

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States



MEMO



Sir Martin Gilbert delivers the 21st Kemper Lecture

Westminster College • Fulton, Missouri • Summer 2007

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A Message from the Executive Director.

A very warm welcome to you all from Mid- Missouri! Since our last edition of the *Memo* the Churchill Memorial has hosted a very enjoyable Kemper Lecture with Sir Martin Gilbert as the Lecturer. A full report can be found on page 6. We have also made some significant strides to improve our external curb appeal. As you can see below we have added some additional signage to the entry way of the Memorial. This is striking and helps announce the presence of the Museum beneath the Church, without intruding on the aspect of St. Mary, Aldermandbury.

This edition of the *Memo* features an article on how previously undiscovered color footage of Churchill's 1946 visit came to light as well as the first article in a series exploring the Memorial's collections and an insight into some of the Memorial's extensive document holdings about the day Churchill came to Fulton.

We also welcome (in advance of his actual arrival in August) this year's Fulbright-Robertson Visiting Professor of British History, Dr Richard Coggins. Richard joins us from Oxford and is looking forward to spending the academic year at Westminster and becoming involved in the Memorial.

I wish you all a pleasant summer!



Dr Rob Havers

Executive Director, Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States



New Memorial signage, Spring 2007



2007 Fulbright-Robertson Visiting Professor of British History, Dr Richard Coggins

As most of you are aware, every year Westminster College welcomes a visiting scholar in the field of British History. This year (2007/08) it will be Dr. Richard Coggins. Richard studied at the University of Oxford, gaining his undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics & Economics in 1996 and his doctorate in Politics in 2002. His doctoral thesis examined the politics of the decolonization of British Africa in the 1960s, and in particular the handling of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) by the white minority regime in colonial Zimbabwe. Since then he has been a Junior Research Fellow and lecturer at various colleges of Oxford University, teaching and researching British and international history in the twentieth century. His current research involves British and French diplomatic rivalry in Anglophone Africa after independence, especially in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and the evolution of a post-imperial foreign policy in Britain. We very much look forward to welcoming Richard to Missouri. His inaugural lecture will take place at 7:00 pm on 11th September in Hermann Lounge, on the Westminster Campus. Richard's topic will be 'Prime Minister Tony Blair and the last 10 years of his foreign policy'. It promises to be an interesting event and a short reception will follow. In addition, Richard is keen to speak to audiences where ever possible so, if you are interested in having him talk, or simply have an event that you believe Richard might enjoy, then please contact the Memorial and we will pass along your message.



Mark your Calendar!

11th September 2007

Fulbright-Robertson Inaugural Lecture
by Dr. Richard Coggins

Hermann Lounge, Westminster College

Credits

On the Cover: Sir Martin Gilbert delivers the 21st Kemper Lecture in the Church of St. Mary, Winston Churchill Memorial, Fulton, Missouri on March 24, 2007

Special thanks to:

Judith Seaward, *Chartwell, Kent, UK*

John Hensley, *Archivist/Curator, Churchill Memorial*

Dustin Davis, *Memorial Intern*

Submit suggestions and comments to:
memo@westminster-mo.edu or

The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library
in the United States
501 Westminster Avenue
Fulton, MO 65251

Visit our website at
www.churchillmemorial.org

For more information on the Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States please call (573) 592-5369.



UPCOMING TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

The Letters of George C. Marshall and Winston S. Churchill

*An Exhibition at the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States
August 6-November 20, 2007*

This exhibition examines the correspondence of George C. Marshall and Winston Churchill, whose relationship was forged in the crucible of world war. Letters, photographs, and other documents, reproduced with the permission of the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, University of Cambridge, and the George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Virginia, reveal a relationship of deep mutual respect, despite personalities that seemed polar opposites. Churchill—imaginative, erudite and often mercurial—sought the political limelight and thrived on public oratory. Marshall by contrast was the consummate professional soldier—disciplined, analytical, consistent, and devoid of political ambition.

From 1939 to 1945, General Marshall served as US Army Chief of Staff and, at wartime conferences, was President Franklin Roosevelt's prime military advisor. Churchill headed a coalition government as prime minister, and also acted as Minister of defence, regularly disagreeing with Marshall on the best means of achieving victory in Europe. However, Churchill and Marshall found strategic common ground, and both were dedicated to building an alliance capable of defeating Hitler. At the end of the war, Churchill and Marshall tackled the arduous work of building peace. Letters exchanged during those years, featured in the exhibition, reflect a deepening friendship, stoked by a remarkable wartime partnership.

