



HISTORIC BRIGHTON

CELEBRATING OUR TOWN'S HISTORY AND
EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT BRIGHTON'S PAST

Volume 16

Fall 2015

Number 4

Newsletter and Journal

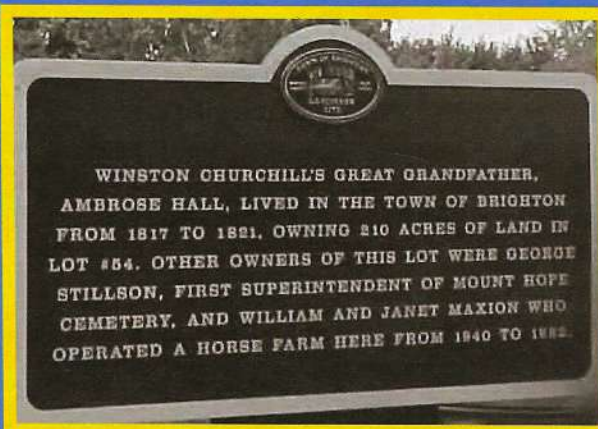
2015 marks the 75th anniversary of Churchill's becoming prime minister, the 70th of V-E Day, and the 50th of his death

**Great-grandparents lived in Brighton.
Was Mother Jennie Jerome born here?
Was Churchill 1/32 Seneca Indian?
Is he the UR's most famous alumnus?
Brighton's most famous great grandson?**

As 2015 marks the 75th anniversary of Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill's ascent to Britain's prime minister as well as the 70th anniversary of V-E Day and the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death, Historic Brighton notes some local facts and legends about Brighton's most famous great-grandson.

In the beginning of our tale, according to Mary Jo Lanphear, Town of Brighton historian, Churchill's great grandfather Ambrose Hall was "of Williamstown, Massachusetts." On 7 February 1817 Hall purchased part of lot 54, the one on which St. John's Meadows now sits. He had purchased the other parts of the lot in 1816. In the 1817 and 1818 assessment roles, Ambrose Hall is not listed as the owner of Lot 54. Lot #54 was mentioned in the non-resident section of the role as "unknown" owner. In 1819, Ambrose Hall is listed as the non-resident owner of Lot #54 (210 acres) and in 1820, Ambrose Hall is listed as a resident taxpayer of Lot #54 in Division 2 and Lot #2 in section L of Seymour & Johnson's map. Section L was bounded by Main Street on the north, Court Street on the south, Stone Street on the west, and Clinton Street (Avenue) on the east. In the 1820 U.S. census, Ambrose Hall is listed in Brighton, three doors away from Austin Steward. On 23 February 1821 Ambrose Hall was listed as "of Brighton" when he bought land in Palmyra and on 24 April 1821, Ambrose Hall was listed as "of Palmyra" when he sold some land in that town. Finally on 28 June 1824 Ambrose Hall sold Lot #54 in Brighton. "So," Mary Jo says, "it looks like he bought land in Lot 54 in Brighton as an investment. He bought it in 1816 and 1817 for a total of \$2005 and sold it for \$3670 in 1824—a tidy profit. I think he was living in the first village of Brighton, the Johnson & Seymour Tract for part of the time between 1818 and 1821 and moved to Palmyra sometime between February 23 and April 24 of 1821. We just don't know exactly when he moved to Brighton from Williamstown, MA."

Mary Jo continues: "Another unanswered question is whether there were improvements (cleared land and/or a dwelling) made to lot #54 that caused the \$1665 profit or whether the lot's location near the Erie Canal made the land more valuable when he sold it."



A plaque along Elmwood Avenue in Brighton near Rochester indicates land owned by Ambrose Hall, great-grandfather of Winston Churchill.



Lady Randolph Churchill (nee Jennie Jerome) and her son Winston—age 28—in 1910

Winston Churchill Comes to Rochester in 1932

Sparse Crowd in Eastman Theatre hears him

Henry Clune interviews



Henry Clune

In 1932, Winston Churchill set off on an American lecture tour. In Rochester, his lecture on economics in the cavernous 3,225-seat Eastman Theatre was sponsored by the Junior League, a service organization noted for its ability to raise funds for its projects. But people stayed away in droves and the event failed as a fundraiser. The 1930s were the depth of Churchill's obscurity. Behind him was celebrity of soldier, war correspondent, politician, and First Lord of the Admiralty. Before him was greater distinction. Churchill himself described the period as a time when, having been saddled with the blame for the failure of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, he had lost his job, his political party, and his appendix.

Reporter Henry Clune interviewed Churchill at his Rochester hotel the night before the talk. Answering the door in tattered dressing gown, glass of Scotch in hand, Churchill growled at Clune: "No, my mother was not born in Rochester. She was born in Brooklyn."

Henry Clune, master storyteller

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOUSE was built the same year as the George Eastman House. It's hard too, to know whose story to believe about the building of that house—that of Gertrude Herdle Moore or Henry Clune.

Gertrude's account, as written by Richard Reisen in *Epitaph*, the newsletter of Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, is as follows:

"On November 14, 1932, Frank Lloyd Wright, then 63 years old, came to Rochester to deliver a lecture at the Memorial Art Gallery. The director of the gallery, Gertrude Moore, picked him up in a taxi at the train station. Their first visit was to the house on East Boulevard that he had designed 25 years earlier. The formal gardens, reflecting pool, fountains, and tennis courts were gone, and houses of uninspired design now flanked Wright's jewel. He expressed incredulity at the bad taste of these changes. But what truly horrified him was that the clean lines and plain surfaces had been unforgivably defaced with exterior gutters and downspouts that had replaced his original interior roof drainage system. In his rage, he rose from his seat and banged his head against the roof of the taxi and shrieked, 'They've wrapped conductor pipes around my plane surfaces! They have destroyed my house!'"

