



# Guide

# Lines

The *Occasional* Newsletter  
of the  
Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association

Issue of Winter 2020

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Item: 1	Title: <b>Bertram Hutchings Caravan</b>
Date: 11 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Colin Cook</b>

In past Guide Lines there have been a number of references to the use of "Winchester" in describing a wide variety of things from rifles to computer disks. So, I was prompted by a recent TV repeat of Christopher Timothy and Paul Davidson touring the South Coast in a vintage Morgan when they came across some intrepid caravanners in a 1939 Winchester Imp which they had lovingly restored and was said to be the only Imp surviving.



This prompted an internet search which brought me immediately to the attached –

<https://www.oldclassicar.co.uk/winchesterimp.htm>

The first lines of which read -

*This small 11-foot caravan was made at the works of Mr Bertram Hutchings Caravans Ltd of 124 Stockbridge Road, Winchester, Hampshire in 1939. The only survivor of three Imps ever made, this is an obvious rarity.*

There is more on the company's history at <https://www.oldclassiccar.co.uk/winchester.htm> which was located at the junction with St Pauls Hill and Elm Road opposite Pickards. This enterprising firm, we are told, won prizes in all thirteen of the classes at the Caravan Club National Rally at Leamington Spa, in May 1936, out of an attendance of 104 vans. Their brochure proclaimed that the family man needing a little more interior space could, for just £245, opt for the 15ft version of the Winchester, "a popular four berth Streamline Caravan for cars of 12-14hp, which has set an example to other manufacturers since its inception in 1930".

The company aimed their products at the well-to-do end of the market and won top honours at the RAC Caravan Show at Cheltenham in 1933 excelling also in the reversing test which Bertram skilfully accomplished in 28 seconds well ahead of his nearest competitors "who took more than two minutes".

The Hampshire Chronicle 14th Jan 2021 edition, on page 41, there is 'chapter and verse' on Bertram Hutchings!

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/19014957.curator-calls-help-winchester-photographs/>

Item: 2	Title: <b>Alresford's First Railway</b>
Date: 12 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Clare Dixon</b>

When was the first railway in Alresford? The Alton to Winchester line, part of which is now preserved as the Watercress Line, didn't open until 1865. But a friend of mine whose father is 'railway mad' (her description) has drawn my attention to a little article written by Peter Hogarth in 1984 which suggests that the first Alresford railway was in 1843!

The article quotes an item from the Hampshire Chronicle for 27<sup>th</sup> March 1843:

*"A curiosity in railway engineering is now in progress in a meadow in the parish of New Alresford, where Captain Robert Rodney, of the Scots Guards, has constructed at great expense, a railway in the form of a circle, approximately 400 yards across, during the winter months which in its course presents various specimens of engineering, including a tunnel 70 yards long, under the trees by the side of the Alton road. The opulent proprietor has been very liberal to the workmen employed during the last four months. A loco engine and two beautifully finished coaches are being built for the line, which is expected to be opened for use soon after Easter".*

Captain Robert Rodney was the grandson of the famous Admiral Rodney, whose family seat was Alresford House in Old Alresford. But Captain Rodney at this time was living in Cardew House in East Street (what is now the B3047 to Bishop's Sutton but which of course was originally 'the Alton road' before the bypass was built) and the railway was in a field alongside this house.



*Cardew House today*

An 1896 guide to Alresford apparently carried this description:

*'.. a circular excavation, the exact depth I am now unable to give, in which was laid a single line of rails reached by a flight of steps; and here his lordship was often wont to enjoy a railway trip on his own estate.'*

Captain Rodney sounds good fun as a companion and William Spary, believed to have been the line's engineer, remembered later:

*'So far as the railway, after it was finished, ready in good going and safe order all the people in town was up there to have a look and any young ladies which was here in the forties, which many could be mentioned, was invited by the owner, R.D. Rodney Esq to take a few journeys round. His delight was on going round about twice to get up a good speed and on just entering the tunnel he would put in about three sifters of dust charcoal so when they came out the other end of the tunnel there were several on fire.'*

Peter Hogarth's article notes that there is nothing to be seen of this private railway today, and sadly there is no evidence that a building in the grounds of Cardew House sometimes referred to as the 'signal box' was ever more than a summer house. The full article, giving such scant details

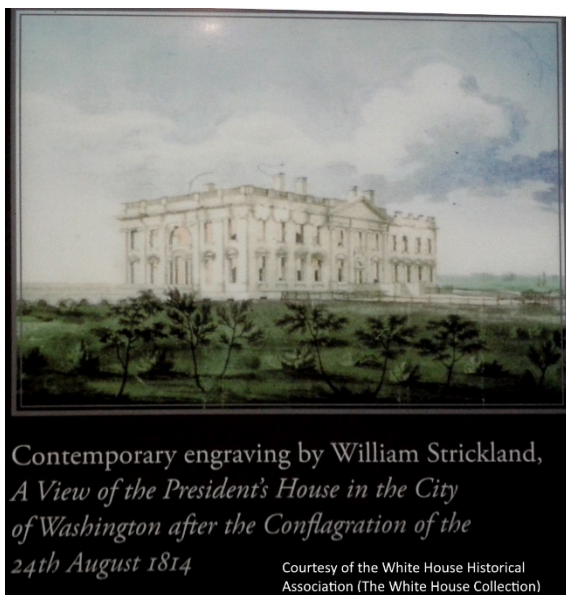
as survive about the railway, can be found at: [http://www.alresford.org/displayed/displayed\\_10-1.php](http://www.alresford.org/displayed/displayed_10-1.php)

You may also like to explore some of the other articles at <http://www.alresford.org/displayed.php> They are reproduced from a publication ‘Alresford Displayed’ which ran from 1976 to 1997 and cover a vast range of local history topics. I have just spent/wasted a happy half hour learning about the Admiralty’s shutter and semaphore systems in the Alresford area!

