

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Thomas Turner

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Thomas Turner.

Those details are –

Thomas' date and place of baptism, and his parents, could not be determined with sufficient certitude.

He married a Mary, but where and when is unknown, as is her surname.

He was buried in Southam, Warwickshire on 28th March 1781.

(The research for this brief was conducted in late 2025).

Thomas' marriage

The Judith who married James Maycock in 1776 in Southam, Warwickshire, was baptised in Southam on 31st March 1754 to Thomas and Mary Turner (see the brief relating to Judith Turner).

In the course of researching the life events of James Maycock, the original Southam parish register was manually examined for the period from 1740 to 1760.¹ It was observed that the register recorded that a Thomas and Mary Turner had baptised a John on 25th April 1750, a William on 31st March 1751 (also buried the next day), an Edward on 20th March 1752, a Judith (as above) on 31st March 1754, an Ann on 20th April 1755, a second William on 15th May 1757, and a second Edward on 11th October 1759.

A Family Search search² additionally located a Thomas baptised in Southam to a Thomas and Mary Turner on 2nd October 1748, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-X99?lang=en>³ and a Mary baptised there on 23rd August 1767, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-2NK?lang=en>. The spacings of these nine baptisms, all being at least a good 9 months apart, suggest that there was just one Thomas and Mary Turner family having children in Southam at the time.⁴

¹ Commencing with image 8 at <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/WARWICKSHIRE/PR-NONEXC/SOUTHAM/DR0050-06-00008>, through to image 23.

² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?q.anyDate.from=1748&q.anyPlace=Southam%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.givenName=Thomas&q.surname=Turner>. URLs of Family Search records linked herein include “61903”, presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function. Alternatively, the reader can search for the record using the information quoted from it herein. Many Warwickshire record images previously available on Family Search had by 2025 become inaccessible on that platform.

³ Possibly also buried on 14th January 1750 (not 1749 as per <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-GS2?lang=en>, see the original record at <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSOUTHAM%2FDR0050-06-00014>). Although that burial might also be that of the Thomas Turner of Southam whose will was registered with the diocese shortly after on 27th April 1750, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FSTAFF%2FWILLS%2F421159&tab=this>.

⁴ It is possible that the Mary baptised on 23rd August 1767 to Thomas and Mary Turner was in fact the daughter of Thomas and Mary's son Thomas who was baptised on 2nd October 1748, but, apart from the unlikely coincidence of him also marrying a Mary, at less than 19 he would have been very young to be a father by August 1767. No Thomas and Mary Turner marriage in the 1760s in Southam was located, see https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?sid=100&firstname=thomas&firstname_variants=true&lastname=turner&eventyear=1765&eventyear_offset=5&yearofdeath=1779&yearofdeath_offset=2&keywordsplace=southam%2c+warwickshire%2c+england&keywords=marry&keywordsplace_proximity=10&sourcecountry=england, so it is unlikely that Thomas' son Thomas was the father of the 1748 Mary. See also the preceding footnote regarding the possibility that the 1748 Thomas died the year after his birth.

(Although a record of a burial for the first Edward between his baptism in 1752 and the second Edward's baptism in 1759 could not be located upon manual examination of the Southam parish register, or on Family Search⁵ and FindMyPast⁶ searches, it is likely that it is missing or not found rather than that there was a second Thomas and Mary Turner family baptising children in Southam at the time, as the spacing of the nine baptisms, where all are at least 9 months apart, would be a very curious coincidence if there were two such families. If there was such a second family, nothing turns on it in any case, as no relevant marriage record could be located).

The first child's baptism date indicates that Thomas Turner married Mary in about the mid-1740s, and most probably in Southam. However, no such marriage was observed upon the above-referred to manual examination of the original Southam parish register from 1740 to 1760. (For this period, the register included burials and marriages as well as baptisms).

The Southam parish register was then manually examined for any such marriage from 1730 to 1740 (images 3⁷ to 8), but, again, none was located. The register for the period 1730 to 1760 was readily legible, and appeared to be comprehensive and to have no time gaps,⁸ so although it could still be that an entry for the marriage was inadvertently not made, it seems more likely that Thomas and Mary were married elsewhere.

A FindMyPast search returned no Thomas Turner marriages to a Mary between 1735 and 1755 in Southam or within 10 miles.⁹

A Family Search search for Thomas Turner marriages to a Mary between 1735 and 1755 in Southam also returned no such marriage.¹⁰ A search for a Thomas and Mary Turner event in Warwickshire from 1730 to 1748 (when their apparent first-born Thomas junior was baptised) returned one marriage only, on 2nd July 1738 in Coventry, 12 miles north of Southam.¹¹ This marriage was investigated fully, see Appendix 1, but was found to be unconnected to Judith's parents.

