Charles Wynne

3 February 1905 – 1992 · `@I2423506708000@` · Accountant; Royal Artillery 1939–45 Will Hancock's maternal grandfather; Elizabeth Hancock's father; Ella Wynne's husband

> *Drafted 8 September 2026 from the Dharmavault genealogy spine, at Will's request — "create an archive for him with all that entails." Until this morning the tree held him in three events and a rank. Confidence is marked throughout: **[R]** record-evidenced, **[P]** plausible / inferred, **[?]** not established, **[T]** testimony of his daughter Elizabeth Hancock, 15–16 August and 6 September 2026, **[W]** Will Hancock's own recollection. Nothing here is family tradition promoted to fact, and every **[T]** statement is a graded claim in the spine.*

The short account

A Liverpool publican's son who did not want to be one. Born over the river from the family pubs in 1905, he became an accountant, married a master mariner's daughter in 1933 and moved south to Pinner, where their only child was born. He went into the army before the war was declared — or so his daughter was told — served in the Royal Artillery from the ranks, and was a captain by 1943; his daughter's first memory of him is his moustache. He bought the first house the family had ever owned the moment he was demobilised, went to Cooper Brothers and audited Lever Brothers, pushed a daughter who did not want university until she took a qualification anyway, voted to the right and argued with her about it for the rest of his life, and died in 1992 leaving enough to pay for twelve years of his widow's care. **Twenty-eight years of his life, from birth to marriage, are entirely blank, and so are the last forty, from Wallasey to the flat he died alone in. [?]**

Liverpool, 1905–1933

Born 3 February 1905 at 113 Adelaide Road, Liverpool [R], and **baptised there on 9 April [R]**. Second of the four children of **Charles Wynne** (20 Nov 1873 – Jul 1943) and **Maria Williams** (b. 1 Sep 1879 at 34 Greenwood Street, Everton; d. 24 Oct 1959 [P]), who married at Liverpool on 24 February 1904 **[R]**. His siblings were **Violet Maud** (b. 19 Sep 1903 — five months before her parents' wedding, as the records stand **[R]**), **Arthur** (b. 6 Jun 1906) and **Elizabeth** (b. 19 Feb 1908) **[R]**. Beyond that the Wynnes go back one more generation, to **Ebenezer Wynne** (c.1847, Hanmer, Flintshire) and **Elizabeth** (c.1850, Whitchurch, Shropshire) — a Welsh-border family come to Liverpool **[R]**.

The Wynnes were licensed trade. The archive knew this before it knew anything else about him, because of a telegram (below) addressed to *"Wynne, 81 Spencer Street, Liverpool"* — which his daughter explained in a sentence: **Spencer Street was the family pub [T, plausible]**. At least two Wynne women held licences in their own right, one of them near the university with *"Elizabeth Gladys Wynne"* painted over the door **[T, plausible]**, and his mother's house at **Anfield** was attached to a pub and took the tails of horses that fell at Aintree **[T, unverified]**. His daughter did not like going there — *"a very dark, dingy, big house which was attached to the pub."*

And he was quietly ashamed of it. *"It was never openly said, but he was a bit despising of pubs."* **[T]** That is his daughter's reading of his manner over decades, and she labels it as a reading; it is graded *unverified* and must stay so. But it explains an otherwise odd silence: a man from a licensed family whose trade goes unmentioned in every document the archive holds.

The archive has no middle name for him. [?] Nor does it know where he went to school, where he served his articles, or when he qualified — and it should be able to: **a letter of October 1939 says he had *"early training in the O.T.C."* [R]**, and an Officers' Training Corps means a school or a university that had one. That is a real clue to an education the family has never described.

Marriage and Pinner, 1933–1939

He married Ella Mary Edith Sutherland at Liverpool in the June quarter of 1933 [R] — almost certainly on **Monday 12 June 1933 [P]**, because a letter to Ella from her uncle, written on the Thursday before, looks forward to *"the duty which devolves on me on Monday."* He was 28; she was a month short of 29, the only daughter of **Captain Edward William Rose Jasper Sutherland**, master mariner **[R]**. The Sutherlands were sea and empire — her brother Kenneth was Harbour Master of British Guiana — and the marriage joined a publican's son to a family that had a Duke of Kent letter in a drawer.