Item: 3	Title: <b>Burning of the White House 1814</b>
Date: 14 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Colin Cook</b>

Here is a Winchester link to all the recent mayhem in Washington DC.

When Polly and I were there in February 2015 we visited the Smithsonian where there was a display on the burning of the White House in 1814. I attach a photo from this showing the charred walls of the President’s House painted white (the colour it has remained ever since) and the other of a piece of timber that survived the conflagration.



Another panel explains that following America’s declaration of war on Britain in 1812, British troops were advancing on Washington in the summer of 1814 under the command of Sir George Prevost. It goes on to mention the bravery of first lady Dolley Madison “who stayed at the White House to remove as many papers and treasures as possible and send them to safety before leaving herself. The invading troops burned the White House. Only the exterior walls survived the attack. The first lady returned four days later to begin rebuilding”. For an account of her saving of George Washington’s portrait go to

<https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/artwork/dolley-madison-comes-to-the-rescue/>

Here in Winchester Cathedral in the South Aisle there is a poignant memorial to Sir George, who died a broken man after his sacking by the Crown for losing America. It was funded by his grieving widow with support from the Prince Regent. This declares that “with a very inferior force he preserved the Canadas to the British Crown from the repeated invasions of a powerful enemy his constitution at length sunk under a constant mental and bodily exertion in discharging the duties of this arduous station..... he died on 5th January 1816 aged 48 years ...”



Item: 4	Title: <b>Georgian Architecture</b>
Date: 25 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Elizabeth Newport</b>

The Georgian Group is an organisation that promotes and conserves Georgian era architecture. It has put most of its journal archive online for free. The Georgian covers buildings from between 1700 and 1837. There’s lots of historical interest in there mainly focused on buildings and landscapes from the Georgian era. The full archive is at: <https://georgiangroup.org.uk/journal/>.

In the 2015 edition there’s an interesting article by local Adam Architects co-director George Saumarez Smith about 18th-century funerary monuments in Winchester Cathedral.



**Memorial to Bishop Willis on the south wall of Winchester Cathedral**  
[cc-by-sa/2.0](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/1162794) - © [Basher Eyre](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/1162794) - [geograph.org.uk/p/1162794](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/1162794)

Item: 5	Title: <b>Shadrach Lyne</b>
Date: 25 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Mike Craze</b>

### **Two Cathedral Burials and an English Catholic Martyr (Part I) by Mike Craze**

During my latest foray into our family history, I have come across some information about two of the graves at Winchester Cathedral that lie adjacent to each other on the south side of the south transept, which I hope will be of some interest and of possible use to my fellow guides.

They are the graves of **Shadrach Lyne (c.1624-1701)** and his wife **Joan Lyne (1630-1712)**

My research into my 6 greats grandmother Mary Lyne of Ringwood (1707-1766) led me to the record office to read through some Lyne family wills including those of Shadrach Lyne and his wife Joan (née Yalden)

It turns out Shadrach was an Apothecary with premises situated at 34-36 High St, Winchester under the Pentice where today we have Timpson the shoe repairers and appropriately, the first section of Boots the Chemist immediately to the right (W) of Timpson's. Also appropriately, on the left (E) of Timpson's, at number '33' is Space NK, the Apothecary Shop!

*'In 1683 the property consisted of a messuage with garden 'in the Penthouse' of Pentice, Winchester, bounded on the west by a tenement in the possession of Barbara Vibert, on the east and south by a tenement and garden belonging to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the city and on the north by the High Street.'* HRO [8M86W/1](#) 'bargain & sale of property'

The half-timbered buildings date back to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> C, so the oak beams seen there today are the same ones that Shadrach, Joan and family would have lived under and worked. I like to think of 'Mr Lyne' stepping out from under the Pentice onto the High St in his 17<sup>th</sup> C attire, no doubt complete with wig, ready to greet the good citizens of Winchester, hopefully managing to maintain his footing on what must have been a pretty muddy thoroughfare, and Mrs L in those Restoration dresses!

It appears that his father-in-law Robert Yalden held the property for four years 1663-67 before it came into the possession of Shadrach. Perhaps as part of a marriage settlement although by this time Shadrach would have been around 40 and Joan 37. We don't as yet have a marriage date for them but they are recorded as man and wife in the *Visitation of Hampshire 1686*, the Yaldens being 'of Liss nr Petersfield'. (Robert Yalden died c.1682)

For the likes of the enterprising Shadrach these must have been inspiring and hopeful times with the Restoration heralding in a new era after Cromwell's rather austere regime. Although, of course, 1660s Winchester witnessed the ravages of the plague as well. Social distancing and masks? His services must have been in great demand indeed.

