

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Henry Neal

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Henry Neal.

Those details are –

Born about 1693 at a place unknown, and to parents unknown.

Married to Pensissily Hobley at St Michael's Church, Coventry on 25th May 1733.

Buried at Birdingbury, Warwickshire on 28th August 1777 at age 84.

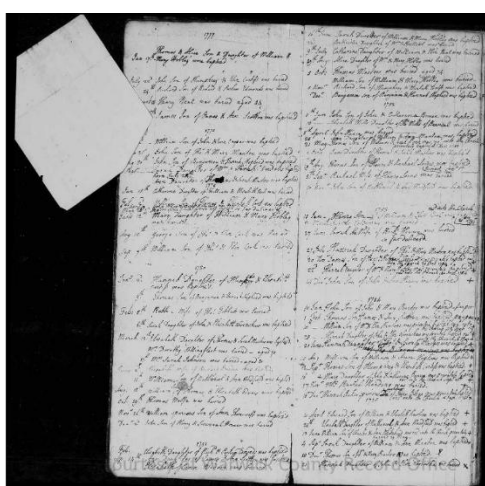
(The research for this brief was conducted in early 2023).

Henry's burial

Research in the brief relating to William Neal started with the record of the burial of a Henry Neal in Birdingbury on 28th August 1777, searched for records of children baptised to Henry Neal in the Birdingbury area, located the record of William baptised to Henry and Pencissela Neal in Napton in 1740, demonstrated that that family subsequently moved to Birdingbury, and thus connected William Neal to a Henry Neal of Birdingbury.

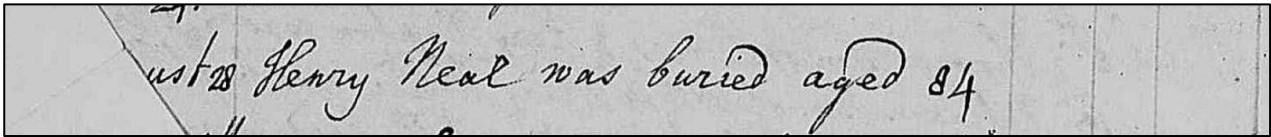
However, that research did not go on to definitively verify that the Henry Neal buried at Birdingbury on 28th August 1777 was William's father by endeavouring to locate, and rule out, any alternative candidates.

This is an image of the page in the Birdingbury parish register containing the 1777 burial record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VFN?i=9&cc=1462403>, image 10 of 16.¹

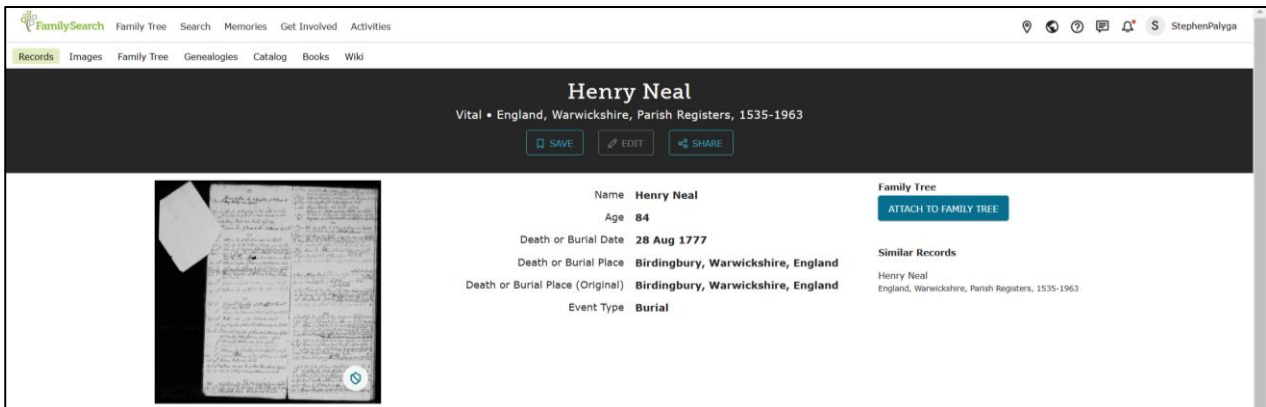


This is a close-up of the relevant entry.