Their only child was born on 2 September 1936. He was in London and the news went north by wire, to the pub:

> *"WYNNE 81 SPENCER STREET LIVERPOOL — ELLA AND DAUGHTER EXCELLENT PROGRESS — CHARLES"* ***[R]***

■ *Where the birth took place is unsettled. Elizabeth says Pinner* ***[T, plausible]****; the GRO index places the registration in Wallasey district, Cheshire* ***[R]****; the telegram was handed in at London. All three are held.*

By 1938 they were at 46 Marsworth Avenue, Pinner [R] — a new detached house on a new avenue in outer Middlesex — and three documents put them there: the envelope of Nellie Sutherland's letter of 2 November 1938, addressed to *"Capt. Sutherland at 46 Marsworth Avenue, Pinner"* (Ella's father was staying with them, seven weeks after his own wife had died); Ella's own letter to Emmie, written from the house; and the Captain's will of May 1939, which places *"my granddaughter Elizabeth Ann Wynne of Marsworth Avenue, Pinner."*

He was working for "Uncle Griff" — Mr Griffiths of the Griffiths family, who **ran his own accountancy practice locally [T, unverified]** and whose wife was "Auntie Ivy". *"That's where he was working before the war… it wasn't working for all these big companies, that was after the war."* Employer and, from 1939, landlord: when Charles went into the army the family gave up Marsworth Avenue for **"Mossgiel", Sweetmans Avenue, Pinner**, which was the Griffiths' house **[T, plausible]**.

■ *Whether Griffiths's practice is the firm that Ella's brother complained of in October 1939 — "wealthy enough to have done something for him, a real case of the willing horse"; and from his wife Barbara, "Charles's firm must be Nazis" — is* ***not established****. Elizabeth reasons it out on the tape, aged three at the time; Will does not accept the identification. It is the only candidate the archive has, and no more than that.* **[?]**

The war, 1939–1945

He went into the army before war was declared, in his daughter's understanding — *"I think he went before September the 3rd… in preparation"* **[T, unverified]**. She turned three the day before the war began; this is what she was told, not what she saw, and it is recorded because the service record will settle it and because, if true, it makes him a Territorial or an early volunteer rather than a conscript.

On 2 October 1939 he made his will, and it names his unit. [R] One sheet in his own hand, found among his daughter's papers on 29 September 2026: *"recently residing at Trekenning, Marsworth Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex and at the present time serving with the 279th Battery, Section 3, 97th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, No 1465125 of His Majesty's Forces."* He appoints **Bert Griffiths of Mossgiel, Sweetmans Avenue** his executor and leaves everything to *"my wife Ella Mary Edith Wynne, absolutely."* Griffiths signs as witness. So twenty-nine days into the war he was already in an anti-aircraft battery and had already left the house; **he gives no rank**, only a unit and a number, which is how a man in the ranks writes. Anti-aircraft regiments were Territorial and were called out before war was declared, which would fit his daughter's account above — but the will does not say when he joined. ■ *Read from a 480-pixel photograph: the regiment, the date and the names are clear; the house name, the battery (279th or 299th), the section and the service number are doubtful.* ***The number as read does not match the bracelet's 1604059*** *— see below. A full-size photograph is wanted.*

By 23 October 1939 he was in the ranks on a shilling a day. [R] Ella's brother Kenneth, writing from British Guiana: *"1/- a day for Chas is just fag money & none for beer, which would never do. Also it might stand in his way for a commission, as then of course his exes would [rise] a lot. & with his early training in the O.T.C. he should stand quite a chance."* The *O.T.C.* reading was checked at magnification and is certain.

Royal Artillery, service number 1604059. [corroborated] The regiment and the number are engraved on his identity bracelet, which is still in his daughter's house; she fetched it during the interview and read it out twice, dictating the

punctuation — *"Charles Wynne, R, capital R, dot, capital A, dot, 1, 6, 0, 4, 5, 9."* The number falls inside the Royal Artillery's published block (721001–1842000), so the object and an allocation table neither she nor the archive had consulted confirm each other. He was **a gunner** — *"yes, he definitely was a gunner"* **[T, plausible]** — and **one of his postings was Llandrindod Wells [T, plausible]**, a name she corrected herself towards, twice, away from the far more familiar Tunbridge Wells.

