

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Elizabeth wife of Edward Miles

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Elizabeth, the wife¹ of Edward Miles.

Those details are –

The date and place of Elizabeth's birth are unknown, as is her parentage.

The date and place of Elizabeth's marriage to Edward are unknown.

The date and place of Elizabeth's death/burial are also unknown.

(The research for this brief was conducted in January 2026).

Elizabeth's birth, parentage and marriage

No record which is feasibly for the marriage of Edward Miles to Elizabeth was located. See the details of the unsuccessful search for the marriage record in the brief relating to Edward Miles.

As such –

- the date and place of Elizabeth's marriage to Edward are unknown and
- Elizabeth's maiden name could not be determined.

The consequence of the latter fact is that there is no available surname to research Elizabeth's birth.

As Elizabeth's birth details could not be determined, neither could details of her parents.

Elizabeth's death

Elizabeth and Edward Miles baptised two children in Stretton-on-Fosse, Warwickshire in 1738 and 1741, and then a further seven children in Whatcote between 1743 and 21st March 1762, see the brief relating to Edward Miles. (Whatcote is 6 miles north-east of Stretton-on-Fosse).

The birth of 9 children over 24 years (1738 to 1762) suggests that by 1762 Elizabeth was aged about 43 to 50. Otherwise, she would have either married younger than 18, or she would have been bearing children beyond the age of 50,² both of which are most unlikely scenarios.

¹ No marriage record was located, but it is presumed they married. Obviously, common law wives do not appear in the available records of the time, being parish records.

² See <https://www.healthline.com/health/womens-health/childbearing-age>. Also <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4389129/>: "the end of fertility [approaches] 100% at age 50 years".

It seems likely that Elizabeth either continued to reside in Whatcote after 1762 up until her death or, alternatively, she (either with Edward or after his death³) may have returned to live in Stretton-on-Fosse, given that the birth of her first two children there suggests that she may have been born there.

However, a Family Search search for a burial of an Elizabeth/Elisabeth Miles in Whatcote between 1760 and 1810 proved fruitless,⁴ as did a like FindMyPast search.⁵ However, both searches returned burials of a number of persons named either Elizabeth Miles or Elisabeth Miles in the Whatcote vicinity, namely burials –

- on 8th February 1762 in Eatington (also called Ettington), 3½ miles north-west of Whatcote, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XFMN-B29?lang=en>, but her father Jonathan Miles is named in the burial record, indicating the death of an infant (the burial also predates the baptism of Elizabeth's last child six weeks later)
- on 7th August 1762 in Kineton, 4½ miles north-east of Whatcote, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J86P-LPX?lang=en>, but her parents are named in the burial record as Jonathan and Elizabeth Miles, indicating the death of an infant
- on 26th July 1778 in Stretton-on-Fosse, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-5YB?lang=en>, and, notably, she was also recorded in the burial record as a “widow”, see <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSTRETTON-ON-FOSSE%2FDR0055A-03-00010> (as to this burial, see the further discussion below)
- on 7th October 1790 in Stretton-on-Fosse, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-RZW?lang=en>, but she was noted in the burial record as the spouse of a John Miles
- on 19th March 1810 in Eatington, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XFMJ-XP1?lang=en>, but she was also noted in the burial record as the spouse of a John Miles.

The locations of other Warwickshire burials returned on the Family Search search for burials in Whatcote of an Elizabeth/Elisabeth Miles, being burials which were in an appropriate time span and also did not have any other disqualifying factor, were Newton-Regis, Birmingham, Willoughby, Erdington, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Alveston and Coventry. The closest of these to Whatcote is Warwick, at 13 miles north. Most are much further away.

The abovementioned FindMyPast search (for an Elizabeth/Elisabeth Miles in Whatcote between 1760 and 1810) also returned records for –

- a probate dated 12th March 1791 in respect of an Elizabeth Miles of Shipston-on-Stour, 3½ miles south-west of Whatcote, and 2½ miles north-east of Stretton-on-Fosse, basically half-way between them, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FWORCS%2FPROBATEINDEX%2F021575&tab=this>. Unfortunately, the record was extracted from a record set (Worcestershire Probate Index 1600-1858) which is an index only, with no link to any documents, so no further information about the deceased was ascertainable. Note that this record may well relate to probate of the will of the abovementioned Elizabeth Miles buried on 7th October 1790 in Stretton-on-Fosse, which is only 2½ miles west-south-west of Shipston-on-Stour

³ Edward's date of death or burial could not be determined, see the brief relating to him.