¹ URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.



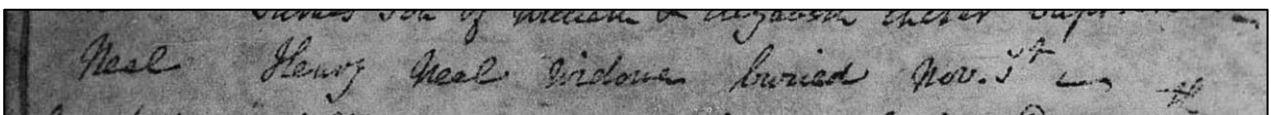
This is the corresponding Family Search record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-C66>.



In order to locate any burials of any other Henry Neals who might be the father of William baptised in 1740, a Family Search search was conducted for any Henry Neal burial record in Warwickshire between 1740 and 1830.² It returned four results additional to the Henry buried in Birdingbury in 1777,³ all in Birmingham and, accordingly, none with any locational nexus to areas surrounding and including Napton, where William was baptised in 1740. Changing “Neal” to “Neale” in the search produced nil results.

However, during a manual search of the images of the parish register of Napton on the Hill for research referred to in the brief relating to William Neal, a record was encountered of the burial of a Henry Neal, widower, on 5th November 1801, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WWG?i=5&wc=XDLB-GP8%3A42645501%2C1583867702%2C1583870019&cc=1462403>, image 6 of 15.

This is a close-up of the entry.



Since Henry had two children baptised in Napton, including William, this Henry buried in Napton in 1801 is a potential candidate for William's father, additional to the Henry Neal buried in Birdingbury in 1777. Henry's first child Henry was baptised in 1733 in Long Itchington⁴ (see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley), so Henry would have to have been born by about 1713 at the latest, which would make him at least about 88 if he died in 1801, which is obviously possible (and, being noted as a widower, this Henry buried in Napton in 1801 is likely to be an older person).

However, that Henry the father of William Neal was buried in Birdingbury rather than Napton is far more likely given that, as is substantiated in the brief relating to William Neal –

² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1740&q.deathLikeDate.to=1830&q.deathLikePlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.deathLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Henry&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Neal&q.surname.exact=on>.

³ The search returns two records for the Henry buried in 1777, and locates the event in each record as in Marton. The two actual burial records hyperlinked in the search results, however, locate the “Event Place (Original)” as in Birdingbury. Some Birdingbury events in the 18th century were recorded in Marton's parish register for some reason, as is noted in the briefs relating to William Neal and Pensissily Neal nee Hobley, and as can be seen in the Birdingbury burial records of John and Goody Neal referred to below.

⁴ Two miles south-west of Birdingbury, and four miles north-west of Napton.

1. Henry moved from Napton to Birdingbury sometime in the 1740s.
2. After moving there, he had three more children baptised there (Elisabeth, Thomas and Edward).
3. He was the “occupier” of 4 leys (i.e. pasture lots⁵) in Birdingbury in 1755.
4. His son William was married in Birdingbury in 1766.

Also, Henry’s wife Pensissily was buried in Birdingbury in 1797 (see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley). Being named in the burial record as a widow, once widowed, she is likely to have continued to live where her husband lived and was buried.

Hence the Birdingbury connection is stronger than the Napton connection by far. Further, no evidence at all has been encountered that suggests Henry Neal moved back to Napton later in life.

Also, as noted above, the 1797 burial record of Henry’s wife states that she was a widow. If Henry Neal did die in 1801, Pensissily would not have been a widow when she was buried in 1797.⁶

Accordingly, it can be confirmed that Henry was buried in Birdingbury on 28th August 1777 at age 84.

