

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Edward Wilkins

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Edward Wilkins.

Those details are –

Baptised on 13th May 1739 at Dunchurch, Warwickshire.

Baptised to parents John and Sarah Wilkins.

Married to Ann¹ Bliss on 10th November 1761 at Dunchurch.

Buried in Dunchurch on either 31st July 1808 or 22nd July 1809.

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

Edward's marriage

It is demonstrated in the brief relating to William Wilkins that he was baptised on 9th February 1766 at Dunchurch, Warwickshire to parents Edward and Anne Wilkins see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NY5G-C86>.²

An Edward and Anne Wilkins of Dunchurch had further children, as follows, John baptised 16th October 1763, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NP96-688>, Edward baptised 16th July 1769, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NY5G-ZJS>, Richard baptised 8th November 1772, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J34T-GVC>, Mary baptised 8th April 1775 (albeit spelled Wilkings), see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JMN3-2BB>, Ann baptised 1st August 1779, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JQTP-JYG>, Thomas baptised 14th October 1782, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NP96-Z6L>, Elizabeth baptised 5th June 1786, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NP96-JYQ>, and Joseph baptised 3rd January 1790, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JMN3-JX3>. The mother is spelled “Anne” in the records for John and William, but “Ann” in the records for the seven younger children.

The repeated Dunchurch location, the lack of any record of any other marriage of an Edward Wilkins to an Anne or Ann in Dunchurch at the time (see below), the dearth of other Wilkins families in Dunchurch at the time (see the proof of that fact under the next heading), and the time gaps between the listed baptisms, substantiate that all these children were born to the same parents.

Their eldest being born in 1763, a Family Search record search for a marriage of Edward Wilkins and Anne in Dunchurch between 1760 and 1763³ returned one record only, of the marriage of an Edward Wilkins to Anne Bliss on 10th November 1761, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NVTV-BQT>.

¹ The spelling of “Anne” is used in the marriage record. However, later in her life, she was known as “Ann”. Refer to the baptism records of her children listed below. See also the brief relating to Ann Wilkins nee Bliss.

² URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.givenName=Edward&q.marriageLikeDate.from=1760&q.marriageLikeDate.to=1763&q.marriageLikePlace=Dunchurch&q.marriageLikePlace.exact=on&q.spouseGivenName=Anne&q.surname=Wilkins>.

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Edward Wilkins

Vital • England Marriages, 1538-1973

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Document Information

Collection Information

England Marriages, 1538-1973

Cite This Record

"England Marriages, 1538-1973",

Name	Edward Wilkins
Sex	Male
Spouse's Name	Anne Bliss
Spouse's Sex	Female
Marriage Date	10 Nov 1761
Marriage Place	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Marriage Place (Original)	Dunchurch, Warwick, England
Event Type	Marriage

Edward Wilkins's Spouses and Children

Anne Bliss	Wife	F
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Attached in Family Tree to

