

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Mary Wilkins

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

Those details are –

Baptised on 19th October 1794 at Frankton, Warwickshire.

Baptised to parents William and Mary Wilkins.

Never married.

Buried on 3rd July 1865 at Marton.

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

Mary's birth and parentage

In the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins, it is demonstrated that Sarah's mother was Mary Wilkins.

That brief also details that Mary's age was given as 54 in the 1851 census,¹ taken on 30th March that year,² and as 66 in the 1861 census,³ taken on 7th April that year.⁴

That indicates that Mary was born about 1795-1797.

Both censuses also record her birthplace as Frankton, Warwickshire. Frankton is 1½ miles north-east of Marton.

Since no fathers were named in the baptism records for her daughters Sarah and Susan Mary (see the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins), indicating that Mary was unmarried at the times of their baptisms in 1822 and 1829 respectively, Mary's birth name is almost certainly Wilkins.

The Frankton parish records of baptisms from 1699 to 1812 are available through Family Search as a set of images.⁵

Given that Mary was likely born about 1795-1797, the Frankton baptism images for that period were manually searched, but Mary was not located. However, a search either side of those years located a record for a Mary Wilkins baptised in Frankton on 19th October 1794 to William Wilkins. See

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-9CK?i=27&wc=XDDS-GP8%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866137&cc=1462403>, image 28 of 58.

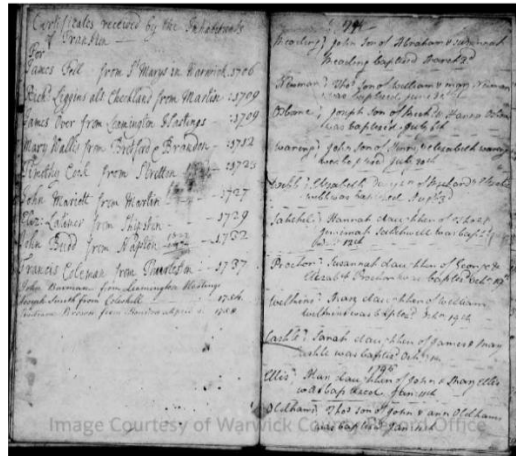
¹ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SGZ2-12G>. URLs of Family Search records linked herein include "61903", presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

² See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1851_United_Kingdom_census.

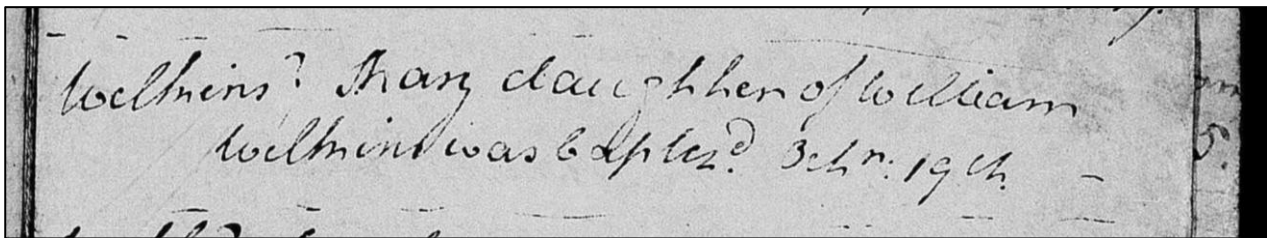
³ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M7G3-N6Q>.

⁴ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1861_United_Kingdom_census.

⁵ See <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-MBP?cc=1462403&wc=XDDS-GP8%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866137>.



This is a close up of the relevant entry, which reads “Wilkins } Mary daughter of William Wilkins was baptiz^d. Oct^r. 19th.”