Henry’s birth

If Henry was 84 at burial on 28th August 1777, he would have been born between about 29th August 1692 and 28th August 1693.

Henry was a resident of Long Itchington in 1733 and 1736, as he had two children baptised there in those years, see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley. Given that, and also his subsequent movements as outlined above, Henry was likely born in Long Itchington, Birdingbury, or Napton on the Hill.

Family Search all-records searches⁷ for a baptism of a Henry Neal or Neale in Long Itchington, Birdingbury, or Napton on the Hill between 1680 and 1715 returned no records of interest.⁸

However, the images of Long Itchington’s parish register in the bundle of records from 1653 to 1713 do not have electronic indexes. Accordingly, these were manually examined. Baptisms from 1687 to 1696 are listed on the two pages in image 22, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6LWS-NZH?i=21&wc=X63M-L29%3A42645501%2C1583872502%2C1583871413&cc=1462403>.

Unfortunately, the pages in that image are largely smudged, blurred and water damaged, and the entries mostly unreadable as a result, including much of the 1692 and 1693 entries. However, the first names of the children baptised for those years can be deciphered, and there is no Henry. As to the remaining entries in that image, of which about half are legible, there does not appear to be a Neal entry.

The images either side of image 22, being images 20, 21, 23 and 24, were also manually examined. The pages in them cover baptisms from 1680 to 1708, and are reasonably legible, except for a handful of entries in 1683. They also had no Neal/Neale entries.

⁵ See <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/ley>.

⁶ One alternative is that the conclusion in the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley that the 1797 burial record relates to her is incorrect. That is most unlikely given that that brief notes that there was no other viable candidate found. Unfortunately, the burial record refers to the “Widow Neal”, and does not give her first name – that would have put the matter beyond all doubt.

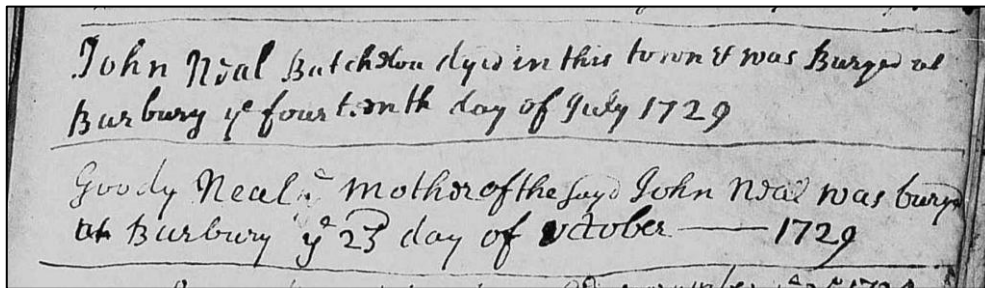
⁷ See, for example,

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1680&q.anyDate.to=1715&q.anyPlace=Long%20Itchington&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Henry&q.surname=Neale>. Or, for more general results, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1680&q.anyPlace=Birdingbury&q.givenName=Henry&q.surname=Neal>.

⁸ There was a Henry Neale baptised on 1st March 1681 to Henry and Ann Neale in Wormleighton, 7½ miles south-south-east of Long Itchington, and 5 miles south-south-west of Napton on the Hill. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NG6X-D38>. He would be in his early 70s when Pensissily had her last child Edward in 1753 (see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley), and about 96 at death in 1777. Apart from the weaker locational nexus, such ages at such life events are unlikely. The clincher is that at the time Henry married Pensissily on 25th May 1733, he was said to be aged 40, see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley, but the Henry Neale baptised on 1st March 1681 would have been 52.

Unfortunately, for the most likely parish, being Birdingbury, the parish register images only start at 1729, see <https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index?owc=X6SB-MNL%3A42645501%2C1583871015%3Fcc%3D1462403>.