In the unlikely case that there was a second Thomas and Mary Turner family baptising children at the time, the end date of the search was extended from 1748 to 1754, when Judith was baptised,¹² and it produced two additional marriages, in 1752 in Nuneaton,¹³ 19 miles north of Southam, and in 1753 in Warwick, 8½ miles west-north-west of Southam, but both places have no known connection to Judith's parents (as well as being unlikely in the first place given the conclusion that Thomas and Mary started having children some years earlier).

Accordingly, Thomas' marriage could not be located, and his marriage date and place are unknown.

⁵ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1752&q.deathLikeDate.to=1759&q.deathLikePlace=Southam%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.givenName=Edward&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Turner&q.surname.exact=on>.

⁶ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?sid=100&firstname=edward&lastname=turner&yearofdeath=1756&yearofdeath_offset=5&keywordsplace=southam%2c+warwickshire&keywordsplace_proximity=5&sourcecountry=england.

⁷ See <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/WARWICKSHIRE/PR-NONEXC/SOUTHAM/DR0050-06-00003>.

⁸ At image 18, a page of entries for 1756 is covered by a page of entries for 1766, but the page covered is in the next image, image 19.

⁹ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?_page=3&lastname=turner&eventyear=1745&eventyear_offset=10&keywordsplace=southam&keywordsplace_proximity=5&keywords=mary&sid=998.

¹⁰ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1735&q.anyDate.to=1755&q.anyPlace=Southam%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.spouseGivenName=Mary&q.surname=Turner>.

¹¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1730&q.anyDate.to=1748&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.spouseGivenName=Mary&q.surname=Turner>.

¹² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1730&q.anyDate.to=1754&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.spouseGivenName=Mary&q.surname=Turner>.

¹³ The marriage was by licence, with the licence at

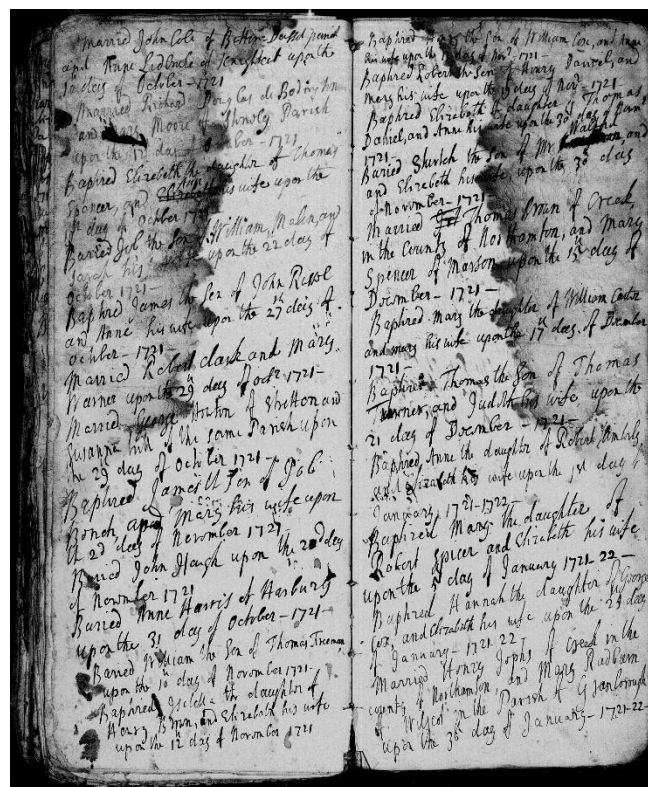
<https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=GBPRS%2FSTAFF%2F007619048%2F00193&parentid=GBPRS%2FSTAFF%2FMARRLICENCE%2F035904%2F1>. Both parties are said to be from Atherston, a town 5 miles north-west of Nuneaton, and the groom is said to be a widower, and the bride a widow.

Thomas' birth

A Family Search search for a Thomas Turner event in Southam between 1700 and 1730 returned only one baptism,¹⁴ that of a Thomas baptised to Thomas and Judith Turner on 21st December 1721. That baptism date correlates to a marriage of Judith's father in the most likely time frame, namely the mid-1740s. Also, given life expectancy rates of the time, that baptism date correlates with Thomas' burial on 28th March 1781 (see below), when the Thomas baptised in 1721 would have been 59.

It is further noted that the Thomas in question had a daughter named Judith, indicating a potential link to this 1721 Thomas, given his mother was also named Judith. Indeed, it is a reasonably strong link as Judith was a less common name of the times – 481 Judith events in Warwickshire between 1700 and 1750 were returned on a Family Search search,¹⁵ and changing only the first name in that search to Mary returned 54,376 events, Elizabeth returned 31,387, Ann/Anne 37,661, Sarah 23,366, Hannah 7,354 etc.