A manual search of all the images for Frankton baptisms from August 1785 through to August 1809 verified that there was no record of any other Mary Wilkins baptised in Frankton in that period.⁶

Notably, Mary’s mother is not named in the above birth record. However, also located in the manual search was a Sarah Wilkins baptised to William and Mary Wilkins on 3rd January 1798 (image 30), and a William Wilkins baptised to William and Mary Wilkins on 4th September 1799 (same image). No other Wilkins birth was recorded in the images for Frankton baptisms from August 1785 through to August 1809.⁷

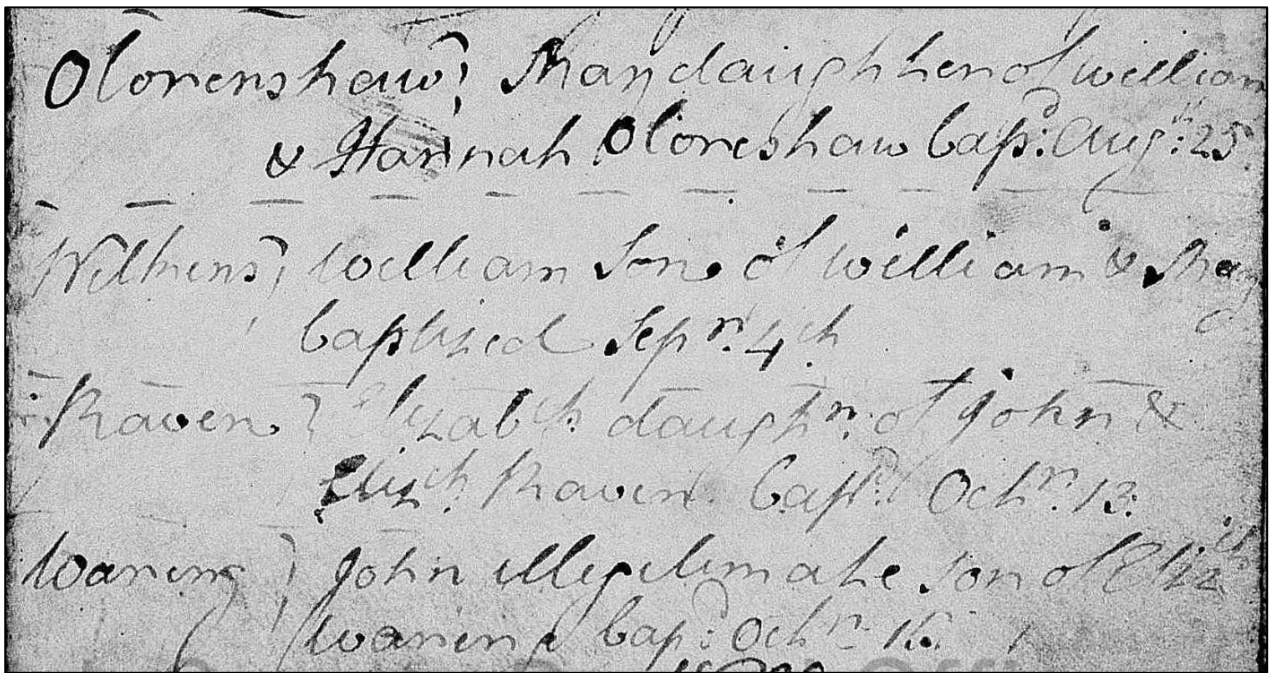
(The Family Search scanner⁸ has transcribed the surname of William baptised in 1799 as “Wilkins”, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6R-D3K>. However, it is plain on examination of the parish record that the “e” is in fact an “i”, especially given how “e” is written in names and words in adjacent entries, namely, “Olorenshaw”, “daughter”, “baptized”, “Raven” and “illegitimate”.

This is a close-up of the baptism entry in the parish register, and its adjacent entries.

⁶ Baptisms in this time period are registered on images 25-27 (August 1785 to January 1794), images 28-31 (March 1794 to September 1802), image 32 (January to October 1803) and images 45-46 (September 1803 to August 1809).

⁷ Note that from 1801 there were further children (Anna and Elizabeth) born to William and Mary Wilkins in Marton, as detailed below.

⁸ Family Search says their database has been created by digitizing their microfilm collections using scanners. See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/familysearch-microfilm-collection-digitized>.