However, in a manual examination of Marton's images from 1722 to 1749 previously conducted (see the brief relating to Elizabeth Neal nee Wright), it was noted that that parish was also recording Birdingbury burials, specifically, in the same image there was a record of a John Neal, "Batchelor", buried in "Burbury" on 14th July 1729 (both Burbury and Birbury were used at the time as shorthand for Birdingbury⁹), and a record of a Goody Neal (said to be John's mother), buried in "Burbury" on 23rd October 1729, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VTQ?i=18&cc=1462403&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVH6B-W1G>, image 19 of 51.



Accordingly, the Marton images for 1692 to 1693 were manually examined for any baptism of a Henry Neal, but none was located. (There is a gap from 1671 to 1697 in the 1660-1812 images set, see image 8 of 51,¹⁰ so the search referred to was of the 1559-1728 images set, images 11 and 12 of 14).¹¹

The search was therefore widened to 1670 to 1720. Both Marton images sets were manually examined (images 4 to 17 of the 1660-1812 images set, and images 10 to 14 of the 1559-1728 images set, although images 8-9 with pre-1670 entries were also examined). The parish register pages for this period are in poor condition. Records (or perhaps images of records) were out of order, some were in Latin, some were repeated, records were not chronological, there were lists of family births (likely indicating that previous records had been lost or destroyed, and were being reconstructed), many records were obscure, and one page was almost totally obscured, see image 3 of 51 in the 1660-1812 images set.

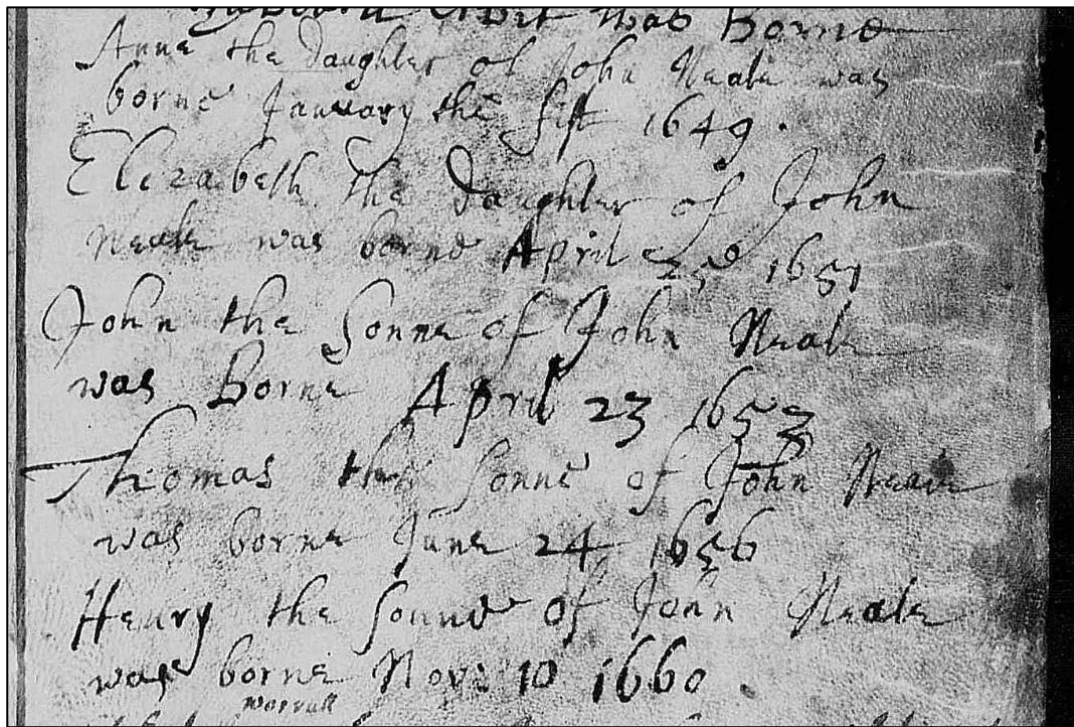
One of the lists of family births comprised of a series of Neales born to John Neale between 1649 and 1660, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VRR?i=8&wc=XDBM-VZ9%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869327&cc=1462403>, image 9 of 14.¹²

