

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Mary Wilkins nee Neal

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Mary Wilkins nee Neal.

Those details are –

Baptised in Marton on 24th September 1771.

Baptised to William and Elizabeth Neale (later known as Neal).

Married on 17th July 1794 at Frankton, Warwickshire to William Wilkins.

Buried on 4th June 1845 at Marton, Warwickshire.

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

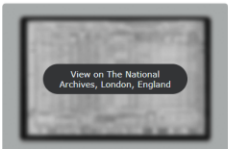
Mary's death

It is demonstrated in the brief relating to Mary Wilkins that the following is the 1841 census record for her household, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MQB1-9CV>.¹

Mary Wilkins

Census • England and Wales Census, 1841

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Document Information

Collection Information

England and Wales Census, 1841

Cite This Record

"England and Wales Census, 1841," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MQB1-9CV : 24 May 2019), Mary Wilkins in household of William Wilkins, Marton, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom; from "1841 England, Scotland and Wales census," database and images, findmypast (http://www.findmypast.com : n.d.); citing PRO HO 107, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey.

[Copy Citation](#)

Name Mary Wilkins

Sex Female

Age 45

Event Date 1841

Event Place Marton, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom

Event Place Marton, Warwickshire, England

Registration District Rugby

Event Type Census

Residence Note Marton

Birth Year (Estimated) 1792-1796

Birthplace Warwickshire

Page Number 2

Piece/Folio 1138/4

Registration Number HO107

Family Tree

[ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE](#)

Similar Records

No similar records were found.

Other People on This Record

[OPEN ALL](#)

William Wilkins	M	75	Warwickshire	▼
Mary Wilkins	F	74	Warwickshire	▼
Sarah Wilkins	F	15	Warwickshire	▼
Susan Mary Wilkins	F	11	Warwickshire	▼
Alfred Burbidge	M	9	Warwickshire	▼
Thomas Burbidge	M	6	Warwickshire	▼
Elizabeth Archer	F	30	Warwickshire	▼
Joseph Archer	M	0	Warwickshire	▼

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

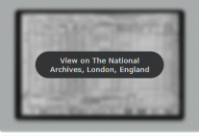
It is also demonstrated in the brief relating to Mary Wilkins that the second, older Mary Wilkins listed in the census record is her mother, and living with her. Mary (the mother) is said to be aged 74 in 1841.

It is also demonstrated in the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins that, by the time of the 1851 census, Mary Wilkins (the daughter) and also her own daughter Susan Mary Wilkins were living with John and Sarah Walker, but Mary's mother Mary was no longer still living with her, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SGZ2-12G>.

Mary Wilkins

Census • England and Wales Census, 1851

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Document Information

Collection Information
England and Wales Census, 1851

Cite This Record
"England and Wales Census, 1851," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SGZ2-12G : 8 November 2019), Mary Wilkins in household of John Walker, Marton, Warwickshire, England; citing Marton, Warwickshire, England, p. 8, from "1851 England, Scotland and Wales census," database and images, findmypast (http://www.findmypast.com : n.d.); citing PRO HO 107, The National Archives of the UK, Kew, Surrey.

Copy Citation

Name Mary Wilkins
Sex Female
Age 54
Event Date 1851
Event Place Marton, Warwickshire, England
Registration District Rugby
Event Type Census
Residence Note Village
Birth Year (Estimated) 1797
Birthplace Frankton, Warwickshire
Marital Status Unmarried
Occupation Laundress
Page Number 8
Piece/Folio 2070 / 314
Registration Number HO107

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

Other People on This Record OPEN ALL

John Walker	M	34	Marton, Warwickshire
Sarah Walker	F	28	Marton, Warwickshire
Mary Walker	F	8	Marton, Warwickshire
Alfred Walker	M	6	Marton, Warwickshire
Charlotte Walker	F	2	Marton, Warwickshire
William Josh Walker	M	0	Marton, Warwickshire
Susan Mary Wilkins	F	21	Marton,
George Woodland	M	22	Woburnsands, Bedfordshire
William Quarry	M	15	Woburnsands, Bedfordshire

Mary Wilkins senior therefore likely died between 1841 and 1851 and, given she had probably lived in Marton for 40 years by 1841,² she probably died in Marton.

A search was carried out in Family Search's Warwickshire parish registers database for the death or burial of a Mary Wilkins in Marton between 1841 and 1851. It returned only one record, as follows, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX56-RP2>.

