

# THE CHURCHILLIAN



Churchill Society of Tennessee  
Summer 2023

# THE CHURCHILL SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE



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## **Churchill Society of Tennessee**

**[www.churchillsocietytn.org](http://www.churchillsocietytn.org)**

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# Inside this Issue of *The Churchillian*



***On the cover: A new statue of WSC by Paul Rafferty was unveiled at Saint-Jean-Cap Ferrat on the French Riviera in May, 2023.***

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## From the President



Dear Members,

Greetings fellow Churchillians. I trust your summer is going well and you are enjoying the lovely 'warn' weather.

We have a great slate of events for you beginning on August 12. A luncheon at the Nashville Woman's Club will feature a fascinating talk by Warren Dockter titled *Learning Lessons: Winston Churchill and military intelligence*. We then have David Payne's iconic one man show *Churchill* at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville on October 5-7. Finally, our annual formal dinner at the Belle Meade Country Club on November 10 will feature guest speaker Gen David Petraeus former Director of the CIA.

The Glow Worms continue to meet on a regular basis. Check the website for meeting times.

Guests are always welcome to attend our functions so invite your friends.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Best wishes,  
Jim Drury

# **The Churchill Society of Tennessee Presents**

## **‘Learning Lessons: Lieutenant Churchill and Military Intelligence’**

### **A talk by Warren Dockter PhD**

**Saturday, August 12, 2023**

**The Woman’s Club of Nashville  
3206 Hillsboro Rd, Nashville, TN**

**11am to 1pm**

**Plated lunch and  
Champagne toast included.**

**Tickets \$40 per person**

**[Purchase at: https://churchillsocietytn.org/](https://churchillsocietytn.org/)**

**or send your check to:**

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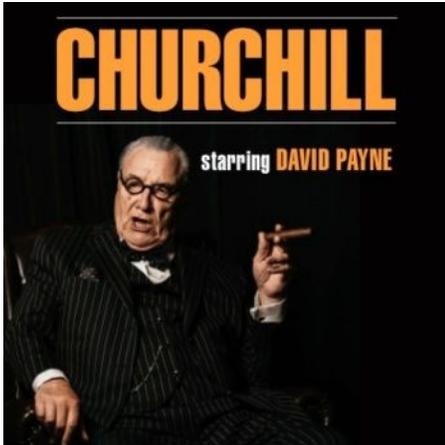
**Nashville TN 37215**



**Warren Dockter PhD grew up in Grainger County and worked with his family’s sign company in Blount County. He then attended the University of Tennessee - Knoxville to earn his undergraduate degree in history and political science. He went on to receive his Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Nottingham in England. Dr Dockter was awarded a fellowship at the University of Cambridge, England and has been an historian at Aberystwyth University in Wales, for the past four and a half years.**

**He is also the President & CEO of East Tennessee Historical Society to which he brings an extensive knowledge & passion for history, experience in public engagement, management and fund raising in the non-profit sector including work with the International Churchill Society, British Institute of Ankara and Aberystwyth University.**

## Upcoming Events



### **TPAC**

**October 5-8, 2023**

**David Payne**

**Andrew Johnson Theater**

**Tickets: Click image**

**for TPAC website**



### **Annual Formal Dinner**

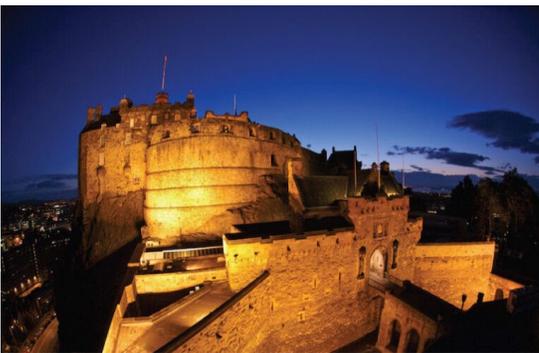
**November 10, 2023**

**Guest Speaker**

**General David Petraeus**

**Belle Meade Country Club, Nashville**

**Tickets go on sale this September**



### **The International Churchill Society Conference**

**October 5-7, 2023**

**Edinburgh, Scotland**

**Tickets: Click image**

**for details at the ICS website**

## New Sir Winston Churchill Statue on the French Riviera at Saint-Jean-Cap Ferrat by Artist Paul Rafferty



The life-sized sculpture of Sir Winston Churchill was unveiled in May, 2023.



