

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Ann Wilkins nee Bliss

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Ann Wilkins nee Bliss.

Those details are –

Baptism date and parentage undetermined.

There are two potential baptism dates, 13th March 1738 and 16th October 1743, with two different sets of parents, but neither is definitively more likely than the other.

Married to Edward Wilkins on 10th November 1761 at Dunchurch, Warwickshire.

Buried in Dunchurch on 7th March 1803.

(The research for this brief was conducted in early 2023).

Ann's name

In her marriage record, see below,¹ and in the records of the baptisms of her first and second born, Ann is named “Anne”. In the records of the baptisms of her following seven children, she is named “Ann”.² In her death record, see below, she is also named “Ann”.

This brief adopts the spelling more commonly, and more latterly, used, namely “Ann”.

Ann's marriage

Ann married Edward Wilkins in Dunchurch, Warwickshire on 10th November 1761.

See the brief relating to Edward Wilkins for verification of those details.

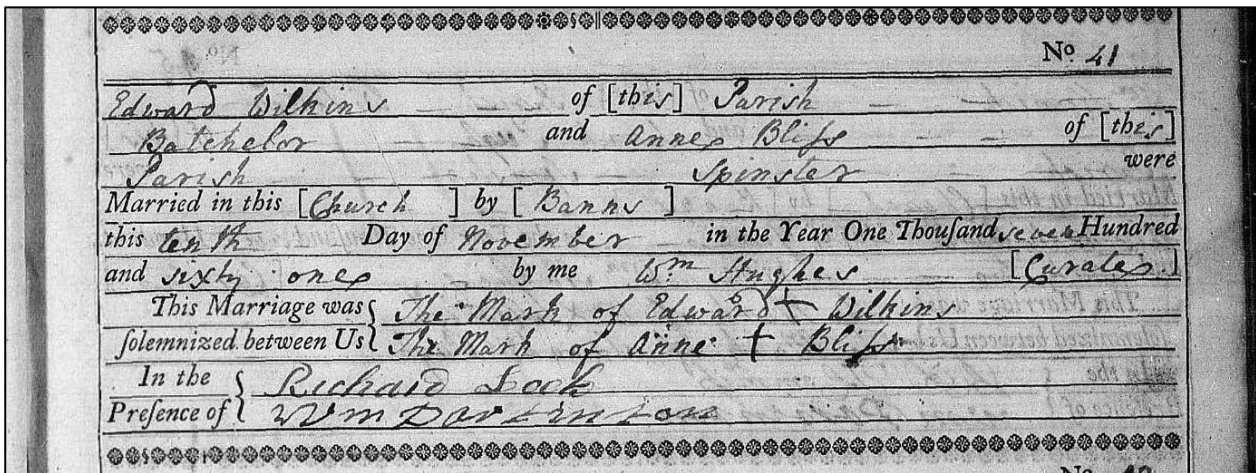
An image of the relevant Dunchurch parish record is to be found at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-XW6?i=7&wc=X6WL-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583874110&cc=1462403>,³ image 8 of 55.

This is a close up of the relevant record.

¹ She made a mark in place of a signature in the marriage record, so she did not herself sign or write her name as “Anne” in it.

² See the brief relating to Edward Wilkins for links to the baptism records of Ann's children.

³ URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.



Ann's birth

Given that Ann married in Dunchurch in 1761, and had the maiden name of Bliss, a Family Search search was conducted for an Ann or Anne Bliss born in Dunchurch about 20 years earlier.

Two candidates were returned, one the daughter of John and Anne Bliss said to be baptised on 13th March 1737, and one the daughter of Henry and Mary Bliss baptised on 16th October 1743.⁴

The record for Anne⁵ Bliss said to be baptised in 1737 is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-C84>.

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Anne Bliss
Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963

SAVE EDIT SHARE

Name: Anne Bliss
Sex: Female
Christening Date: 13 Mar 1737
Christening Place: Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Father's Name: John Bliss
Mother's Name: Anne Bliss

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

Anne Bliss's Parents and Siblings OPEN ALL

John Bliss	Father	M	▼
Anne Bliss	Mother	F	▼

VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Document Information ▼

The image hyperlinked in the above record is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1N1?personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-C84>, image 34 of 44.