Come and see this remarkable and informative temporary exhibition at the Memorial.



On the viewing stand during a military show at Fort Jackson, South Carolina (June 26, 1942) are (left to right): General George C. Marshall, Field Marshal Sir John Dill, Winston Churchill, and Secretary of War Harry L. Stimson.



Obituary: John E. Jameson

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of John Jameson on 18th February 2007. John was a longtime member of the Memorial's Board of Governors and a tireless supporter and advocate for everything the Memorial did. In 1969, he headed the parade committee that planned the Memorial's dedication.

John was born in Fulton on 12th August 1921 in the new Callaway Hospital. He had the distinction of being the very first baby born in that establishment. John was educated in Fulton, at the Southern Arizona School for Boys and at the

University of Arizona before returning to study at Westminster College in 1941. John was commissioned into the United States Army Airforce and served as a bombardier in the 8th Air Force, flying many missions from the 8th's bases in East Anglia to Germany. The Norden bombsite that is proudly displayed in the RAF room in the new Memorial exhibition was donated by John.

After the war John returned to Fulton and married Pat (Harriot Derickson Donaldson) and began work in his father's businesses. John owned Jamesson Ford until his retirement in 1986. John was involved in a host of community activities as well as the Churchill Memorial and established the Jameson Trust that benefited both Westminster College and William Woods University.

John is survived by his two sons, William E. Jameson and John W. Jameson and by his daughter Jennifer Jameson Marquardt and by four grandchildren. Sadly, days after his death, his wife Pat also passed away on 26th February 2007.

Memorial Hires New Educational Coordinator

In her own words Mandy Crump tells us about herself and why she is looking forward to working at the Memorial.

I was raised in Fulton and graduated from Fulton High School. After graduation, I attended Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri and received my Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2003. I immediately applied to graduate school and began the Folk Studies program at Western Kentucky University that fall. Taking a year off from school, I came back to the area and worked as Activity Coordinator for TigerPlace, LLC in Columbia. Subsequently, I attended the University of Missouri-Columbia before finally coming back to Western this past fall to finish my Masters. For this past semester, I have been interning at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. Working in their Education/Public Programming department has been quite an educational and fun experience. However, I am looking forward to my impending graduation in May and to the start of my career. The offer of the Education Coordinator position at the Memorial came during a stressful week and was a great moment for me. Knowing that I will be coming back to the community in which I grew up excites me more as the time approaches. Working for the Memorial will be a great opportunity and I am excited to get started. I think the new education program will be a wonderful endeavor for both the Memorial and the Fulton community. I look forward to being a part of this great adventure.



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KEMPER LECTURE 2007

On Sunday 24th March Sir Winston Churchill's official biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert, delivered the 21st Kemper Lecture in the Church of St Mary, Aldermanbury. Sir Martin delivered the inaugural Kemper Lecture, in 1981, and it seemed quite apposite that we should welcome him back to Fulton in the year following the installation of the brand new exhibition gallery.

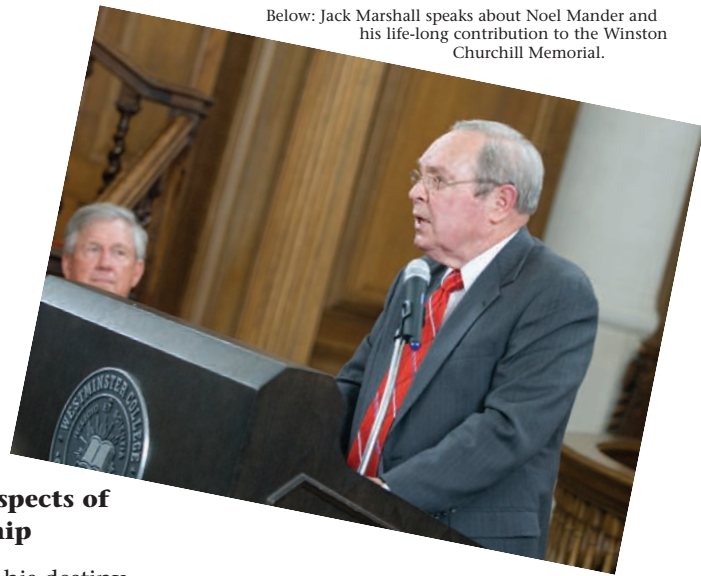


Above: Sir Martin Gilbert in the Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury

The extended Kemper weekend began in St. Louis where Sir Martin spoke at a dinner, given in his honor, at the Racquet Club on Kings Highway. He talked about some of the key Churchill 'places', i.e. locations that meant something to Sir Winston or had a particularly significant 'Churchillian' connection and the breadth and depth of his Churchill knowledge was evident from the start of his address. Sir Martin also delighted guests with his willingness, both pre and post dinner to entertain questions in an informal setting. On Sunday, following the drive from St Louis, Sir Martin gave the Kemper Lecture on the subject of 'Churchill's War Leadership'. Once again Sir Martin adopted a distinct framework and spoke on 12 aspects of Churchill's leadership during his time as Prime Minister. These 12 characteristics of leadership included key qualities that both underpinned and illuminated our understanding of Sir Winston. These individual characteristics were discussed within the context of specific historical events, for example Gilbert illustrated both Churchill's determination to prosecute the war and his humanity through an exposition of the destruction of the French fleet at Oran, in North Africa. Churchill's decision to fire on French sailors was a terribly difficult one to make- France was Britain's ally, but the chance of these vessels falling into German hands (with the surrender of France) and their apparent unwillingness to sail to British ports was the main strategic consideration. Gilbert demonstrated deftly that Churchill was a man of great feeling as well as of great resolution. Below are the 12 key elements of Churchill's unique style of leadership. In a forthcoming edition of the Memo we hope to bring you the text of the lecture in a fuller form.



Left: Sir Martin Gilbert signs books after the Kemper Lecture



Below: Jack Marshall speaks about Noel Mander and his life-long contribution to the Winston Churchill Memorial.

Sir Martin Gilbert's 12 Aspects of Churchill's War Leadership

1. belief in himself and his destiny
2. a capacity for hard work
3. ability to inspire hope
4. creating and maintaining national unity
5. gave clarion call of "no surrender!"
6. encouragement
7. concern for details and practical plans
8. seeing things for himself
9. ability (need) to make hard decisions
10. personal courage
11. compassion
12. passion

In the meantime, the lecture is still available to hear on the internet and can be found at the following web address: <http://www.missourinet.com>



Above: The Mander Family (from left) John Mander, Ben Mander, Polly Mander, Leila (wife of Edmund Mander) and Edmund Mander

While Sir Martin's talk was the headline activity the occasion was doubly special and also saw the unveiling of the commemorative plaque to honor the life and work of Noel Mander. The culmination of the unveiling of the plaque was testimony also to the tremendous 'development' efforts of Jack Marshall who had raised funds for its purchase and design. In attendance were Noel's children, Jon, Ben, Polly and Edmund who had come from as far a field as New York City, from England and also from Singapore to be in attendance. The family agreed that the dedication ceremony was a touching and very appropriate one and all were gratified to know that their father is still held in such esteem in Fulton. The plaque was affixed permanently following the ceremony and can be viewed in the Church of St Mary on the south wall, above the stairs that lead to the organ. Please look for it during your next visit to the Church!

Right: Crosby Kemper and daughter Maddie explore the wit and wisdom of Winston Churchill



Chartwell...

Home of Sir Winston Churchill, Writer, Artist, Statesman, Politician, Family Man

by Judith Seaward, *Chartwell, Kent, UK*

Winston Churchill said simply of Chartwell, his family home in Kent 'I love the place'. When one takes in the view south over the gentle landscape of the Weald of Kent, a view which has remained virtually unchanged since he first saw it, it is not difficult to see what drew him here.

Churchill bought the existing house and the surrounding 80 acres in 1922, when he was searching for what he thought of as a "country basket". It became the family's home and remained so for the rest of his life, a cherished place where both house and garden reflect a combination of Sir Winston's and Lady Churchill's personal tastes and enthusiasms. Churchill loved the landscape on a hillside site where he could enjoy a variety of activities including building, gardening farming and painting.

The architect, Philip Tilden, modernised the rather gloomy, mid-Victorian mansion, and extended it by adding a garden wing, which contains three large and attractive rooms; the dining room, the drawing room and Lady Churchill's bedroom. Churchill's wife, Clementine, soon set her stamp on the place, filling the brightly painted interior with comfortable furniture and floral chintz curtains and overseeing the planting of flower beds with her favourite pastel shades.

During the 1920's and 30's Chartwell was very much a family home, where the Churchills' four children, Diana, Randolph, Sarah and Mary grew up, and where the family gathered for Christmas. It was here where they could enjoy the company of friends and relatives who came as their guests to a place which was away from the pressures of public life. The visitors' book, still to be seen on the hall table, records the names of family and friends as well as political allies, academics and celebrities of the day. At Chartwell, Churchill could relax by painting in the garden or in his studio, by transforming the grounds with new lakes and stout brick walls built with his own hands and by tending his livestock.

