

Announcing . . .

New England Churchillians Summer Picnic and Historic Uniforms Viewing

**Saturday, 18 July 2009
(rain date Sunday, 19 July 2009)*
noon to 4 p.m.**

**Coldstream House
Stoddard, New Hampshire**



This year's picnic will be held at Coldstream House in Stoddard, New Hampshire, about two hours from Boston and Hartford. Our host, M.C. Tsen, will display for us his incomparable collection of 600 British military uniforms and accoutrements. This will be only the second time in 10 years that the collection has been offered for public viewing.

Among items on display at the picnic will be a Blue Patrol jacket of the 4th Hussars, Winston Churchill's cavalry regiment (he is shown above as a subaltern in 4th Hussars Full Dress uniform); a helmet that belonged to Lord Digby, maternal grandfather of the present Winston Churchill; and Field Marshal Alexander's field uniform made by the appointed Italian court tailor for Alexander shortly after his 1944 entry into Rome.

Tables will be provided, but bring your own lawn chair. See reverse for more information.

Please respond by July 14, using accompanying reply coupon.

***The event is weather-dependent; it is very important that you provide your telephone number in case the picnic has to be rescheduled to Sunday the 19th or, if that date is also inclement, canceled altogether.** In case of cancellation, your uncashed check will be destroyed.

Silent auction of Churchill books and objects

Do you have duplicate holdings or need to thin out your collection? Bring your Churchill books or Churchilliana to donate to our silent auction!

Are you looking to add to your holdings? Bring cash or checkbook – you just might find that something you have been looking for!

Donate, bid, or do both! Silent auction proceeds will benefit The Churchill Centre.

Coldstream House and Stoddard

Coldstream House, home of Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Tsen, was built circa 1830 and stands on 35 mostly wooded acres with a beautiful garden situated on a prospect in the rural town of Stoddard.

Stoddard is in the Southwestern corner of New Hampshire on land granted in 1752 to its namesake, Colonel Sampson Stoddard of Chelmsford, Massachusetts and others as Monadnock Number 7. Once known as Limerick, it was incorporated as Stoddard in 1774. Between 1840 and 1873, Stoddard was a center of glass manufacturing. According to Federal censuses, Stoddard had 701 residents in 1790 and 931 in 2000. Its population is now believed to exceed 1,000.



M.C. Tsen and his British Military Uniforms Collection

M.C. Tsen is a passionate student of British military history and a recognized expert on 19th and 20th Century British military uniforms and accoutrements. He is often consulted by museum directors concerning matters on British military history and shares his vast knowledge with fellow collectors and friends.



Mr. Tsen's love of British military history began at English boarding school when he experienced many military pageanttries, including the Queen's Coronation Procession. After coming to America and graduating from Virginia Military Institute, he often traveled on business through London where he formed many friendships with military tailors of Savile Row and began to acquire the core of his own collection of British military uniforms, originally from 1880's to 1914, but now extended through WWII.

The collection is the outgrowth of the core of uniforms purchased from the London tailors by Mr. Tsen with additional purchases from auctions in Britain over many years. It encompasses complete sets of uniforms of the British army, the Royal Navy, the RAF, as well as Court and Civil Dress. The original charter of the collection covered the late Victorian period, about the 1880's, to

the First World War in 1914. Lately, because of the increasing difficulty in obtaining early materials, it has been extended to the Second World War and even more recent years.

The aim of the collection is to preserve the uniforms of the different British Services as well as different Orders of Uniforms within the same Service. The objective is to make each uniform, with all the necessary insignia and accoutrements, as complete as possible. At the same time, the historical owners of the uniforms are researched with the help of Officers' Lists and *Who Is Who* whenever tailors' labels

Directions to Coldstream House

From Boston and Eastern Massachusetts (about 100 miles from Boston):

- Take **I-93 North** to **I-89** at Concord, New Hampshire.
- Take **I-89 North** to **US-202/NH-9 West** (Exit 5—the exit is on your left).
- Take **US-202/NH-9 West** toward Keene/Henniker.
- Stay on **NH-9** when **US-202** splits from **NH-9**.
- Turn right at **NH-123 North** (about 15 miles beyond Hillsborough) and proceed just under 3 miles to Stoddard Center. You'll see a Neo-Gothic church directly ahead (behind a Civil War statue). Before you come to this, Town Hall will be on right and Coldstream House on left. Look for Churchill signage and park along side of road.

From Hartford and Western Massachusetts (about 120 miles from Hartford):

- Take **I-91 North** through Massachusetts into Vermont to Exit 3 (Keene, NH/Brattleboro)
- Take **VT-9 East** across Connecticut River; it becomes **NH-9**.
- Stay on **NH-9 East** through Keene, continue on **NH-9** about 14 miles until it becomes **NH-9East/NH-123 North**.
- Proceed 1 mile and turn left at **NH-123 North** as it splits from **NH-9 East**; follow directions above from Boston.

New England Churchillians 2009 SUMMER PICNIC *(Please respond by 14 July 2009)*

Attendee(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone* _____ email* _____

**very important so we can reach you if picnic is rescheduled or canceled due to weather*

OPTIONAL: I will bring [check space] _____ a dessert for 8 people.

Enclosed is \$27.50 x _____ [no. of adults] = \$ _____ Total

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "New England Churchillians" and mail to:

Pat Foley, 390 Brigham Street, Northborough, MA 01532 ▪ Phone: (508) 393-6162 ▪ email: patriciafoley@charter.net