

***Information on James and Elizabeth Churchman***  
***(Casa Fontanalba visitors' book)***  
***from their grand daughter Wendy Wales Newton***

**Subject:** Visitors' book

**Date** : Sun, 17 Mar 2013 17:08:00 +0000

I hope that you don't mind my contacting you, but I have been doing some tentative online research into my father's family tree and quite by chance, I came across your website on Clarence Bicknell. I am so thrilled because the signatures of my grandparents are in the visitors' book of Casa Fontanalba! Their names were Elizabeth B. Churchman and James ? Churchman - I'm unsure of my grandfather's middle name but know that his first name was James.

My father was the youngest of five children and born in 1912 in Menton where my grandfather was the British vice-consul and owned several hotels there, Belle Vue, Italie and Grande Bretagne. I also know that the business failed but don't know when. James Churchman held the post at least until 1929, as recorded in the index of 'How to be Happy on the Riviera' published in 1929. The family regularly went to Casterino where they had a summer house. Unfortunately, I never met my grandparents and the information I have of my father's family is very sketchy. However, I do remember my father and one of his brothers talking about Clarence Bicknell and reminiscing about Casterino. Presumably my grandparents were relatively close neighbours of his? I would love to know more and hope to be able to access records etc. which may shed light on where they lived in Casterino.

Thank you so much for going to the trouble of transcribing the names and thereby giving me some leads into my own family tree. My husband and I visited Menton and Casterino several years ago and intend to return, armed with more information! My two sons are also very keen to continue the research.

I am finding the information on Clarence Bicknell so interesting and look forward to learning more about him.

Many thanks,

Wendy Wales (nee Churchman)