This is the FindMyPast image of the Southam parish register page with the 1721 baptism entry:¹⁶



This is a close up of the relevant entry:

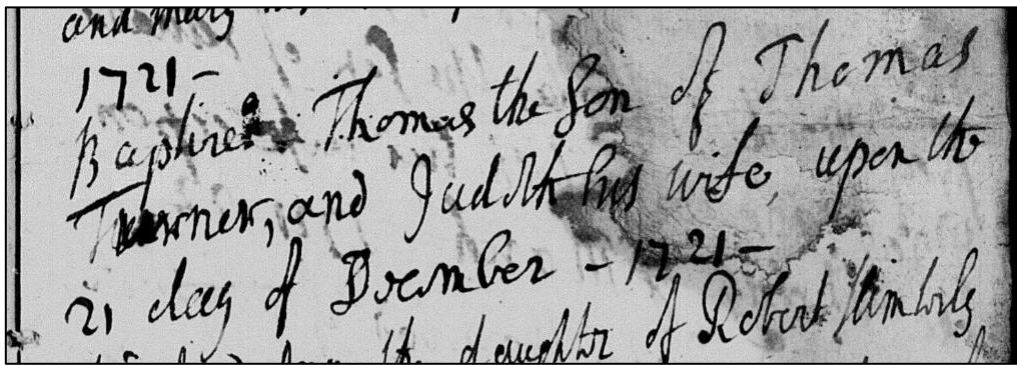
¹⁴ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1700&q.anyDate.to=1730&q.anyPlace=Southam%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.spouseGivenName=Mary&q.surname=Turner>.

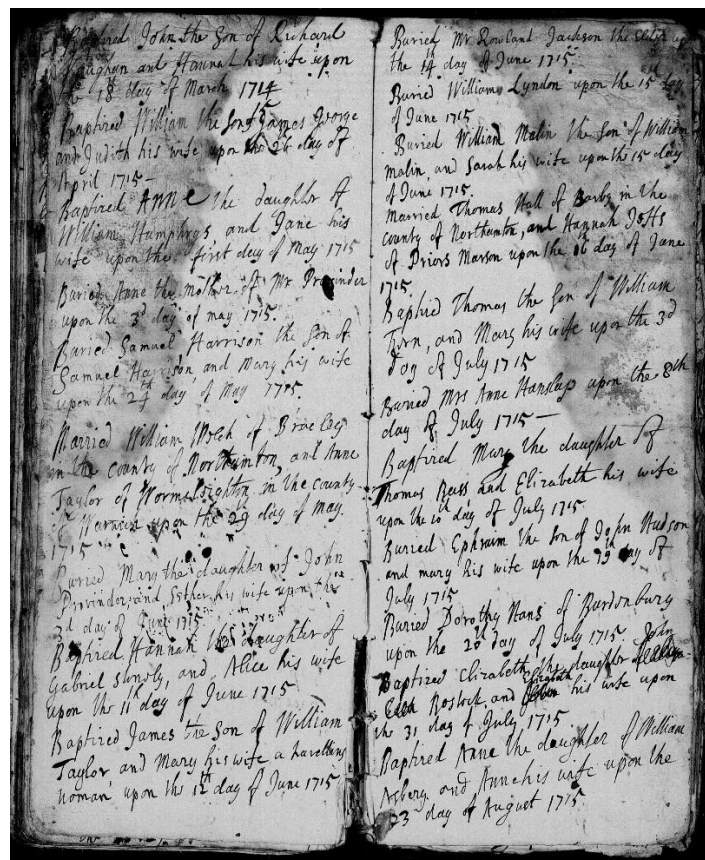
¹⁵ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1700&q.anyDate.to=1750&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Judith&q.givenName.exact=on>.

¹⁶ See <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record/browse?id=S2/GBPRS/WARWICKSHIRE/PR-NONEXC/SOUTHAM/DR0050-05-00059>.



However, a similar FindMyPast search for a Thomas Turner event in Southam between 1690 and 1730¹⁷ returned another Southam baptism, that of a Thomas baptised to William and Mary "Turn" on 3rd July 1715. This is the image of the parish register page with the relevant entry:¹⁸

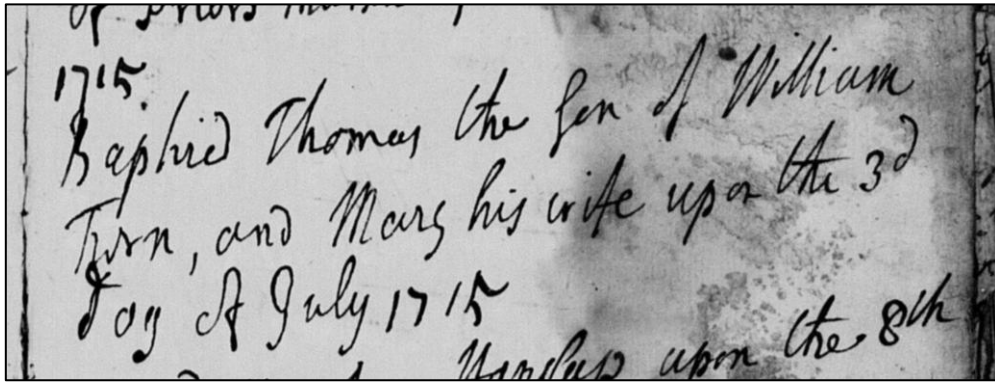


This is a close up of the relevant entry:

¹⁷ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?lastname=turner&lastname_variants=true&keywordsplace=southam&keywordsplace_proximity=5&keywords=mary&yearofbirth=1710&yearofbirth_offset=20&firstname=thomas&firstname_variants=true&sid=999.

¹⁸ See <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSOUTHAM%2FDR0050-05-00043>.



It seems a distinct possibility that “Turn” is in fact shorthand for “Turner”, and it is noted that this Thomas’ baptism date also correlates reasonably to a marriage in the most likely time frame, the mid-1740s, when this Thomas would have been about 30. The baptism date also correlates reasonably with Thomas’ burial on 28th March 1781 (see below), when this Thomas baptised in 1715 would have been 65. Further, Thomas the father of Judith had a daughter named Mary, indicating a potential link to this 1715 Thomas, given his mother was also named Mary, although in this case that is not a strong corroborating factor as Mary was a very common name of the times.

A Family Search search for any “Turn” event in Warwickshire between 1600 and 1800 produced only five other events in that two hundred year period.¹⁹ These are those search results:

Name	Events	Relationships
John Turn Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Burial 15 August 1677 Coleshill, Warwickshire, England	
Henrie Turn* Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Marriage 23 November 1641 Sutton-Coldfield, Warwickshire, England	Spouses Dorothy Townesend
John Turn Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Baptism 20 May 1794 Warwick, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom	Parents John Turn, Martha Turn
Joseph Turn Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Christening 19 December 1736 Foleshill, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom	Parents Edw Turn, Elizabeth Turn
George Turn* Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Baptism 10 May 1790 Warwickshire, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom	Parents John Turn*, Martha Turn*
Thomas Principal England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972	Christening 3 July 1715 Southam, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom	Parents William Turn, Mary

The asterisks indicate that the full name in the original record was obscure for two of the names returned, that is, “Henrie Turn*” and “George Turn*” (also his parents). Without doubt, George is the brother of the John

¹⁹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1600&q.anyDate.to=1800&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Turn&q.surname.exact=on>. There were no Turns in Warwickshire at the time of the 1841 census, see <https://www.your-family-history.com/surname/t/turn/?year=1841#map>, with very few in the following censuses (4 in 1851, 2 in 1871, 15 in 1891, but none in each of the 1861, 1881, 1901 and 1911 censuses).

baptised four years later in 1794, given the same Warwick²⁰ location, and given the parents had the same names. Since George's entry is definitely for a longer surname than Turn, that would mean that John, and his parents, although called Turn, also had a longer surname, but it had been shortened, probably by the vicar's misguided shorthanding of the name. (The original records could not be checked to see if they provide any further elucidation, as they could not be located in FindMyPast despite a number of searches).

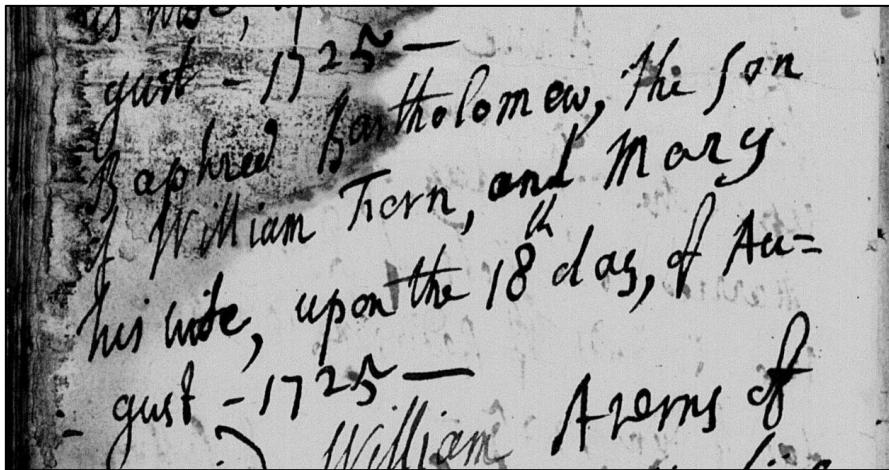
The two Johns named in the above list were obviously different persons, one being buried in 1677, and the other being baptised in 1794. Accordingly, for all of the persons named in the six records, and also for all of the six parents named, no secondary records for any of those persons, or any relatives of theirs, were returned, except that the George record links to the 1794 John record, given they were brothers. As one would expect a number of secondary or related records to be returned in this same search, that suggests that the surnames of the remaining three non-asterisked Turns, including Thomas, is also shorthand for their full surnames, and that no secondary or related records were returned for them because any such other records use their full surname.

