so you can see I am fairly competent."²⁰

When on duty in the UK during WWII, Pickhardt received a telegram inviting him to lunch with the Churchills at 10 Downing Street.

Pickhardt wrote to Churchill again on 12 April 1957, asking him ("our most eminent patient") to provide "a few words" to celebrate the centenary of the Lenox Hill Hospital on 13 May 1957 where "due to your tenacity for life, with excellent care and treatment, you recovered. Since then, the best part of the world has thanked God for your being saved and, of course, for saving the world".²¹ Churchill responded with good wishes for the Hospital's continued success. "I well remember the admirable care and attention I received during my enforced visit to the Hospital in 1931."²²

Pickhardt's letter dated 26 January 1932

Before the lecture tour got underway, Pickhardt provided Churchill with the now infamous letter (Fig. 2).²³ To better understand the reasons for this letter, it is necessary first to consider the implications of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which banned the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors".^{24,25} This took effect on 16 January 1920 and became

known as the National Prohibition Act, or more informally as the Volstead Act, named for Minnesota Rep. Andrew Volstead, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who had championed the bill.

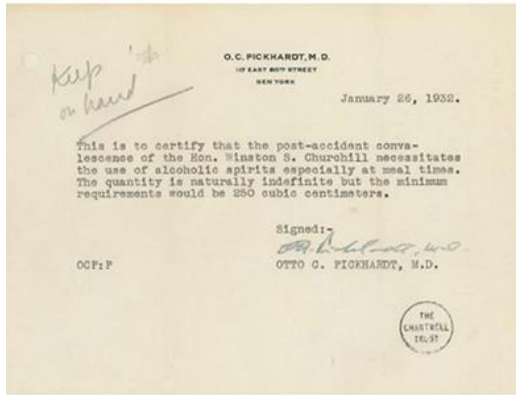


Fig. 2. Dr Pickhardt's letter

This new law required physicians to obtain a special permit from the prohibition commissioner to write prescriptions (Fig. 3) for liquor, usually whiskey or brandy. The patient could then legally buy alcohol from a pharmacy or physician. However, the Campbell-Willis Act, which became law in November 1921, also regulated how much liquor could be prescribed to each patient. The law limited wine and liquor prescriptions to not more than a half-pint in ten days and banned beer altogether.

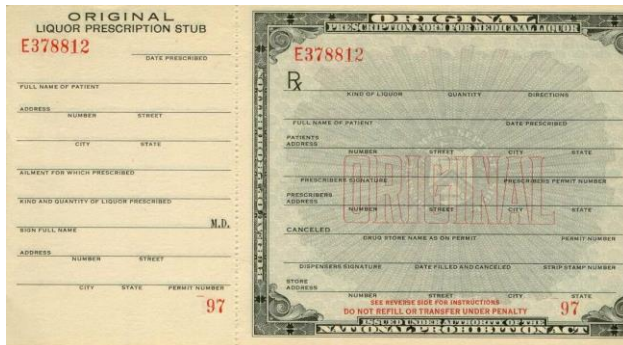


Fig. 3. US Treasury Department's Prescription form for medicinal liquor

Churchill's opinion of Prohibition

Churchill's opinion was set out most clearly in an article in *Collier's* magazine published in August 1932.²⁶ He explained:

I made two long through the United States in 1929 and 1932. I visited on each occasion many great cities and the Federal seat of government, and met, in all the confidence of friendly discussions, many leading Americans. When I am asked to state what is my prevailing impression, I must answer unhesitatingly: 'The change in opinion about prohibition.' On the former occasion many championed it with vigor or at least defended it with conviction...But now, in 1932, I could find scarcely a voice raised in defense of such a system. Indeed, on every side in a score of states, among the dominant figures of American life, there was a fierce and universal chorus of disapproval and disdain for the principle of prohibition, and a general apologia for political institutions and party deadlocks which did not allow the impulse of the American nation to free itself from these absurd trammels and this oppressive incubus.

Churchill made further observations on the effects of Prohibition based on his extensive experience of travelling in the US in 1929 and 1932:

The traveller must not judge only from New York. There everyone is in league against Prohibition. Liquor flows in copious abundance, but through unwholesome channels. I must confess that on one occasion I was taken to a speakeasy. I went, of course, in my capacity of a social investigator. The den was but a few blocks from my hotel. Some interchanges were made at the portals

by my guides and companions, and we were admitted. I was recognised and the two bands which had been alternating their performances played *God save the King*.