But Chartwell was also at the heart of Churchill's political career. During his first five years here (1924-9) he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the "Wilderness Years" which followed, when Churchill was out of office, it was here that he did most of the writing that kept the family finances afloat, and his study and library both bear witness to the this occupation. It was also here where many of his newspaper articles and his most enduring speeches originated as he worked late into the night.

With the rise of Fascism in Europe, Churchill passionately argued the case for rearmament from Chartwell, and many advisers came to the house to tell him of their concern about the Nazi military threat.

Although Chartwell was closed up during the war years, Sir Winston paid the occasional brief visit. Despite election defeat in 1945, he was widely acknowledged as the greatest living Englishman, and Chartwell soon became a shrine to his wartime achievements. Many of the gifts and awards he received in the post-war years (on loan from the Churchill family) are now displayed in the Museum Room.

In 1946 a group of Churchill's friends bought the house and gave it to the National Trust so that it could be preserved for the nation after his death. This bequest was on condition that he and Lady Churchill could continue living there for the rest of their lives. However after Sir Winston's death in 1965, Lady Churchill chose not to stay, and aided by her daughter Mary and secretary Grace Hamblin she prepared the house for the public to see it as she and her husband wished. She also gave many of the house's furnishings and artefacts to the National Trust, thus enabling visitors today to see many of the possessions which had been so much part of the place in the family's years here. In 1966 Chartwell was opened to the public for the first time, having been returned to its appearance in its heyday of the 1930s .

Today, Chartwell is presented as a lived-in home, creating the sense that the owners are nearby, perhaps in the garden, and that they will soon be back. Both house and garden are full of personal touches; rooms are decorated with fresh flowers grown in the garden and filled with family photographs and memorabilia, while bookcases contain just some of the many books Churchill owned or wrote.

Several of Churchill's own paintings are on the walls of the house, while more are displayed in his painting studio in the garden. Here are Churchill's easel and paint box and the chair in which he painted. The walls are hung with his canvases, a number of them uncompleted. In his book "The Dream" Churchill



himself described how, as he was copying the damaged portrait of his father, the ghost of Lord Randolph appeared before him, sitting in the nearby armchair, and they fell to discussing world events during the half century since Lord Randolph's death.

In the nearby kitchen garden one can still see the walls and the play-house for his children which Churchill built himself, and the landscaping of the grounds owes much to his inspiration. In the 1930s he greatly enlarged the lakes at the bottom of the valley and also built the swimming pool. The path up to the house passes by a water garden where there are secluded pools full of Golden Orfe. It was here that Churchill loved to sit in old age in the garden seat feeding these fish from the nearby box.

The National Trust aims to present both the house and grounds in a way which evoke the atmosphere so enjoyed by the Churchill family and enable visitors from all over the world to obtain a broader and deeper knowledge of this internationally famous man through insights into many aspects of both his professional and private life. The hope is that anyone visiting Chartwell today will understand what caused the Greatest Briton to say, "A day away from Chartwell is a day wasted".



Looking Back:

Color Footage of Churchill in Fulton Rediscovered after 60 years



by Dustin Davis, *Memorial Intern*

Today in the small town of Warrenton, Missouri, if you want to catch the latest movie you can head downtown to The Booneslick Flick where before you see the featured attraction you will probably sit through 15 minutes or so of movie previews. Things were different in the 1930s and 1940s, when the theater in downtown Warrenton was called The Vita. At The Vita in those days, before the movie began you might have found yourself watching yourself!

In the 1920s William Zimmerman, a young man with an entrepreneurial mind, moved to Warrenton to attend college. He eventually opened The Vita movie theater. As a way to attract more paying customers, Zimmerman shot footage of local people and events with his 16-millimeter camera. The logic behind Zimmerman's local newsreels was simple--he believed that more people would pay the admission price if they could see themselves on screen alongside the latest from Hollywood.

According to Gene Cornell, president of the Warren County Historical Society, Zimmerman would film just about anything that was going on around town whether it was someone who just purchased a new car or a humble Boy Scout meeting. "If somebody got a new shipment of something at their store, he would film that," Cornell explains. Given Zimmerman's "nose for news," it is not surprising that he made the short trip from Warrenton to Fulton in March 1946 to capture on film the visit of Winston Churchill. The segment that Zimmerman included in his newsreel of that visit lasts one minute and 37 seconds and was shot using color film. It documents Churchill and Truman's progress, via motorcade, through downtown Fulton.

