

George B. Churchill (1866-1925)

George Bosworth Churchill was born in Worcester in 1866, the son of Ezra and Myra (Bosworth) Churchill. He attended Worcester schools, and Amherst College, Class of 1889. In 1897 he was awarded the Ph.D. from the University of Berlin in English literature, specializing in the works of Shakespeare. He was a member of the faculty of Amherst College from 1898 to 1925, and was active in politics, serving as Town Moderator for many years, as a Massachusetts State Senator, 1917-19, and as a representative to the state constitutional conventions of 1917 and 1919, and in 1924 he was elected as a Republican to the U. S. Congress, to represent the state's Second Congressional District.



(date unknown, probably early 1920s)

from the Biographical Directory of the U. S. Congress (online)

CHURCHILL, George Bosworth, (1866 - 1925)

CHURCHILL, George Bosworth, a Representative from Massachusetts; born in Worcester, Mass., October 24, 1866; attended the grammar and high schools, and was graduated from Amherst (Mass.) College in 1889; taught in the Worcester High School until 1892; moved to Philadelphia and taught in the William Penn Charter School, and at the same time took a postgraduate course at the University of Pennsylvania 1892-1894; went to Europe and studied in the University of Strassburg, Germany, in 1894 and 1895, and then attended the University of Berlin, Germany, 1895-1897; returned to the United States and became assistant editor of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* in 1897 and 1898; member of the faculty of Amherst College 1898-1925; moderator of Amherst 1905-1925; member of the State senate 1917-1919; delegate to the State constitutional conventions in 1917 and 1919; elected as a Republican to the Sixty-ninth Congress and served from March 4, 1925, until his death in Amherst, Mass., July 1, 1925; interment in Wildwood Cemetery.

See also the *obituary notice for his father, Ezra Churchill, an interesting and unique figure in Worcester of the 19th century.*

(continues)

Churchill's return to Worcester from Europe in 1897, with his Ph.D. in hand, was covered by the *Worcester Spy* of August 6, 1897, with a notably enthusiastic and scholarly discussion of his dissertation research on Shakespeare. In society page style, the article noted that the couple had been spending a few days with his parents on Wellington Street, and that they planned to spend the rest of the Summer with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Loring Coes of Main Street.

WITH STUDENT'S HONORS.

George B. Churchill Returns from Three Years' Study in Germany.

George B. Churchill of this city has just returned from three years' study in Germany at the universities of Strasburg and Berlin, bringing home the treasured degree of Ph. D. His studies have been devoted almost entirely to English language and literature. The universities of Strasburg and Berlin are two of the most prominent in the world. The Berlin university ranks first and the Strasburg second, but it is not so much the university as the men that the student looks to in Germany. One university may excel in all departments but one, and be far superior to all others in that one particular. Consequently, the student looks toward the university which has a professor who excels in the particular line which he wishes to take up. Consequently, Mr. Churchill went to Strasburg first to be near the great Prof. Alois Brandl, author of a superb history of English literature. Prof. Brandl was the successor of Prof. Ten Brinck, whose history of English literature is considered the best in existence. He was called as Prof. Ten Brinck's successor as being the first man in England on the subject.

After Mr. Churchill had studied a year at Strasburg, Prof. Brandl was called to Berlin, and the Worcester student followed him there.

During his vacations, Mr. Churchill and his wife, who has been with him, have traveled extensively. A spring vacation was spent in Italy and a fall vacation in the Alps. Germany has been well traversed, and Paris interested them for a time together with other trips about the continent.

Mr. Churchill took his degree June 16, and left at once for England, where he was engaged for six weeks in the Oxford, Lambeth Palace and British Museum libraries preparing a descriptive catalogue of the Latin university plays existing at the time of Shakspeare. The task was assigned him by the German Shakspeare Society, and with it came a handsome payment, to which may be added the revenue to result from the publication. The work will be published soon in the year book of the society.

The purpose of the study was to determine as far as possible what influence the university plays had upon the popular English drama, and whether the influence was reciprocal. The investigation proves that the influence was shared by both schools, it may be interesting to know that this work has never been taken up before in a careful manner, and many of the old plays lying in the libraries in manuscript have not even been read by modern men.

During study in Germany, Mr. Churchill has had under preparation for publication a work, "Richard III. Up to Shakspeare," which contains a careful description and analysis of all the material, historical and literary, regarding Richard III, which was in existence when Shakspeare wrote his play, and from which he drew material. In other words, it is an attempt to establish exactly what Shakspeare found ready at hand and what he himself created or is responsible for in the play.