- Edward Wilkins
Deceased • MGVV-211

Similar Records

Edwd. Wilkins
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

Attached To

- Edwd. Wilkins
Deceased • MNGV-811

Edwd. Wilkins
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

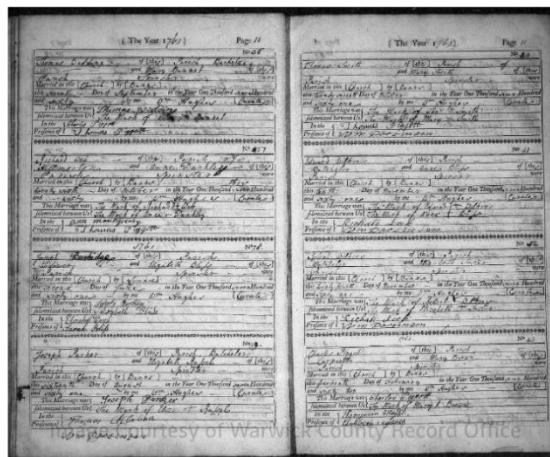
Attached To

- Edwd. Wilkins
Deceased • MNGV-986

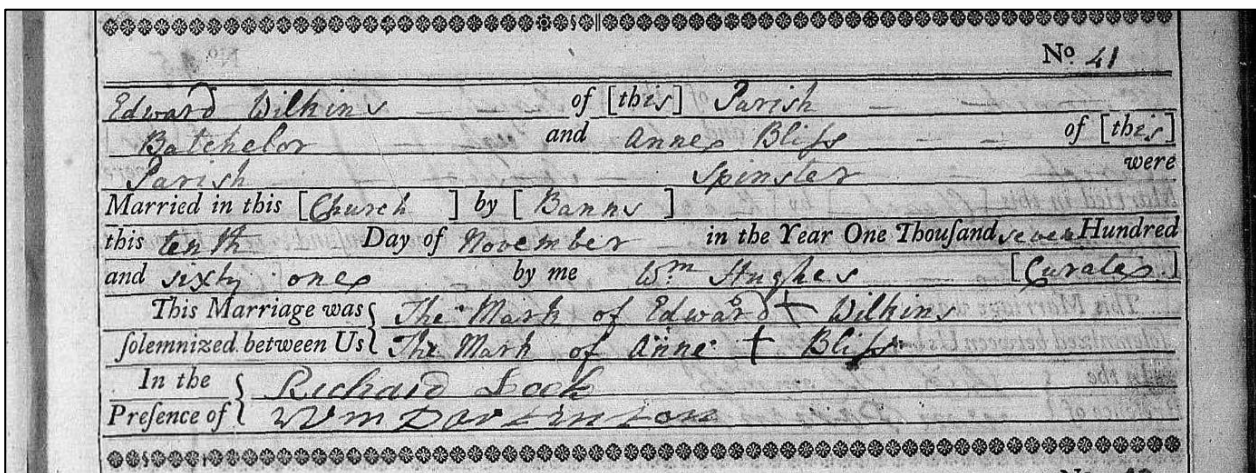
Edwd. Wilkins

That correlates with the arrival of John, their apparent first-born, just short of two years later.

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>, image 8 of 55.



This is a close up of the relevant entry.



The Dunchurch parish records of marriages from 1754 to 1810 are available in Family Search as a set of images, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-XZ8?wc=X6WL->

[3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583874110&cc=1462403](https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1750&q.anyDate.to=1812&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on). The images were manually searched for any other Edward Wilkins marrying an Anne or Ann in Dunchurch between October 1754 to December 1772 (images 3 to 17), but there was no such other marriage.

Accordingly, Edward Wilkins married Ann Bliss in Dunchurch on the 10th November 1761.

The dearth of Wilkinses in Dunchurch at the time

One relevant fact cited under the previous heading was that there were few Wilkinses in Dunchurch at the time, that is, the second half of the 18th century.

That fact became apparent upon a manual review of images of Dunchurch's "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1748-1812" between 1761 and 1812. (The deficiencies in the images of Dunchurch's parish records noted below largely precede this time period).

It was apparent from that manual image examination that, apart from Edward's family, the only other family of Wilkinses producing children in the 1760s and 1770s in Dunchurch was that of Robert Wilkins (who proved to be Edward's brother, see below) and his wife Elizabeth.

Indeed, it was observed on the manual image examination that there were no Dunchurch baptism or burial records between 1761 and 1812 except those that could be substantiated as relating to the families of Edward and Robert, apart from records of the burials of their parents John and Sarah Wilkins.

A Family Search all-records search⁴ was carried out for records from 1750 to 1812⁵ relating to a Wilkins in Dunchurch, and the results examined.⁶ There were no records returned of events between 1750 and 1794 except those relating to the marriage of, or a baptism to, either Edward or Robert.⁷ All Wilkins events listed after 1794 also appear to be connected to the children of either Edward or Robert.⁸

⁴ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1750&q.anyDate.to=1812&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on>.

⁵ John and Sarah Wilkins were Edward's parents, see below. Widening the search from 1750-1812 to 1740-1812 picked up the baptisms of two other children of theirs identified in the brief relating to John Wilkins, being a Sarah baptised on 20th September 1741, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-8ND>, and a John baptised on 23rd November 1743, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-8VW>. No subsequent Dunchurch event relating to either of these two children was returned either in the original or the widened search. The two searches were demonstrably not comprehensive given they did not return the known Dunchurch burials of John Wilkins and his son John on 12th September 1786 and 4th April 1799 respectively (see the brief relating to John Wilkins), but nevertheless it is indeed the case that there were no other Dunchurch events relating to Sarah and John between 1761 and 1812, as none was found on the manual image examination referred to above. That was supported in that no such events were returned for either Sarah or John on specific searches of Family Search databases for Dunchurch events for them between 1740 and 1830. See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1740&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Sarah&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on> and <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1740&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=John&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on>.

⁶ It is noted the results included the record of a William Wilkins baptised to Robert and Elizabeth Wilkins on 9th January 1763. See the brief relating to William Wilkins as to why it is Edward's son William, and not Robert's son William, who is the father of Mary Wilkins. Given that conclusion, and given the conclusions in this section mean that there was actually only one Edward Wilkins in Dunchurch when William was born on 9th February 1766 (as Edward's own son Edward, being baptised on 16th July 1769, see above, arrived afterwards), William's father is undoubtedly the Edward Wilkins identified in this brief.