A similar account appeared in the Brighton Pittsford Post which brought forth a neatly-printed faux-irate, (now lost) answer from Henry Clune to the effect that Wright had been present all along during the building of the house, slept in a tent on the grounds during construction, and had his meals brought to him by Clune—who was then all of fifteen years old.

Junior League sponsors Churchill, 1932

MONEY RAISING ACTIVITIES

- 1930—Admiral Byrd
- 1930—Buffalo League Marionettes
- 1932—Winston Churchill
- 1934—Fashion and Flower Show
- 1934—Bridge Parties
- 1934—Chatterbox Revue
- 1934—Air Show, Rochester Pilots Association
- 1934—Rochester Centennial Exposition
- 1934—Pure Oil Bridge Tournament
- 1935—Seneca Day
- 1939—Genesee Valley Dog Show
- 1944—Genesee Valley Dog Show
- 1947—Follies
- 1949—Follies
- 1952—Cabaret
- 1953—East Rochester Playhouse Sponsorship
- 1955—Follies, Rummage Sale
- 1956—Rochester Royal Basketball and Rochester American Hockey Game Sponsorship
- 1958—Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Ball
- 1959—Follies
- 1960—Mardi Gras Ball
- 1961—GLAMORAMA

The money-raising event for 1961 was a multi-store fashion show. GLAMORAMA was held in the Community War Memorial on October 3 at 2:00 and 8:15 P.M.

Six stores participated, including Bernard Held, E. W. Edwards, McCurdy's, McFarlin's, The National, and Sibley's. The retailing business is highly competitive, but these firms shared wonderful unity and cooperation with each other and with the League in this venture.

The League was responsible for hiring an over-all coordinator, (Rosemary Sheehan), an entertainer, (Johnny Desmond), a fifteen piece orchestra, (Michael Arena), paying for the War Memorial, (rental, ushers, lighting, and stagehands). The expenses of the show from our standpoint amounted to approximately \$9,000.00.

The stores supplied all of the fashions, models, decorations, ticket booths, which were staffed by League members, and advertised the show in their display windows and in the newspapers.

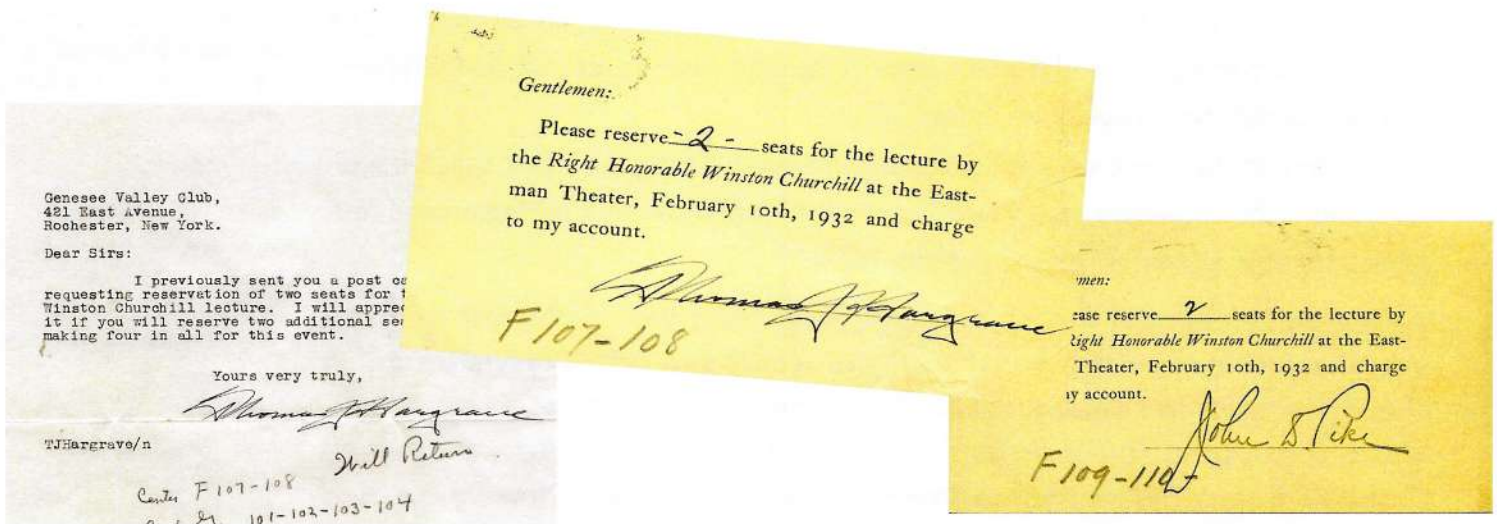
A list of the Junior League fundraising projects shows Winston Churchill in 1932. What it doesn't show is that his speech was the only project that lost money!

Churchill Comes to Rochester in 1932

Great Grandfather Ambrose Hall's property looked like this for years



THE HALL PROPERTY AS HORSE FARM: Between Ambrose Hall and St Johns Meadows, the Elmwood Avenue lot in Brighton was occupied by a house and horse farm owned by Bill and Janice Maxion. At Christmas time, the Maxions wrapped it in a giant red ribbon.



Déjà vu all over again

The names were the same in 2008 and 2010: Two future presidents of the Eastman Kodak Company, Thomas J. Hargrave and Frank W. Lovejoy, attended the Churchill lecture in what would become Kodak Hall in 2009. So did John B. Pike, namesake and founder of the construction company that renovated and expanded the theater, 2004-2011.