"Captain Wynne" by May 1943. [R] The Midland Bank Executor & Trustee Co., settling Ella's father's estate, wrote to her at Mossgiel on 28 May 1943: *"Captain Wynne called the other day and explained about the Mortgage Interest."* Two documents, seven weeks and three and a half years apart, and nothing between them: enlistment in the ranks with O.T.C. training behind him, and a captaincy three and a half years later, is an ordinary wartime progression. **But a bank writes the rank it is given.** It does not prove a commission; the regiment's unit, the date of any commission and his actual service are all unevidenced, and the Home Guard has not been excluded. **[?]**

While he was away his wife and daughter lived in other people's houses — *"we were sort of sofa surfing"* — first at Mossgiel, then at **"The Shrubbery", Westbury, Shropshire**, the house of Ella's cousin Con, and by December 1944 at **29 Sandy Lane, Wallasey [R]**. Elizabeth saw her uncle-by-marriage, in the RAF, during the war; **she did not see her father**, or does not remember it. *"The first memory I have of him is when he came home in uniform, and I was not attracted at all, because I didn't like his moustache. Prickly face."* **[T]** That was Sandy Lane, just after the war; she was nine. There are photographs of him with her before that, *"but in a pram mostly"*, and one at Pinner of her at about four holding both her parents' hands **[T]**; and **a photograph of him in uniform survives in the family [T, plausible]** — a cap badge in it would identify his unit in one look, which no document in the archive can do.

After the war she gave him a Royal Artillery tie every year — *"dark blue with a red diagonal thing on it… same thing every year."* **[T]**

Just before the war he went to Spain [T], at the time of the Civil War — *"I don't know why he went to Spain… definitely before the Second World War."* His daughter took it that he went for work.

Stoneby Drive and Cooper Brothers, 1945–c.1970

He bought a house the moment he was demobilised — 32 Stoneby Drive, New Brighton, Wallasey [T, plausible] — *"just at the end of the war, he bought a house straight after he came back."* It was the first house the family had ever owned; Elizabeth was about nine. An Edwardian semi-detached in a street of them, on the same side of the Mersey as his own family's pubs and his wife's family's graves. Ella's life there is the best-recorded thing in the archive about her: shopping every day by bicycle, the library every week, the Tuesday-evening circle of local women.

He went to Cooper Brothers [T, plausible] — the London firm that became Coopers & Lybrand and is now part of PwC; the machine transcript's *"Cooper's Library"* is a mishearing that corroborates the name. **He held the Lever Brothers audit and used to go to Port Sunlight [T, plausible]** — the model village William Lever built for his soap works on the Wirral, the firm that became Unilever. For a Liverpool man who had married a master mariner's daughter, an audit that took him back across the water has a symmetry. And it kept paying him after he stopped: **a meeting in London every year — "that was for pensioners" — and a Harrods hamper every Christmas [T, plausible]**.

The years are findable: PwC's UK archive holds Cooper Brothers' staff records, and the ICAEW lists would show whether and when he qualified. [?]

He wanted his daughter at university, and she would not go. *"Pushed by my father… he wanted me to go to university and I wasn't interested… He kept on pushing me. I hadn't got any idea what I wanted to do, but he wanted me to do something that get a qualification."* **[T, plausible]** She had six O-levels from a grammar school and had walked out of her A-levels; he pushed until she left the town hall and started radiography, in about 1954. Set against what she says her generation was offered — *"you were either a secretary, a nurse, or a teacher"* — a father pressing a daughter towards a qualification was not the ordinary run of things.

And it does not fit the man. He was a **Conservative [W]**, and his daughter's account of his politics is the one place in three interviews where she says what she thought of him, and she says it sideways:

> *"I know that she [Ella] was more liberal than my father, but she didn't ever talk about it… She got very upset when I argued with my father, which I did a lot, because I didn't know that I hated his politics until later. I just argued with him."* ***[T, plausible]***

She was voicing socialism at seven or eight; Ella voted Conservative and told her *"you're only young, you'll understand"*; Charles argued back; Ella was upset by the arguing and never joined it. **A conservative man who nonetheless wanted his daughter educated is better evidence of what he actually thought than a progressive acting progressively** — a position held against type. ■ *Why he wanted it — principle, ambition, or not wanting her at the town hall — she has never been asked.*

Her 21st birthday was in Liverpool, on 2 September 1957 [T], home from Canada; **her wedding was at Wallasey in July 1960 [R]**, from Stoneby Drive. His new son-in-law was an airline captain; ten years later Tony Hancock lost his licence, and whatever Charles thought of that is unrecorded.