Hence, as stated above, it seems a distinct possibility that "Turn" is in fact shorthand for a longer name. That longer name could be Turner, although that is far from certain – it could also be Turnbull, Turnley, Turnwell, Turns, etc. FindMyPast lists 33 names starting with "Turn".²¹

A FindMyPast search for Turn events in all of England from 1660 to 1740²² yielded about 200 records for the name (the search actually returned many more records, over 4,000, but most were not for the name Turn, they just included the verb "turn", such as records relating to wills). So the name "Turn" was rare and unusual for that time,²³ but not completely non-existent.

Importantly, one of the records returned was one which was missed by the Family Search search for any "Turn" event in Warwickshire between 1600 and 1800. It related to a Bartholomew Turn baptised to William and Mary "Turn"²⁴ in Southam on 18th August 1725.

This is a close up of the relevant Southam parish register entry located in FindMyPast:²⁵



²⁰ Taking "Warwickshire, Warwickshire" to actually mean "Warwick, Warwickshire".

²¹ See <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/surnames/tur>.

²² See https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?lastname=turn&eventyear=1700&eventyear_offset=40&sid=999.

²³ A rarity verified by the information at <https://www.ancestry.com.au/last-name-meaning/turn>. In particular, and although it relates to a much later point in time, that there were only 106 Turn families in the United Kingdom in the 1891 census, 7 of which were in Warwickshire. As noted above, there were no Turns in Warwickshire at the time of the 1841 census.

²⁴ The surname could also be "Tiern", especially noting the different writing of "u" in "upon" and "August". However, the same vicar obviously wrote Thomas' 1715 baptism record, see above, where the name is more obviously "Turn". A search in FindMyPast for English Tiern records at any time, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?lastname=tiern&sourcecountry=england&sid=100>, produced 88 records only, but only one from the 18th century, and he turned out to be a "Tierney", see <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=TNA%2FRG7%2F265%2F0%2F0029&parentid=TNA%2FRG7%2FMAR%2F00363341%2F1>. The name is thus most unlikely to be "Tiern".

²⁵ See <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSOUTHAM%2FDR0050-05-00072>.

One may readily conclude that the parents in the 1725 record were the same William and Mary “Turn” who baptised Thomas ten years earlier and, given that there are two Southam records of 1715 and 1725 specifying the name “Turn”, that suggests that the name may not be an abbreviation, and that there was in fact a family named Turn in Southam at the time.

But it is also noted that the 1715 and 1725 records are in the same handwriting, so perhaps the surname is an abridgement of Turner adopted by the particular vicar.²⁶ The lack of any other William and Mary Turn records for Southam between 1705 and 1745²⁷ also suggests that the name is shortened.

On balance, it seems likely that the 1715 Thomas Turn is in fact a Thomas Turner, notwithstanding the other possible surnames that “Turn” could be shorthand for.

As between the 1715 and the 1721 candidates for Judith’s father, the latter is the stronger candidate. When William and Mary started baptising children in 1748, he would have been in his mid-twenties, whilst the 1715 Thomas would have been about 30. Naming a daughter Judith, an uncommon name, is a stronger indicator of a mother named Judith than naming a daughter Mary is an indicator of a mother named Mary, given that Mary was a very common name of the times. Put another way, that one’s daughter is named after one’s mother is a corroborating factor, albeit of minor weight, but the corroborating factor is not as strong in the case of the 1715 Thomas as it is in the case of the 1721 Thomas. Finally, the 1721 candidate’s surname was clearly Turner, whereas the 1715 candidate’s name is Turner by deduction.

But these points, taken together, do not feel sufficiently conclusive in favour of the 1721 candidate.

Further, expanding the FindMyPast search for Thomas Turner events between 1690 and 1730 in Southam to the whole of Warwickshire yielded 531 results,²⁸ and the common nature of the Christian name and also the surname make it unsafe to assume the 1721 Southam baptism is that of Judith’s father, particularly when the location of his marriage could not be ascertained.

Indeed, the research indicated that his marriage was probably elsewhere than Southam, and that makes it less safe to proceed on the basis that he was born in the same location where he baptised multiple children, and was also buried (see below).

Accordingly, Thomas’ date and place of baptism could not be determined with sufficient certitude.

Thomas’ death

Thomas and Mary Turner likely baptised nine children in Southam between 1748 and August 1767, see above. It seems likely, therefore, that he died and was buried there, and sometime after 1766.