According to Time Magazine:

One Rationale for the UR bestowing on Winston Churchill the first honorary degree by an American university was:

'Because his "mother was a native of Rochester"'

"Pure midsummer madness: "

Winston Churchill, LL.D.—

TIME MAGAZINE COVERED THE HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LAWS, Churchill's first from a U. S. university, in its 23 June 1941 issue. "The reason the Prime Minister permitted Rochester to stage the kudos scoop of the year was that his mother, born Jennie Jerome, was a native of Rochester," said Time.

So there! Brooklyn, Blake McKelvey, and Henry Clune

"By a strange paradox," Time continued, "Mr. Churchill accepted the degree from a Quaker who for two years has fought to prevent the U.S. to join Britain in the war and is a good friend of the isolationist Charles Lindbergh— [University of] Rochester's President Alan Valentine.

"Smart, young Alan Valentine, 40 years old and a Rhodes scholar, was accused by fellow Rhodesmen of ingratitude to Britain when he began two years ago to write impassioned letters to senators and President Roosevelt demanding that they keep the U.S. out of war. He went to Washington this year to oppose the Lend Lease Bill. Now in favor of the U.S. arming for defense, he insists that to send U.S. troops to Europe would be 'pure midsummer madness.'

"Nonetheless, President Valentine last week explained that his university had decided to kudoize Winston Churchill for 'his distinction as an historian...his position as the elected leader of a great and friendly democracy...the courage, candor and effectiveness with which he is leading his nation. . . .'

At commencement exercises Valentine handed Churchill's degree [TIME called it a diploma, as if the UR were a high school] to the British minister in Washington and "eulogized the Prime Minister by transatlantic radio."

A copy of the actual speech Churchill read from was delivered to President Valentine so that university officials could see "the method by which the PM obtains the psalm like quality of his speeches."

"I met the doughty old warrior," Valentine recalled. We forget that when Churchill finally did become prime minister and the war that he warned against for so many years finally did start, he was 65 years old.

In 1941, one quarter of the world's population lived within the British Empire yet Britain had only 99 troop divisions worldwide. This was dwarfed by the Wehrmacht by greater than 2 to 1. Plus, all of Hitler's troops were stationed within 600 miles of London.

"Alan Valentine: Puritan Quaker, Anglophile, and Loyalist"

According to his 1950s memoir, Valentine was a Rhodes scholar and rugby player in the 1920s. TIME magazine noted that Valentine was a Quaker who lobbied Congress to stay out of European wars. But Quakers traditionally were loyalists.

Born at the beginning of the 20th century, Valentine grew up on Long Island, "half living with Robin Hood and Ivanhoe," and absorbing the intense Anglophilia of the Eastern Establishment.

His lifelong scholarly quest was the reason America and Britain took separate roads in 1776 and the separation of the English-speaking peoples thereafter.

from articles by John J. Waters, Department of Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservation

UR Library Bulletin V
xxxiv 1981

How a Quaker UR President saved the British Empire—for a time

On the stage of the Eastman Theatre on that June morning in 1941, Noel Hall, British minister to Washington, accepted the traditional insignia of the degree: the diploma and the yellow-lined hood.

Citation by President Alan Valentine in conferring the degree Doctor of Laws upon Winston Churchill:

"WINSTON CHURCHILL: From our cities, hills and plains, sprawling between two oceans; from this new nation, conceived in liberty, our hearts speak out to England. Mine-laden seas cannot divide us from that ancient stronghold of free men, nor bombs drown out their steady voices. England and America-our common cause is freedom. You lead that cause in England, resisting infection and the hand of war. Your skies are darkened while ours are safe and clear; your coasts beleaguered while our long shores lie open in the sun.

"No need for us to offer comfort, for your bluff words cheer England and cheer us. No need to do you honor, for even time hastens to write high your name. No need to cry 'courage' to the sons of England. When Marlborough goes off to war, no one knows when he will come back, but we know he will not give up.

Come [the] three-quarters of the world in arms, and England shall shock them.

"Rochester is an English name and the birthplace of your mother. From England we of Rochester learned the democracy of truth. To England go our scientists and our weapons to help your democracy and ours. And we who remain here-we must dedicate ourselves to the great task that this government by the people shall not perish from the earth.

"WINSTON CHURCHILL, no longer historian and statesman, but symbol of Britain aroused-stout in heart, direct in speech, cheerful in reverses, calm in confusion-America admires you. No turn of fortune can make us forget.

"To few men has so much been given; of no man has more been asked. Your countrymen have placed in your hands the fate of England at war; your fellowmen will turn to you to help create a world of peace. Can you and Britain, can we in America, acquire the greatness of heart, the vision, the magnanimity for that? Lead Britain to that end, and generations the world over will rise to bless you. May peace with freedom be your crowning work.

"By virtue of the authority vested in me by the board of trustees [sic.] of this university, I confer upon you, the spokesman of liberty and justice in the Old World, the degree of doctor of laws [sic.], honoris causa, and with it the hopes of free men and women across this continent."



*UR president Alan Valentine at his desk in
George Eastman House*

**In the historical memory of many Americans, 1941
does not begin until December 7.**

RADIO ADDRESS by Winston Churchill in accepting the degree Doctor of Laws from The University of Rochester

'I am grateful, President Valentine, for the honour which you have conferred upon me in making me a doctor of laws of Rochester University [sic.] in the state of New York. I am extremely complimented by the expressions of praise and commendation in which you have addressed me, not because I am or ever can be worthy of them, but because they are an expression of American confidence, and may I say, affection, which I shall ever strive to deserve. But what touches me most in this ceremony is that sense of kinship and of unity which I feel exists between us this afternoon.'