All the charm, grace, goodwill, courtesy of American life, but in what surroundings! What a place to eat a dinner! When I dine after a hard days work, I like serenity, calm, good food, cold beverages. I like to see attractive female forms, elegantly attired, moving, parading to their places in the restaurant. I like the rhythm and murmur of distant music. I might even like a dance. But there I saw all that one would avoid at dinner-time - crowds, bad cooking, bad service, bawling jazz bands, funereal lighting, hustle and disturbance!

Yet this was one of the most fashionable dining places in New York. Why? Because there was liquor. Every kind of wine, all sorts of spirits (reputed safe) blazoned on the counter, could be purchased at prices not far ahead of those which rule in London now. And here was this large gathering of Americans putting up with all the discomfort, ugliness and craziness of their surroundings for the sake of being able to do what every man and woman in Europe has never been denied.

The behaviour of the company was most respectable and their demeanour dreary; but in their hearts they had the feeling of an awful joy. There were doing something which they ought not to do. There were doing something in defiance of the law which they hated and despised. All their insurgent impulses were enlisted in the enterprise. There were no hardships they would not face to get their rights and to get their way.

Meanwhile the magnificent hotel I had come from presented in its splendid dining rooms an admirable cuisine, a wonderful orchestra, perfect attendance, everything that luxury could conceive - and it was absolutely deserted. No one would dine there. The hotel was too obvious a target, its interests were too large to break the law; so the rooms were empty and the poor waiters stood kicking their heels in a solitude.

In one hotel which must be nameless, I was gravely informed that mineral water could not be served in public. "We are bound to regard the conjunction of mineral water, ice and a tumbler as a 'set-up' for drinking. It would only require the addition of whisky or gin to constitute a violation of the Eighteenth Amendment." Such risks could not be run. Temptation must be grappled with in its earliest and most insidious stages. Yet upstairs every kind of liquor could be consumed in the presence of the same waiters, and not only consumed if brought, but obtained on the spot by persons who desired it themselves or for their guests.

Purpose of Pickhardt's letter

It is clear from the evidence already cited that Pickhardt had established a good and relationship with his patient, which continued until 1957. Yet, given the arrangements in place for the prescription of alcohol, why did Pickhardt not give Churchill an official prescription for medicinal liquor issued by the US Treasury Department's Bureau of Industrial Alcohol?

The reasons are not apparent. Presumably, Pickhardt was responding to a request from Churchill for documentation "to keep on hand". It is possible that Pickhardt as a

surgeon, did not hold a license to prescribe medicinal alcohol, and he provided Churchill with the only document he could. It is also possible that Pickhardt did hold a license to prescribe alcohol, but he considered that a prescription was inappropriate.

Would this letter have allowed Churchill to obtain alcohol from a pharmacy? It must be remembered that prescribing laws and enforcement were much laxer in the 1920s and 1930s than today, and it is probable many pharmacies would have honored this letter as if it were a prescription. Be that as it may, we may discount this possibility not least because Churchill's detective, Inspector Walter Thompson, who would have been responsible for the purchase did not mention it in his account of the lecture tour.²⁷

Churchill's article in *Collier's* magazine suggests strongly that he did not frequent speakeasies. On the other hand, we know that on at least one occasion, while Churchill was staying at the Waldorf Astoria, his "modest supply" of whisky was replenished within 10 minutes of Thompson telephoning "Joe".²⁷ The supplied alcohol was "uncut" and of excellent quality according to the detective!²⁷ Phyllis Moir, Churchill's private secretary at the time, remembered the ready availability of whisky when Churchill was resident in Apartment 39A in the Tower of the Waldorf-Astoria. REF She described her interview with Churchill. "At Mr Churchill's elbow was a tray with a bottle of Scotch whisky, a siphon of soda and a half-empty glass." Later when Churchill returned from Nassau after recuperating from his accident, she recalled him on arrival "calling loudly for his mail, his secretary and a Scotch and soda".

In addition, Churchill's hosts on the lecture tour would have had large quantities of alcohol in their cellars at the onset of Prohibition, all of it grandfathered under the Volstead Act. These collections were, of course, often restocked from illicit supplies. Hence, Churchill would have had no difficulty tapping

into these extensive private collections to fortify his numerous journeys and post-lecture recovery. The letter certainly would have helped Churchill on the remote chance he had an encounter with law enforcement, and he had spirits in his possession.