⁴ See

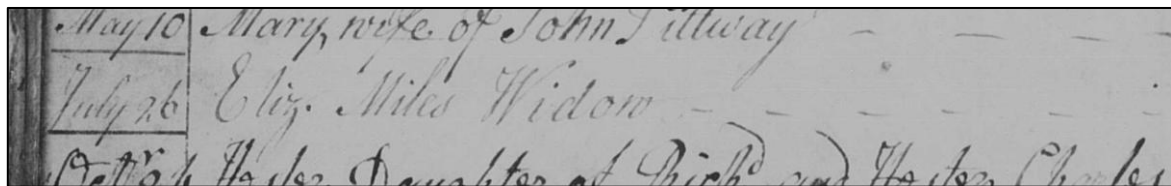
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1760&q.deathLikeDate.to=1810&q.deathLikePlace=Whatcote%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.givenName=Elizabeth&q.surname=Miles&q.surname.exact=on&c.deathLikePlace1=on&f.deathLikePlace0=9&c.deathLikePlace2=on&f.deathLikePlace1=9%2CEngland&f.deathLikePlace2=9%2CEngland%2CWarwickshire>. URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

⁵ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?firstname=elizabeth&firstname_variants=true&lastname=miles&yearofdeath=1780&yearofdeath_offset=20&keywordsplace=whatcote%2c%20warwickshire%2c%20england&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england&sid=100.

- a burial on 19th November 1795 in Ettington, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FBUR%2F000616919&tab=this>, but she is named as the “Widow of Jonathan Miles” in the original parish burial record, see <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FETTINGTON%2FDR0026-04-00004>
- a burial on 21st June 1797 in Honington, 2½ miles south-west of Whatcote, and 1 mile north-east of Shipston-on-Stour, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FBUR%2F000678666&tab=this>, but her parents are named in the burial record as Joseph and Mary Miles, indicating the death of an infant.

Of the above records of burials of an Elizabeth Miles in Warwickshire that were located, the best candidate for the burial of Elizabeth the wife of Edward Miles is the abovementioned burial on 26th July 1778 in Stretton-on-Fosse. This is a close up of the relevant parish record:



It may be that this was Edward’s wife, and that she moved back to Stretton-on-Fosse at some time after her last child was baptised in Whatcote in 1762, possibly after her husband died. However –

- this candidate is also possibly Edward and Elizabeth’s daughter Elizabeth baptised on 25th February 1752 in Whatcote, see the brief relating to Edward Miles (although the chance is low, as she would have been young to have died by 1778, and unlikely to have been widowed by then too)
- it could not be determined if Edward had died by 1778, see the brief relating to him, and thus it could not be verified that, by then, Elizabeth was a widow (by 1778 he would have been 64, see the brief relating to him, and thus not overly old)
- although all the other Elizabeths listed above who were buried in or about Whatcote or Stretton-on-Fosse have disqualifying factors, there is one that does not, namely the Elizabeth Miles for whom a probate was issued in 1791 in Shipston-on-Stour (although she would have a disqualifying factor if it was the case that she was the Elizabeth Miles who was buried in Stretton-on-Fosse the previous October, because that Elizabeth was married to a John Miles, but whether they were the same person could not be determined)⁶
- it was apparent from manual examination of Stretton-on-Fosse records for this and other briefs that there were a number of other Miles families in Stretton-on-Fosse at the time and, given that Elizabeth was a very common first name of the times, the chance is significant that there was another person

⁶ The 1791 probate record does not state if the “place” named in the record is the deceased’s abode, or the place where the application for the grant of probate was filed. Shipston-on-Stour is a larger town and thus possibly a district centre for applying for a probate, although the Probate Index (see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?datasetname=worcestershires%20probate%20index%201600-1858&sid=999>) also lists many small towns, which suggests that places of abode rather than district centres are being recorded as place names. If that is the case, that would indicate that the 1791 Shipston-on-Stour Elizabeth is a different person to the 1790 Stretton-on-Fosse Elizabeth, but it is difficult to be definitive. The place is actually named in the record as “Shipston-on-Stour, Worcestershire”, but that town is plainly in Warwickshire. Worcestershire abuts South Warwickshire to its west, and parts of Worcestershire are as little as 7 miles from Shipston-on-Stour. The record notes the jurisdiction of the probate as the “Diocese of Worcester”, and note also the following advice at <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/talks-research-guides/tracing-warwickshire-ancestors/1>: “Most wills made by Warwickshire people were proved at the Dioceses of Worcester or Lichfield and will be found either at Worcestershire Record Office or Staffordshire Record Office.” So it may be that the place name is intended to record the place where the application for the grant of probate was filed, and arguably that is supported by the conflation of “Shipston-on-Stour” and “Worcestershire”. If that is the case, that may mean that the 1791 Shipston-on-Stour Elizabeth is the same person as the 1790 Stretton-on-Fosse Elizabeth.

named Elizabeth Miles there at the time, and who was not Edward's wife, and who might have been buried there in 1778

- there is no other information to link this 1778 Stretton-on-Fosse candidate to Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Miles.

Accordingly, Elizabeth's burial record could not be identified with sufficient certainty, and hence her place and date of burial is unknown.