The harbor at Saint-Jean-Cap Ferrat in the Cote d'Azur, is the location of a new life-sized statue of Winston Churchill at the Easel by artist Paul Rafferty. A large crowd of local and international well-wishers were on hand to witness the grand unveiling in May.

The French Riviera was one of Churchill's favorite places to paint. The beautiful landscapes and agreeable climate kept him coming back for many years. This makes it the perfect location for his permanent statue.

Below: The work in progress at Paul Rafferty's art studio in the south of France.





Artist Paul Rafferty (left) pictured with Randolph S Churchill at Saint-Jean-Cap Ferrat during the statue unveiling.

Churchill painted extensively in the south of France. When asked how many paintings Churchill did in the area Paul said, 'I believe he painted around 135 canvases, probably 150 or more as some are missing and have never been seen'.

If you are interested in Paul's work on identifying the actual locations where Churchill did some of his best paintings, you can purchase his book.

[Winston Churchill: Painting on the French Riviera.](#)

The following page contains remarks made by Randolph S Churchill, great-grandson of Sir Winston Churchill at the unveiling.

Special thanks to Randolph for making the text of his speech available to *The Churchillian*.

# **Sir Winston Churchill Statue on the French Riviera Saint-Jean-Cap Ferrat, May, 2023**

## ***Randolph Churchill***

As my great-grandfather said, "Beware! I will speak in French"

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Councillors, dear fellow citizens,

The honour that the Municipality of Cap Ferrat makes to Sir Winston Churchill sincerely touches the entire Churchill family.

It was on the French Riviera in Cap d'Ail, St Paul de Vence, Antibes, Cap d'Antibes, Eze, Roquebrune, Cannes, Mougins, Nice, L'Estérel, La Provenance and St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat that in the 1920s Churchill would descend and stay with his friends in spectacular Villas such as Villa Sylvia where Churchill captured light and colour in extraordinary paintings.

His parents, Lord Randolph and Jennie Jerome, had married in Paris, and from an early age he was captivated by romantic French history. For Churchill, France was a great and historic nation and, when the German invasion began, he did not hesitate to defend your country. With the brave and formidable General de Gaulle, the flame of freedom has never been extinguished. So it was that when Churchill returned at the end of 1945, the whole French people gave him a tremendous reception. He got a lot of satisfaction out of it.

Accompanied by the detective ensuring his personal security who carried a travel easel, paints, brushes, Pol Roger champagne and cigars, he had a lot of fun capturing the truly spectacular landscapes of this region. The turquoise blue, the extraordinary landscapes and the superb bays – all aspects of this beauty that reigns here enchanted him. But there was also a deeper feeling, only a year before the liberation of France, because what greater freedom is there than to write and paint the things that captivate you? Churchill's photographs traveling the region in search of scenic vistas constantly remind us of how fortunate we are to have our freedoms and the need to preserve and cherish them at all times.

Churchill was always in excellent company and his constant companion was Pol Roger. Our family is very grateful to Maison Pol Roger, a family business and proud of it, and we are happy that Mrs Pol-Roger and Mr Hubert de Billy are with us today.

Mayor - The statue of Churchill at his easel by Paul Rafferty is simply exceptional. The resemblance, the spirit, the happiness and as we say in English "La joie de vivre" are tangible. Paul, on behalf of our family, thank you for your amazing research and scholarship on Churchill, and I must confess with another English saying that this is a "piece de resistance". Churchill declared that he would devote his first million years in paradise to mastering the art of painting. Now we know where to find him, sitting at his easel in the most beautiful spot on the French Riviera, talking to passers-by and joining us today to celebrate his love of painting and France!

# Clementine Churchill: In the Battle for Victory

*Elliot James Clark*



Elliot Clark is a Political and Social Historian currently undertaking a History PhD at the University of Plymouth. For his PhD thesis, Clark is assessing fatherhood in early twentieth-century politics, looking at Winston Churchill as a key case study alongside other politicians of the period. In 2021, Clark was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship with the National Churchill Leadership Centre at George Washington University. Clark has previously presented public talks for the International Churchill Society and the Sir Martin Gilbert Learning Centre. ([www.elliottclarkhistorian.co.uk](http://www.elliottclarkhistorian.co.uk)).

In Britain's hour of need, Winston Churchill became the Nation's wartime Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, with his wife Clementine's role also now intensifying. The lessons and skills which Clementine had to learn and utilize during the First World War, as a confidant to her husband, political advisor, and a woman of war, would all become crucial skills with her husband now at the helm.