⁷ As footnoted above, the Family Search database search was not comprehensive as it did not return the Dunchurch burials of Edward's father John in 1786, or Edward's brother John in 1799. The search should also have returned the burial in Dunchurch of Robert, husband of Elizabeth, on 28th January 1786, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-FQ8?i=53&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 54 of 93. These three events were all picked up during the above-referred to manual examination of the images of Dunchurch's records between 1761 and 1812. Accordingly, whilst the comprehensiveness of the database search is questionable, the manual image search nevertheless verifies the conclusion made as to the dearth of Wilkinses in Dunchurch in this period.

⁸ Specifically, the "Richd. Wilkins" marrying in 1798 would be Edward's son baptised in 1772, the Thomas recorded in the 1861 census would be his son baptised 1782, the Sarah recorded in the 1861 census is Thomas' wife, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M7G3-XMP>, the Thomas baptised in 1803 and the Elizabeth baptised in 1800 are the children of Edward's son Richard and the Mary he married in 1798, the Charlotte baptised in 1807 is the daughter of Edward's son William, the Sarah buried in 1864 is the wife of Edward's son Thomas (also recorded in the 1861 census – see above), Thomas himself was buried in 1865, the

The results of that Family Search search thus corroborate⁹ the conclusion arrived at upon the manual image examination that there was a dearth of Wilkinses in Dunchurch at the time.

Indeed, the results of that search, and, more importantly, the observations made upon the manual review of images of Dunchurch's "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1748-1812" between 1761 and 1812, in truth go further and indicate that, except for their parents John and Sarah Wilkins, and their siblings Sarah and John, Edward and Robert and their children were the only other Wilkinses in Dunchurch at the time, and, also, that Edward's and Robert's families were the only Wilkins families producing children in Dunchurch at the time. (The brief relating to John Wilkins further explains and verifies the interconnected fact that their father John's family was the only Wilkins family in Dunchurch from 1730 to 1748).

Edward's birth

Given that Edward married in Dunchurch in 1761, a Family Search search was conducted for an Edward Wilkins born in Dunchurch between 1716 and 1746 (that is, between 45 and 15 years earlier), and it returned one record only,¹⁰ that of the baptism of Edward Wilkins in Dunchurch on 13th May 1739 to John and Sarah Wilkins, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-DZN>.

The screenshot displays the FamilySearch record for Edward Wilkins. The record is titled "Edward Wilkins" and is identified as "Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963". It includes a thumbnail image of a church register page. The record details are as follows:

Name	Edward Wilkins
Sex	Male
Christening Date	13 May 1739
Christening Place	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Christening Place (Original)	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Father's Name	John Wilkins
Father's Sex	Male
Mother's Name	Sarah
Mother's Sex	Female
Event Type	Christening

Below the record details, there is a section for "Edward Wilkins's Parents and Siblings" which lists:

John Wilkins	Father	M
Sarah	Mother	F

The record also includes a "Family Tree" section with a button to "ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE" and a "Similar Records" section stating "No similar records were found." At the bottom, there is a "Document Information" section showing the collection as "England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963".

The above record has a hyperlink to an image from Dunchurch's parish register, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZKQ-MCD?i=34&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-DZN>, image 35 of 44.¹¹

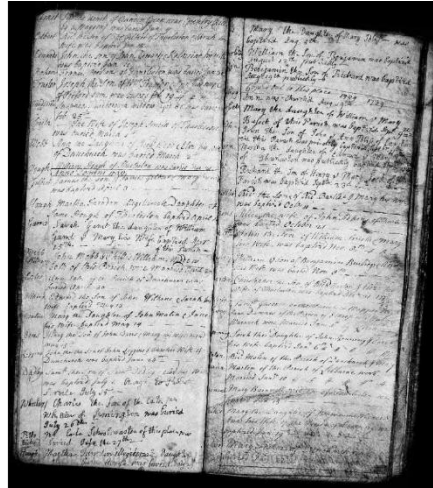
Elizabeth marrying in 1815 would be either Edward's daughter baptised in 1786 or Robert's daughter baptised in 1782, the Ann buried in 1860 is not a Dunchurch record, and the two marriage licence records relate to Edward's son William. The record relating to Elizabeth Mary Wilkins death in 1865 relates to an infant born in 1861 and is thus not presently relevant.

⁹ The Family Search search is corroborative, rather than verificative, because it was demonstrably not comprehensive, as referred to in previous footnotes.

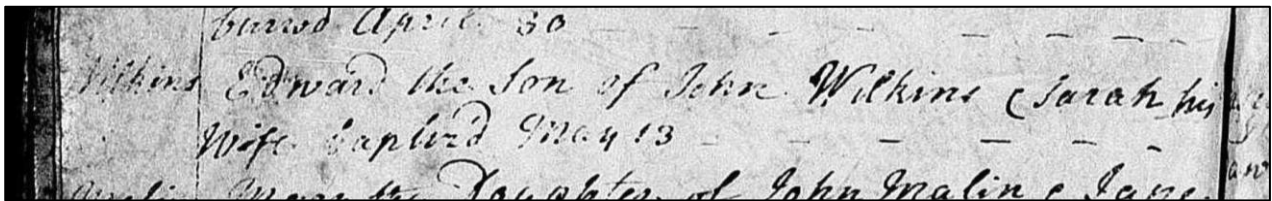
¹⁰ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1716&q.birthLikeDate.to=1746&q.birthLikePlace=Dunchurch%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.birthLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=edward&q.surname=wilkins>.