⁹ For verification of this fact regarding "Burbury", see four such entries from the 1720s in image 17 of Marton's 1660-1812 images set at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VHY?i=16&wc=X6Q7-6TL%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869325&cc=1462403> (including one written as "Burb."), as well as the 1758 Thompson-Fairfax marriage at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VPD?i=2&cc=1462403&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVH6B-8DW>. For "Birbury", see the burial record of Thomas Neal on 6th August 1828 at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JZBS-62X>.

¹⁰ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VL6?i=7&cc=1462403>.

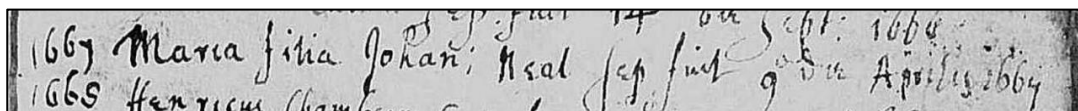
¹¹ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VTZ?i=10&wc=XDBM-VZ9%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869327&cc=1462403>.

¹² Could Goody Neal, the mother of John Neal, see above, be this John Neale's wife? Goody's son John predeceased her in 1729 by about three months, see above, and this John Neale baptised a John in 1653, see the list below, and who would be about 76 if still alive in 1729. If John Neale's wife was at least about 20 when he baptised the first child in the list, Anne, in 1649, she was born no later than about 1629, and that would make her at least 100 in 1729. It seems possible, even if unlikely.

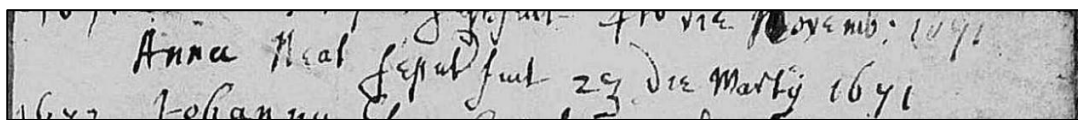


The above Henry Neale born 10th November 1660¹³ is obviously not the Henry who baptised William on 9th September 1740 (otherwise he would be aged 79 at that baptism, and 93 at the baptism of his last child Edward on 11th November 1753, see the brief relating to William Neal). However, it might possibly be his father.

The above list is followed by a list of Worralls born from 1643 to 1657, so this page of the register documents births well after the fact. The next image, image 10 of 14, is in chronological order, starting in 1661, but it and subsequent images are in Latin, which makes the reading of them a difficult exercise. The image has a record of a Mary Neal baptised to John Neal on 15th January 1665.¹⁴ It also shows her buried on 9th April 1667: "Maria filia Johan; Neal sep fuit¹⁵ 9th die Aprilis 1667".¹⁶



The image also lists Ann Neal as buried on 23rd March 1671.¹⁷



¹³ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-Z66>.

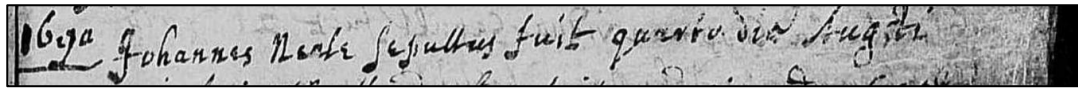
¹⁴ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-DZP7-VNB?i=9&wc=XDBM-VZ9%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869327&cc=1462403>.

¹⁵ "Sepulta fuit" being the Latin feminine case for "was buried".

¹⁶ Curiously, this record is also repeated on the right hand page in image 13 of 14.