Ambrose and Clara Wilcox Hall

How the Brighton great grandparents of
Winston Churchill met, according to the internet

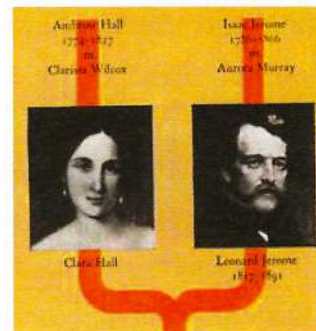
"In 1816 a rich young bachelor named Ambrose Hall Jr. (1774-1827) was hunting in a remote virgin forest in Western Massachusetts and getting lost, knocked on a log cabin door. It was opened by a sixteen-year old girl, Clarissa, the daughter of frontiersman David Wilcox and his Iroquois wife." The beautiful Clarissa was described as "brown and lithe" and Ambrose Hall "returned a month later to marry her."

Ambrose and Clara Wilcox Hall's two daughters, Catherine and Clara, orphaned in 1827 at ages seven and two respectively and raised by an aunt, were considered the most beautiful in the town of Palmyra, NY where they grew up and married two of the eight Jerome brothers, Lawrence and Leonard of Huguenot stock.



This photo (left) is sometimes identified as Leonard Jerome (as above) and sometimes as his father, the Bible-thumping Isaac Jerome (1786-1866). Either way, the dramatic moustache is absent.

Leonard and Clara Hall Jerome and their daughter Jennie



The Jeromes were prosperous farmers from Pompey, a village outside Syracuse in Onondaga County, NY. According to Arch Merrill, the "poet laureate" of New York's Finger Lakes/Genesee Valley region: "They were dashing, handsome chaps with a liking for good horseflesh." Other sources say Leonard Jerome was "a buccaneering entrepreneur typical of mid-nineteen-century New York." He had seven brothers and one sister. His father was a farmer; his grandfather had been a clergyman. The clan was descended from French Huguenots who traversed the Atlantic in the early 1700s, and some of them had fought in the Revolutionary War. Leonard's mother, Augusta Murray, was "of a family honored in the [Onondaga] county."

Leonard's Horatio Alger-like road to success began in 1836 at Princeton when it was the College of New Jersey, which he attended for two years before finishing at Union College in Schenectady. He then studied law for three years in an Albany law office. Next, Uncle Hiram Jerome, an attorney, took two Jerome brothers into his Palmyra office in the 1840s but soon moved the office further west on the Erie Canal to the bustling boomtown of Rochester. By 1849

{continued on page 7}

'As I speak from Downing Street to Rochester University and through you to the people of the United States, I almost feel I have the right to do so because my mother, as you have stated, was born in your city.'

'Here my grandfather, Leonard Jerome, lived for so many years, conducting as a prominent and rising citizen a newspaper with the excellent eighteenth century title of "The Plain Dealer."

'The great Burke has truly said, 'People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors,' and I feel it most agreeable to recall to you that the Jeromes were rooted for many generations in American soil, and fought in Washington's armies for the independence of the American colonies and the foundation of the United States. I expect I was on both sides then. And I must say I feel on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean now.'

The Jeromes during their Rochester Years (continued)

the Jerome brothers and their Uncle Hiram had a law office and newspaper in Rochester and lived in the historic Third Ward. The printing office for the newspaper was in the Talman Building where Frederick Douglass printed his *North Star* newspaper. In 1844 Lawrence Jerome had married the darkly beautiful but orphaned heiress Catherine Hall (1820-1898) in the Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra, and five years later Leonard married her sister Clara Hall (1825-1895) in the same church.

Of all Third Ward dwellers none could rival the young Leonard Jerome at the onset of his career as an international gambler, investor, playboy, racehorse owner, father of the stunning Jennie Jerome and maternal grandfather of Winston Churchill. During their Rochester years the Jerome brothers were remembered as "screamingly funny boys... very popular with the ladies owing to the dashing manner in which they rode high-spirited horses." In 1845-6 Lawrence and Catherine Jerome took Leonard as a boarder in their house at #217-19 South Plymouth Avenue. Later, the Jeromes and their families moved to Fitzhugh Street.

Ralph Martin in his biography of Leonard's daughter Jennie writes of the Jerome brothers in Rochester: "They lived in the fashionable Third Ward, . . . they bought houses alongside each other at 88 and 90 South Fitzhugh Street" when that address was a tree-lined street instead of the Civic Center garage, and built a connecting passageway between them. According to Arch Merrill: "Leonard Jerome once lived in Fitzhugh Street. . . . Some like to believe that his daughter, Jenny, the mother of Winston Churchill, was born there, although Lady Churchill in her autobiography made the flat statement that 'I was born in Brooklyn, NY.' " (And son Winston made the flat statement in his 1930 autobiography that she was born in Rochester.)

Meanwhile Leonard Jerome and J. M. Patterson bought the *Rochester Daily American* in December 1844. Tri-weekly and weekly editions were issued. In July 1845 Lawrence Jerome became a partner.



Nos. 88 and 90 are at left on a tree-lined Fitzhugh St. In the 1870s before the Civic Center garage took over.

The Leonard Jeromes had four daughters; the third one, Camille, died at age eight. The other three—Clara, Jennie, and Leonie—became known in some quarters, as "the Good, the Witty, and the Beautiful." All three married British husbands.

Through the *Daily American*, the brothers offered political support to Whig Millard Fillmore of Buffalo, U. S. vice president at the time. Leonard would be rewarded by Fillmore—when he became president upon Zachary Taylor's death—with a consulship of the independent state of Trieste.

The Jerome family returned to America in the autumn of 1853, shortly before Jennie was born. According to the *Rochester Daily Union* of 17 November 1853, "Our townsman Leonard Jerome Esq. late consul to Trieste, arrived in town last evening. He came as a passenger on the Baltic. He is accompanied by his family — all of whom, we are happy to hear, are in excellent health." The family party included Clara, now a toddler, an Italian nurse, and a heavily pregnant Mrs. Jerome.