¹¹ The baptism on 20th September 1741 of Sarah, the above-referred to daughter of John and Sarah Wilkins, is recorded in image 37.



This is a close up of the relevant entry.



As the sole Dunchurch candidate, this seems likely to be the Edward Wilkins who was William Wilkins father. Notably also, if this Edward married in 1761, he did so at 22 years of age, an eminently marriageable age.

The usual method of corroboration

If an ancestor candidate is found through a Family Search database search, the usual method of confirming his or her candidacy is to positively rule out any alternative candidate by way of a manual examination of the records of a relevant parish for a relevant period. In the instant case, the only relevant parish is Dunchurch,¹² as there is no suggestion that Edward may have been baptised in any other parish,¹³ and the relevant period is assessed as 1716 to 1746, as a man marrying in 1761 would be older than 45, or younger than 15, if born outside that period, a most unlikely scenario.

The manual search located no other candidate Edward Wilkins but, unfortunately, a sufficient number of the baptism records for Dunchurch parish for the relevant period were either missing, or indecipherable, so as to cast doubt on the comprehensiveness of the exercise. Problems with the records include:

1. some records are out of order,¹⁴ and those for 1742 are missing altogether.
2. images of some records have been poorly photographed, and consequently do not fully show pages of the parish register. An example is image 36 set out below.¹⁵ The surnames in the left hand column of the right hand page are impossible to ascertain, and whilst the body of the entries allows one to decipher the surnames for the second and third entry (Wright and Piggott), that is not the case for the

¹² Noting that migration before the onset of the Industrial Revolution in 1760 was a low possibility, in fact rarely observed (except for immediately adjacent parishes) in the course of personally viewing a considerable number of Family Search records. This was because the economy outside of larger towns was an agrarian economy with a high population of agricultural workers. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Industrial-Revolution/The-first-Industrial-Revolution> and <https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/social-impact-industrial-revolution>.

¹³ Of course, if there is such a suggestion, for example because either of a baptismal candidate's parents may have some association with any other parish, that other parish's baptism records would also need to be examined in similar manner.

¹⁴ For example, image 37 has the records for 1741, then image 38 has records for December 1748 to February 1750, before image 39 reverts to records for 1743 and following.

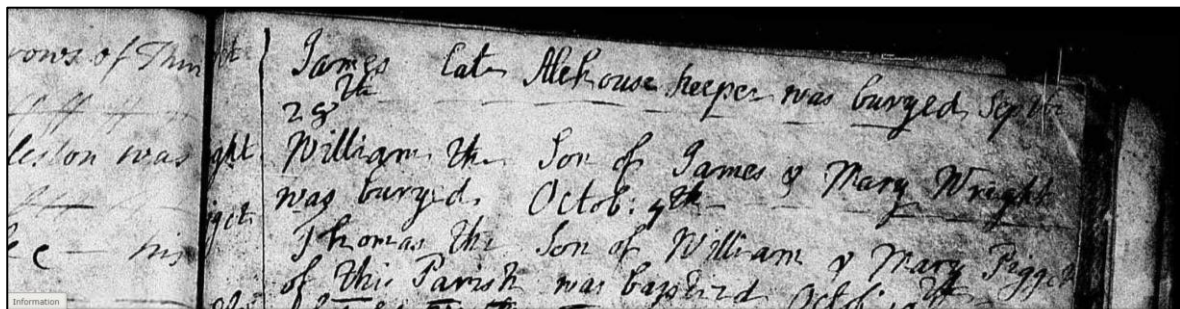
¹⁵ See also image 37 at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-DZK3-1KB?i=36&cc=1462403>.

first entry.¹⁶ Other entries with indecipherable surnames in the left hand column do not record a surname in the body of the entry – see the second capture from image 36 set out below.