Unhelpfully, the curate only occasionally dots an "i").⁹

There is a strong likelihood that Mary, Sarah and William are siblings, given the correlation of the father's name, the time differential between baptisms (19th October 1794, 3rd January 1798 and 4th September 1799), and the fact there were no other baptisms to a "Wilkins" in Frankton from 1785 to 1809.

The upshot being that Mary's mother's name was also Mary.

That Mary's mother was "Mary" Wilkins is verified by a census record which demonstrates they were both present in the same house in 1841.

A Family Search search of its England and Wales 1841 census database for a Mary Wilkins in Marton returned the following record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MQB1-9CV>.

⁹ In its separate English Births and Christenings database, Family Search records young William's surname as Wilkins, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JMFH-6J6>.

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

Other People on This Record

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	▼

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Family Tree
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Similar Records
 No similar records were found.

Given the presence in the household of persons named Mary Wilkins (said to be aged 45), Sarah Wilkins and Susan Mary Wilkins, and given also the presence of William Wilkins, proven by Mary's baptism record to be the first name of her father, and said to be aged 75, this census record is obviously for Mary Wilkins, the mother of Sarah Walker.

The matter is put beyond doubt when considering the respective ages of Mary, Sarah and Susan Mary named in the census record (45, 15 and 11 respectively), which correlate to ages that are verifiable through other sources for Mary Wilkins, the mother of Sarah Walker, and her two daughters.¹⁰

The household includes another senior apart from William Wilkins, namely another Mary Wilkins, said to be aged 74. Although the record does not detail relationships,¹¹ the obvious inference is that she is William's wife, given her age, and thus also Mary's mother.

Accordingly, Mary Wilkins was baptised in Frankton, Warwickshire on 19th October 1794 to William and Mary Wilkins.

Mary's death

Mary Wilkins was still alive in 1861.

This is demonstrated by that year's census, which includes the following record.¹²

¹⁰ The 1841 census was taken on 6th June that year, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1841_United_Kingdom_census. Being baptised on 19th October 1794, and likely born shortly before that date, Mary's age would have been 46 on 6th June 1841. Susan Mary Wilkins is Mary's daughter (see the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins). She was baptised on 29th November 1829, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NGB2-2BT>. If born that day or in the preceding months, that would make her 11 on 6th June 1841, the date of the 1841 census. Sarah Wilkins was baptised in Marton on 29th September 1822 (see the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins). If born that day or in the preceding months, that would make her 18 at the date of the 1841 census. Although Sarah's 3 year difference is a discrepancy, it is not sufficient to upset the conclusion that the ages of the three females as listed in the census (45, 11 and 15) correlate. Indeed, the database scanner may well have read an "8" in the census record as a "5".

¹¹ The 1841 census was the first "modern" census conducted in England, see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/how-our-census-works/about-censuses/census-history/census-1801-1901/index.html>. However, it did not take the details of relationships. See the facsimile of the 1841 census form at https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/a/a4/1841_and_1851_Headings_for_the_Census_of_England_and_Wales.pdf.

¹² Provided to S Palyga by David Fry, Chair of the Marton Local History Group, by email dated 28th January 2023.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclésiastical District of					
12	Village	1	Jesse Marples	Head	Mar	24	Ag Lab	Warwickshire Marton			
			Mary Ann Do	Wife	Mar	22		Warwickshire Reading			
			John Do	Son		1		Warwickshire Marton			
13		1	John Hedges	Head	Mar	66	Ag Lab	Do Marton			
14		1	Mary Wilkins	Head	Mar	71		Do Marton			
15		1	Mary Wilkins	Head	Mar	66		Do Marton			
16		1	Edward Gwilt	Head	Mar	30	Ag Lab	Do Marton			
			Mary Do	Wife	Mar	28		Do Marton			
17		1	John Wilkins	Head	Mar	44	Ag Lab	Do Marton			
			Sarah Do	Wife	Mar	32		Do Marton			
			William Do	Son		10		Do Marton			
			Martin Do	Son		6		Do Marton			
			Frank Do	Son		1		Do Marton			
			Mary Wilkins	Widow	Mar	66	Needlewoman	Do Marton			
			Richard M. Do	Widow	Mar	31	Shoemaker	Do Marton			
18		1	Jessie Do	Head	Mar	24	Shepherd	Do Marton			
19		1	Caroline Do	Wife	Mar	26		Do Marton			
20		1	William Do	Son		2		Do Marton			
			William Wilkins	Head	Mar	32	Waggoner	Do Marton			
			Martin Do	Son		44		Do Marton			
			John Do	Son	Mar	20		Do Marton			
			Charles Do	Son	Mar	17		Do Marton			
9	Total of Houses...	8				13					
						13					