This slightly comical snippet on the ability of Charles I to cure his subjects by the 'laying on of hands' or the 'Royal Touch', shows our Mr Lyne to be a true and loyal supporter of the monarchy.

## The British Critic, and Quarterly Theological Review Jan 1821 F. and C. Rivington

*Charles cured more patients in one year, than all the physicians and surgeons of his three kingdoms cured from his restoration to his death, The principal persons, who doubted of this Royal gift, were, it seems, no better than "Atheists, Sadducees, and ill conditioned Pharisees:" but what can the opinions of such " Antichristian musbrumps" avail against the solemn narrative of Doctor John Nicholas, Warden of Winchester College, backed by the grave testimony of Mr. Shadrach Lyne, Apothecary of the same place . These sound and sober personages, verify the cure of Robert Colé, inn keeper, sometime of the Three Crowns, and afterwards of the Katherine Wheel, whose disease was abated, when he himself, by reason of the crowd, was unable to approach the sacred person of Charles I, by His Majesty condescending to stroke a bottle of medicinal water, prepared by one Hancock, Apothecary, of Sarum; wherewith the aforementioned Publican was formerly used to wash his sores. The bottle, though kept securely in a cupboard, gradually became blotched and scabbed, and the water within it wasted away, and dried up; while at the same time, the man recovered, and never after, till the day of his death, was troubled with any running issue or pain, unless once, when a Gentlewoman attempted to pick off some of the excrescences that budded out of the bottle.*

When Charles I was executed in 1649 Shadrach would only have been around 25 years old, so the above appears to be him backing and verifying, by 'grave testimony', an apocryphal account of 'the cure of Robert Colé by Charles I'.

NB Dr John Nicholas is referred to as 'my very good friend' in Shadrach's will of 1701.

Being a Royalist but hailing from Ringwood one wonders if he would have had mixed emotions about the fate of Lady Alice Lisle in 1685, knowing that the night before her execution she was staying just at the back of his High Street apothecary shop at what is the Eclipse today?

Unfortunately, as of yet, I have been unable to discover much more about the lives of Shadrach and Joan other than Shadrach was baptised at Ringwood on Boxing Day 1624, they had two daughters Alice, who married and 'had issue', and Dorothy who sadly died at a tender age. The High Street property ended up with Shadrach's great-niece Susan Bignall, who lived in London and sold it on in 1729 (4) however she did name one of her sons Shadrack Lyne Bignall! ('Shadrack' sic)

**Burials in the Cathedral** (Figs. 1-3 below; unfortunately, Shadrach’s grave is partially covered at present)

Shadrach Lyne Died: 24 Oct 1701 Buried 27 Oct 1701 Aged 76 Inscription & translation (approx.)

H.S.E Shadrach Lyne Gen. Vir Pius Subditus Fidelis Plurimis Charus Obiit Octob. XXIV Anno Salutis MDCCI Aetatis LXXVI	Here is buried Shadrach Lyne Gentleman A devout man Faithful subject Much cherished Died Oct 24 In the year of salvation 1701 Aged 76
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Above the inscription are his Arms and Crest (Fig.3) which are the same Arms and Crest granted to his great-great-grandfather Richard Lyne of Ringwood.

Joan Lyne Died: 7 Dec 1712 Buried 13 Dec 1712 Aged 82. Inscription reads

HERE  
 Lyeth the Body of  
 Mrs Joan Lyne Late Wife  
 to Mr Shadrach Lyne  
 who Departed this life  
 December the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 1712  
 Aged 82 Years

One wonders if there is anything to be deduced from the two slightly different burial instructions of husband and wife in their respective wills.

Shadrach requests that his body be *‘decently buried at the chathedrall church of Winchester’*

Whereas Joan asks to be *‘decently but **not expensively** buried near my husband in the Cathedral Church of The Holy Trinity at Winchester’*

Shadrach and Joan, husband and wife, have now been lying side by side in the south transept for over 300 years, hopefully at peace and happy that their story has been at least in part rediscovered.

Part II follows after the photos of the gravestones



Photos by Mike Craze (4 Jul 2020)

Fig.1 the two graves in the South Transept

Fig.2 Shadrach Lyne (left) Joan Lyne (right)