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful for the insights shared by Dr Appel and Professor Blocker.

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Winston Churchill and the Secret Irish Windfall that Paid for Chartwell

Celia Lee

[Link to full article](#)

In 1921, Winston Churchill inherited a financial windfall from a most unexpected source. The property and money came to him indirectly from Frances Anne Vane, Marchioness of Londonderry, (January 17, 1800 - January 20, 1865), who was the mother of Frances, 7th Duchess of Marlborough, and therefore Winston's great-grandmother.



Frances Anne Vane, Marchioness of Londonderry, great-grandmother to Winston Churchill. *Portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence, 1818.*

Frances Anne in her will, dated July 6, 1864, left her estate to her eldest child, George Henry Robert Charles William Vane-Tempest, 5th Marquess of Londonderry (1821-1884). At his death it passed to his third child, Lord Herbert Lionel Henry Vane-Tempest. Lord Herbert suffered an untimely death (in a train crash in Wales in January 1921) at which time the next in line for the estate was the second son of Frances Anne's daughter, Lady Frances Vane, who was married to John

Churchill 7th Duke of Marlborough and was the mother of Lord Randolph Spencer-Churchill. But he had died in 1895, which meant that the next in line to inherit was his elder son Winston Churchill.

Winston Churchill's inheritance in County Antrim, Northern Ireland

Winston Churchill's inheritance was Carnlough Lime Works and quarries that had been established years earlier by Lord Londonderry, the railway, the harbour, messuages (bathing lodges), and tenements, whose occupants paid rent, all of which were located in County Antrim. Initially, Winston thought the income from the estate would be £4,000 a year, but he then discovered the entire estate was worth much less than earlier estimates, amounting in total to £56,000 [£3.2 m in 2021] after death duties, and the income was £2,000 [£114,000 in 2021] a year. In addition, Winston inherited an enormous pile of dining room silver from Garron Tower Castle that was delivered to the Churchills' home, No.2 Sussex Square, London. It was valued by Garrard & Co., London, at £1,700, on which Winston had to pay Probate charges. But later, on November 24, 1922, Sharman D. Neill Ltd, Belfast, valued it at £1,444. The collection included an antique pierced potato ring, valued at £200, that rather intrigued Winston, and six dozen silver meat dishes.

The money from the Garron Tower estate was a godsend to Winston, who was ever cash-

strapped, living on overdrafts, and his wife Clementine frequently lamented that the bills were not being paid. Clementine rejoiced about the windfall, they had holidays, and helped out financially members of the family, but oddly, none of them uttered a word of remorse for the horrific death of the man whose estate had provided the money.

Winston also inherited the Londonderry Arms Hotel, Carnlough, built 1847-8, that was originally a coaching inn. He is reputed to have visited the hotel in 1926, during the time he was in Belfast giving a speech to the Belfast Chamber of Commerce. Initially, Winston is reputed to have planned to turn the establishment into a summer residence for himself and his wife Clementine, but he changed his mind. He was advised via the agent, May 25, 1922, that he should 'consider whether in view of the present disturbed conditions of the immediate neighbourhood, he would be well advised ... to part with the control of the principal hotel in the town.'¹ Their advice was taken and in 1923, Winston sold the hotel for £975 to Mary Anne Rafferty, who was a tenant of the hotel.



Londonderry Arms Hotel, Carnlough, with a print of Sir Winston Churchill's portrait above the mantelpiece. *Photograph courtesy of Mrs Joan Thompson*

Winston buys Chartwell Manor in 1922

The Churchills were both eager for a country home, and as their daughter Mary wrote: 'his inheritance from his Vane-Tempest cousin 1921, brought the dream within the realm of possibility.'² Chartwell Manor (original name of the house) that belonged to Captain Archibald John Campbell-Colquhoun who, having inherited the estate on the recent death of his brother William, June 15, 1922, did not want the place and had never lived there, and put it on the market for sale directly. Churchill's purchase offer of £5,000 was accepted, September 24 that year. The Irish windfall aided Winston to buy the property, the name being later changed to Chartwell House. There were 13 domestic staff running the house, and 70 acres of farmland attached to it with twenty men employed, and a lake called the Chart Well that was fed by a spring, and extensive gardens. Writing to Clementine the following year, September 1923, Winston told her in relation to the property in Ireland, 'The estate at this moment is at least as large as it was when I succeeded, but part of it is invested in Chartwell instead of in shares.'³