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Mary Wilkins

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

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Name Mary Wilkins
Age 77y
Death or Burial Date 04 Jun 1845
Death or Burial Place Marton, Warwickshire, England
Death or Burial Place (Original) Marton, Warwickshire, England
Event Type Burial

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

² Her daughters Anna and Elizabeth were baptised there in 1801 and 1805 respectively – see the brief relating to Mary Wilkins. See also Anna's baptism record at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-84B>, and Elizabeth's at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-8JW>.

If Mary was 74 on 6th June 1841, when the 1841 census was taken,³ then almost exactly 4 years later, on 4th June 1845, she would likely be 78. Accordingly, allowing for inaccuracies as to age of the time,⁴ the age at burial in the above record, namely 77, correlates.

An image of the original parish record is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-DRY3-NRS?i=20&wc=X6M6-DP8%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583867712&cc=1462403>, image 21 of 35.

Page 26				
BURIALS in the Parish of Marton in the County of Lancashire				
Name	Place	When buried	Age	Buried by
Anna Fild	Marton	Feb 3 18	2nd week	A. A. Curate
James Ford	Country	Jan 28 19	1st week	A. A. Curate
Elizabeth Thompson	Marton	Feb 17 24	1st week	A. A. Curate
Debra Marton	Marton	Aug 16 14	1st week	A. A. Curate
Ann Gorman	Marton	Aug 26 14	1st week	A. A. Curate
Mary Wilkins	Marton	June 4 77	1st week	A. A. Curate
Elizabeth Holden	Marton	June 16 14	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Perry	Marton	Feb 10 25	1st week	A. A. Curate

Page 27				
BURIALS in the Parish of Marton in the County of Lancashire				
Name	Place	When buried	Age	Buried by
Ann Ramsay	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
Joseph Walker	Marton	Feb 18 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
Robert Taylor	Marton	Feb 18 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
Ann Ramsay	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
William Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate
John Gledhill	Marton	April 21 18	1st week	A. A. Curate

This is a close-up of the relevant entry (the date is in the column marked “when buried”).

No. 269.				
Mary Wilkins	Marton	June 4 77	J. Anderton	A. A. Curate

Given the age at death inaccuracy referred to above (one year out), a FreeBMD search was conducted, and only one Mary Wilkins died between 1841 and 1851 in Rugby district (which encompasses Marton, Frankton and Dunchurch) as follows.

³ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1841_United_Kingdom_census.

⁴ Inaccuracies as to age could result from lost, incorrect, incomplete or illegible baptism or birth records, no birth record being kept or birth date committed to memory for a child baptised well after birth, persons not accessing available records to ascertain their exact date of birth due to illiteracy or having moved away or for other reasons and consequently arbitrarily choosing one, and persons lying about or deliberately embellishing their age (in either direction) for a range of reasons.

FreeBMD

New Query

Save Search

Revise Query

Download

Key

	B	M	D
Change of shade means entries are not contiguous			

An entry in **Bold** means it has been confirmed by double keying

A district in *italic* means it is suspect (click on it for details)

Scan

Comment

Postcard

New entry

System Entry

System Link

Type: Deaths Surname: Wilkins First name(s): Mary

Search for Start date: Mar 1841 End date: Dec 1851 District: Rugby County: Warwickshire

Whilst FreeBMD makes every effort to ensure accurate transcription, errors exist in both the original index and the transcription. You are advised to verify the reference given from a transcription was made in order to verify the reference. Click on the symbol to view the scan.

If you are SURE that our transcription(s) below differs from the GRO index, you can submit a correction request by clicking on the Info button to the right of the entry in question.

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
Deaths Jun 1845 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Rugby	16	324 Info

This, obviously, can only be the above Marton burial of 4th June 1845.

The FreeBMD search was then expanded for any Mary Wilkins dying anywhere in Warwickshire between 1841 and 1851, and it returned 18 deaths, as follows.