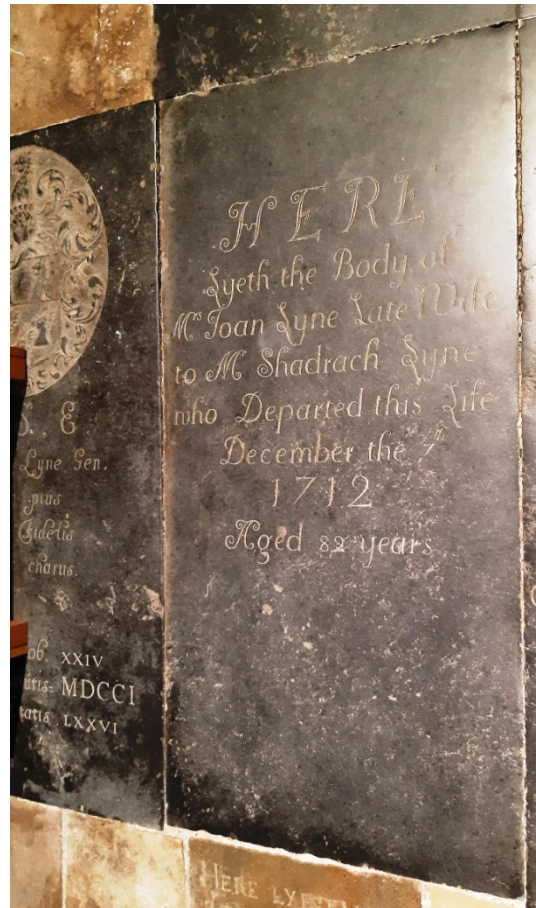


Fig.3 Shadrach Lyne Arms & Crest

## Part II St Anne Line English Catholic martyr and Shadrach's Grandmother!

A couple of years ago, I was in St Peter's Church in Jewry Street when I noticed the image of St Anne Lyne on the Martyr's window (Fig. 4 below) and wondered if there might be a link with any of the Lynes that I was looking into. Further research led me to Martin Dodwell's book\* '*Anne Line: Shakespeare's Tragic Muse*' (Dodwell, 2013) which deals quite extensively with the early background of Roger Lyne and Alice Higham, later to be known as Anne, supposedly after her conversion to Catholicism. Alice's roots were in Essex but Roger was a Ringwood boy who moved to London and met Alice through her brother William as fellow Catholic recusants in a politically volatile Elizabethan England. The respective families were so displeased with their offspring that both Roger and Alice ('Anne') were disinherited but even so, still determined, they married in London the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1583, apparently still in their late teens. (Dodwell 2013: 41-2)



Fig 4. St Anne Lyne (centre right in mauve) 'Martyrs' Window' St Peter's, Jewry St (Granpic 2010 Flickr) Beatified: Pope Pius XI 15 Dec 1929 Canonised: Pope Paul VI 24 Oct 1970 one of Forty Martyrs of England & Wales

It might be best at this juncture to let you read a fuller version of Anne and Roger's story first, before I present the evidence that I feel confirms Shadrach as their grandson. Hopefully then it will make more sense.

**Saint Anne Line** (c.1563 - 27 February 1601) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Line) (19/01/2021)

**St Anne** is believed to have been born as "Alice Higham" or "Heigham", the eldest daughter of the Puritan William Higham of Jenkyn Maldon (Essex) William Higham was the son of [Roger Heigham MP](#), a Protestant reformer under [Henry VIII](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

A recently scholarly and extensively annotated biography has been published by Roger Scully S.J.<sup>[3]</sup> She was born circa the early 1560s, and at some time in the early 1580s converted to the [Roman Catholic Church](#) along with her brother William and Roger Line, the man she married in February 1583. Both Roger Line and William Higham were disinherited for converting to the [Roman Catholic Church](#) and Alice Higham lost her dowry.<sup>[1]</sup> Among Catholics, the married "Alice" became known as "Anne", presumably a name she took at her conversion.<sup>[4]</sup>

Roger Line and William Higham were arrested together while attending [Mass](#), and were imprisoned and fined. While William Higham was released on surety in England, Roger Line was banished and went to [Flanders](#).<sup>[5]</sup> Line received a small allowance from the King of Spain, part of which he sent regularly to his wife until his death around 1594.<sup>[6]</sup> Around the same time, [Father John Gerard](#), S.J., opened a house of refuge for hiding priests, and put the newly widowed Anne Line in charge of it, despite her chronic ill-health. For about three years Anne Line continued to run this house while Fr John Gerard was in prison. He was eventually transferred to the Tower of London where he was tortured, and from which he escaped. In his autobiography he writes:

*After my escape from prison [Anne Line] gave up managing the house. By then she was known to so many people that it was unsafe for me to frequent any house she occupied. Instead she hired apartments in another building and continued to shelter priests there. One day, however (it was the Purification of Our Blessed Lady), she allowed in an unusually large number of Catholics to hear Mass ... Some neighbours noticed the crowd and the constables were at the house at once.<sup>[7]</sup>*

#### Arrest and execution

Line was arrested on 2 February 1601 when her house was raided during the [feast of the Purification](#), also known as Candlemas. On this day a blessing of candles traditionally takes place before the Mass, and it was during this rite that the raiders burst in and made arrests. The priest, Fr Francis Page, managed to slip into a special hiding place prepared by Anne Line and afterwards to escape, but she was arrested, along with another gentlewoman called Margaret Gage. Mrs Gage was released on bail and later pardoned, but Line was sent to [Newgate Prison](#). She was tried at the Sessions House on Old Bailey Lane on 26 February 1601 and was so weak from fever that she was carried to the trial in a chair. She told the court that so far from regretting having concealed a priest, she only grieved that she "could not receive a thousand more."<sup>[8]</sup> Sir John Popham, the judge, sentenced her to death for the felony of assisting a seminary priest.

Line was hanged on 27 February 1601. She was executed immediately before two priests, [Fr. Roger Filcock](#) and [Fr. Mark Barkworth](#), who received the more severe sentence of hanging, drawing and quartering. At the scaffold she repeated what she had said at her trial, declaring loudly to the bystanders: "I am sentenced to die for harbouring a Catholic priest, and so far I am from repenting for having so done, that I wish, with all my soul, that where I have entertained one, I could have entertained a thousand."