¹⁷ Assuming "Anna" is Latin for "Ann", rather than her English name. As with Mary, this record is repeated on the right hand page in image 13 of 14.

A John Neale was buried 4th August 1690 ("quarto die Augusti"), see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VTZ?i=10&wc=XDBM-VZ9%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869327&cc=1462403>, image 11 of 14.¹⁸



That 1690 record is the last Neal/Neale record in the Marton images manually searched through to 1720, indicating that there were few Neals/Neales in and around Marton in that time period.¹⁹

Napton records were also manually examined from 1670 to 1720 (images 42 to 53 of the 1604-1680 bundle, images 2 to 30 of the 1680-1730 bundle), although they are electronically indexed.²⁰ The only Neal/Neale records were –

1. A Matthew Neale baptised to a Matthew and Elizabeth Neale on 13th June 1683. (The father's abode is given but it is indecipherable).
2. An Easter Neale baptised to Thomas Neale in March 1686, see image 10. (The wife's name is written but illegible. Indeed, the whole entry, at the bottom of the middle column on the left hand page, is barely decipherable).
3. A Thomas Neile baptised to William and Millicent Neile on 23rd February 1692, see image 17.

Another Neal record located was an 1851 census record of a Thomas Neal, aged 68, and said to be born in Frankton, but living in Marton with his daughter Ellen, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SGB5-D3L>. Frankton is 1½ miles east of Marton. Accordingly, there were likely Neals in Frankton in the late 18th century. Albeit that was later than the time frame currently under review, the Frankton images from 1670 to 1720 (images 22 to 25 of the 1559-1689 bundle and images 1 to 9 of the 1699-1812 bundle)²¹ were also manually examined. No Neal/Neale records were encountered.

Accordingly, Henry Neal's baptism record was not located, despite the comprehensive Family Search database searches listed above, and the extensive review of relevant parish register images outlined above. Thus it cannot be confirmed where he was born or baptised. He was probably baptised in Birdingbury, but images of its records before 1729 are not available.

Accordingly, Henry's date and place of birth or baptism are unknown, as is his parentage.

However, given he married on 25th May 1733 at age 40, see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley, and given he died on 28th August 1777 at age 84, see above, it can be said with reasonable certainty that he was born about 1693.

¹⁸ See also <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-C3Q>. Note that a Family Search family tree says he was born 1622 in Birdingbury, and married an Anna Cromwell in about 1648. Also that Anna lived from 1617 to 1651, although John had further children thereafter (links suggest Anna may have died in childbirth with Elizabeth in 1651). See <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/MN5F-GRK>. In any event, given the burial record, this John Neale was no longer alive when Henry was baptised in about 1693, so this John Neale, even if born in Birdingbury, is unconnected to, or at least not a first-degree relative of, William Neal or his father Henry. It has been observed that these family trees built by third parties in Family Search are often inaccurate.

¹⁹ The records for 1720 to 1750 were also manually examined, and there were only four Neal records. John Neal and his mother Goody Neal were both buried in 1729, see above. Sarah Neal, daughter of Thomas and his wife of "the parish of Ethrop" (Eathorpe, 1 mile west of Marton, for which there are no parish records), was baptised on 6th July 1735, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VZR?i=19&wc=X6Q7-6TL%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869325&cc=1462403>, image 20 of 51. The wife of Thomas Neal was buried on 31st March 1740, image 21 of 51 (query if the month is March).

²⁰ Except for image 27 of 43 of the 1680-1730 bundle. It is somewhat difficult to read, and a handful of entries are indecipherable, but otherwise it has no Neal/Neale entry.

²¹ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-MQ5?wc=X6WK-L29%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866135&cc=1462403> and <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-MBP?wc=XDDS-GP8%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866137&cc=1462403>.

Henry's marriage

Henry married Pensissily Hobley at St Michael's Church, Coventry on 25th May 1733.

See the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley for verification of those details.