At the time no one could have known that the speech Churchill was on his way to deliver, the "Sinews of Peace," would become better known as the "Iron Curtain address" and be considered perhaps the most significant of Churchill's long and illustrious career. "I believe that Bill [Zimmerman] understood how important this event was to the country and the state of Missouri," says Brad Noblitt, assistant production manager at KOMU-TV. Noblitt, who grew up in Warrenton, is responsible for the recent rediscovery of this cinematic gem. Back in 1988, when he began working for KOMU-TV, he received a phone call from Victor Kelling and Bill Frick. Kelling worked as the projectionist at The Vita for many years and had diligently saved all of Zimmerman's local newsreels. Kelling was aware that because these priceless visual documents had been stored in their original canisters, the likelihood was that they would not last indefinitely. Unless some way could be found to preserve them they might all be lost.

In order to save the history that was contained in these film cans, Kelling asked Noblitt if there was anything he could do. Fortunately, at the time KOMU-TV was converting their film archives to videotape. Noblitt took all 31 newsreels and transferred them over to VHS tapes as part of that larger project. "I didn't realize at the time what was actually on these films and was just happy we were able to get them dubbed," Noblitt confesses. These tapes fell out of his memory until recently when he got another call asking if he could help the Warrenton Historical Society take another technological leap--this time into the digital age--and transfer all the VHS tapes to a DVD format. As before, Noblitt was happy to help, and this time he discovered what in 1988 he had overlooked.

“While I engaged in the dubbing process,” Noblitt noted, “the Churchill footage came up, and I was shocked to see it.” Like most of us, he was familiar with the extant black and white films of Churchill and with the many still photographs from his visit. This color footage was something very different and Noblitt had never seen anything as good.

Not long after Noblitt rediscovered the Churchill clip, he contacted Megan Murphy, a KOMU-TV reporter who covers news in Callaway County. Soon after that, Noblitt, Murphy and Gene Cornell visited the Winston Churchill Memorial to show the footage to Dr. Rob Havers, executive director, and John Hensley, curator-archivist, before it aired on Murphy’s “Coverage from Callaway” segment on KOMU news. Havers and Hensley were impressed. Hensley observed that the clip showed the Truman/Churchill motorcade through Fulton “from a point of view that is new to us, never seen before.” Hensley also noted that the clip was exceptionally clear.

Even though the clip itself is short, there is much that can be learned from it. It is hard to say what is more startling after viewing the clip, how much downtown Fulton has changed, or how much of it remains the same over 60 years later. Today, as you drive down Business 54, you can still recognize the façade of several buildings that are still standing. The exterior of the building that used to be the Palace Hotel remains essentially the same, and the houses at the corner of Jefferson and West 7th Street can be found in more or less the same shape they were in as Churchill rode past waving at the shouting crowd.



The clip has no accompanying soundtrack but it is easy to imagine the music from the band as they stand on the corner waiting for a glimpse of Churchill. It is also easy to imagine the noise made by the hundreds who had gathered along the motorcade route--the cheering and the applause as the President of The United States and one of Britain and World’s greatest statesmen passed by on their way to Westminster College. Their excitement is almost palpable amidst the pageantry of the colorful banners, the white balloons, and the flags and flyers welcoming Truman and Churchill.

Some of the people who put on their “Sunday best” and traveled to Fulton to see Truman and Churchill, who bought a Churchill pennant or a balloon from street vendors, or displayed a British flag in their front yard to honor the great man, may not have truly appreciated the importance of his visit. However, as Gene Cornell puts it, “[Churchill] was an absolute huge human.” The people at least understood that. And, their excitement, which is abundantly clear in the footage shot by Zimmerman, is what makes this segment of his newsreel so valuable and worth preserving. “There is no other reason for us to preserve things except for the future,” he says.

Brad Noblitt also sees much value in the ability to look back on the past. “These films give a glimpse into the past of what life was like,” he points out. Noblitt also appreciates the journey that this particular film clip has been on, how Zimmerman took the time and effort to capture these moments in history for others to see, how Kelling saved the newsreels and understood their importance and wanted them preserved so others can enjoy them, and now how anyone interested in Churchill or history in general can rely on these film clips for knowledge of where we have come from.

“I think that people who are interested in history are really the only people who believe in a future,” Gene Cornell says. The Memorial will hopefully try to incorporate the film clip into one its many and newly renovated exhibits so it will be on display for any visitor to see.