Eng.—Sheet D.

The corresponding Family Search record is at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M7G3-ND1>.

See the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins for verification that the Mary Wilkins named in the above record is her mother. Her baptism date and place, as detailed above, also correlate with the fact that she is said to be aged 66,¹³ and born in Frankton, Warwickshire.

A search of Family Search's 1871 census database did not locate the John Walker household,¹⁴ nor did a FreeCEN search.¹⁵

However, by the 1881 census, John Walker had died (see the brief relating to him – he died on 8th June 1879 at Marton), and Sarah Walker was now living in the Marton household of one William Hands (see the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins), but Mary Wilkins was no longer residing with her, see the 1881 census record at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q27N-PVSP>.

¹³ The 1861 census was taken on 7th April that year, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1861_United_Kingdom_census. Being baptised on 19th October 1794, and likely born shortly before that date, Mary's age would have been 66 on 7th April 1861.

¹⁴ See the unsuccessful search at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyPlace=Martin%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England%2C%20United%20Kingdom&q.givenName=John&q.otherGivenName=Sarah&q.otherSurname=Walker&q.surname=Walker&collectionId=1538354>.

¹⁵ Only a fraction of Warwickshire's 1871 census records have so far been added to the FreeCEN database. See https://www.freecen.org.uk/freecen_coverage_graph/pct/WAR/1871.

Sarah Walker

Census • England and Wales Census, 1881

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Document Information

Collection Information
England and Wales Census, 1881

Cite This Record
"England and Wales Census, 1881," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q27N-PVSP : 12 December 2017), Sarah Walker in household of William Hands, Marton, Warwickshire, England; from "1881 England, Scotland and Wales Census," database with images, findmypast (http://www.findmypast.com : n.d.); citing p. 14, Piece/Folio 3081/81, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey; FHL microfilm 101,774,865.

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Name	Sarah Walker
Sex	Female
Age	57
Event Date	1881
Event Place	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Registration District	Rugby
Event Type	Census
Birth Year (Estimated)	1824
Birthplace	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Marital Status	Widow
Occupation	Monthly Nurse
Relationship to Head of Household	Mother
Page Number	14
Piece/Folio	3081/81
Registration Number	RG11

Sarah Walker's Spouses and Children OPEN ALL

William Hands	Son	M	48	Eathorpe Wappenbury, Warwickshire, England	▼
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Other People on This Record OPEN ALL

Charlotte Hands	F	32	Marton, Warwickshire, England	▼
Susan E M Hands	F	6	Marton, Warwickshire, England	▼
Frank Walker	M	21	Marton, Warwickshire, England	▼

Family Tree
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Similar Records
No similar records were found.

A search was carried out in Family Search's Warwickshire parish registers database for the death or burial of Mary Wilkins in Marton between 1861 and 1881. It returned only one record, as follows, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX5X-635>.

Mary Wilkins

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

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Document Information

Collection Information
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963

Name	Mary Wilkins
Age	70y
Death or Burial Date	03 Jul 1865
Death or Burial Place	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Death or Burial Place	Marton, Warwickshire, England
Event Type	Burial

Family Tree
ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE

Similar Records
No similar records were found.

The parish register image hyperlinked in the record, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRY3-FMD?i=29&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXX5X-635>, image 30 of 35, is as follows.