Two years after moving to the New York area in 1856, Leonard Jerome became part owner of *The New York Times* (which would in 1899 publish that his daughter Jennie was born in Rochester). Jerome had a passion for singers and race horses: Jennie was said to be named for the "Swedish nightingale" Jenny Lind. Jerome built an opera house in New York and founded two racetracks: Belmont and Jerome Park.

'At intervals during the last forty years I have addressed scores of great American audiences in almost every part of the Union. I have learnt to admire the courtesy of these audiences, their love of free speech, their sense of fair play, their sovereign sense of humour, never minding the joke that is turned against themselves, their earnest, voracious desire to come to the root of the matter and to be well and truly informed on Old World affairs.'

'And now in this time of world storm. . . I have been called upon by king and parliament and with the support of all parties in the state and the good will of the people to bear the chief responsibility in Great Britain . . . I have had the supreme honour of speaking for the British nation in its most deadly danger and in its finest hour. I shall presume to confess to you that I have no doubts what that resolve will be. The destiny of mankind is not decided by material computation.'

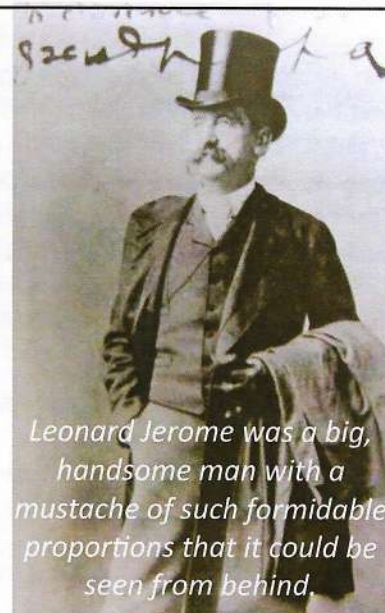
Winston's Rochester grandmother said he was "a naughty sandy haired little bulldog"



The Last Lion or a naughty, sandy haired little bulldog?



Portraits of Clara and Leonard Jerome were painted in Italy during his time as consul in Trieste and Ravenna.



Leonard Jerome was a big, handsome man with a mustache of such formidable proportions that it could be seen from behind.



Clarissa "Clara" Hall Jerome (1825-1895) with three daughters and seven of her nine grandchildren. Clara Jerome Frewen had two sons and one daughter. Jeanette "Jennie" Jerome Churchill had two sons. Camille Jerome died at age 9. Leonie Jerome Leslie had four sons.



The Hall sisters, Catherine and Clara, who married Jerome brothers, called each other "Hatchet Face" and "Sitting Bull" in honor of their Indian heritage. Here are "Sitting Bull" and her three daughters who were known as: "The Bad, The Bold, and The Beautiful."



The impromptu delivery room—a cloakroom of Blenheim Castle where Winston Churchill was born—is kept as it was in 1874.



Jennie with Winston



The Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill (1908. above left) claims that Brooklyn was Jennie's birthplace but also claims she remembers Italy, which her parents left before her birth.

'My father was for three years American Consul at Trieste, and Italy thus colored my first impression of life, although I was born in Brooklyn, in the State of New York. Italian skies gave me my love of heat and of the sun, and a smiling, dark-eyed peasant nurse tuned my baby eyes to the harmony of the most melodious of all languages. Until the age of six I spoke hardly anything but Italian. My father,

Leonard Jerome, a Princeton graduate and the most enterprising of the nine brothers, soon wearied of the tranquil life of a Mediterranean town, and returned to America with my mother and three small children, one of whom died a year or two later. On our journey back I remember how, as we crossed the Mont Cenis in a *vettura*, the deep snow filled my childish mind with awe and astonishment. . . '

'When great causes are on the move in the world, stirring all men's souls, drawing them from their firesides, casting aside comfort, amusement, wealth, and the pursuit of happiness in response to impulses at once awestriving and irresistible, then it is that we learn that we are spirits, not animals, and that something is going on in space and time, and beyond space and time, which, whether we like it or not, spells duty.'

Child of the Victorian Age, he also served Elizabeth II



Winston Churchill, age 4



Of the decline and fall of the Victorian Age, Churchill said, *'This was the British Antonine Age. Those who were its children could not understand why it had not begun earlier or why it should ever stop.'*

Pall Mall, 1929

'Peace and the British Empire seemed destined to last forever'



Shortly after his portrait was painted at age four, Winston's reddish curls were shorn and preserved

Jennie Jerome Churchill, doggy on lap, and Lord Randolph Churchill, second son of the Duke of Marlborough



Churchill's 1930 memoir stated that his *'mother was born in Rochester'*

Winston Churchill, *My Early Life* 1874-1904:

'Leonard Jerome and one of his brothers, having become more prosperous, moved to Rochester. Here they married two sisters, the Miss Halls. They built two houses side by side in what was then the best quarter of the city and connected them with a bridge. My grandfather had four daughters and his brother had four sons. My mother, the second of Leonard Jerome's daughters, *was born in Rochester in the year 1854*. Meanwhile the family had been gathering prosperity in general advance of the United States and in 1856 they moved to New York.'

She was originally Jennie Jerome, daughter of Leonard Jerome, a member of a famous in New York society and in circles. She was born in Rochester.

In 1899, The New York Times stated that Jennie Jerome was born in Rochester

On the Isle of Wight in 1873, Lord Randolph Churchill met Jennie Jerome. A year later they were married at the British Embassy in Paris on 15 April 1874. Winston was born seven months later.

'A wonderful story is unfolding before our eyes. How it will end, we are not allowed to know. But on both sides of the Atlantic we all feel, I repeat all, that we are part of it, that our future and that of many generations is at stake. We are sure that the character of human society will be shaped by the resolves we take and the deeds we do.'