Winston's management of the Garron Tower estate 1929-1948

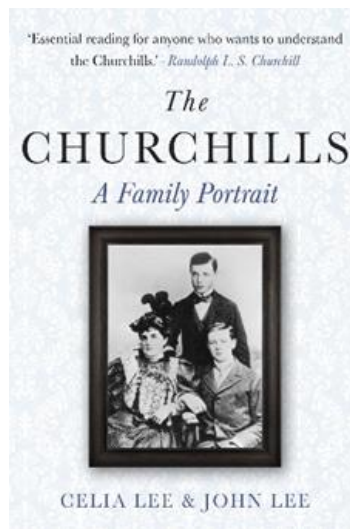
In 1929, Winston had been on tour in the US, and on November 5, Clementine met him at the railway station to welcome him home. He astonished her by telling her immediately, that he had 'lost a small fortune' in the Great Crash of the American stock market, which had taken place during the last week of October.⁴

By November 1931, the income from the Garron Tower estate had dropped to £900 a year, which was still a substantial sum for the

again cash-strapped Winston who, as his daughter Sarah put it existed 'from pen to mouth' meaning he was dependent upon income from press articles and book sales. The Carnlough workers' cottages were now reduced to slums, and rather than take on the cost of repairs for rent, Winston arranged that December for the tenants to buy them at a cost of one guinea each. The Second World War broke out in 1939 and by 1940, Winston was Prime Minister. From that time and particularly after the end of the war, his financial fortunes would increase from his published books and writings, and for the first time in his life, he would become a rich man. He sold the remainder of the Garron Tower estate, the lime works and the harbour at Carnlough, in 1948 for £8,000 [£293,000 in 2021] to the Earl of Antrim.⁵

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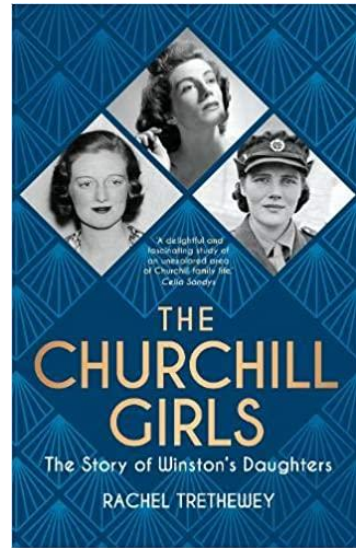
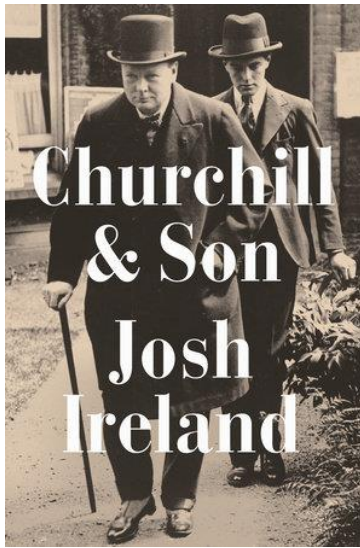
Celia and John Lee's re-release of their splendid book '*The Churchill's A Family Portrait*' is now available for purchase. This thoroughly researched and Churchill family approved volume is a must read for devotees of Churchillian history. Click on the book jacket for a link to purchase.

Book Reviews

Churchill and Son by Josh Ireland

The Churchill Girls: The Story of Winston's Daughters by
Rachel Trethewey

Cita Stelzer



Books covering aspects of the lives of Winston and Clementine Churchill number in the thousands, and seem to cover all aspects of their careers and lives. But until now we have not had systematic studies of what these days are called their parenting skills, with the possible exception of a biography of the prime minister's son by his own adoring son. We now have two studies of the Churchill children. One, Josh Ireland's *Churchill & Son*, takes a hard look at their son, Randolph; the other, Rachel Trethewey's *The Churchill Girls*, deals with three of the famous couple's four daughters - a fourth, two-year-old Marigold, died of septicemia. Her parents never really forgot that death, which I mention here so that readers so inclined can factor their

sadness into an appraisal of the treatment of their surviving children.

We start with the fact that all of the Churchill children were forced to cope with the fact of their parents' prominence, a doting father distracted by his pursuit of power and the burdens of office, and a nervous and more than slightly neurotic mother, so well described by Sonia Purnell in her biography, *First Lady*.

