

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Sarah Wilkins nee Smith

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Sarah Wilkins nee Smith.

Those details are –

Birth and baptism dates, and parentage, are undetermined.

Married to John Wilkins on 14th December 1735 at Dunchurch, Warwickshire.

Buried in Dunchurch on 8th April 1781.

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

Sarah's marriage

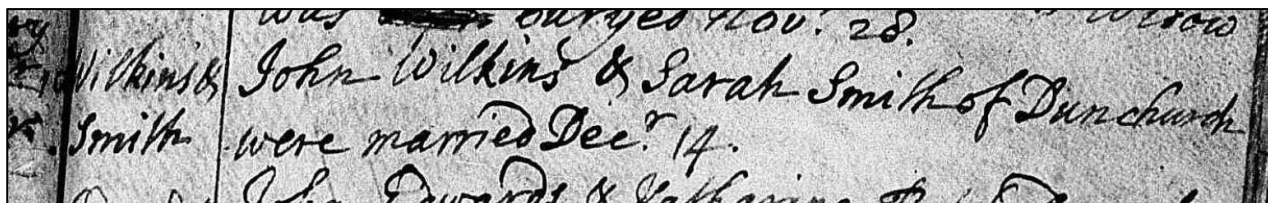
Sarah married John Wilkins in Dunchurch, Warwickshire on 14th December 1735.

See the brief relating to John Wilkins for verification of those details.

An image of the relevant Dunchurch parish record is to be found at

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DZK3-1BF?i=31&cc=1462403&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXC-DM4>,¹ image 32 of 44.

This is a close up of the relevant record.



Sarah's birth

Given that Sarah married in Dunchurch in 1735, and is said in the marriage record to be “Sarah Smith of Dunchurch”, a Family Search all records search was conducted for the baptism of a Sarah Smith in Dunchurch between 1690 and 1720. It produced no results.

A Family Search all records search with the like parameters except that it was limited to baptisms in Warwickshire, produced 123 results,² but none in Dunchurch, or with any apparent connection to Sarah.

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

² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1690&q.birthLikeDate.to=1720&q.givenName=Sarah&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Smith&q.surname.exact=on&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CEngland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CEngland%2CWarwickshire>.

A search in Family Search's "England births and christenings 1538-1975" database, again with the same parameters except limiting the results to those for Warwickshire, produced 52 results,³ but again none relating to Dunchurch, or with any apparent connection to Sarah.

Although they are electronically indexed, and thus presumably the information in those indices is in Family Search's databases, the images of Dunchurch's parish register from 1698 to August 1719⁴ (images 2 to 17) were manually examined,⁵ and it was confirmed that there was no Sarah Smith baptised in Dunchurch during that time.⁶

It was noted however, that there were a considerable number of Smith entries, and many of them recorded that the person concerned was from Thurlaston,⁷ which is a village less than a mile west of Dunchurch. Another database search for the baptism of a Sarah Smith in Thurlaston between 1690 and 1720 also returned no records.⁸

Given one Thurlaston family having children at the time was John and Sarah Smith, and one Dunchurch family having children at the time was Symon and Sarah Smith, on the chance that Sarah was named after her mother, searches were done of a Sarah being born to a John and Sarah Smith, or to a Symon and Sarah Smith, in Warwickshire between 1690 and 1720.⁹

Again, out of 31 records and 7 records produced for each search respectively, none had any apparent connection to Sarah.

Find a Grave has records of 35 memorials in the cemetery at St Peter's Churchyard at Dunchurch.¹⁰ None of the records relate to a person named Smith, so no assistance may be gleaned from a headstone.¹¹

Accordingly, despite comprehensive research, Sarah's likely baptism record could not be located, and hence her baptism or birth date could not be determined, nor could her parentage.

³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1690&q.anyDate.to=1720&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Sarah&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Smith&q.surname.exact=on&c.collectionId=on&f.collectId=1473014&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9>.

⁴ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-DZK3-1T9?wc=X6Q7-ZNL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583870007&cc=1462403>.

⁵ Image 1 covering 1696 and 1697 was also subject to the examination, but without a definitive result, as the pages imaged contain extremely poor handwriting, and a good deal of the entries in them is illegible. As to the balance of the images, only a handful of entries in total were obscure.

⁶ Although one 1704 entry has no first name, simply stating "A Child of Robert Smiths born March 18th" (image 5).

⁷ As the following Family Search all records search verifies, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&offset=20&q.anyDate.from=1690&q.anyDate.to=1720&q.anyPlace=Thurlaston&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Smith&q.surname.exact=on>. The search also confirms at least three Smith families in Thurlaston were having children in that time period (1690 to 1720), namely Thomas and Elizabeth Smith, John and Hannah Smith, and John and Sarah Smith. Also, from the manual images examination, it was apparent that there were further Smith families having children in that time period in Dunchurch, namely a William and Jane Smith, a Thomas and Jane Smith, a Thomas and Anne Smith (said to be from Toft, a locality ½ mile south-west of Dunchurch), a Symon and Sarah Smith (said to be from Hardwick, a hamlet 2 miles south-west of Dunchurch), a Joseph and Mary Smith (amongst other children, a Sarah was baptised to them in Dunchurch on 9th October 1726, but she was obviously too young to marry in 1735), and a Robert and Mary Smith.