'We need not bewail the fact that we have been called upon to face such solemn responsibilities. We may be proud, and even rejoice amid our tribulations, that we have been born at this cardinal time for so great an age and so splendid an opportunity of service here below.'



Left: Clementine and Winston Churchill

Right: The underground War Rooms and three generations at Churchill's funeral, 1965



Excerpts from Churchill's unforgettable 1940 speeches:

1. 'Come then: let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil. . . . Fill the armies, rule the air, pour out the munitions, strangle the U-boats, sweep the mines, plough the land, build the ships, guard the streets, succour the wounded, uplift the downcast, and honour the brave.'

27 January 1940

2. 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.'

13 May 1940

3. 'What is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory—victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival. . . . But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. . . .'

13 May 1940

4. 'We shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight them on the landing grounds, we shall fight them in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.'

4 June 1940

5. 'The Battle of France is over. The Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."'

28 June 1940

6. 'And now it has come to us to stand alone in the breach, and face the worst that the tyrant's might can do.'

14 July 1940

7. 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

Tribute to airmen, 20 August 1940

The quotes from Churchill's speech seen at the top of each page are from the original "reading copy" that the prime minister used with the transatlantic microphone on 16 June 1941 in the War Rooms (not Downing Street). Here British spelling and punctuation are apparent, e.g. "doctor of laws" and not "Doctor of Laws" as President Valentine would have it. The quotes from Churchill's speeches of 1940 are from an American publication, *Churchill: the Life Triumphant, the Historical Record of Ninety Years*, compiled [in 1965 on the occasion of Churchill's death] by American Heritage Magazine and United Press International. We have used British punctuation here.

'Wickedness, enormous, panoplied, embattled, seemingly triumphant, casts its shadow over Europe and Asia. Laws, customs, traditions are broken up. Justice is thrown from her seat. The rights of the weak are trampled down.

'The grand freedoms of which the President of the United States has spoken so movingly are spurned and chained. The whole stature of man, his genius, his initiative, and his nobility, is ground down under systems of mechanical barbarism and of organized and scheduled terror.'

A warm friendship began in August 1941, two months after he had spoken to the assembled University of Rochester commencement in the Eastman Theatre. Churchill joined President Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard the *HMS Prince of Wales* to write and sign the Atlantic Charter and sing with the president, in those politically incorrect days, *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

'It was a great hour in which to live,' Churchill wrote later.



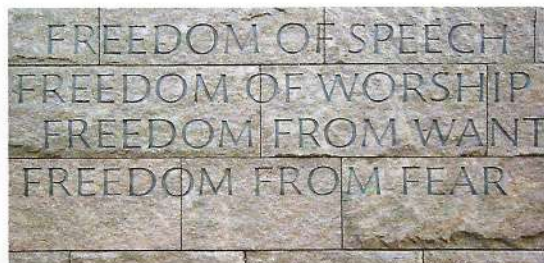
Clara Hall Jerome

1/32 Iroquois?

Genealogists find no evidence that Churchill was 1/32 Iroquois but plenty of evidence that members of the Wilcox/Hall/Jerome/Churchill clan believed that they had Seneca blood in their veins.

On 6 January 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress in an effort to move the nation away from a foreign policy of neutrality. The president had watched with increasing anxiety as European nations struggled and fell to Hitler's fascist regime and he was intent on rallying public support for the United States to take a stronger interventionist role. In his address to the 77th Congress, Roosevelt stated that the need of the moment is that our actions and our policy should be devoted primarily—almost exclusively—to meeting the foreign peril. "For all our domestic problems are now a part of the great emergency."

Roosevelt insisted that people in all nations of the world shared Americans' entitlement to four freedoms: the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to worship God in their own way, freedom from want and freedom from fear.



Roosevelt's Four Freedoms incised on his monument in Washington D.C.

One Outgrowth of Churchill's Supposed Iroquois Ancestry



Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin at Yalta

Roosevelt commented to Churchill during one of their wartime pow wows:

"You know, Winston, my Dutch ancestors were among the very first settlers in what was then called Nieuw Amsterdam."

Churchill answered: "But, Franklin, it was my ancestors, the American Indians, who greeted them."

'For more than a year we British have stood alone, uplifted by your sympathy and respect, and sustained by our own unconquerable will power and by the increasing growth and hopes of your massive aid. In these British islands that look so small upon the map we stand faithful guardians of the rights and dearest hopes of a dozen states and nations now gripped and tormented in a base and cruel servitude.'

From Cavalry to Rockets with tanks in the middle



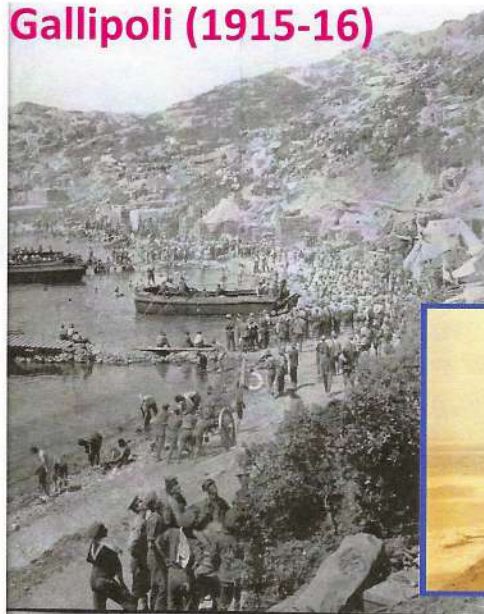
Developed at Churchill's urging during World War I, tanks such as these were called 'Winston's folly.'