## References

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1. ^ Jump up to:<sup>a b</sup> Martin Dodwell, "Revisiting Anne Line: Who Was She and Where Did She Come from", *Recusant History*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (May 2013), pp. 375-89. London: Catholic Record Society.
2. ^ Conelly, Roland (1997). *Women of the Catholic Resistance in England, 1540-1680*. The Pentland Press. pp. 107–111. ISBN 1858215099.
3. ^ Robert E. Scully SJ in Weber, Alison (2016). *Devout Laywomen in the Early Modern World (Women and Gender in the Early Modern World)*. London: Routledge. p. Chapter 13. ISBN 9781472424914.
4. ^ Kelly, Christine J., "Anne Line", ODNB; online edition, January 2009, accessed 11 March 2013.
5. ^ Jump up to:<sup>a b c</sup> Dodwell, Martin. *Anne Line: Shakespeare's Tragic Muse*. Brighton: The Book Guild, 2013.
6. ^ "Oct 25 - St Anne Line d.1601 - Catholicireland.net". *Catholicireland.net*. Retrieved 28 August 2018.
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9. ^ *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 April 2003, p.12-14
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12. ^ "parish website". *St Anne Line, Great Dunmow*. Retrieved 11 February 2019.
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- 1) \*Dodwell, Martin. *Anne Line: Shakespeare's Tragic Muse*. Brighton: The Book Guild, 2013
- 2) *Visitation of Hampshire Pedigrees 1530, 1575, 1622-34*. New Series, vol. 64. London: Harleian Society, 1991
- 3) *Visitation of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 1686* New Series vol. 10. London: Harleian Society, 1991