To view the clip, you can go to KOMU-TV’s website at www.komu.com and search “Churchill.” For more information about the Warren County Historical Society, visit www.history-warrencountymo.com, or call at 636-456-3820.

Reverberations of “The Speech that Echoed Around the World”

Selections from Franc L. “Bullet” McCluer’s Churchill-Truman Day Files

By John Hensley

Curator-Archivist, The Winston Churchill Memorial and Library



According to historian David J. Reynolds, Fellow of Christ’s College at Cambridge University, Winston S. Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace” address delivered at Westminster College in 1946 probably had greater effect on international history than any of the thousands of other speeches Churchill made during his long and very active career. As Reynolds points out, the power of this speech had as much to do with where Churchill gave it, and who was with him at Westminster College, as it did with what he said. In a letter of support for the Churchill Memorial and Library’s Winston S. Churchill: A Life of Leadership exhibit, Reynolds wrote:

This was partly to do with content--Churchill’s mastery of the soundbite gave us phrases such as ‘iron curtain’ and ‘special relationship’ that have helped define the Cold War era. It was also to do with context--the President of the United States sat alongside Churchill as he spoke, the dictator of the Soviet Union denounced him a few days later in the most vituperative terms. As I argue... this was a speech that echoed around the world.

Perhaps no one was more aware of how Churchill’s visit and speech echoed around the world than Westminster College president Franc L. “Bullet” McCluer, who had invited Churchill to Missouri to deliver the John Findley Green Lecture. Without a doubt, McCluer maintained the best records of the occasion. McCluer’s files document the event from its conception until well after the banners had been taken down, the many members of the press had filed their stories and gone home, and the thousands who had traveled to Fulton to see and hear Churchill left town.

McCluer’s “Churchill-Truman Day” files contain dozens of letters and telegrams received after the announcement was made that Churchill would speak at the college but before March 5. The overwhelming majority of these are from well-wishers congratulating McCluer on his success. McCluer also received a few letters that were less than congratulatory, which he filed under the heading “crank letters.” These letters demonstrate that while many Americans admired Churchill in 1946, some were highly critical of his politics and leadership. One such person, who signed their letter to McCluer “A Reader + hoping for a better World especially in high places,” had this to say about Churchill:

After reading part of the Chester and Bradley’s article in the Sunday’s [Kansas City] Star, and seeing Churchill’s landing on our shore filmed and his radio comment I was “dumbfounded” as the favorable news comments have always brought out as if he was such a “wit” + an “aristocrat.” Any “drunk” could have done as well as he. I never saw a more disgusting personality to think the American people are so gullable to swallow anything English + “white-wash” such a piece of humanity + elevate him to such an extent as you + the papers have... Now we have them Englishmen galore on the radio + films with their “hackney” Eng., 50,000 war brides, and then we have to have a College President bid the Eng “bulldog” over here that doesn’t even subscribe to the “Four Freedoms.” That’s all right for the Americans but not for “Winnie.” It is too bad you invited your “Country Cousin” over here but I hope the rest of the country will show him where he belongs. I detest the old Goof!

Another correspondent critical of Churchill and Truman wrote to McCluer in February, 1946. This person expected Truman and Churchill “to give their ‘usual’ campaign oratory and/or ‘super’ sales talk” to the audience at Westminster in March “for the purpose of ‘double-crossing’ the ‘American People’, and ‘blackmail’ them for the Gift-Loan to Great Britain.” This correspondent was highly critical of the Atlantic Charter and “its principles, as related to the Yalta Problem.” To strengthen his point, he enclosed newspaper articles and political cartoons, including one depicting Truman wearing the barrel of “Our ‘Give Away’ Diplomacy” after having been fleeced by Joseph Stalin, who carries away Truman’s clothing in a bag labeled “Yalta, Potsdam, Moscow, Etc.”

One “crank letter” McCluer received before Churchill’s visit to Missouri from an anonymous correspondent did not end up in his archive and for good reason--this letter was decidedly sinister. Instead of filing it, McCluer sent the letter to the Kansas City Field Office of the FBI. From there it traveled to the FBI

laboratory for analysis. (See the FBI’s Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts section of its website: Subject: Winston Churchill/File: 9-13682.) The letter reads, in part:

Dear Sir there is a plot on foot to blow up Old Churchill when he comes here. So keep your self in the clear... he has pulled the wool over most people eyes. But there is some that has good sense. He should have been shot and hung up by his heels... the Kukluxklan will help...