During the Second World War, Clementine became a popular public figure in her own right, not only for her work alongside her husband but for her own war work. Clementine was far more than a biddable political wife. Her strengths went beyond that of her predecessors, which, to begin with, caused some concern to Downing Street staff. Churchill's private secretary, Jock Colville, recorded in his diary how Clementine saw 'her mission in life to put others in their place and took pride in her outspokenness'.<sup>1</sup> Despite these initial concerns, the Downing Street staff soon recognized how crucial Clementine would be for them in assisting Churchill, as she was one of the few people to whom Churchill would truly listen.

When there was a matter in government, Clementine would be notified by staff in an attempt to resolve it when others were unable

to. For example, on 27 June 1940, after hearing word from Cabinet of concern over Churchill's attitude, Clementine, in a letter to Churchill, warned him, 'there is a danger of your being generally disliked by your colleagues', as 'you are not so kind as you used to be'.<sup>2</sup> After this letter, Colville recalled how Churchill's 'ill-tempered phases' had passed, and Clementine's warning proved a success.<sup>3</sup>

It must be questioned here why Clementine made this warning to Churchill in a letter. One of the ways Clementine had learned to understand Churchill's mind was that he would take note, and act upon something, much more effectively when it was presented to him in writing rather than verbally communicated to him. Therefore, Clementine ensured that when an issue of importance came up, it would always be communicated to her husband via letter. This was a technique that Clementine advised both ministers and family members to use and can be seen throughout various collections of correspondence. Clementine had learnt to control and mediate Churchill better than anyone and often proved a great support to those working with Churchill when mediation was required. On occasions, to prevent unrest, Clementine would proclaim, 'Now Winston, that's all right, the subject can be let to rest for the moment'.

General Sir Fredrick Pile (Fig. 1), General Officer Commanding Anti-Aircraft Command, who observed these mediation skills, recalled how 'She bossed him – but in the most delightful way...with the deepest understanding of his nature'.<sup>4</sup>

Even when it came to matters such as Churchill's safety, Clementine would once again be called upon. It is well known that Churchill took a great interest in danger and was excited by it. When he became Prime Minister, his safety became a major concern. Various politicians from the period have noted how Churchill took them to the roof of Number 10 at night to observe the battle in the sky. With others unable to prevent this, to ensure his safety, Clementine uniquely authorized an 'espionage network' of staff who would inform her when her husband sought to go out into danger. During the height of the Blitz, Churchill would also often leave the safety of Number 10 completely and go into the bombed streets of London to observe the damage inflicted. This caused great panic as Ministers attempted to stop him but to no avail. In manipulating Churchill, to prevent him from going out, Clementine joined him in the danger. General Ismay recalled how 'this time concerned for her safety, he returned before nightfall'.<sup>5</sup>

It is apparent that Clementine ultimately put herself in harm's way to prevent her husband from continuing with such endeavours, as he now realized she would accompany him, and he did not want her in any danger. This was a subtle action but portrayed that Clementine knew precisely how to manage Churchill and protect the man needed to lead the war.

Other examples of this technique include when Churchill refused to use the bulletproof car which was provided to the Prime Minister. Learning of this refusal and to ensure that



**Fig. 1. Winston Churchill with his daughter Mary and General Sir Frederick Pile watch anti-aircraft guns in action against V1 flying bombs, 30 June 1944.©IWM**

Churchill had no choice but to use it, Clementine would ensure that all other cars were away from Downing Street, leaving the Prime Minister with no other choice. Again, this was another small act but a crucial one. On one trip, shrapnel hit the side of the bullet-proof car in which Churchill was travelling. If this had been an ordinary car, the consequences could have been catastrophic. Clementine's skill of manipulating Churchill away from danger was heavily relied on for the entirety of the war, and her 'espionage network' proved a great success in protecting the Prime Minister.

As mentioned, Clementine's popularity was enhanced through the war as she was often seen accompanying her husband on many of his Blitz tours around the Nation. It became clear the public, in fact, longed to see her just as much as they longed to see her husband. It was Lord Ismay who stated that the public regarded Clementine as an 'angel of mercy' who possessed a 'great calming effect on others'.<sup>6</sup> This certainly proved to be the case.