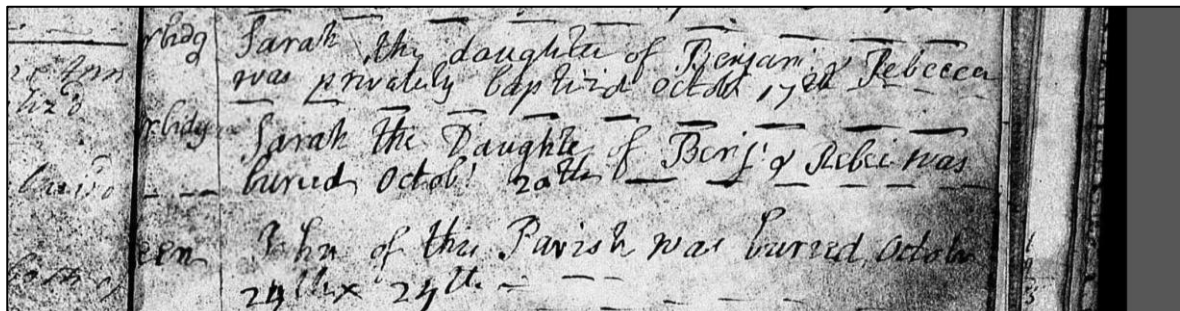
One consequence of poor photographic capture is that entries are inaccurately transcribed in the electronic index at the foot of an image. For example, the surnames in the second capture from image 36 set out below have been transcribed as “Sarah *Rldg” and “John *Een”. Such inaccuracies then proceed into, and are repeated in, the relevant Family Search database.

3. the curate’s handwriting is extremely poor, with many entries indecipherable as a consequence. The surname in the first entry on the right hand page of image 36 set out below is an example. As can be seen from the index below the image, the Family Search software has translated that surname as “Lat”, which seems highly unlikely. (And that inaccurate translation has made its way into Family Search’s Warwickshire parish registers database, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-N44>).
4. the curate’s handwriting is not just difficult to decipher, he also had a bizarre habit of repeatedly inserting the year title after a number of entries for the year, such that the Family Search software reading the parish record images for its databases interprets the entries for the first few months of the year as being entries for the previous year.

As an example, see the third capture from image 36 set out below. The first few entries for February and March of 1740 on the left hand page are followed by the title for the year, and the electronic index shows they have been translated by the software as 1739 entries.

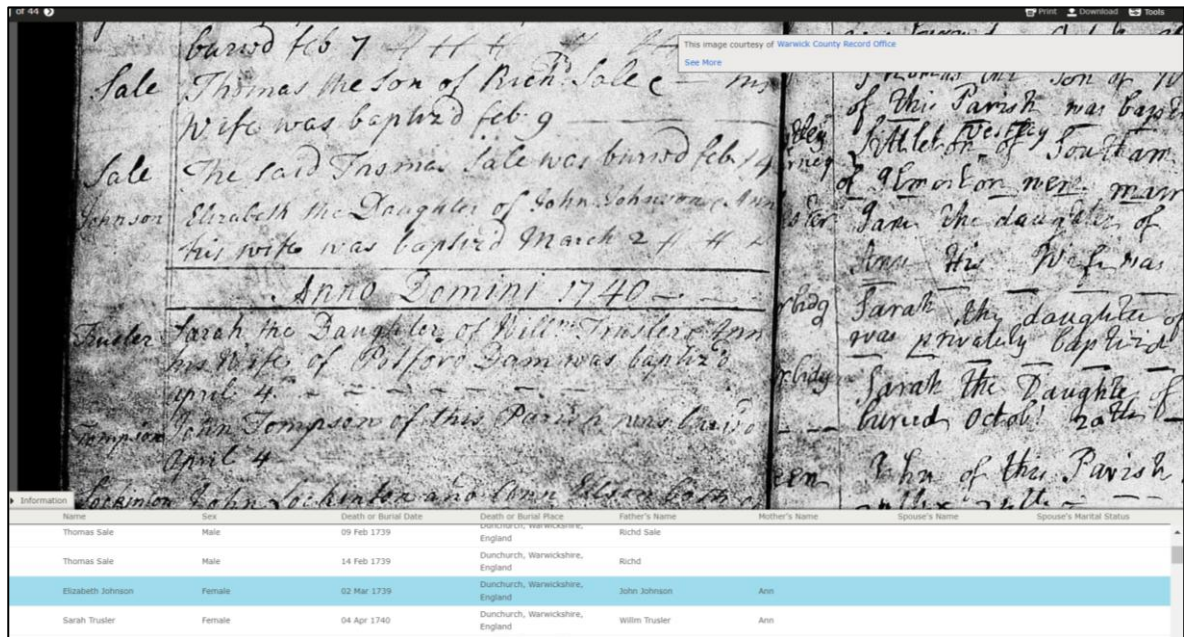


Name	Sex	Death or Burial Date	Death or Burial Place	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Spouse's Name	Spouse's Marital Status
Sarah Smith	Female	10 Aug 1740	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England	John Smith	Mary		
James Lat	Male	28 Sep 1740	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England				



Name	Sex	Death or Burial Date	Death or Burial Place	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Spouse's Name	Spouse's Marital Status
Sarah *Rldg	Female	17 Oct 1740	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England	Benjamin <Blank>	Rebecca		
Sarah *Rldg	Female	20 Oct 1740	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England	Benjamin			
John *Een	Male	24 Oct 1740	Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England				

¹⁶ Although a burial record, like problems were encountered with baptism records. This register combined burial and baptism records, as well as marriage records until 1754.