Surname	First name(s)	Age	District	Vol	Page
Deaths Jun 1841 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary Ann		Birmingham	16	235 Info
Deaths Dec 1841 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Banbury	16	12 Info
Deaths Jun 1845 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Shipston on S	11	281 Info
WILKINS	Mary		Rugby	16	324 Info
WILKINS	Mary		Birmingham	16	188 Info
Deaths Sep 1845 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Stratford	16	282 Info
Deaths Dec 1845 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary Ann		Banbury	16	2 Info
Deaths Sep 1846 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary		Tamworth	16	482 Info
Wilkins	Mary Ann		Southam	16	462 Info
Wilkins	Mary Ann		Stratford	16	475 Info
Deaths Mar 1847 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary		Tamworth	16	451 Info
Wilkins	Mary		Tamworth	16	455 Info
Deaths Jun 1847 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary		Coventry	16	332 Info
Deaths Sep 1847 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary		Aston	16	140 Info
Deaths Jun 1848 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary Hannah		Tamworth	16	397 Info
Deaths Sep 1848 (>99%)					
Wilkins	Mary		Banbury	16	5 Info
Deaths Mar 1850 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Southam	16	366 Info
Deaths Mar 1851 (>99%)					
WILKINS	Mary		Stratford on A	16	427 Info

Four of the persons were named “Mary Ann Wilkins” and one was named “Mary Hannah Wilkins”. Mary was baptised without a middle name, see below, and no record seen relating to her evidenced that she had ever

adopted a middle name. (See, for example her marriage record below, and in which she herself signed her name). Accordingly, these five records may be disregarded.

However, Rugby District is adjacent to the boundaries of two adjoining districts of Warwickshire, namely Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon.⁵ The above FreeBMD search returned no deaths between 1841 and 1851 in Warwick, but two further deaths in the Stratford-on-Avon district, the first in the September 1845 quarter, and the second in the March 1851 quarter (and noted under the “Info” link as aged 74 and buried in Eatington parish on 9th February 1851).⁶

The burial in the September 1845 quarter was located in Family Search’s England Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991 database, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JHR1-D6E>,⁷ which record indicated the burial was on 29th July 1845 in Wooten Wawen parish. The burial record was located in the images of Wooton Waven’s parish burial register, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6SMQ-8MB?i=69&wc=XD2J-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583877202%2C1583877201&cc=1462403>, image 70 of 104, which record notes the age of the Mary Wilkins in question simply as “infant”, thus ruling her out as Mary Wilkins’ mother Mary.

The burial in the March 1851 quarter was located in the images of Eatington’s parish burial register at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-68X3-WN1?i=32&wc=XDPQ-MNL%3A42645501%2C1583868402%2C1583868406&cc=1462403>, image 33 of 54, which confirmed she was aged 74 at burial on 9th February 1851. The ten year difference between her age and Mary Wilkins’ mother Mary, who was 74 at the time of the 1841 census ten years earlier, rules her out.

Marton is also adjacent to the civil parish of Southam,⁸ where another Mary Wilkins died in the March 1850 quarter, see above. The burial was located in the images of Southam’s parish burial register at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DY39-SNB?i=67&wc=XD5H-6TL%3A42645501%2C1583874309%2C1583870020&cc=1462403>, image 68 of 104, which confirmed she was aged 72 at burial on 18th January 1850. That would make her about 63 on 6th June 1841, when the 1841 census was taken, and when Mary Wilkins’ mother Mary was 74, thus ruling her out. (Her abode is also specified in the burial record as Southam).

That rules out all other Mary Wilkins recorded as dying anywhere in Warwickshire between 1841 and 1851.

Accordingly, Mary Wilkins was buried in Marton on 4th June 1845.

Mary’s marriage

Mary married William Wilkins in Frankton, Warwickshire on 17th July 1794.

See the brief relating to William Wilkins for verification of that fact.

Mary’s birth and parentage

If Mary was 74 on 6th June 1841, when the 1841 census was taken,⁹ then she was born between 7th June 1766 and 6th June 1767.

If Mary was 77 when buried on 4th June 1845, then she was born between 5th June 1767 and 4th June 1768.

⁵ See the district map at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warwickshire>.