When on a tour of the blitzed city of Plymouth in May 1941, images were published in the press showing Clementine as a major player in Churchill's entourage. One observer in Plymouth wrote how, 'there was much pleased feminine comment on Mrs Churchill's striking appearance; snow-leopard coat with flounced sleeves, a coloured handkerchief over her head with phrases of her husband's speeches printed on them'.<sup>7</sup>

It may seem odd that it was Clementine's fashion which is commented on. However, it can be argued that Clementine's distinctive style acted as a morale boost for many as it demonstrated the Nation's courage with the symbolism of her husband's speeches on the headwear. This image of Clementine was partly one constructed by the press, similar to how the media comments on a politician's fashion today, but also one utilized as a weapon by Clementine and Number 10 as they recognized its power in providing the public with some glamour in a time of darkness as it portrayed brighter days to come. Examining the damage and talking to members of the public allowed Clementine to connect with them, not only as a public figure but as a woman, wife, and mother. This created a personal touch to Clementine's relationship with the British people, and it's here that we see the 'great calming effect' that Lord Ismay described from Clementine's presence on such tours.

Clementine proved throughout the war that she could connect with the people openly, not only through these tours but through her public broadcasts. These interactions proved successful not only in Britain but abroad as well. In a 1944 broadcast in the United States, Clementine spoke of the 'unity' between Britain and the United States and thanked them for their 'noble aid'. She commented, 'Out of that unity has sprung the

wonderful strength and efficiency we have seen on the battle-front today. Let us give these Joint Forces of our united people every ounce of support in their tremendous enterprise. Let us see them through'.<sup>8</sup>

Through the public's reaction, it became clear that Clementine had won over the American public, with the Washington Times announcing her to be 'Winston's greatest asset'.<sup>9</sup> A statement which at times was echoed around the world. Her global popularity was further reflected through her growing postbag of letters from admiring fans.

Clementine's own work at times meant she was unable to accompany her husband. Aware of this, she ensured that a member of the family would always be available to do so when she could not be around. This duty would often fall upon one of the daughters, ordinarily either Sarah or Mary. As a role model to her daughters, Clementine demonstrated a woman's skills and ability in the male-dominated political world. She had proved to many, including her husband, what a woman could achieve politically, even though she was not a minister herself. Growing up around their mother, and undertaking their own work in women's services, with Mary in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and Sarah in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), meant they had both received significant training to undertake the role of their father's aide-de-camp.

In 1945, Sarah accompanied her father to the Yalta Conference. In a letter to her mother, Sarah notes that Churchill commented to her while in Yalta, 'I do not suppose that at any moment in history has the agony of the world been so great or widespread. Tonight, the sun goes down on more suffering than ever before in the world!'<sup>10</sup> While reporting her father's progress and her experiences, Sarah

described how she had seen some of that agony in Russia. When unable to accompany her husband, Clementine ensured that her family kept her updated on his operations with letters such as this to allow her to continue monitoring his progress.

It was with her own war work that Clementine's talents as a political figure and humanitarian truly shone. In succeeding Lady Halifax as President of the Young Women Christian Association in February 1941, Clementine took on the responsibility of the appeal. During her duration as President from 1941 to 1949, Clementine helped raise over £1,250,000 for the funds, with donations being requested through public broadcasts and newspapers.<sup>11</sup> For example, on 11 June 1945, *The Times* published a report from Clementine requesting donations to help raise £200,000 for the organization to allow it to continue its vital work in supporting women workers.<sup>12</sup> These funds were used to provide new hostels and canteens for women war workers, many of whom would have been far from home. Even after the war, Clementine's commitment to the organization continued and on 23 March 1947, she announced that twenty-two new hostels had been opened over the year, a significant success despite the lack of funds.<sup>13</sup> Jock Colville was one who recognized Clementine's growing success in such organizations. He wrote in his diary on 3 March 1945 that Clementine 'could not have done her job better' or addressed an audience more 'effectively when called upon to do so'.<sup>14</sup>

Amongst all of Clementine's personal war work, the most significant was with the Aid to Russia Fund, of which she became Chair in 1941. The fund was set up with the aim of raising money to send to Russia to help provide medical supplies and clothing. With the use of public appeals, in its first twelve

days of operation, the fund raised £370,000, and by December 1941, it had already exceeded its initial target of raising £1 million.<sup>15</sup> For her success with the fund, in 1945, Clementine was invited on a tour of Russia by the Russian Red Cross (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2. Clementine Churchill arriving at Leningrad Railway Station on the 10 April 1945. © nationalarchives.gov.uk. Image courtesy of the British Embassy in Moscow**

When on the tour, Clementine wrote to her husband on 12 April, describing the devastation she had witnessed with children being treated for 'starvation' as a result of the blockade.<sup>16</sup> Despite the suffering, the entourage was met by the adoring Russian public, with Clementine writing how they were 'mobbed by friendly crowds'.<sup>17</sup>

Grace Hamblin, Clementine's private secretary, who had accompanied her in Russia, recalled how the fund aimed to provide '500 beds to each large hospital', but once Clementine had seen the devastation for herself, it was decided the 'provision of beds should be doubled'.<sup>18</sup> By the end of 1948, the Red Cross had raised £7.8 million under Clementine's fund.