The manual search therefore provided some corroboration that the father of William Wilkins was Edward Wilkins baptised in Dunchurch on 13th May 1739, in that no other Edward Wilkins baptism was located in the Dunchurch baptism records for the relevant period, but, due to the deficiencies in those records noted above, the manual search could not be taken to uncontroversibly verify that. Plainly, those deficiencies also raise questions as to the comprehensiveness of the precursor Family Search database search.¹⁷

Alternative corroboration

However, it was noted during the manual review of the Dunchurch images that a Robert was also baptised to a John and Sarah Wilkins in Dunchurch on 27th March 1737, see image 33 of 44 at

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1V6?i=32&cc=1462403&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-D3Z>.

This is the corresponding record in the Family Search Warwickshire parish register database, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-D3Z>.

Robert Wilkins
Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963

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Name Robert Wilkins
Sex Male
Christening Date 27 Mar 1737
Christening Place Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Christening Place (Original) Dunchurch, Warwickshire, England
Father's Name John
Father's Sex Male
Mother's Name Sarah Wilkins
Mother's Sex Female
Event Type Christening

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

Robert Wilkins's Parents and Siblings OPEN ALL

Name	Relationship	Sex
John	Father	M
Sarah Wilkins	Mother	F

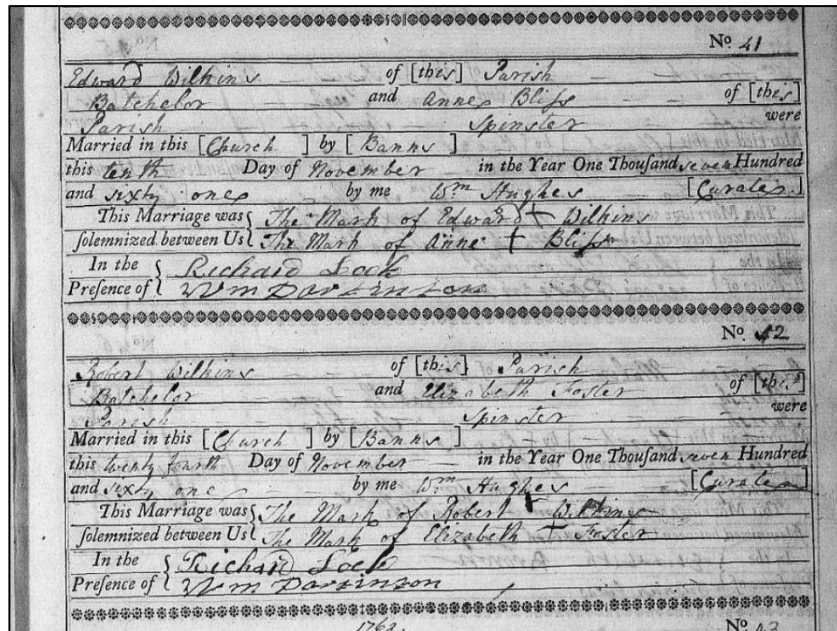
VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Document Information
Collection Information

¹⁷ It is noted that Family Search says the following of the older records on which its own databases are built: "The farther back in history you go, the less documentation you will find. Records were not always kept. Over time it is common for what records there were to be destroyed or misplaced." See https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Rookie_Mistakes.

Given that there was a dearth of other Wilkinses in Dunchurch at the time, as noted above, and noting the 2 year time gap between the two baptisms, this Robert baptised in 1737 is patently the brother of the Edward baptised in 1739.

It was also noted that immediately after Edward's marriage in Dunchurch on 10th November 1761, a Robert Wilkins married on 24th November 1761, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-XW6?i=7&wc=X6WL-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583874110&cc=1462403>, image 8 of 55.



A double wedding involving two persons of the same surname attracts a very high probability that those persons are siblings. The fact of two marriages close together, almost a double wedding if you will, also attracts a significant degree of such probability, and indicates that Edward and Robert were brothers.¹⁸

The chance of two sets of brothers with the same names and in the same place is, of itself, low. That indicates that the brothers that were baptised in 1737 and 1739, and the brothers that were wed in November 1761, were in fact the same brothers. That supposition is supported by the fact that the brothers that were baptised were both of eminently marriageable age in 1761. Finally, the fact that there was a dearth of, and likely even a complete absence of, any other Wilkins families in Dunchurch at the time, also supports that there was only one set of brothers and, that being the case, that the Edward Wilkins who married Ann Bliss on 10th November 1761 at Dunchurch was the Edward Wilkins who was baptised in 1739.

The final piece of corroboration is that he was the only candidate Edward found on a database search, and also on a manual image search, of the relevant records. Notwithstanding that the issues identified above with the results of those searches means that, on their own, they lack conclusiveness, they still provide meaningful support for the proposition that the Edward Wilkins who was baptised in 1739 was the only candidate.