Ireland has bravely attempted to produce a book that will satisfy the desire of readers already steeped in the vast literature dealing with Winston Churchill, and by extension his son Randolph, while at the same time being understood by those who are only now trying to learn more about these two men

and their times. The attempt was not entirely successful. Some readers already know much of what Ireland has to tell, others will have difficulty placing his tale in the context of Randolph's time. Perhaps more important, Ireland has, in this reviewer's view, chosen to rely too heavily on Paul Reid, who left his reporter's job to complete the third and final volume of William Manchester's *Last Lion*, his biography of Winston, unfinished at the time of Manchester's death. He did complete it, but not with sufficient emphasis on accuracy of detail to make it a work on which any careful historian would willingly depend, as several reviewers of the final Reid-Manchester volume have pointed out. Ireland also draws heavily on John Pearson, whose *The Citadel of the Heart: Winston & The Churchill Dynasty*, which delves into Winston's "hidden motives" and his "psychology", warning enough for those readers who might be suspicious of Ireland's lapses into pop psychology.

Ireland's book does have its virtues. He does not shy away from reporting Randolph's rudeness, his ugly and angry outbursts following heavy drinking, his gambling. Randolph made enemies and kept them. And the author strives for balance by recording examples of Randolph's charm and the kindnesses he could at times show for those around him. And by pointing to his rather distinguished military service - in intelligence in Cairo, and after being parachuted behind enemy lines in the-then Yugoslavia. Also, he notes that Randolph used his journalist's pen to support Winston's warning about German rearmament during the latter's wilderness years, and kept his father informed of events in Germany while traveling there prior to the war. In short, there were times when Randolph was capable of acknowledging and returning his father's affections. The adoration worked both ways.

Ireland's biography prompts this Churchillian to compare father and son. Both men adored their very different fathers -

Winston's was negligent and hypercritical, Randolph's doting. And both tried to emulate their fathers, in Randolph's case largely unsuccessfully but in Winston's case supremely successfully. Both were extraordinarily ambitious. Both wrote books about their ancestors. Both enjoyed their military service and survived being under fire, Winston in Cuba first and during several wars thereafter in pursuit of the physical danger he found so energizing, and Randolph in Yugoslavia. Both ventured into dangerous war zones as journalists, Randolph during the Spanish Civil War. Both traveled widely and routinely met with the famous and powerful. Both spent whatever they earned - and more - piling up debts that often had Clementine - and Randolph's wife Pamela - on the brink of nervous collapse.

Both paid their bills with their pens, Randolph as best he could, Winston spectacularly with his multi-volume *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* and *The Second World War*. Both employed researchers and secretaries to provide drafts. Both used almost identical research and writing methods. Sir Martin Gilbert, who assisted Randolph in preparing the early volumes of his father's biography before completing the eight volume work after Randolph's death, describes Randolph's process in *In Search of Churchill*. David Reynold's wonderful more recent *In Search of History*, describes Winston's technique. The similarities far, far outweigh the differences.

And yet there were major differences, resulting from Randolph's nature, or character - and his drinking, which often resulted in angry shouting matches with colleagues, friends and most importantly with Winston, his sisters and his mother. Ireland reports that during one altercation at Downing Street Randolph was so drunkenly angry that he "hit her [his sister Sarah] in the face and called her a bitch. Winston went deathly white. He was

so consumed with rage that he could no longer speak".

Winston was respected and even adored by his personal secretaries, as I noted in my book, *Working with Winston*. Those working for Randolph often dreaded their contacts with him. In *Working with Winston*, I cite the Prime Minister's one male secretary, Patrick Kinna, as noting, "Randolph I didn't like at all...not many people did unfortunately."

Winston never allowed policy differences to interfere with friendships. Randolph never allowed friendships to survive policy disagreements. Randolph's angers were durable and enduring. Winston's angry flashes soon faded. Randolph was hard on others, rude and often angry and drunk in public. Winston, who lived most of his life under intense pressures, always tried to maintain a decorous, often jolly exterior in public, a great gift to a war-weary nation during the worst days of World War II.