The Russia Fund also provided significant political opportunities for Churchill with the

prospect of improving international relations with Russia. In a top-secret telegram to Clementine, Churchill requested that while on tour, she express his 'desire' for a 'continuing friendship' with Russia to enhance their efforts in creating peace.<sup>19</sup> To express Britain's sympathy to Russia, Churchill further explained to Stalin himself how the fund was not just from Britain's elite but from the poor who were 'proud to make small weekly contributions' to support British allies.<sup>20</sup> Churchill recognized the success of Clementine's tour and its impact on the Russian people. In a telegram to his wife on 4 May, Churchill wrote, 'You seem to have had a triumphant tour, and I only wish matters could be settled between you and the common Russian people. However, there are many other aspects of problems than those you have seen'.<sup>21</sup> As Churchill described, Clementine was the 'one bright star in Anglo-Russian relations' with the fund illustrating the success of Clementine's work on an international scale, not only as a humanitarian but as a political diplomat in international relations.<sup>22</sup>

Throughout their marriage, Clementine worked tirelessly to uphold her husband and his career. She worked like a lioness defending her young. The recognition she valued the most was her husband's own when he proclaimed, 'I could never have succeeded without her'.<sup>23</sup>

*This paper is based on a talk presented by Elliot Clark for the Sir Martin Gilbert Learning Centre on 18 May 2023. The recording may be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQn\\_A\\_MPUsg&t=2466](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQn_A_MPUsg&t=2466)*

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# Annual CSOT Garden Party 2023!



A very special thank you to our hosts Theresa Menefee and Lee Baskerville for letting us gather at their beautiful ranch in Middle Tennessee.



# Spring Garden Party - The Folks!







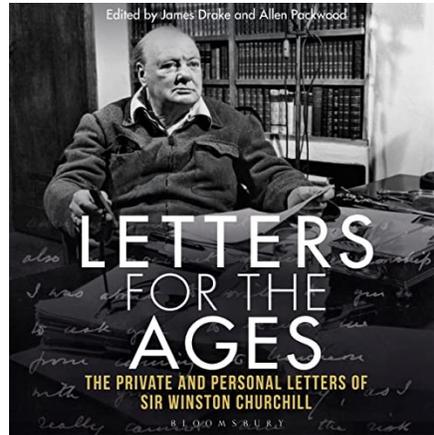




A toast to Sir Winston S Churchill is offered by our hostess Theresa Menefee.



# Book Review



The aptly titled *Letters for the Ages* by John Drake and Allen Packwood gives us an intimate look into the thoughts of Winston Churchill and many of those closest to him. The 'Letters' cover Churchill's life experiences from early childhood to his final days. This most compressive collection of Churchill's correspondence is a must have for the serious Churchill aficionado and anyone interested in gaining a fuller understanding of the great man. - The Churchillian

## **Excerpt from *Letters For The Ages*:**

1: From Winston to Neville Chamberlain, 10 May 1940 (CHAR 19/2C/298-299)  
10.05.1940

My dear Neville,

My first act on coming back from the Palace is to write and tell you how grateful I am to you for promising to stand by me and to aid the country at this extremely grievous and formidable moment. I am under no illusions about what lies ahead, and of the long dangerous defile through which we must march for many months. With your help and counsel and with the support of the great party of which you are the Leader, I trust that I shall succeed. The example which you have set of self-forgetting dignity and public spirit will govern the action of many and be an inspiration to all.

In these eight months we have worked together I am proud to have won your friendship and your confidence in increasing measure. To a very large extent I am in your hands – and I feel no fear of that. For the rest I have faith in our cause which I feel sure will not be suffered to fail among men.

I will write again to-night after I have seen the Labour leaders, I am so glad you will broadcast to our anxious people.

Believe me,

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) Winston S. Churchill.

# The Bookshelf Picks

Click on book image for purchase information