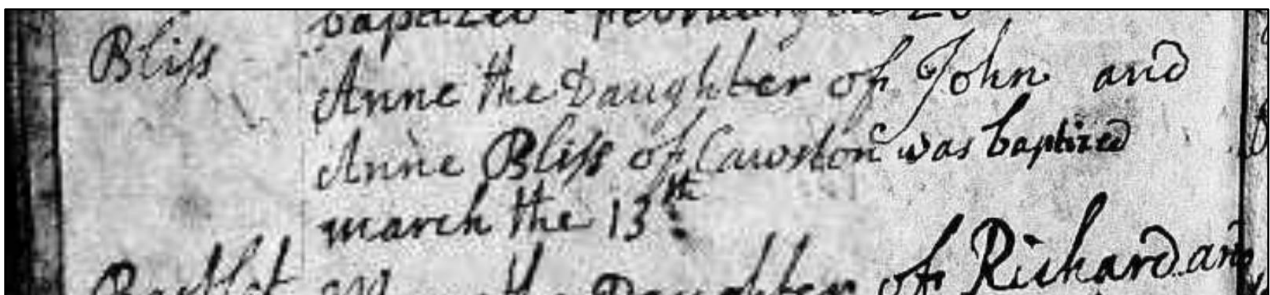
⁴ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1740&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch&q.givenName=Anne&q.surname=Bliss&c.collectionId=on&f.collectionId=1462403&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9>. Changing the first name in the search to "Ann" gives the exact same results.

⁵ "Anne" is used under this and the next heading when the two birth records under discussion are referred to, given the spelling in them.



This is a close up of the relevant record.



Cawston is 1½ miles north-west of Dunchurch.

This Anne Bliss was actually baptised on 13th March 1738, as an examination of the relevant page of the parish register (set out above) reveals that the curate wrote a heading with the year title after already making several entries for the year, including that of Anne's baptism.⁶

The record for Anne Bliss baptised 1743 is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-8JP>.

Anne Bliss
Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963

SAVE EDIT SHARE

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

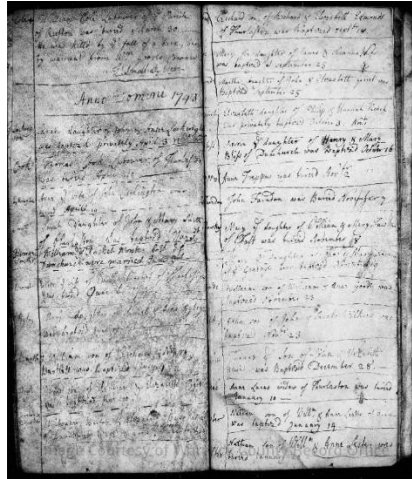
Anne Bliss's Parents and Siblings OPEN ALL

Name	Relationship	Sex
Henry Bliss	Father	M
Mary Bliss	Mother	F

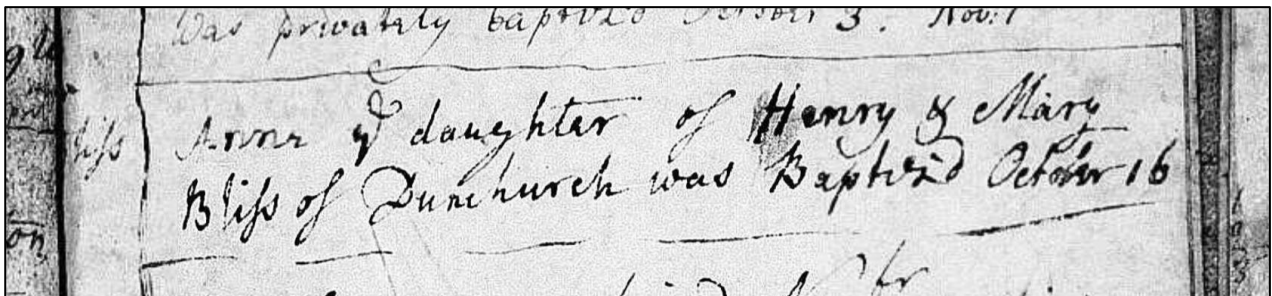
VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

The image hyperlinked in the above record is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1VL?i=38&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-8JP>, image 39 of 44.

⁶ Thus confusing the Family Search software which transcribed the parish register. See below, as well as the brief relating to Edward Wilkins, for further examples of this bizarre habit of the Dunchurch curate of the time.



This is a close up of the relevant record.



Which Anne Bliss was married to Edward?

The daughter of John and Anne Bliss baptised on 13th March 1738 would have been 23 on the date of Edward's marriage on 10th November 1761, and the daughter of Henry and Mary Bliss baptised on 16th October 1743 would have just turned 18. In terms of marriageable age, the older Anne might be marginally more likely to have been Edward's wife, but the younger Anne's age is not such as to definitively exclude her. (Edward himself was 22).