The image shows two pages of a church burial register. The left page is titled 'Page 32' and the right page is titled 'Page 33'. Both pages are headed 'BURIALS in the Parish of Marton in the County of Warwick in the Year 1865'. The entries are organized in columns: Name, Date, Age, and By whom. The entry for Mary Wilkins is on the right page, dated July 3rd, 1865, aged 70, buried by B. Hulbert, Vicar.

This is a close-up of the relevant entry (the date given is the date of burial).

No. 418.					Vicar
Mary Wilkins	Marton	July 3 rd	70	B. Hulbert	Vicar
No. 419.					

Being baptised on 19th October 1794, and likely born shortly before that date, Mary's age would have been 70 on 3rd July 1865.

Accordingly, Mary Wilkins was buried in Marton on 3rd July 1865.

Mary's marriage

As is apparent from the above, Mary retained her birth name at death, and in the 1841 and 1861 censuses. She also retained her birth name in the 1851 census, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SGZ2-12G>.

Mary also retained her birth name in the baptism records of her two daughters Sarah and Susan Mary, whose birth names were also Wilkins, and no fathers are named in the two records (see the brief relating to Sarah Walker nee Wilkins).

The fact that Mary was born a Wilkins, always remained named a Wilkins, and died a Wilkins, tends strongly to confirm that she never married, given the tradition in England of taking the husband's surname upon marriage.¹⁶ Indeed, upon a reading of numerous marriage records and census records, and database extracts of the same, for both Warwickshire and Leicestershire, it was a universal practice in the early to mid-19th Century.

A search of the Family Search Warwickshire parish register database for a Mary Wilkins marrying in Marton returned no record which might possibly be her.¹⁷

¹⁶ "In England and cultures derived from there, there has long been a tradition for a woman to change her surname upon marriage from her birth name to her husband's family name": see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surname>.

¹⁷ See the search result at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?f.collectionId=1462403&q.anyPlace=Marton&q.givenName=Mary&q.surname=Wilkins>.

Mary's birthplace was Frankton (see above). The Frankton parish records of marriages up to 1812 are available through Family Search as a set of images.¹⁸ The records of marriages from 1813 to 1836 are available as another set of images.¹⁹ These were manually searched for any marriage of a Mary Wilkins between 1805 and 1836, with no record found.

The date the family moved to Marton is uncertain, although it appears likely to have occurred by 1801, as a daughter Anna was baptised to William and Mary Wilkins in Marton on 21st December 1801, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-84B>. The Marton parish records of marriages up to 1812 are available through Family Search as a set of images.²⁰ The records of marriages from 1813 to 1835 are available as another set of images.²¹ These were manually searched for any marriage of a Mary Wilkins between 1805 and 1835, with no record found.

Notably, there were records for the marriages in Marton of Anna Wilkins and Elizabeth Wilkins, both of whom are almost certainly Mary's sisters.²² That indicates that Marton would be the most likely venue of marriage if Mary ever did marry.

The evidence of Mary retaining her birth name all through her life is compelling evidence that she never married, and the lack of any marriage record for her in Marton or Frankton supports that conclusion.

Accordingly, Mary Wilkins never married.

¹⁸ See <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-965?cc=1462403&wc=XDD3-829%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866138>. The set is named "Banns 1754-1812", but there is also another set named "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1699-1812", see <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6QW7-MBP?cc=1462403&wc=XDDS-GP8%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866137>. However, the marriage records in this latter set (on images 8-9 and 22-24) end at 1753.

¹⁹ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6XSS-Z65?wc=X64R-T38%3A42645501%2C1583866136%2C1583866204&cc=1462403>.

²⁰ See <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZP7-V5X?cc=1462403&wc=XD5Z-MNL%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583869326>.

²¹ See <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRY3-FBN?cc=1462403&wc=X6M6-829%3A42645501%2C1583867710%2C1583867711>.

²² Anna was baptised to William and Mary Wilkins in Marton on 21st December 1801, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-84B>. Elizabeth was baptised to William and Mary Wilkins in Marton on 29th October 1805, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VH6B-8JW>.