Summoned to the post of prime minister on 10 May 1940, Churchill gave his 'Blood, toil, tears, and sweat' speech in the House of Commons on 13 May, his 'We shall fight them on the beaches' speech on 4 June and his 'This was their finest hour' speech on 18 June 1940. As a sign of his mood of desperation in those days, after he had delivered his famous 'We shall fight them on the beaches' address, he covered the microphone and muttered, **'And we will hit them over the head with beer bottles, which is about all we have got to work with.'**

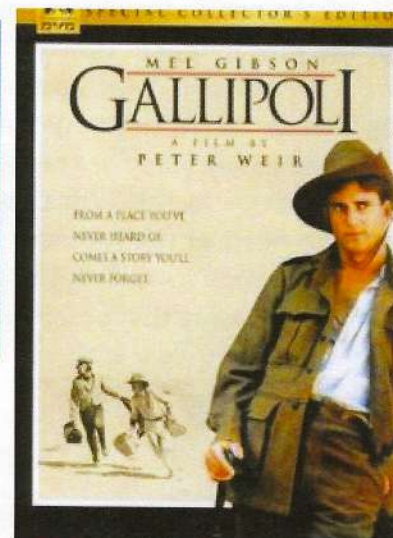
When WWI broke out in 1914, Churchill was one of the three most powerful men in Britain. Fifteen months later, because of Gallipoli, he was a political ruin

When Churchill came to Rochester to speak in 1932, he himself described the period as a time when, having been saddled with the blame for the failure of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915, he had lost his job, his political party, and his appendix. The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-16 was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I. The campaign began with a failed naval attack by British and French ships on the Dardanelles Straits in February-March 1915 and continued with a major land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25, involving British and French troops as well as divisions of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Lack of sufficient intelligence and knowledge of the terrain, along with a fierce Turkish resistance, hampered the success of the invasion. By mid-October, Allied forces had suffered heavy casualties and had made little headway from their initial landing sites. Evacuation began in December 1915, and was completed early the following January.

Gallipoli (1915-16)



Brightonian David Brayer had a bit part as an Australian soldier in Mel Gibson's movie Gallipoli.



Gallipoli (1915-16)

The Mel Gibson movie

In May 1915, Britain's First Sea Lord Admiral John Fisher resigned dramatically over the mishandling of the Gallipoli invasion by First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. His political capital damaged by the debacle, the future prime minister later resigned his own position.

'Whatever happens we shall endure to the end.'



Herr Hitler rants!!



'We shall have "Peace in our time," ' Prime Minister Chamberlain declared in 1939, waving the agreement



Churchill replaced Chamberlain as Prime Minister on 10 May 1940

In 1940 came Churchill and Dunkirk

Dunkirk, and the evacuation associated with the troops trapped on Dunkirk, was called a "miracle" by Winston Churchill. As the Wehrmacht swept through western Europe in the spring of 1940, using Blitzkrieg, both the French and British armies could not stop the onslaught. For the people in Western Europe, World War II was about to start for real. The "Phoney War" was now over.

The advancing German Army trapped the British and French armies on the beaches around Dunkirk, a sitting target for the Germans. Operation Dynamo was formulated to get off of the beaches as many professional soldiers from the British Expeditionary Force as possible. Beginning 26 May 1940, two weeks after Churchill took over, small ships transferred soldiers to larger ones which then brought them back to a port in southern Britain. Eventually 338,000 soldiers were evacuated from the beaches at Dunkirk.

Dunkirk:



"VERY WELL, ALONE"



After Dunkirk:

'We British stood alone'

"All his life, critics called [Churchill's] language florid and overstated. After Dunkirk, overstating England's plight was impossible."

William Manchester



The small boats that saved the troops at Dunkirk are towed back up the Thames.



St. Paul's Cathedral seen above the London Blitz



Left: A building with ties to Rochester NY was the Eastman Dental Clinic of the Royal Free Hospital in London. Here the staff positions sand bags in anticipation of the night's bombing. Right: the results of that bombing

'But what is the explanation of the enslavement of Europe by the German Nazi regime? How did they do it?'

'It is but a few years ago since one united gesture by the peoples, great and small, who now lie broken in the dust, would have warded off from mankind the fearful ordeal it has had to undergo. But there was no unity. There was no vision. The nations were pulled down one by one while the others gaped and chattered. One by one, each in his turn, they let themselves be caught. One after another they were felled by brutal violence or poisoned from within by subtle intrigue.'

'Battleaxe' seen as a total failure

What was going on in the war on 16 June 1941 while Churchill was speaking to the crowd in the Eastman Theatre? In 1940 he said: 'Victory does not accrue from defeats and evacuations' but that's what the Brits were having in all war theaters throughout 1941. Churchill saw his best opportunity for victory in the same theater as the German General Rommel saw his: North Africa. On 15 June British General Archibald Wavell, his forces depleted by misadventures in Greece and Crete, launched a counterattack called 'Battleaxe.' Rommel expected the attack and was ready. So along with the Rochester speech came bad news from the battlefield: 'Everything went wrong.' By 17 June 'Battleaxe' was seen as a total failure and Wavell dispatched to India where he could do no further damage.



Each evening after the day's bombing, Churchill was on the prowl throughout London checking on the damage done that day and positioning himself in profile for photographers. Here he inspects the ruins of Parliament.



For the duration of the Blitz, many Londoners abandoned their homes and lived underground in the subway, or Tube, left. Churchill's nightly appearances cheered them all: one old woman was heard to remark, 'You see he cares. He's crying.'

Churchill opines on the other villian:



'This whipped jackal, Mussolini, who, to save his own skin has all Italy a vassal state of Hitler's empire, comes frisking up at the side of the German tiger with yelping.'

This photo of Mussolini was taken at the 1930 dedication of the Eastman Dental Clinic in Rome, Italy.