On the other hand, the older Anne's family was from Cawston, and the younger Anne's family was from Dunchurch. The younger Anne might be said to more likely have been Edward's wife for that reason, except for the fact that Cawston is only 1½ miles from Dunchurch, and it did not have its own church for a baptism, as there are no separate parish records for it.⁷

Find a Grave has records of 35 memorials in the cemetery at St Peter's Churchyard at Dunchurch.⁸ None of the records relate to a Wilkins or a Bliss, so no assistance may be gleaned from a headstone.⁹

John and Anne Bliss also had a John baptised on 11th September 1739, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-D8X>, an Elizabeth baptised on 13th January 1741,¹⁰ see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-8XD>, a Richard baptised on 3rd October 1742, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-F1X>,¹¹ a Thomas baptised on 17th April 1745, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-F5X>, a Mary baptised on 17th August 1746, see

⁷ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3SHT-DZK3-1N1?owc=X8N9-829%3A42645501%3Fcc%3D1462403>.

⁸ See <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2324228/memorial-search?page=1#sr-178083299>.

⁹ Such as might be the case if relations are buried together, or relationships are noted on a headstone, and other detail, such as an age at death, links one of the Annes to Edward.

¹⁰ The record says 1740, but this was another case where the curate wrote the year title in the parish register after already making several entries for the year, including that of Elizabeth's baptism, as the sequence of dates in the entries before and after the year title in the image hyperlinked in the record, and the images preceding it, confirms.

¹¹ The record says 1749, but the Family Search digitising scanner has misread the curate's writing of "Anno Dom: 1742", as an examination of the images either side of the image hyperlinked in the record confirms.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-828>,¹² likely¹³ also a James baptised on 9th March 1748,¹⁴ see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-NZ4>, a Jane baptised on 26th July 1749, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPW6-WR6Y>, and a Sarah baptised on 20th December 1757, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JWZD-CV3>.

Several of these register entries note that the family is from Cawston, and that John Bliss is a farmer.

Henry and Mary Bliss also had an Elizabeth baptised on 22nd April 1733, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-Z18>. By his first wife Mary,¹⁵ Henry also had a John baptised on 14th April 1728, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-XZQ>,¹⁶ and a Joseph baptised on 23rd January 1730, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-D3L>.¹⁷

However, there is nothing in the detail of these records, or in the relevant entries in the original parish register pages hyperlinked in them, which assists in identifying which Anne Bliss married Edward.

It is noted that the Anne born to John and Anne Bliss was their firstborn and, as may be observed in the records of the time, girls were then more commonly named after their mother than today. That makes the Anne baptised in 1738 somewhat more likely to be the Anne Bliss who married Edward Wilkins, but not sufficiently so as to definitively exclude the other Anne.

In the end result, the only conclusion that could be reached was that the Anne Bliss who married Edward Wilkins was either the daughter of John and Anne Bliss baptised on 13th March 1738, or the daughter of Henry and Mary Bliss baptised on 16th October 1743.

Ann's death

A Family Search search¹⁸ for the death or burial of an Ann or Anne Wilkins in Dunchurch in the period 1761 to 1835 returned only one record, that of a burial on 15th December 1835, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXK6-V2F>. As her age at death was given as 60, she was obviously not the Ann who married to Edward in 1761.¹⁹

¹² The record says 1748, but an examination of the hyperlinked parish register image confirms it is 1746. The record also notes the wife's name as Sarah, but she is not named in the entry in the parish register. Whilst that entry is somewhat obscure, it almost certainly simply says "Mary daughter of John Bliss of Cawston Farmer was baptizd Aug. 27". See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-15P?i=41&cc=1462403>, image 42 of 44.

¹³ Only the father, and not the mother, is named in the record, and (as with Mary) in the parish register.

¹⁴ The record says 1747, but in the register the curate has listed the year above as "Anno Domini 1747/8". Examination of the parish register image hyperlinked in the record reveals that James was baptised on 9th March 1748.

¹⁵ Curiously also called Mary Smith. Henry Bliss married Mary Smith in Dunchurch on 16th July 1727, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1LS?i=23&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-8Z6>, image 24 of 44.

Then Mary the wife of Henry Bliss was buried in Dunchurch on 6th February 1730, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1V1?i=27&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-D3Y>, image 28 of 44. Their son Joseph had been baptised on 23rd January 1730, then buried two days later on 25th January, so presumably Mary died from complications of childbirth. Then Henry Bliss, widower, married another Mary Smith in Dunchurch on 7th September 1731, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZKQ-MHD?i=28&cc=1462403>, image 29 of 44.