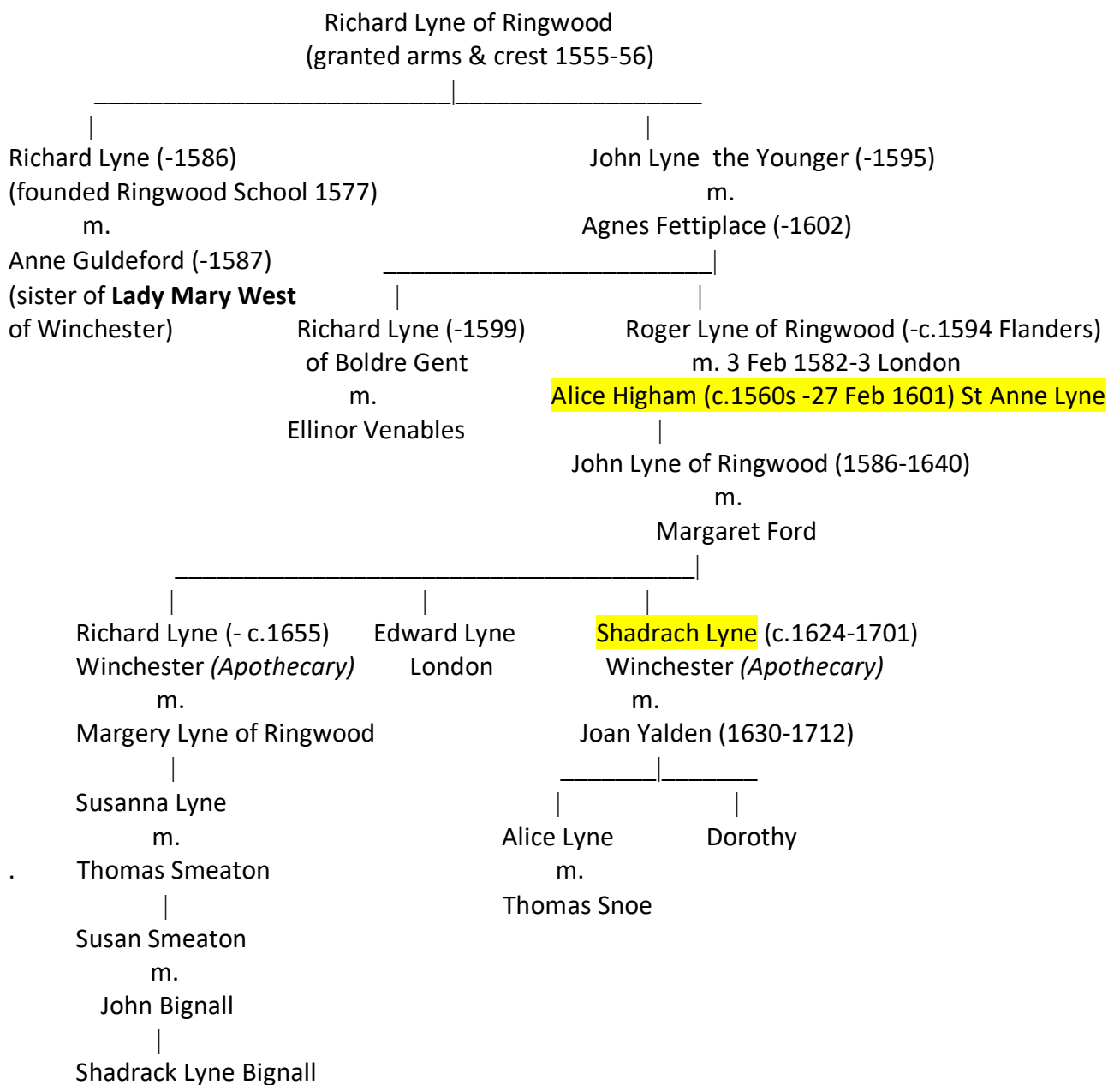
## **Confirmation**

It should be added that during their time together Roger and Anne produced a young boy John (b. 1586) who was provided for by his grandparents John & Agnes Lyne in their wills of 1596 & 1602. One of the sources Dodwell uses in his book\* is the *Visitation of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 1686* so I ordered a copy and to my surprise, there was Shadrach and Joan at the bottom of the page whose wills and burials I had researched previously! So the information was already there that Shadrach was the grandson of Roger Lyne and 'Anne' but the link, as far as I know, hadn't been made to the burials in the cathedral... and having spoken to the archivists that does seem to be the case and the new information will be added to the cathedral records. As I say, I have only 'rediscovered' the information purely by chance through researching a particular set of Lyne wills.

After making the link I then went through the wills available to confirm the connection and with that information I then put together the family tree below. I have kept to the direct line (no pun intended) and immediate family. If anyone is interested, I have made a list of document references for each generation to show the connection between Shadrach and St Anne Lyne/Line which I am happy to share on request.

(The use of Lyne or Line often changes even in the same sentence written by the same person!)

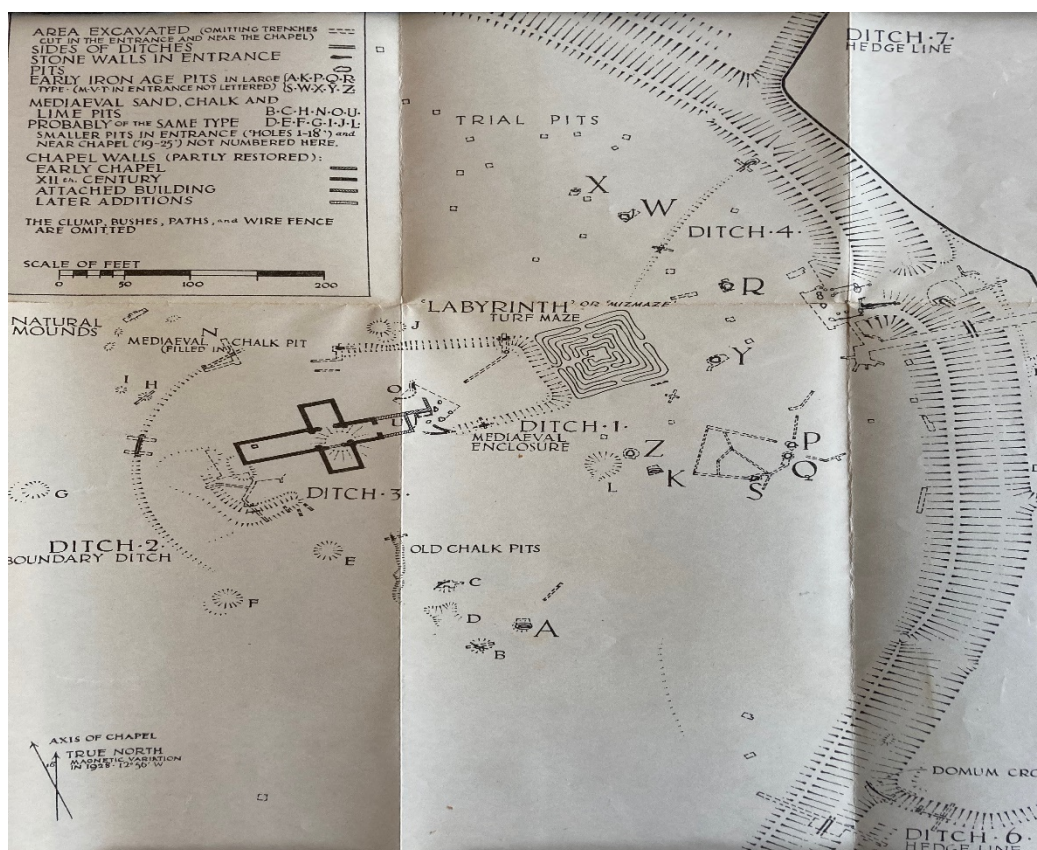
**Shadrach Lyne Family Tree** (Mike Craze 22 Jan 2021)



Item: 6	Title: <b>St Catherine's Hill</b>
Date: 26 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Sue de Salis</b>

As a resident of St Cross, St Catherine's Hill is very much part of my daily life, but there are lots of questions which, until recently, I had failed to explore. A Christmas gift of a dusty volume published in 1930-Volume XI of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology Society, which covers the excavations on the Hill in the 1920s, gave me the opportunity to remedy this. Most of what follows is based on what I have learnt from this, so may fail to pick up more recent thinking. Hopefully any of you who know better/differently will let me know.

The diagram below is from Volume XI.