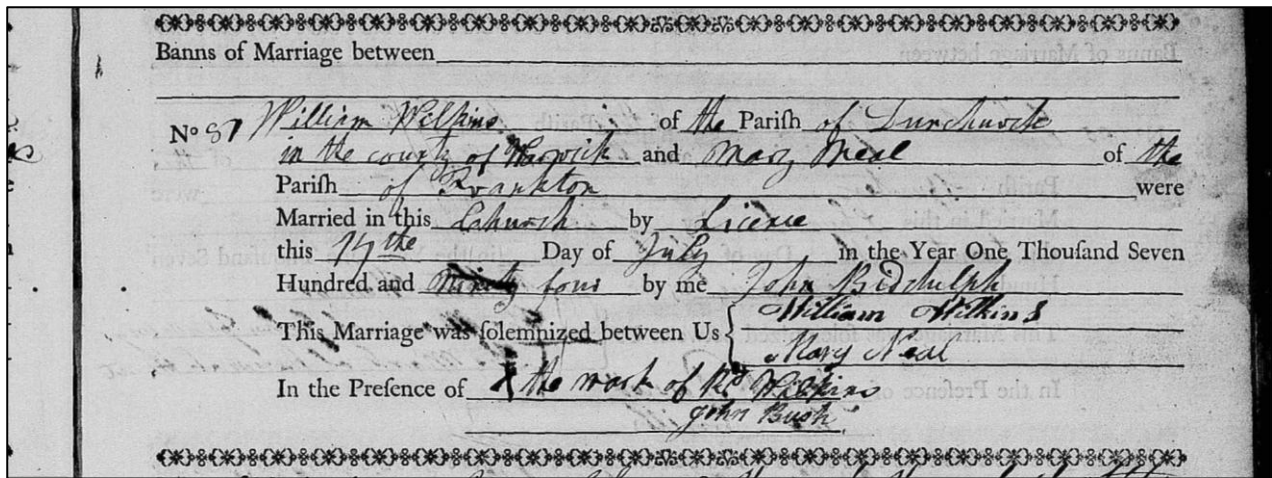
⁶ It will be noted from the FreeBMD search that there also was a “Mary Ann Wilkins” buried in Stratford-on-Avon in the September 1846 quarter. However, in addition to having a middle name, which Mary was not christened with, the FreeBMD record has a note that this Mary was aged 9 weeks at burial on 13th September 1846 in Clifford Chambers parish. St Helen’s Church at Clifford Chambers is 2 miles south of Stratford.

⁷ The record refers to the district of Warwick, but in fact Wooton Waven is in the district of Stratford-on-Avon. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wooton_Waven.

⁸ See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southam>. Southam the town is 4½ miles south of Marton.

⁹ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1841_United_Kingdom_census.

The Frankton parish record of Mary's marriage, as verified in the brief relating to William Wilkins, says she is from Frankton, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-7DW?i=11&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVH6R-2NM>, image 12 of 18.



Notably, Mary's surname is recorded as "Neal", and she signed her name as such.

A search was carried out in Family Search's Warwickshire parish registers database for the baptism of a Mary Neal in Frankton between 1755 and 1780. It returned no record, as was also the case for the like searches for a baptism in Dunchurch and also Marton.

However, as is noted in the brief relating to William Wilkins, a "marriage license" event is recorded for William and Mary in the Family Search database for Staffordshire Church Records, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLQB-XFX7>.

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William Wilkins
Vital • England, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944

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Document Information

Collection Information
England, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944

Cite This Record
"England, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLQB-XFX7 : 8 July 2020), William Wilkins and Mary Neale, 1794; citing Marriage License, Frankton, Warwickshire, England, Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944.

William Wilkins
Age 21
Residence Place Dunchurch, Warwick
Birth Date 1773
Marital Status Unknown
Spouse's Name Mary Neale
Spouse's Age 21
Spouse's Residence Place Frankton, Warwick
Spouse's Birth Date 1773
Spouse's Marital Status Single
Marriage Date 16 Jul 1794
Marriage License Date 1794
Marriage License Place Frankton, Warwickshire, England
Event Type Marriage License
Affiliate Film Number GBPRS/STAFF/MARRLICENCE/125829/1

Possible Family Tree Match
William Wilkins
Deceased • MVG1-928
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE
DISMISS MATCH

Similar Records
William Wilkins
England, Staffordshire, Church Records, 1538-1944
William Wilkins
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963
William Wilkins
England Marriages, 1538-1973
Attached To:
William Wilkins
Deceased • MVG1-928

William Wilkins's Spouses and Children OPEN ALL

Name	Relationship	Age
Mary Neale	Spouse	21

It is clear this record relates to William and Mary because the place of the event is listed as “Frankton, Warwickshire”, and the date of the event is listed as 16th July 1794, the day before the marriage as verified in the brief relating to William Wilkins.¹⁰

Mary’s surname is spelt “Neale” in the Staffordshire record. Accordingly, a search was carried out in Family Search’s Warwickshire parish registers database for the baptism of a Mary “Neale” in Frankton between 1755 and 1780. It also returned no record, as did the like search for a baptism in Dunchurch. But the like search for a baptism in Marton returned a single record, as follows, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-CRJ>.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch record for Mary Neale. The record is titled "Mary Neale" and is from the "Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963" collection. The record details are as follows:

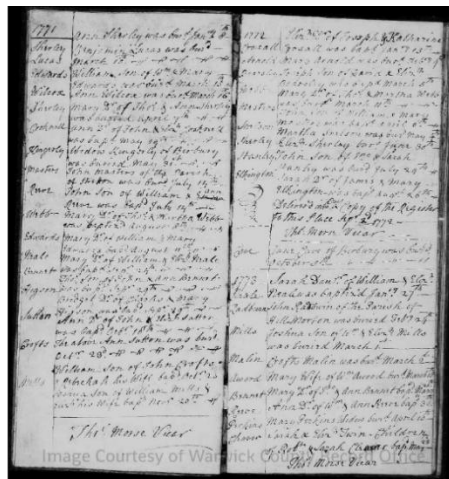
Name	Mary Neale
Sex	Female
Christening Date	24 Sep 1771
Christening Place	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Christening Place (Original)	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Father's Name	William Neale
Father's Sex	Male
Mother's Name	Elizh
Mother's Sex	Female
Event Type	Christening

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

William Neale	Father	M
Elizh	Mother	F

There is also a "Possible Family Tree Match" section showing a match with Mary Neale (1771-Deceased) from the MH1H-RF3 collection. A "VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" button is available below the record details.

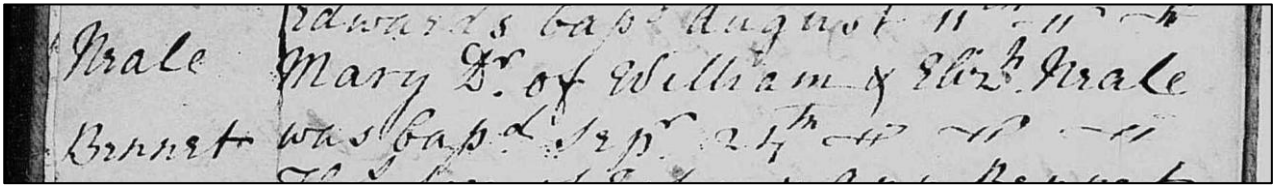
The parish register image hyperlinked in the above Family Search record is as follows, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-VB2?i=32&cc=1462403&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVH6B-CRJ>, image 33 of 51.



¹⁰ The Staffordshire record says both William and Mary are aged 21 and born in 1773. (The 1773 reference is no doubt simply an automatic calculation either by the record keeper or the Family Search software taking the age given from the year of the event). Given William was baptised on 9th February 1766, see the brief relating to him, he was actually 28, and Mary was almost 23, having been baptised, as is concluded below, on 24th September 1771. It seems likely that the age references are simply recording that they were both at least 21, and hence did not need parental consent to obtain the licence, see <https://www.regencyhistory.net/2018/10/banns-licences-and-hardwicks-marriage.html>. See also <https://www.york.ac.uk/media/borthwick/documents/5marriagebonds.pdf>: “The ages given on marriage bonds and allegations should be treated with caution. If a person is said to be 23 then it is likely that he was actually (to the best of his or her knowledge) 23. If the bond or allegation states that he is 21 or above then this is only stating that the person had reached the age of majority. It is possible that he was 21, equally that he was 51.”

This is a close-up of the relevant record in the parish register, which reads –

Neale Mary D^r. of William & Eliz^h. Neale was bap^d. Sep^r. 24th



Being the only candidate in the Marton-Frankton-Dunchurch area, this seems highly likely to be the Mary Neal that married William Wilkins of Dunchurch in the Frankton church, although by the time of that marriage in 1794 she is “of the parish of Frankton”.

(Frankton is 1½ miles north-east of Marton, and Dunchurch is 4 miles east-north-east of Frankton).

However, there are two discrepancies, firstly the different spelling of the surname at baptism from that at marriage, and secondly the fact that the baptism date is more than 3-5 years later than the range of dates suggested for it by her age as given in the 1841 census and in her burial record (that range being June 1766 to June 1768).