A Family Search search for a Thomas Turner event in Southam between 1759 and 1800 returned two burials in 1781 and 1790.²⁹

The 1790 burial record is as follows, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHXC-V76?lang=en>:

²⁶ Although, if the name was abbreviated, one might expect a written indication of such, for example “Turn” with a superscripted “r”.

²⁷ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?sid=100&lastname=turner&lastname_variants=true&eventyear=1725&eventyear_offset=20&keywordsplace=southam%2c+warwickshire&keywords=william+mary. The search returned a Mary Turner marriage in Southam to a William in 1721, but Turner was Mary’s maiden name, and she married a Treen, see <https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FMAR%2F000361530%2F2&tab=this>.

²⁸ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?sid=100&firstname=thomas&firstname_variants=true&lastname=turner&yearofbirth=1710&yearofbirth_offset=20&keywords=warwickshire.

²⁹ See

https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1759&q.anyDate.to=1800&q.anyPlace=Southam%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.surname=Turner&q.surname_exact=on.

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Thomas Turner

Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972

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Name Thomas Turner
 Sex Male
 Father's Name [Thomas](#)
 Father's Sex Male
 Event Type Burial
 Event Date 13 Apr 1790
 Event Place Southam, Warwickshire, England
 Event Place (Original) Southam, Warwickshire, England

Attached in Tree to
 Thomas Turner
 1790-1790 • M76M-SFT

Similar Records
 No similar records were found.

Document Information

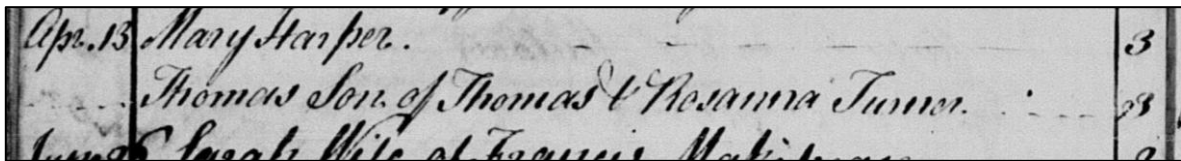
Collection Information
[England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972](#)

Cite This Record
 "England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972", FamilySearch
 (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHGX-V76: Mon Oct 13 03:19:58 UTC 2025).
 Entry for Thomas Turner and Thomas, 13 Apr 1790.

Thomas Turner's Parents and Siblings

[Thomas](#) Father M [OPEN ALL](#)

If this was the burial of the Thomas who married Mary, his father's name is unlikely to have been included in the record, rather the naming of the father suggests that the death is that of an infant. And, indeed, the same search also returned the marriage of a Thomas Turner to a Rosanna in May 1789, as well as the christening of a Thomas to him and Rosanna on 18th March 1790. The proximity of the burial date of 13th April that year indicates that this may be the son of Thomas and Rosanna. That is confirmed by the original parish register entry of the burial at <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSOUTHAM%2FDR0050-06-00062>, which also names Rosanna, see this close up of the entry:



That leaves just one candidate in the databases of Family Search for the burial of Thomas the father of Judith, namely Thomas Turner buried in Southam on 28th March 1781, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VHGX-GB7?lang=en>:

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Thomas Turner

Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972

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Name Thomas Turner
 Sex Male
 Event Type Burial
 Event Date 28 March 1781
 Event Place Southam, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom
 Event Place (Original) Southam, Warwickshire

Tree
[ATTACH TO TREE](#)

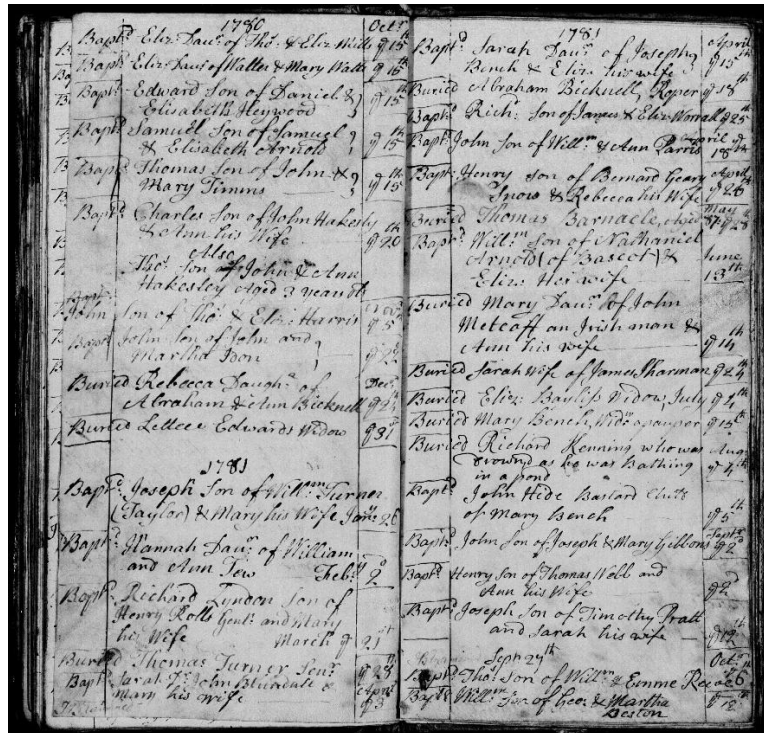
Similar Records
 No similar records were found.