'And now the old lion with her lion cubs at her side stands alone against hunters who are armed with deadly weapons and impelled by desperate and destructive rage. Is the tragedy to repeat itself once more? Ah no! This is not the end of the tale.'



Left: The famous Karsh photo of Churchill was made in 1941, the same year as he spoke to the UR commencement in the Eastman Theatre; Middle: Churchill gives the famous V for Victory sign to US sailors at Staten Island; Right: VE Day in London, 8 May 1945

How Churchill mastered the English language

By being too stupid to move on to the classics:

'By being so long in the lowest form I gained an immense advantage over the cleverer boys. They all went on to learn Latin and Greek and splendid things like that. But I was taught English. We were considered such dunces that we could learn only English . . . As I remained in the Third Fourth three times as long as anyone else, I had three times as much of it. I learned it thoroughly. Thus I got into my bones the essential structure of the ordinary British sentence—which is a noble thing.'

Never forget that Churchill won a Nobel Prize for Literature



Churchill with President Truman at Fulton, Missouri where the prophetic "iron curtain" speech was delivered.

'History will be kind to me,' Churchill said, 'for I intend to write it.'

'The stars in their courses proclaim the deliverance of mankind. Not so easily shall the onward progress of the peoples be barred. Not so easily shall the lights of freedom die. But time is short. Every month that passes adds to the length and to the perils of the journey that will have to be made.'

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**'United we stand. Divided we fall. Divided, the dark ages return.
United, we can save and guide the world.'**

Half-American to the End

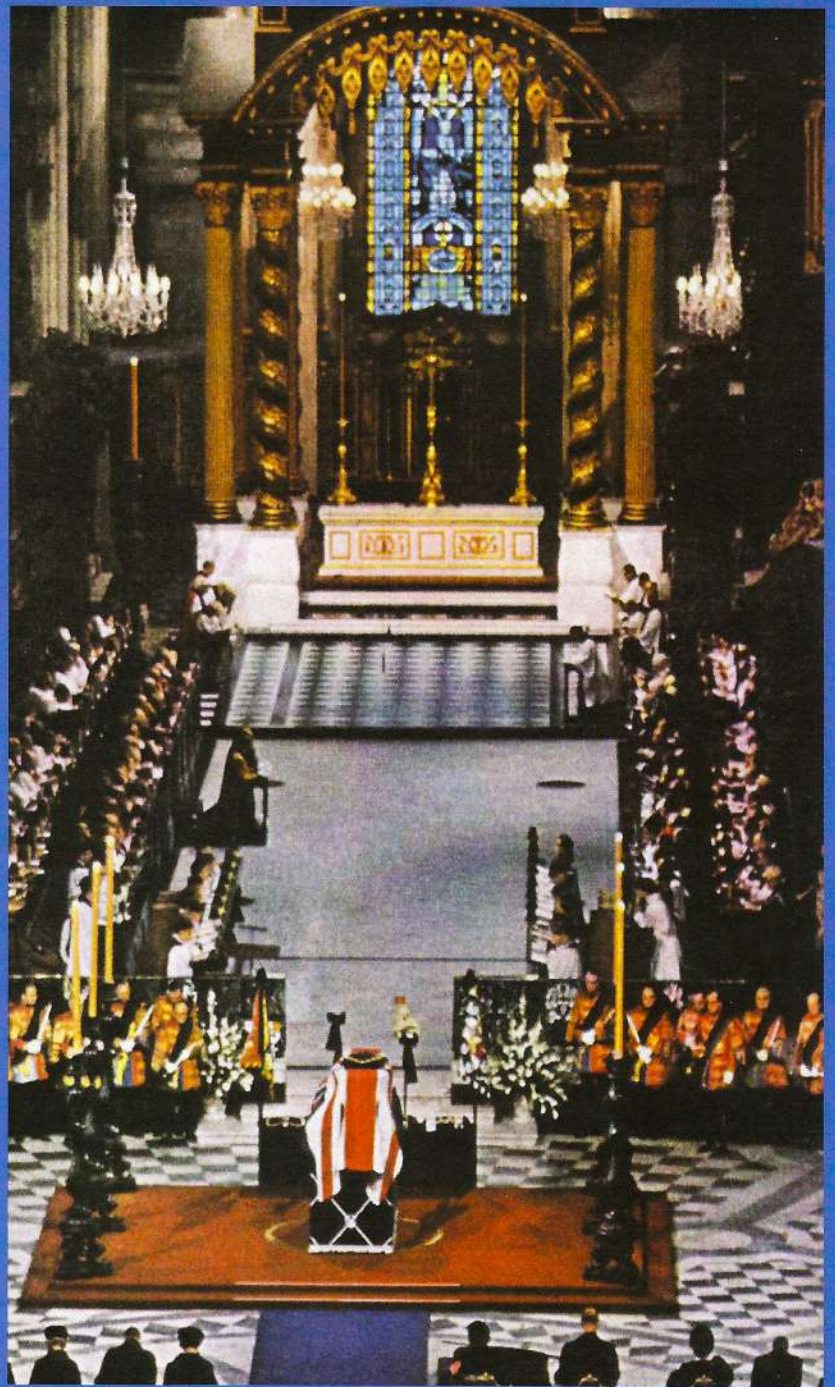
In December 1941, Churchill addressed a joint session of the U. S. Congress and said: 'By the way, I cannot help reflecting that if my father had been American and my mother British instead of the other way around, I might have got here on my own.'



V-E Day, 8 May 1945: 'We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead . . . We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad.'



British schoolchildren today think that Winston Churchill was a mythical figure but that Sherlock Holmes is real



1965: The Battle Hymn of the Republic was played at his funeral in St Paul's Cathedral in honor of his American mother. If you were of a certain age in America in 1965, you got up in the middle of the night to see the funeral of the century's greatest citizen