Adding to the list of Randolph's problems was his jealousy of those who gathered around his father, people he saw as competitors for his father's attention and affection. He was jealous of Anthony Eden, with whom Winston spent large amounts of time, especially when they shared the burdens of managing the war. He was jealous of Christopher Soames, Mary's husband and a successful politician who had been re-elected to Parliament in 1951 while Randolph had failed to win a seat, and whom Winston made his parliamentary private secretary and one of his "most trusted confidants". He was jealous of Brendan Bracken, a close friend of Winston's, who served in the War Cabinet and was a valuable political ally of Winston's and often the source of much-needed funds. And he was jealous even of his wife Pamela's closeness to Winston and Clementine, blaming them for her war-time affair with Averell Harriman, whom she eventually married. Jealous, too, of Aristotle Onassis,

who lavishly entertained Winston, especially during his later years aboard serene cruises on Onassis' lavish yacht, the *Cristina*. After nine or so such cruises, Randolph was invited to join his father. Bad idea. He was rude and truculent in a "rage directed at Winston". It was Randolph's first and last cruise on the *Cristina*.

Although Winston tolerated Randolph's aberrant behavior, and remained devoted to his son, he did he did not completely ignore it. He did not ask Randolph to join his beloved Other Club, which had as its standard civility in all discussions. Neither was Randolph, who served in Parliament during the war years, invited by his Prime Minister father to become a member of the War Cabinet.

Ireland believes that the father was culpable in creating the son he finally "started to treat as a failure". He blames Winston's indulgences, which began when Randolph was very young and extended deep into Randolph's checkered political career, the rows and the embarrassments notwithstanding. The Prime Minister "beamed as Randolph made his ceremonial entry into parliament", writes Ireland, "a uniform-clad Randolph looked grave". Oddly, while Winston's indulgences produced failure, the neglect and demeaning treatment of Winston by his own father, Lord Randolph, produced the man who saved the world from fascism, and who behaved with impeccable manners and good grace in public. I leave it to those readers with a taste for this sort of speculation, or a deep knowledge of psychiatry, to carry further the idea that devotion and over-indulgence produces failure, while lack of paternal affection produces success. And that Winston's over-indulgence was a consequence of the less kindly treatment he had received from his own father.

For a fuller picture of Randolph, may I suggest you pull from your shelves of Churchilliana *His Father's Son: The Life of Randolph Churchill* by Winston S. Churchill,

grandson of the great statesman. If you want a shorter read and a better place to start, try Sir Martin Gilbert's *In Search of Churchill*, mentioned earlier.

Randolph died aged 57 in 1968. Richard Langworth, Senior Fellow, Hillsdale College Churchill Project, writes that, according to his doctor, the cause was "everything. He's worn out every organ in his body at the same time."

For still more about Randolph, take, with pleasure, to Rachel Trethewey's *The Churchill Girls: The Story of Winston's Daughters*, which contains a good deal about the reactions of Churchill's daughters to their brother's behavior and to the frightening and belligerent rows they often witnessed between Winston and son -- shouting matches, ugly language and slammed doors at the dinner tables at Chartwell and Chequers.

Randolph's sisters did their best to create their own lives, to move on as we say these days, away from the maelstrom that characterized life with their family. Like Randolph, they had the advantage of the Churchill name. But once the war began, each did what so many less famous and well-positioned women did -- they joined the Armed Services and worked throughout the war. "The war years were to be one of the happiest, most fulfilling times of their lives," writes Trethewey. Churchill was proud of them, and seeing how well they and other women served in the armed forces helped change Winston's stand against female suffrage (with much pleading from his wife, it must be said).

The daughters were key players in their father's career, always "exerting a calming presence [that] made events run more smoothly" - "worth her weight in gold", General Lord Ismay said of Mary. Sarah and Mary acted as aides-de-camp on many foreign trips, stepping into Clementine's "elegant shoes" when their mother was not up to that

function. But Churchill's girls' lives in many ways proved as difficult as Randolph's, and were marked with tragedy - Sarah and Diana had unhappy marriages and struggles with alcohol: they never seem to have acquired their father's ability to enjoy alcohol without becoming slave to it.

Diana, Purnell tells us, never did overcome her mother's frequent unflattering comparisons with her younger sister Sarah, with whom Clementine "had a special rapport". After a divorce and some nervous breakdowns, Diana found some solace and comfort working very successfully with The Samaritans and at St. Stephen's, Walbrook. To the shock of her family and friends, Diana died, aged 54, from an overdose of barbiturates. The coroner concluded the death was a suicide.

Sarah, replete with long red hair, good looks, energy, a wonderful sense of humor and "Churchillian charm", was great fun to be around. Kinna says "I adored her. Everybody did...no side at all..." After a career as a dancer, she led an increasingly Bohemian life, part of it in Rome, which was the place to be after Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*. Not unlike her parents, but more so, she experienced alternating moods of joy and sadness, momentary moments of ecstasy, as she described them.