The name discrepancy

In addition to the above Mary baptised on 24th September 1771, William and Elizabeth Neale also baptised eight other children in Marton, namely William (on 18th January 1767), Elizabeth (on 3rd February 1768), Thomas (on 21st June 1769), Ann (on 19th August 1770) and Sarah (on 27th January 1773).¹¹

Also, Penthessaly (on 2nd December 1775), Frances (on 27th September 1777) and Katherine¹² (on 5th July 1779), but in these later three records the parents’ surname is recorded as “Neal”.¹³

The repeated Marton location, and the time gaps between the children’s baptisms, substantiate that all these children were born to the same parents.

It seems that William and Elizabeth (or the Marton parish record keeper or keepers concerned) dropped the “e” from “Neale” in about 1774. This name variation from when the above Mary was aged about 3 accounts for the different spelling of her surname at her baptism from that at her marriage.

The reversion to “Neale” in the 16th July 1794 marriage licence might be explained if a copy of her birth record was required to verify she was 21 in order to obtain the licence. In any event, and notably, the marriage register was signed “Neal” by Mary the very next day.

The conclusion is that the difference in name spelling is of no moment, and does not rule out that the Mary Neale in the baptism record is the same person as the Mary Neal in the marriage record.

The age discrepancy

As noted, the baptism date of the Mary baptised in September 1771 is more than 3-5 years later than the range of baptism dates suggested by her age given in the 1841 census and her age given in her burial record (although it may also be noted that there is a one year discrepancy between those two ages, see above).

¹¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1767&q.anyDate.to=1773&q.anyPlace=Marton&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Neale&q.surname.exact=on>.

¹² Spelt “Kathrn” in the parish register, but somewhat obscurely, and incorrectly transcribed by the Family Search scanning software as “Kattern”.

¹³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1773&q.anyDate.to=1790&q.anyPlace=Marton&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Neal&q.surname.exact=on>.

As noted above, embellishment of age in either direction was common at the time for various reasons, and the likelihood of correction (or the risk of detection) was low due to the quality of, and the ability to access or to read, baptism records. If the Mary baptised on 24th September 1771 was married to William, she may simply have preferred to be known as one year younger than him, rather than the 5½ years younger that she actually was (William was baptised on 9th February 1766, see the brief relating to him).

However, a search was conducted in the Family Search Warwickshire parish registers database for other viable candidates for the Mary Neal in the marriage record. It returned five other Mary Neals baptised in Warwickshire from 1755 to 1780, but no other Mary Neales. The five baptisms were in Gaydon and Chadshunt (on 21st September 1757), Birmingham (on 13th May 1771), Bulkington (on 1st May 1772),¹⁴ and Nuneaton (on 12th April 1772, with another on 28th February 1779), see <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1755&q.birthLikeDate.to=1780&q.birthLikePlace=Warwickshire&q.birthLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Mary&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Neal&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1462403>.

It is to be noted that all the candidates except the Birmingham candidate actually had a greater age discrepancy than the 1771 Marton Mary. That is, their dates of baptism were remoter than hers from the period June 1766 to June 1768, being the range of baptism dates suggested by the ages of Mary given in the 1841 census and at burial. And the baptism date of the Birmingham candidate was only four months closer to that date range than the 1771 Marton Mary.

The issue of an age subsequently given not matching the baptism date of the obvious candidate falls away if there is no alternative candidate whose baptism date is a match, or is at least a significantly closer match than the baptism date of the obvious candidate. Then the strong likelihood becomes that the age subsequently given has been mis-stated.

The other thing to note is that the baptism places of the five other Mary Neals are all more than 10 miles (in a direct line) from Frankton. That is, none of them have a locational nexus which warrants more closer examination as to their candidacy.¹⁵

Given those facts, the conclusion must be that the obvious candidate is the correct one.

Accordingly, Mary was baptised in Marton on 24th September 1771 to parents William and Elizabeth Neale.

¹⁴ No specific day or month has been transcribed from the Bulkington parish register by the Family Search scanning software, as that data is indecipherable, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXLG-FLZ>, and the register image hyperlinked there. However, the English births and christenings database has the baptism date for her (the parents match the parish register, despite the spelling of "Neale"), see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J3WY-GX5>.

¹⁵ Other factors tend to rule out three of the five other Mary Neals in any event. The 1757 Mary is too old, and the 1779 Mary is too young. As for the Birmingham Mary, it seems unlikely that she was born in a big city (by the 1770s, Birmingham had over 42,000 people, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Birmingham#Historic_population), and then spent all her adult life in the country areas of Marton and Frankton. The Industrial Revolution in late 18th Century England caused "massive" migration from country areas to cities, not the reverse, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_city.