### Was the Hill ever settled?

Yes, according to the findings of the excavation. There is evidence of people living on the Hill middle to late iron age: from around 500 BC until around 150BC. The settlement may well have been fairly haphazard but, from time to time, the people who used the Hill were sufficiently numerous and organised to build the earthwork defences which are mostly still visible. The single ditch that circles the hill would have been in places 27 foot wide and 25 foot deep with a raised rampart. In addition, there was a fortified entrance at the north east corner, shown by the inward curving lines to the right of the diagram, once flanked by guard houses. These defences were erected sometime after the hill was first settled and then scaled back before being built back up again and then finally dismantled, suggesting occupation during both peace and war. Evidence of habitation was found, including pits designed for living in. These pits were 6 to 9 feet deep, had

floors and fireplaces, and ledges round the walls to act as furniture. The main area of habitation seemed to be around the entrance with the pit marked R on the diagram being the largest.

### **What happened to the people who lived there?**

It seems that the hill fort was completely destroyed and abandoned around 150BC. There is evidence of intense burning around the entrance. The fire was so fierce it not only destroyed the timbers which formed the entrance, but also burnt the earthworks themselves. Strangely, this catastrophic event seems to have occurred soon after the defences were dismantled, suggesting that the settlers were taken unawares. It seems unlikely that any of this had anything to do with the Belgae who gave Winchester its Roman name. They are likely to have arrived in the area much later-around 50BC. It does seem that Oram's Arbour was probably settled around the time the St Catherine's Hill settlement was abandoned, so maybe there is some connection between the destruction/abandonment of the settlement on the Hill and the establishment of the settlement at Oram's Arbour.

### **How did the Hill get its name?**

St Catherine was much venerated in the East from around 600AD but was not introduced to the church in England until after the first Crusade in 1099. Catherine herself was a Queen of Egypt who refused marriage, was converted to Christianity and then persecuted for her faith by a Roman Emperor. He tried to punish her with the wheel but it broke through divine intervention and he had to settle for beheading her instead. Her body was then taken by angels to Mount Sinai, where she was buried. Because of the place of her burial, she is usually associated with hilltop locations (she is also patron saint of spinsters because she never married).

Excavations have found the remains of a small chapel on the Hill which was subsequently enlarged, probably around 1120. The diagram shows the lay out of the chapel with the early, small chapel at the east end. The dedication to St Catherine indicates that the earlier chapel is unlikely to have been founded before 1100. Once enlarged, the chapel would have been quite impressive, being around 100 foot in length in a cruciform shape with a tower over the central crossing. The remains of roof tiles suggest it was roofed with blue slates and red, orange, green and brown glazed tiles. Although little of it remains, and much of it is now under the trees on the crown of the Hill, the excavation found the bases of Norman pillars with some chevron detailing.

### **What happened to the Chapel?**

Writing sometime between 1536 and 1542, John Leland stated:

"Ther was a very fair Chapelle of S, Catarine on an Hille scant half a mile without Winchester Town by South...Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal, causid it to be suppressed, as I hard it say."

This may be accurate, as Wolsey did suppress some smaller religious institutions from around 1524, and he was Bishop of Winchester in 1528. It seems that the Chapel was then leased in 1538 by Prior Basing to none other than Thomas Wriothesley. Wriothesley almost certainly pulled the Chapel down so as to sell on or reuse its building materials and most of the building was destroyed

at this stage. He seems to have lost interest since some materials (including a large quantity of piled up slates) remained and, on his death in 1550, the lease lapsed.

### **What is the association with Winchester College?**

The College likes to claim that the Hill and environs have been appropriated for the exercise of their young men “from time immemorial”. In fact, it seems very unlikely that College boys would have been playing on the Hill while the Chapel was in use and there is nothing in the founding statutes about recreation at all. The first mention of the use of “Hills” was in 1565 and the practice of Tuesday and Thursday excursions up to Hills is recorded in detail in 1647. From then until playing fields nearer the College were acquired, Hills were a regular part of school life, used for Winchester football and other activities. According to the School website, there is still a whole school procession, known as Morning Hills, once a year up St Catherine’s Hill, with each boy’s name being read out at the top. Does anyone know if this still happens?

### **What is the origin of the maze?**

The most popular story claims that a Winchester College boy was prevented from going home for the Whitsun holiday and occupied himself by cutting the maze before committing suicide. Tragic though this is, it’s almost certainly untrue. The first reference to the maze was a 1710 drawing of it by one J Nowell. Nowell may well have had some association with the College, and it was certainly a headmaster of the College (Warden Barter) who ordered the maze to be recut in 1832: by then the maze had been somewhat obliterated thanks to enthusiastic Winchester footballers. The recut version is larger than the original but still qualifies as a labyrinth, rather than a maze, as a person following its outline will always get to the other end.

### **Where did the clump of trees on the top come from?**

During the Seven Years War, fear of the French led to the English Government bringing in Hessian troops who were camped for a while on the downs round Winchester. The 1759 painting by Lilyman that hangs in the entrance hall to Abbey House records this time. The Hessians were soon replaced by English militia and in the early 1760s, the Gloucestershire militia led by Colonel Norborne Berkeley (subsequently glorying in the title of Lord Botefort) were in the area. It seems that Norborne entered into a bet as to whether his men could plant out the Hill with trees over a 24 hour period. They succeeded, originally planting fir trees and beech. The trees remained and became popular, being replanted by another Winchester College head, Dr Fearon, in 1897. Today they grow over much of the ruins of the Chapel.