Later life, and 1992

Between Stoneby Drive and the flat he died in, the archive holds no address for him at all. [?] Ella died at **Abbeyfield, Farnham** in 2006 and Elizabeth lived at Camberley from 1968, so the Farnham–Camberley corner of Surrey is the likeliest place for their last decades — but that is an inference, and the move south from Wallasey is undated.

By 1992 Ella was already in a care home, and he was on his own. [T, plausible] The question on the tape assumed she went into care after his death; his daughter corrected it — *"She was already in a home when he died… He was on his own in the flat for a bit."* Which flat, and where, is not said.

He died in 1992 [R], aged 86 or 87. The GRO index gives the year; the registration district, the day and the place are not yet in this tree, and nor is how he was buried or cremated. **[?]** His estate was **large enough to pay for twelve years of Ella's nursing-home care, and to leave something beyond it [T/W, plausible]** — Will's words, his daughter's assent — and Will's judgement on it, which she accepted: *"it's not your favourite subject, but he should be commended for the fact that he thought quite carefully about it."* Ella outlived him by fourteen years and died at 102.

What survives of him in the family: the identity bracelet, by a candle next to his picture; the photograph in uniform; the photographs at Pinner; and **his 1930s desk, now Will's [T, 6 Sep 2026]**, damaged by a tenant. Every year of his retirement, a Royal Artillery tie.

What the archive does not know, and where each answer is

In order of what it would change.

	The gap	Where it is settled
1	**His war: was he commissioned, and where did he serve?** The unit in October 1939 is now known — a battery of the **97th Anti-Aircraft Regiment** (his will, 2 Oct 1939). **Two service numbers** are on file, 1604059 (bracelet) and 1465125 (will, doubtful reading).	Quote the unit and both numbers on the application. **MOD service record** — free since 2025 for a deceased serviceman, next of kin (Elizabeth) with his death certificate, up to a year: `apply-deceased-military-record.service.gov.uk`. If the MOD holds nothing he was never commissioned and the record is at Kew.
2	**When and where he died, his last address, and the size of the estate.**	**The probate calendar, 1992** — free to search at gov.uk *Find a will*; one entry gives all four. Then the **GRO death certificate**.
3	**His full name.**	**GRO birth certificate, Liverpool, February 1905.**

4	**Where he lived between Wallasey and the flat.**	Ask Elizabeth; the probate entry gives the last address; electoral registers do the rest.
5	**His education and qualification** — school, the O.T.C., articles, whether chartered.	Ask Elizabeth for the school. ICAEW membership lists; Ancestry's *Articles of Clerkship*.
6	**Cooper Brothers: the years, and the Lever audit.**	PwC UK archive (Cooper Brothers staff records); Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight.
7	**What he was doing on 29 September 1939.**	**The 1939 Register** — cheapest test of "before war was declared".
8	**Spain, 1938–39 — confirmed 9 Sep 2026; but doing what?**	Ask what she was told; a passport; a posting by Cooper Brothers or a client.
9	**The uniform photograph and both faces of the bracelet.**	Photograph them. A cap badge answers item 1 for nothing.
10	**Burial or cremation.**	Elizabeth knows.

Sources

Everything above traces to one of these, all in the spine:

- **Records** — Liverpool Church of England baptisms (283-PET-2-103); GRO marriage index 1933 (8b/14); GRO death index 1992; the 1904 marriage and the four births of his siblings.
- **Greetings telegram, 3 September 1936** — `@S900000042@`.
- **His will, 2 October 1939** — `@S900000078@` (photograph EAH-0092; found 29 September 2026).
- **Letter of 23 October 1939, Kenneth and Barbara Sutherland, Georgetown** — `@S900000022@`.
- **Will of Captain E.W.R.J. Sutherland, 1939, and the estate papers 1942–43** including the bank's letter of 28 May 1943 — `@S900000031@`.
- **Testimony of Elizabeth Hancock, 15 August 2026** — his Royal Artillery service `@S900000057@`; the wartime households and his career `@S900000056@`; the Wynne pubs `@S900000058@`; Ella's character and his politics `@S900000055@`; Ella's later life `@S900000054@`; the estate and his ambitions for his daughter `@S900000062@` (captured 8 September 2026).
- **Testimony of Elizabeth Hancock, 6 September 2026** — the desk (transcript, part 14; not yet a sourced document in the tree).
- **Will Hancock, 16 August and 8 September 2026** — the Cooper Brothers correction; "Conservative".
- Companion accounts: `ella_wynne.md`, `elizabeth_hancock.md` sections I–III, and `../places/a_life_in_houses.md`.