Document Information

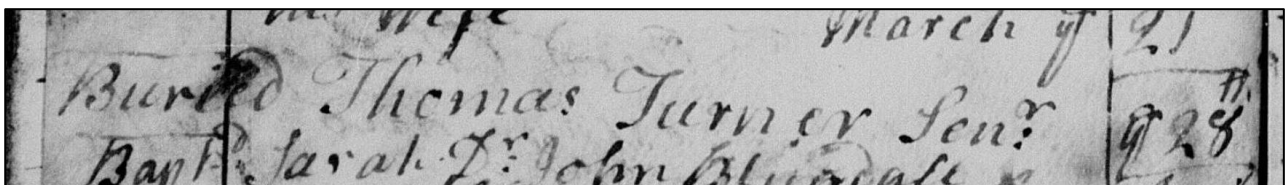
Collection Information
[England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1972](#)

The original burial record was located in FindMyPast, see

<https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC%2FSOUTHAM%2FDR0050-06-00044>:



This is a close up of the relevant record:



The description of Thomas Turner as “Senior” tends to confirm that this was the Thomas who married Mary, as we know they also baptised a son Thomas in Southam on 2nd October 1748, see above.

Nevertheless, a FindMyPast search was also done for a Thomas Turner burial in Southam between 1759 and 1799, but it also only returned the two burials in 1781 and 1790 mentioned above.³⁰

Expanding the FindMyPast search for Thomas Turner burials anywhere in Warwickshire in the same period³¹ rendered no further Southam burial, or any burial in any place with any known Thomas Turner connection, except for one undated burial at “Coventry, St Michael”, the location of the marriage discussed in Appendix 1, but that burial proved to be that of a 5 year old, see

https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=R_20861664000&tab=this.

Accordingly, Thomas was buried in Southam on 28th March 1781.

³⁰ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?_page=2&firstname=thomas&firstname_variants=true&lastname=turner&yearofdeath=1779&yearofdeath_offset=20&keywords=southam&sid=100.

³¹ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?firstname=thomas&firstname_variants=true&lastname=turner&yearofdeath=1779&yearofdeath_offset=20&datasetname=warwickshire%20burials&sid=998.

Appendix 1

The marriage of Thomas Turner and Mary Hargraves on 2nd July 1738 in Coventry

As noted above, a search for a Thomas and Mary Turner event in Warwickshire from 1730 to 1748³² (when their apparent first-born Thomas junior was baptised) returned one marriage only, on 2nd July 1738 in Coventry, 12 miles north of Southam. Coventry is the seat of a bishopric, and has been since medieval times.³³ That raises the possibility that Thomas Turner, the father of Judith, married there under a marriage licence issued by the bishop or his officers.³⁴

This is the Family Search record of the marriage, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NNGJ-P2S?lang=en>:

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch record for Thomas Turner. The record is titled "Thomas Turner" and "Vital • England Marriages, 1538-1773". It includes a "Check Image Availability" button and a "Document Information" section. The "Collection Information" section lists "England Marriages, 1538-1773". The "Cite This Record" section provides the citation: "England Marriages, 1538-1773", FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NNGJ-P2S : Wed Apr 16 12:52:18 UTC 2025), Entry for Thomas Turner and Mary Hargraves, 2 Jul 1738. The "Document Information" section shows the following details:

Name	Thomas Turner
Sex	Male
Spouse's Name	Mary Hargraves
Spouse's Sex	Female
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	2 Jul 1738
Event Place	Coventry, Warwickshire, England
Event Place (Original)	Saint Michael, Coventry, Warwick, England
Source Details	2:2B2B2XG

The "Attached in Tree to" section shows Thomas Turner (1718-1791) and L481-852. The "Similar Records" section states "No similar records were found." The "Thomas Turner's Spouses and Children" section shows Mary Hargraves as the wife.

The linked person record is for a Thomas Turner who was baptised in Loughton en le Morthen, Yorkshire, and who was also buried in Yorkshire. The 1738 Coventry marriage is most unlikely to be the marriage of that person. However, that person's person record was attached to the marriage by a contributor who gave as the "Reason This Information Is Correct" the fact that the marriage was "at Saint Michael". That fact is clearly correct, but it is no evidence of any connection. Information added to Family Search databases by contributors is regularly observed to be wrong.