The FBI laboratory analyzed the letter “without affecting an identification” of the person who wrote it. They notified the Secret Service, however, who presumably took the necessary precautions while Churchill and Truman were in Fulton. In any case, the “plot” mentioned in the letter did not materialize in Missouri, and Churchill-Truman Day went off without any serious complications or problems.

The far-ranging interest in what Churchill said in Fulton is evidenced by the numerous requests for a written transcript McCluer received after the speech. Letters requesting copies of the speech poured in from all over the United States and the world. However, most of the messages McCluer received after the speech were from people who had attended the event, heard it on the radio or read about it in the newspapers who desired to congratulate McCluer on a “job well done” and to comment on the speech’s significance in light of the worldwide attention it was receiving. For example, a Westminster alumnus wrote:

I for one thoroughly enjoyed the lecture given by Mr. Churchill even tho he has provoked a storm of criticism the world over. While I agree with him on certain points there are others which I would never be reconciled to.

Some of the people who wrote to McCluer after the speech commented on what Churchill biographer Martin Gilbert has called “fierce protests in America” engendered by Churchill’s Fulton speech. Some also alluded to the Stalinist characterization of Churchill’s call for “a special relationship” between Britain and the United States, as articulated in Pravda, as part of a scheme: “To create an Anglo-American military alliance that will liquidate the coalition of the three powers and at the same time destroy the United Nations Organization, by a policy of force.” The possibility of war with the Soviet Union was much on some peoples’ minds in the United States in 1946, and this fear was used by organizations sympathetic to the Soviet Union and also by American communists to denounce Churchill’s speech. In McCluer’s “crank letters” file resides a letter by an alumnus that reads, in part:



“I was in New York day before yesterday, and several men on Broadway were handing out the enclosed leaflets. I got a kickout of this. ‘The show’ in Fulton, Missouri, reverberates on Broadway in New York!” These leaflets had been distributed by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (the NCASF--an organization largely made up of professionals sympathetic to socialism and communism). In this leaflet the NCASF called Churchill a “bankrupt statesman” who had been “discarded by the British people” who had ventured to the United States to “sell a program he dared not propose at home.” With this leaflet, the NCASF labeled Churchill a warmonger whose words in Fulton threatened “Anglo-American-Soviet cooperation,” which was “the foundation of the United Nations Organization and lasting international peace.”

Alarm:

World War III in the making!



These characterizations were reproduced and amplified in a pamphlet issued by the Communist Party of San Francisco that McCluer also placed in his “crank letters” file. This pamphlet, entitled “Alarm: World War III in the Making!”, denounced Churchill as “the spokesman for British Tories and American big business” and condemned his “Sinews of Peace” speech as the articulation of a plot hatched by the United States and Great Britain “to join together and rule the world.” The pamphlet’s authors were not surprised to hear Winston Churchill forcefully put forth “Tory aspirations-- which are well-known.” They noted that such aspirations “ordinarily... would not necessarily endanger the peace of the world.” However, what made Churchill’s Fulton speech so insidious, and dangerous, from their perspective was this:

What lifted the Churchill speech into the realm of an international incident was the fact that the President of the United States introduced him to make the speech, sat on the same platform while it was made and reportedly read the manuscript of the speech in advance!

The aim of Churchill’s speech, in fact the aim of his trip to America, is crystal clear. To achieve British imperialist objectives, American friendship for the Soviet Union must be broken.

With an allusion to Churchill’s “iron curtain” metaphor, the pamphleteers warned: *WHETHER THE CURTAIN RISES ON WORLD WAR III DEPENDS UPON YOU, NOW, HERE, WHILE YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS THE POLITICAL WEAPONS TO STOP IT.*



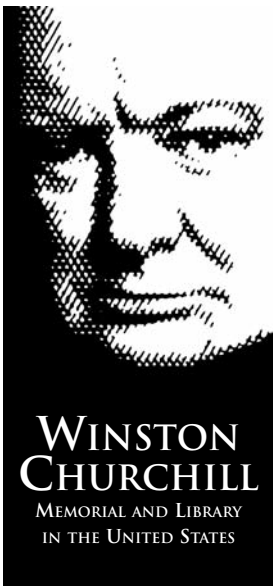
The specter of a possible coming global war was presented as a dire threat by the Communist Party of San Francisco in their pamphlet in terms that would become all-too-familiar in the rhetoric and realities of the Cold War:

If the curtain rises, you will be shoved into the maelstrom as both a victim and instrument of an imperialist plot.