Accordingly, Edward Wilkins, the father of William Wilkins, was baptised in Dunchurch on 13th May 1739 to John and Sarah Wilkins.

¹⁸ The witnesses were also the same at both marriages, but that fact would perhaps be of more significance today than in a time when those who could sign their names might have been frequently called upon as witnesses.

Edward's death

A Family Search all-records search for the death or burial of an Edward Wilkins in Dunchurch in the period 1761 to 1830 returned no record.¹⁹

Edward's son William married in Frankton in 1794, and appears to have been living in Marton from at least 1801, and then for the rest of his life (see the brief relating to William Wilkins).²⁰ Accordingly, Family Search database searches for the death or burial of an Edward Wilkins in Frankton and Marton in the period 1761 to 1830 were also carried out, but also returned no relevant records.²¹

A Family Search all-records search for the death or burial of an Edward Wilkins in Warwickshire in the period 1761 to 1830 also returned no suitable candidate. There were 14 results.²² None were in the area of Dunchurch, Frankton or Marton. The birth years of persons in 12 results did not match, and the other two burials were in Long Compton and Atherstone-on-Stour, 27 miles south-south-west and 21 miles south-west of Dunchurch respectively. Also, the first of those persons died in 1764, before William Wilkins was born in 1766, and the second died in 1825 at age 67, which ruled him out, having only being born about 3 years before Edward's 1761 marriage. There were also no suitable candidates found upon the like search of the Warwickshire parish records database,²³ and the England deaths and burials database.²⁴ (Many of the same records were returned across the three database searches).

Images of the Dunchurch burial register for 1813-1861 are available on Family Search,²⁵ and the images are electronically indexed, so the indices would be captured in relevant Family Search databases but, as noted above, searches of those databases returned no results. However, the images of the Dunchurch register for "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1748-1812" are not so electronically indexed.²⁶ These were therefore manually examined for the burial of an Edward Wilkins.

Two were found. The first record, of an Edward Wilkins buried on 31st July 1808, was located at image 88, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-6LL?i=87&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>.

¹⁹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Dunchurch&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.surname=Wilkins>.

²⁰ Frankton is 4 miles west-south-west of Dunchurch. Marton is 1½ miles south-west of Frankton.

²¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Frankton&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&c.deathLikePlace1=on&f.deathLikePlace0=9> and

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Marton&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&c.deathLikePlace1=on&f.deathLikePlace0=9>.

²² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&c.deathLikePlace1=on&f.deathLikePlace0=9>.

²³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire&q.givenName=Edward&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&c.collectionId=on&f.collectionId=1462403&c.deathLikePlace1=on&f.deathLikePlace0=9>.

²⁴ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1761&q.anyDate.to=1830&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1473016>.

²⁵ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DYV7-KVR?wc=XD5C-929%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583867308&cc=1462403>.

²⁶ For the most part, this register only records baptisms and burials. From 1754, Dunchurch had a separate marriage register. See

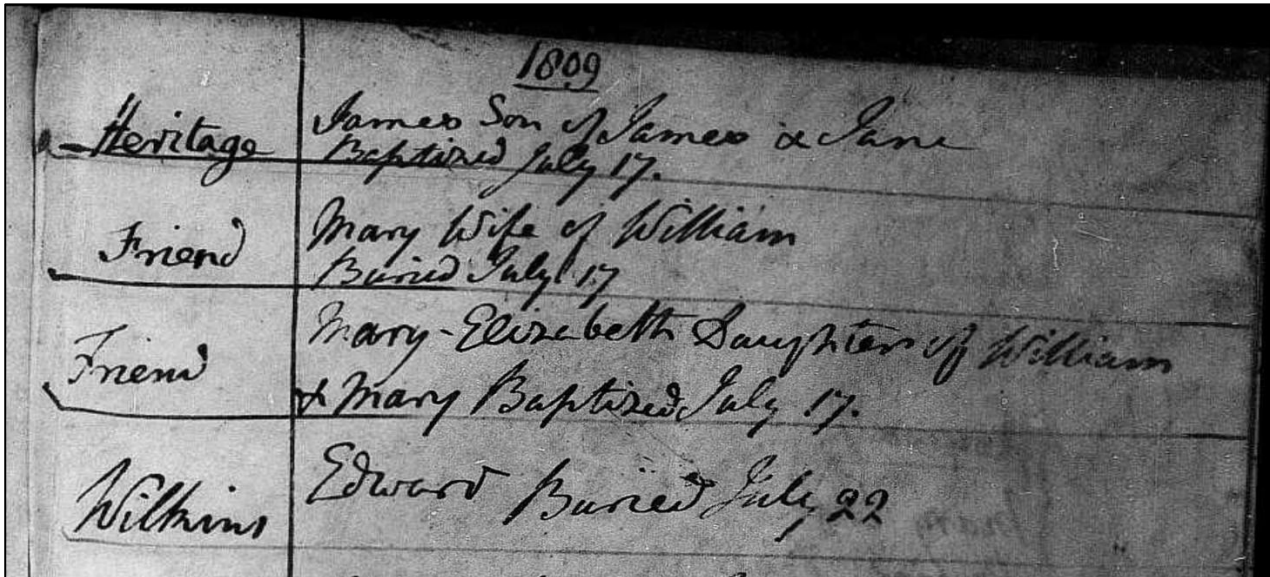
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-64VQ-XTD?i=1&wc=X6WL-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583874110&cc=1462403>. Notably, its frontispiece says it is kept "[a]ccording to Act of Parliament