There has been some discussion over the fact that Shakspeare assigns the death of Clarence to Richard. Since the time of the King, additional crimes have been assigned to him, until his record has grown blacker and blacker. Shakspeare has been accused of blackening Richard's character, for it was

George B. Churchill

The Worcester Spy

Aug-06-1897

asserted before Shakspeare's time there was no mention that Richard was responsible for Clarence's death. Mr. Churchill in his studies discovers that there was a popular tradition existing at the time of the great dramatist, accepted by many and found in two or three works previous to Shakspeare's time, that Richard was responsible for the death of Clarence. This clears the great writer's record of one crime that has been placed against him.

The book studies thoroughly the sources of the play, and is embodied in 600 pages. The student discovers that there were two plays on Richard previous to Shakspeare's still in existence, one in Latin, and the other in English, called "The True Tragedy of Richard III." It has been an important question among critics for some time as to how much Shakspeare used these old plays, and this work shows more clearly than has ever been done what Shakspeare borrowed and what he created. Other parts of the book deal with the poems, etc., and the matter from which literary men have got material for works on Richard. The book will be of inestimable value to the student of Shakspeare or his great tragedy. The work is in process of publication by Trubner of Strasburg, and will be out before many months.

Mr. and Mrs. Churchill have been visiting with Mr. Churchill's parents, 73 Wellington street, for several days. They will spend the remainder of the summer at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Loring Coes, 1049 Main street. Mrs. Coes is Mrs. Churchill's grandmother.

Mr. Churchill's plans for the future have not been finally laid, but he will doubtless accept a professorship of English literature in some university.

CHURCHILL IS DEAD BEFORE HE CAN SERVE

Elected to Congress to
Succeed Gillett in
House, Life Ends Sudden-
ly at Amherst

EMINENT EDUCATOR,
WORCESTER NATIVE



DR. GEORGE B. CHURCHILL

Dr. George B. Churchill, a native of Worcester, representative in Congress from the Second Massachusetts district and for 20 years professor of English literature at Amherst college, died at his home, "The Dell," Amherst, last night, from ulcers of the stomach complicated by heart trouble. He was 59 years old.

Prof. Churchill had never taken his seat in Congress. Elected last fall

after a hard fight in the Republican primaries, he succeeded Speaker Frederick H. Gillett who entered the Senate. He had established himself as one of the foremost men in his district, and previously, in 1918, had been urged as a candidate for Senate, it being proposed that he contest the nomination with Speaker Gillett on the issue of prohibition. His successor will be elected at a special election soon.

Dr. Churchill had been working too hard, his physicians believe. He was a busy man in his college work and as an author and lecturer. In addition he had taken his duties in Congress very seriously and had devoted much time to preparing himself for them. He was to have taken two years leave of absence recently granted him by the college.

George Bosworth Churchill was born in Worcester, Oct. 24, 1846, the son of Ezra and Myra (Bosworth) Churchill. He prepared for college at Worcester High school, graduated from Amherst in 1869, and received his master of art from that college in 1892. He pursued a post graduate course for some years abroad, studying at the University of Strasburg in 1894 to 1895, and in the University of Berlin from 1895 to 1897, receiving his Ph.D. from the latter institution.

After teaching in the Worcester high school and the William Penn Charter school in Philadelphia, he became associate editor of the Cosmopolitan Magazine. In 1898 he was made associate professor of English and public speaking at Amherst and later associate professor of English literature. Since 1905 he was full professor.

Prof. Churchill achieved a world-wide reputation as a Shakespearian scholar. He was an author, lecturer and world traveler. He specialized in drama. He was a member of the German Shakespeare Gesellschaft, the Modern Language Association of America, the Malone society, and the Chi Phi and Phi Beta Kappa. He was American editorial representative of the Jahrbuch der Deutschen Shakespeare Gesellschaft.

He was the author of "Richard III Up to Shakespeare," and of a descriptive catalogue of the Latin University plays of England in the time of Elizabeth, collaborating with Prof. Wolfgang Keller and editor of "The Country Wife" and "The Plain Dealer" by Wycherly and of Shakespeare's "Richard III."

George B. Churchill

Evening Gazette, Jul-02-1925

Country Wife" and "The Plain Dealer" by Wycherly and of Shakespeare's "Richard III."

Dr. Churchill had taken an active interest in politics for years. He represented his district in the Massachusetts Senate from 1917 to 1919 and was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention.

He married in 1893 Miss Belle E. Whittier of Mercer, Me., who survives him, with two daughters, Mrs. Willard M. Thorpe of New York and Miss Rosamond C. Churchill of Amherst and two sisters, Mrs. Sidney P. Harding of Worcester and Mrs. Edgar P. Ramsdell of Charlotte, S. C.

See also the obituary notice for his father, Ezra Churchill, an interesting and unique figure in Worcester of the 19th century.