¹⁶ There may have been a third Bliss family having children in Dunchurch at the time. A Mary was baptised to a Mary Bliss on 5th August 1739. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-D83>. The lack of a father's name in the record suggests illegitimacy, but the entry in the register does not record that the child was illegitimate, as is usually the case. It is also possible that this was the daughter of Henry and Mary, and Henry's name was omitted from the parish register, but that would be most unusual.

¹⁷ Incorrectly recorded as 1729, again for the same reason that the curate has confused the transcribing software by inserting the year in the register only after already making a number of entries for the year.

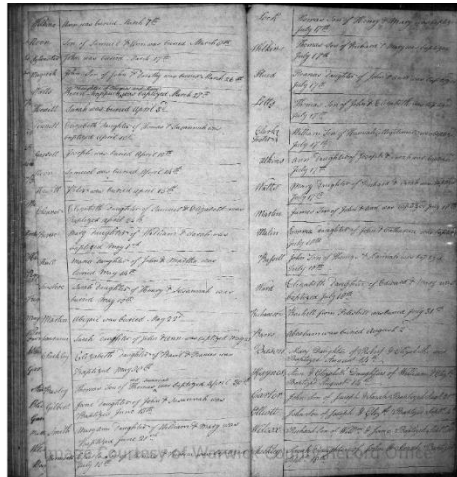
¹⁸ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1761&q.deathLikeDate.to=1835&q.deathLikePlace=Dunchurch&q.deathLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Anne&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on>. Changing the first name in the search to "Ann" gives the exact same results.

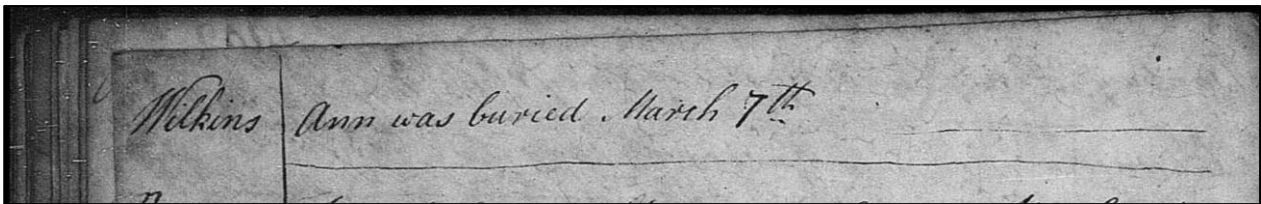
¹⁹ Ann would have been about 95 in 1835, an unusual age to live to at the time, so there is little chance that it is her but that the age at death given is incorrect. Nor is that likely given the large age discrepancy it entails. It could be her daughter Ann baptised on 1st August 1779, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JQTP-JYG>, and see also the brief relating to Edward Wilkins. The pro forma church burial record books used at the time (1835) did not note spinsters, as that Ann would presumably be, but they also did not note husbands or children.

However, as noted in the brief relating to Ann's husband Edward Wilkins, whilst the images of the Dunchurch burial register for 1813-1861 available on Family Search are electronically indexed,²⁰ and the details indexed have almost certainly flowed through to Family Search databases, the images of the Dunchurch register for "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1748-1812" are not electronically indexed.

Also as noted in that brief relating to Edward Wilkins, the latter images were manually examined from 1761 to 1812 for the burial of Edward Wilkins. During the course of that process, a burial of an Ann Wilkins on 7th March 1803 was encountered, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-NQW?i=80&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 81 of 93.



This is a close-up of the relevant record.



Further, there was no other record of a burial of an Ann or Anne Wilkins in Dunchurch encountered during the course of the manual review of those Dunchurch images from 1761 to 1812.

Accordingly, Ann Wilkins was buried in Dunchurch on 7th March 1803.²¹

²⁰ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DYV7-KVR?wc=XD5C-929%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583867308&cc=1462403>.

²¹ In passing, it is noted that an Ann Wilkins of age unspecified was buried in Marton on 21st June 1800, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-7CL> and <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VDR?i=44&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVH6B-7CL>, image 45 of 51. By about that time, Ann and Edward's son William was living in Marton (see the brief relating to William Wilkins). Given, however, that she had several other children, and that her husband Edward was still alive (see the brief relating to Edward Wilkins), the very small chance that this is Ann may be disregarded.