The image linked in the above Family Search 1738 marriage record is actually 483 typed pages of a book or books called "Bishops' transcripts of St. Michael's church Coventry, Warwick County: baptisms, marriages, burials 1640-1726", for which no electronic index is available, see <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/film/007565247>. And, as the title suggests, the marriages appear to end in 1726 at page 298 of 493. Those marriage lists generally also included the parish of the bride and the

³² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1730&q.anyDate.to=1748&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Thomas&q.spouseGivenName=Mary&q.surname=Turner>.

³³ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_of_Coventry.

³⁴ The marriage licence process is explained at <https://www.regencyhistory.net/blog/marriage-licences-banns-regency-history-guide>:

"Sometimes it was not convenient to wait for the banns to be read, for example if the bride was pregnant, and it was possible to get married more quickly by applying for a common licence. This was available from a bishop or archbishop and their offices. Before the licence could be issued, one of the couple or someone acting on their behalf had to submit a sworn statement or allegation that there was no impediment of kindred or alliance to the marriage ... There was also a requirement for the groom or someone acting on his behalf to enter a bond where a substantial amount of money would be forfeited if an impediment existed."

parish of the groom, so it is likely that, if the original record for the above 1738 Coventry marriage could be located, it would either confirm or deny that the Thomas Turner mentioned in it was from Southam.

Laborious searching was carried out to find that original record. It does appear that the relevant record is most likely to be in the Family Search catalogue called “Bishop's transcripts for St. Michael's Church, Coventry, 1663-1847”, listed in Family Search at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:316895>, and which consisted of nine rolls of film, including “Baptisms, marriages and burials, 1663-1754”, being Film 428985, Image Group Number (DGS)7905774. That set of images is not available online either in Family Search or FindMyPast.³⁵

Searches in FindMyPast's record set for “Staffordshire, Dioceses of Lichfield & Coventry Marriage Allegations and Bonds, 1636-1893”, which one might expect would include the record of any marriage licence in the period stated, also did not locate the licence for the 1738 marriage.³⁶

The marriage record is also in FindMyPast, but with no link to an original record, see https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=R_848983777&tab=this (with the note at the bottom perhaps indicating that the FindMyPast record is simply a copy of the Family Search record rather than an extract from the original record):³⁷

FindMyPast Family tree Search Newspapers 1921 Census My research Help & more My Account

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Thomas Turner in 1738

England Marriages 1538-1973
Coventry, Warwickshire, England

Create a tree Print Save to workspace New

Transcript of Thomas's record Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Thomas	Country	England
Last name	Turner	Spouse's first name(s)	Mary
Name note	-	Spouse's last name	Hargraves
Marriage year	1738	Spouse's age	-
Marriage date	1738	Record set	England Marriages 1538-1973
Residence	Coventry, Warwickshire, England	Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Marriage place	Coventry	Subcategory	Parish Marriages
County	Warwickshire	Collections from	England, Great Britain

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The 1738 Coventry marriage record could be that of Thomas Turner of Southam, but it could also be, and more probably is, that of some other person from the Coventry area, such as a 24 year old Thomas Turner baptised in Coventry in 1714, see https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=R_938562489&expand=true&tab=this. The name Thomas Turner was relatively common at the time.³⁸

³⁵ It is noted that the above 1738 Coventry marriage record includes the statement “Source Details 2:2B2B2XG”. However, this could not be located either upon Family Search searching, or upon Google searching as to what it may refer to.

³⁶ See

https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?datasetname=staffordshire%2C+dioceses+of+lichfield+%26+coventry+marriage+allegations+and+bonds%2C+1636-1893&eventyear=1738&eventyear_offset=2&spouselastname=turner&sid=998.

³⁷ FindMyPast's transcript of the record so far as concerns Mary Hargraves also has no link to an original marriage record, see https://www.findmypast.com.au/transcript?id=R_848983777%2F2&tab=this.

³⁸ There are 3,000 plus Family Search records for Thomas Turner events between 1700 to 1750, see <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1700&q.anyDate.to=1750&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.givenName=Thomas&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Turner&q.surname.exact=on>.

Probably more conclusively, it seems unlikely that a couple who produced eight children in rapid succession from 1748 to 1759 would have had no children in the first ten years of their marriage. Also, as noted above, Thomas and Mary appeared to have a ninth child in 1767, almost 30 years after the 1738 Coventry marriage. That 1767 child would not be in the expected child-bearing age range of a woman who married almost 30 years earlier, as she would likely have been in about her early twenties, or older, at marriage, and hence in her early fifties (or older) in 1767.³⁹

³⁹ See <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4389129/>: “the end of fertility [approaches] 100% at age 50 years”.