In her later years Sarah found solace in painting and in regular visits to a Catholic church, enjoying the silence, and often recalled her father's "enormous zest for living" and his advice that "there's always tomorrow". Despite a successful acting career that earned her a nomination for the Best Television Actress Award in America, her acting career was in tatters, her drinking having made her so unreliable that "offers of work were in short supply."

She died in her sleep in London in 1982 at the age of 67.

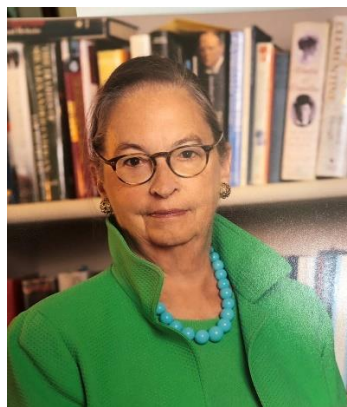
Only Mary, who Trethewey tells us "could have become a politician in her own right" and was the calm at the center of the family storm, seems to have enjoyed an idyllic childhood at Chartwell, described by her in a memoir, *A Daughter's Tale*. She was unscathed by the forces that troubled her siblings. In 2005 she was appointed by the Queen a Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter, "a culmination of Mary's distinguished public life... The final decades of Mary's life were a golden era for her. No longer just a daughter..."

Lady Soames died in 2014 at the age of 91, having led the life it seems she had always wished for herself.

Sadly, Winston never did overcome his preference for Randolph, warts and all. And the girls knew that their brother was the apple of Winston's eye, hoping against experience that his son would somehow follow in his footsteps, as he had in a sense followed in those of his own father, Lord Randolph. After the war, Winston altered an agreement with the Chartwell Literary Trust to ensure that Randolph would receive half of

that legacy, instead of having it split evenly among his children.

It would be easy to take away from these two books the conclusion that Winston and Clementine's children paid for their parents' success with lives of upheaval and misery. Perhaps, but only perhaps. Mary managed to make her way through life in rather good order, and the evidence of these books is that all the children were suffused in love and devotion from parents working their way through their own difficult lives. We will never know whether a bit more rod and a bit less indulgence, or a more loving childhood with Clemmie, whom Randolph in one angry fit accused of not being "maternal" according to Langworth, might have produced happier progeny. But these books at least provide evidence all of us can consider, and on which we can reach our own conclusions.

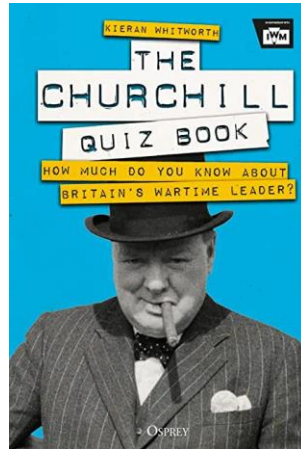


[Click to learn more about Cita Stelzer](#)

The Churchill Quiz Book

by Kieran Whitworth

Robin Sinclair



This 2021 book is subtitled “How Much Do You Know About Britain’s Wartime Leader?” The answer is: not as much as this book does. There are all levels of questions, from the obvious to the amazingly obscure. For the beginning Churchillian, Whitworth has assembled questions suitable for a fun session with friends or by oneself. For the most advanced student, the questions will be a challenge.

The book has divided Churchill’s life into ten sections with four quizzes at three different levels for each section: some true or false, some anagrams, some “Expert.” The result is no lack of questions. There are literally hundreds. Answers are found in the back.

Whitworth has done his work in producing a book worthy of hours, not minutes, and not by asking trivial questions, but by mixing

important issues with minor details. He has not opted for the cheap “concept “ book, read and finished in ten minutes. Instead, he has produced a work that can engage readers at all levels of interest in Churchill.

The book invites an enjoyable evening roundtable with friends, taking just one section of Churchill’s life and asking two of the quizzes for that chapter. Another use of this book can be found in simply refreshing one’s own memory for various Churchill stories, incidents, names, places and dates. I discovered, just flipping through the first quiz, that I was off one year about Churchill’s birth year! (It’s 1874, not 1873.)

In short, a new and different book worthy of a place on your shelf, with the additional opportunity of making Churchill’s life story not just facts, but a parlor game !

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