of the Twenty fifth of King GEORGE II". This Act, known as Lord Hardwick's Act, required separate registers for marriages (plus banns books) from 1754. See https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/History_of_Parish_Registers_in_England and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clandestine_Marriages_Act_1753.

Within	L. Mary Burdett July 13. Edward Bunick July 31. L. Mary Burdett July 13. Edward Bunick July 31.
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[illegible]

This is a close-up of the relevant entry.



All of the images from 1761 to 1812 (that is, images 14 to 93 inclusive) were manually checked for any other Edward Wilkins buried in Dunchurch.²⁷ There was none.²⁸

Neither record assists by recording the age at death. Also, the parents are not named in either record. (If they or either of them had been, that might indicate that the deceased was an infant or a child). Neither record assists by noting that Edward was a widower. Neither record names a spouse, which was commonly done for a living spouse, so that suggests Ann predeceased Edward. (Which she did, having been buried on 7th March 1803, see the brief relating to Ann Wilkins nee Bliss).

There is no ability to determine which of the two Edwards is the father of William Wilkins.²⁹

²⁷ Unlike the parish records in the 1730s and 1740s, these records are in good order, clearly photographed, in legible handwriting, not smudged, and easy to read. The left hand column of surnames on the right hand page of image 48 is partially obscured, but all the surnames can be made out from information in the right hand column. The top of some images is cropped, but not such that any information is excised, or any record's surname is unreadable. The surnames Wilkins and Bliss are, of themselves, readily decipherable in any case.

²⁸ Upon the review, all of the baptisms to Edward and Anne/Ann Wilkins listed above were encountered. That is, John baptised 16th October 1763, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-XP3?i=16&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 17 of 93; William baptised 9th February 1766, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-FBM?i=20&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 21 of 93; Edward baptised 16th July 1769, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-NFC?i=25&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 26 of 93; Richard baptised 8th November 1772, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-F5R?i=29&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 30 of 93; Mary baptised 8th April 1775, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-NNB?i=34&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 35 of 93; Ann baptised 1st August 1779, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-JK6?i=39&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 40 of 93; Thomas baptised 14th October 1782, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-FHH?i=45&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 46 of 93; Elizabeth baptised 5th June 1786, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-FW3?i=54&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 55 of 93; and Joseph baptised 3rd January 1790, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-64VQ-FMG?i=60&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 61 of 93 (by which time Edward would be about 50, and Ann 46). As noted above, the mother is named "Anne" in the first two records for John and William, and "Ann" in the remaining records. Also, Mary's record misspells her surname as "Willkings", although the misspelling as recorded in Family Search's "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975" database is "Wilkins" (see above).

²⁹ Also, armed with the two dates, a search was made in Family Search's England deaths and burials database, see <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1808&q.deathLikeDate.to=1809&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1473016>, but no record of either death was returned. The very first English census in 1801 does not assist, as the censuses conducted every 10 years before the first "modern" census of 1841 did not record personal details, only statistics, namely the numbers of males, females, occupied and unoccupied houses, families in occupied houses, and persons employed in certain categories of occupation. See <https://1841census.co.uk/pre-1841-census-information/>.

Accordingly, Edward was buried in Dunchurch on either 31st July 1808 or 22nd July 1809.

(The death of two Edward Wilkinses in Dunchurch in 1808 and 1809 gives cause to revisit the conclusion above that there was only one Edward Wilkins born in Dunchurch between 1716 and 1746. However, the evidence above substantiates that the families of Edward and Robert and their parents were the only Wilkins families in Dunchurch at that time. Given that a specific Family Search search did not show Robert and Elizabeth Wilkins as having an Edward,³⁰ it seems certain that the other of the two Edwards buried in 1808 and 1809 is in fact Edward's son baptised on 16th July 1769).

³⁰ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1760&q.anyDate.to=1810&q.fatherGivenName=Robert&q.fatherGivenName.exact=on&q.fatherSurname=Wilkins&q.fatherSurname.exact=on&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Wilkins&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1473014>.