Speaking at a reception held for him at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York a few weeks after the Fulton speech, Churchill commented on the criticism of his allegedly having called for a military alliance between Britain and the United States. “I have never asked for an Anglo-American military alliance or a treaty,” he said. “I asked for something different and in a sense I asked for something more. I asked for

fraternal association, free, voluntary, fraternal association.” For his part, Truman responded to the criticism of Churchill’s speech by publicly distancing himself from Churchill’s proposals and denying that he had known in advance what the former Prime Minister was going to say at Fulton. Privately, he assured Churchill that “The people of Missouri were highly pleased with your visit and enjoyed what you had to say.” In 1947 Truman had more to say to Churchill about the speech he made at Westminster College: “Your Fulton speech becomes more nearly a prophecy every day.”

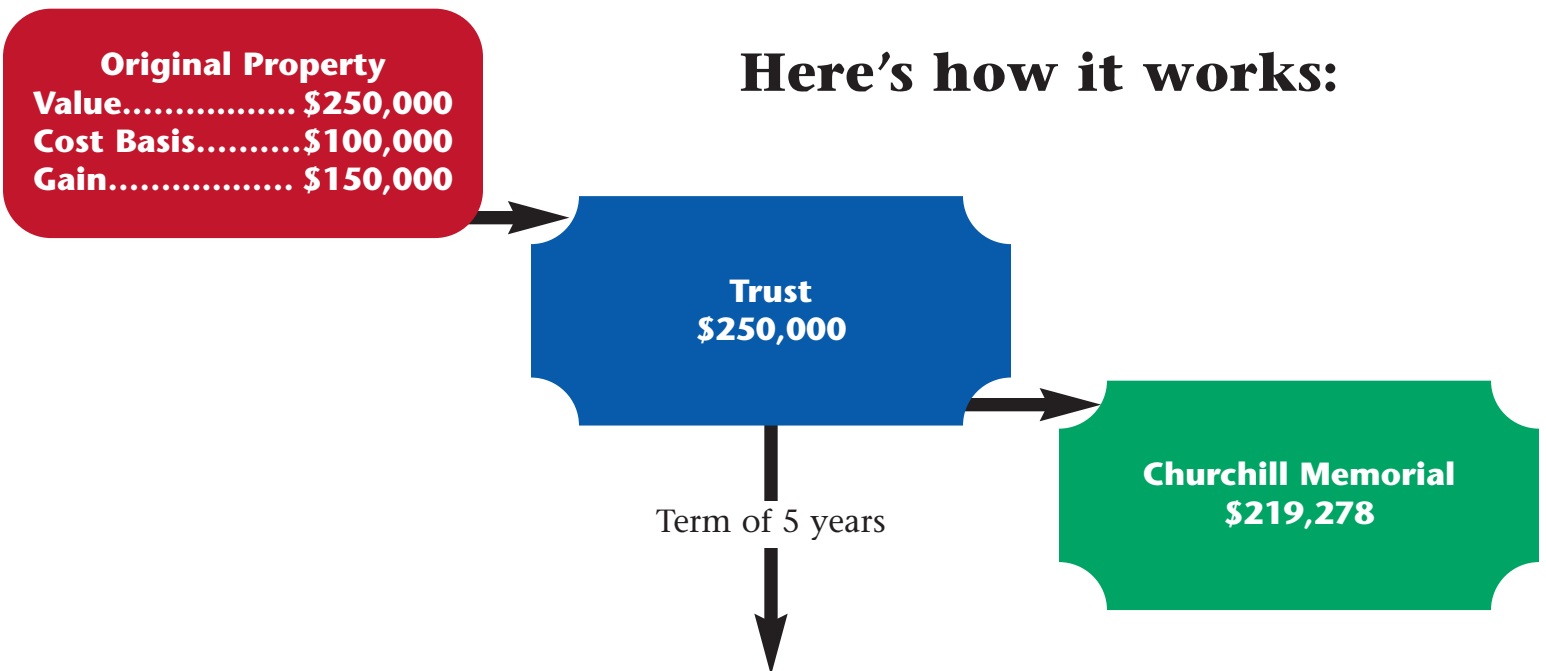
During the Cold War, the prophetic aspect of Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” address grew to legendary proportions. Churchill’s visit to a small town in mid-Missouri and the speech he delivered on the campus of a small liberal arts college profoundly affected the way people viewed the world. Franc McCluer’s files document this transformation. They are a goldmine of historical information. The matrix of this mother lode is stratified with facts and details concerning the planning and execution of the spectacle of Churchill-Truman Day. It is also laced with a complex web of intersecting and often conflicting veins of praise, polemics, policy, politics, and propaganda.



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– Winston Churchill

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