⁸ Thurlaston, Warwickshire has a church, St Edmund's, but it was apparently built after 1751. See

<https://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/detail.aspx?monuid=WA3090>. In any case, there appears to be no separate parish records for it. See <https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index?owc=X8N9-829%3A42645501%3Fcc%3D1462403>.

⁹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1690&q.anyDate.to=1720&q.fatherGivenName=John&q.fatherSurname=Smith&q.givenName=Sarah&q.givenName.exact=on&q.motherGivenName=Sarah&q.motherSurname=Smith&q.surname=Smith&q.surname.exact=on&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CEngland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CEngland%2CWarwickshire> and <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1690&q.anyDate.to=1720&q.fatherGivenName=Symon&q.fatherSurname=Smith&q.givenName=Sarah&q.givenName.exact=on&q.motherGivenName=Sarah&q.motherSurname=Smith&q.surname=Smith&q.surname.exact=on&c.birthLikePlace1=on&f.birthLikePlace0=9&c.birthLikePlace2=on&f.birthLikePlace1=9%2CEngland&f.birthLikePlace2=9%2CEngland%2CWarwickshire>.

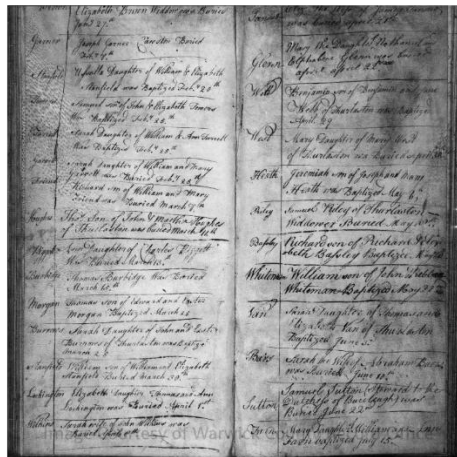
¹⁰ See <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2324228/memorial-search?page=1#sr-178083299>.

¹¹ Such as might be the case if relations are buried together, or relationships are noted on a headstone and that detail links Sarah to her parents.

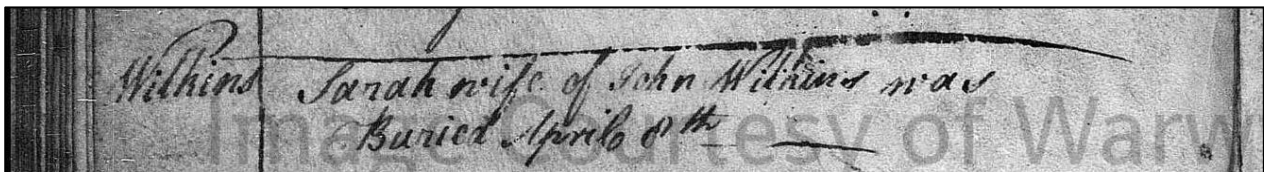
Sarah's death

A search of the Family Search Warwickshire parish registers database for the burial of a Sarah Wilkins in Dunchurch between 1761 and 1830 produced no results.¹² However, as is noted in the brief relating to Edward Wilkins, the images of the Dunchurch register for “Baptisms, marriages, burials 1748-1812” are not electronically indexed, so the information in them would not be captured in Family Search databases.

Also, as noted in that brief, the images were manually examined from 1761 to 1812 for the burial of Edward Wilkins. During the course of that process, it was noted that Sarah Wilkins, the “wife of John Wilkins”, was buried in Dunchurch on 8th April 1781, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HY-64VQ-NRK?i=42&wc=X6W2-YWL%3A42645501%2C1583867309%2C1583869512&cc=1462403>, image 43 of 93.



This is a close-up of the relevant entry.



The naming of her husband John in the burial record strongly indicates that this is the Sarah who married John Wilkins in 1735,¹³ and, probably more importantly, no other record of the burial in Dunchurch of a Sarah Wilkins was encountered in the above-referred to manual examination of parish records from 1761 to 1812.

Accordingly, Sarah Wilkins was buried in Dunchurch on 8th April 1781.

¹² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.birthLikeDate.from=1761&q.birthLikeDate.to=1830&q.birthLikePlace=Dunchurch&q.birthLikePlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Sarah&q.surname=Wilkins&f.collectionId=1462403>.

¹³ Such naming also tends to confirm that he was still alive. This proves correct in that he was buried in Dunchurch on 12th September 1786, and was noted in the burial record as a widower (see the brief relating to John Wilkins).