### **Who owns the Hill?**

The Hill formed part of lands gifted to the parish of Chilcombe by King Kinegyls in the early 600s. It continued to be Church land, becoming part of the property of the Priory of St Swithun during the middle ages. Though briefly leased to Wriothsley in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, it continued as Church land post reformation and came into the ownership of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. It was finally acquired by the Old Wykehamist Lodge of Freemasons in around 1930 and donated to the College,

preserving their sense of entitlement. The land is currently managed by the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust.

**Is it haunted?**

A quick Google search will throw up all sorts of exciting claims, everything from dragons to UFOs, and the Matthew Feldwick book, “Haunted Winchester”, has quite a spooky section on the Hill. One point that comes up a lot is that the Hill is on the longest ley line in the mainland of Britain. This is known as the Belinus line, or spine of Albion, which starts at the Isle of Wight, runs through St Catherine’s Hill, and ends up exiting the north of Scotland. So, fun to be had by anyone with a dowsing rod. Whatever the truth of any of this, there is undoubtedly a sense of “something other”, particularly in the area in the centre of the clump of trees, about where the crossing of the Chapel would have been and opposite the entrance to the iron age settlement. Like everything, there is so much we don’t know!

Item: 7	Title: <b>Geoff Stephens Obituary</b>
Date: 29 Jan 2021	Contributor: <b>Denis Howe</b>



Geoff Stephens (1934-2020) - he made Winchester Cathedral famous!

When I started guiding in 1994, some of my earliest work was escorting cruise ship passengers on transfers to Heathrow or London. The trip up the M3 was not rich in things to talk about but I would mention Winchester as we glimpsed it from the motorway. “Oh gee, Winchester Cathedral” would often be the reaction from the mostly American guests. I soon learned that this came, not from any deep knowledge of English history, but from the hit song by the “New Vaudeville Band”- which reached number one in the US Billboard 100 chart in 1966.

Why Winchester Cathedral? I decided to find out more.

After some digging on the internet, I quickly discovered that the creator of the hit tune was Geoff Stephens, a very accomplished song writer who had produced hits for many well know stars of the 1960s. He had written the song “The Crying Game” for Dave Berry which later became the theme music of the 1992 film of the same name. I also found a phone number for Geoff, so phoned him. He was a very friendly and approachable person

So how did “Winchester Cathedral” come into being? He had written it as “Westminster Cathedral” without any particular artist in mind - a bit of fun - with what he called “dummy lyrics” (to be replaced later). He demonstrated it to friends (he sang the words through cupped hands in the style of Rudi Vallee) and they liked it. A proper demo was made with John Carter doing the vocal and session musicians providing the backing. They decided to use the dummy lyrics - but changed “Westminster Cathedral” to “Winchester Cathedral” - simply that the Roman Catholic cathedral was less well known. Fontana records liked it and released it with the name of “Winchester Cathedral” by “The New Vaudeville Band”. It was an immediate hit. Geoff then got a call from Jonnie Stewart, producer of the BBC “Top of the Pops” to appear in the next edition. Geoff didn’t reveal that there wasn’t a “New Vaudeville Band” and set about quickly creating one - and approached various musicians that he knew to form the band. He assembled what he called a “motley crew” - who dressed in moth eaten tweeds and spats appeared as the “New Vaudeville Band” on Top of the Pops the following week. The song soon rose to number 4 in the UK charts. The lead vocalist was the self-styled “Tristram - the Seventh Earl of Cricklewood” - actually Alan Klein, a song writer and musician who also had a whole string of 1960s hits to his credit.



The New Vaudeville Band in 1967. The group's 1966 rendition of Winchester Cathedral reached No 4 in the UK and knocked the Supremes and then the Beach Boys off the top spot in the US  
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Success was even greater in the USA. In December 1966 it became the number one hit on the charts. Frank Sinatra covered it and Geoff won a Grammy award for the “best contemporary rock and roll recording” - strange because it was really a parody of old 1920s vaudeville songs. Geoff and the band enjoyed a very successful tour of the USA.

So that’s the story of “Winchester Cathedral” - no deep meaning hidden in the lyrics - but it did make our lovely cathedral known to millions of Americans!

Later, I became a WATGA Guide in 2000. In 2006 I suggested to Winchester Cathedral that they might recognise the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hit song and invite Geoff to some sort of event. This wasn’t taken up - but I was delighted that ten years later they did do this. Geoff was guest of honour at a gala concert which included a special version of the song arranged by Andrew Lumsden and sung by the choristers. Richly deserved recognition at last!

Geoff died on Christmas Eve last year, aged 86, of pneumonia following Covid-19.

If you want to find out more there are entries for Geoff Stephens, Alan Klein, “Winchester Cathedral” and “The New Vaudeville Band” on Wikipedia.

The 2016 arrangement sung by the choristers is available on Youtube

[Winchester Cathedral \(arr. Andrew Lumsden\) - YouTube](#)

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## Guide Lines Dates

- Spring Issue
  - submit copy by 20 March 2021
  - publish 30 March 2021
- Summer Issue
  - submit copy by 20 June 2021
  - publish 30 June 2021
- Autumn Issue
  - submit copy by 20 September 2021
  - publish 30 September 2021
- Winter Issue
  - submit copy by 20 December 2021
  - publish 31 December 2021

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