

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of

Margaret Hobley nee Brewer

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Margaret Hobley nee Brewer.

Those details are –

The birth place and date of Margaret Hobley nee Brewer are unknown.

Her parents are also unknown, except that they were named Brewer.

Married to Simon Hobley at Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire on 6th April 1700.

Buried at Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire on 28th February 1741.

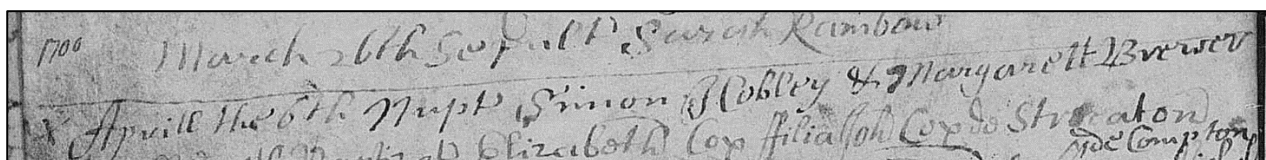
(The research for this brief was conducted in early 2023).

Margaret's marriage

Margaret Brewer married Simon Hobley at Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire on 6th April 1700.

See the brief relating to Simon Hobley for verification of those details.

As per that brief, this is a close-up of the marriage record entered in the Napton parish register.¹



It is noted that the bride's first name is spelled "Margarett" in the record. However, the spelling used in the baptism records of her eight children, namely "Margaret" (see the brief relating to Simon Hobley), is adopted in this brief as it was the more commonly used spelling.

Margaret's death

A Family Search search for a Simon Hobley in Warwickshire in 1708² was conducted for research relating to Simon Hobley, see the brief relating to him. The search returns included the record of a "Margery" Hobley buried in Napton on 28th February 1741, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLYW-DFMV>.³

¹ "Nupt" is short for the Latin words *nupti fuerunt*, meaning "were married". See

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Abbreviations_Found_in_Genealogy_Records. The significance of the cross on the left hand side of the entry is unknown.

² See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1708&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire&q.givenName=Simon&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on>.

³ URLs of Family Search records linked herein include "61903", presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

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

SAVE EDIT SHARE

Name Margery Hobley
Sex Female
Spouse's Name Hobley
Event Type Burial
Event Date 28 Feb 1741
Event Place Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom

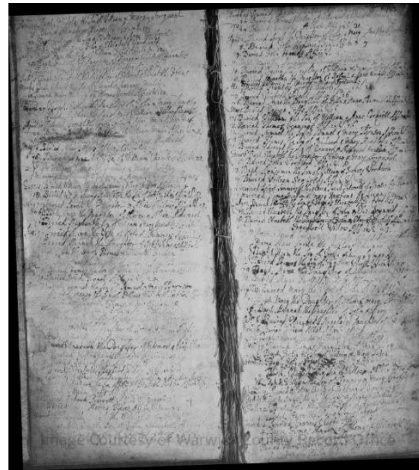
Attached in Family Tree to
Margaret Brewer
~1741 • G4XJ-SLY

Similar Records
Margaret Hobley
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963
Attached To:
Margaret Brewer
~1741 • G4XJ-SLY
Margaret Hobley
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963
Attached To:
Margaret Brewer
~1741 • G4XJ-SLY
Margaret Hobley
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963

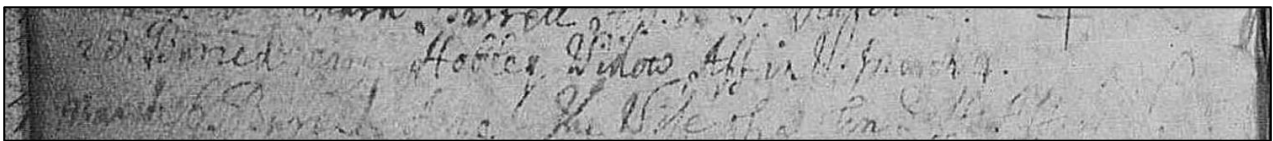
Margery Hobley's Spouses and Children
Hobley Spouse

VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

This is the parish register image hyperlinked in the above record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WR6?i=6&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQLYW-DFMV>, image 7 of 31.



This is a close-up of the relevant entry.⁴



The Family Search scanning software has transcribed the above first name as “Margery”, but the entry is somewhat obscure, so one queries the accuracy of that transcription. Given the writing size, and the size of the gap between the words “Buried” and “Hobley”, it does seem that the space given for the first name allows only for a diminutive, such as “Marg”.⁵ The software may have mis-read the name as “Margery” by interpreting the ascender on the “d” of the word “Buried” in the entry below as the descender of a “y” in the word immediately above in the Hobley entry.

⁴ The note after “Widow” is “Aff. in W. March 4.” The notation appears in a number of burial records in the above image, followed by a day of the month. This refers to the legal requirement, from 1666 to 1814, albeit generally ignored after 1770, that an affidavit be sworn confirming the deceased was buried in wool under the *Burying in Woollen Acts 1666-1680*. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burying_in_Woollen_Acts.

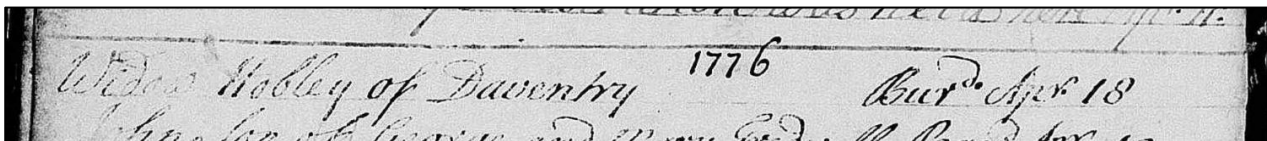
⁵ Notably, FindMyPast records the first name as Mary. See https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/results?datasetname=warwickshire+burials&sid=103&firstname=margery&firstname_variants=true&lastname=hobley&eventyear=1741&eventyear_offset=2.

Notably, a Family Search database search anywhere and at any time for a “Margery Hobley” or a “Margery Brewer” event returned no relevant results.⁶ It seems likely, therefore, that “Margery” is a misnomer. Even if it is not, it is noted that Margery is an adaptation of Margaret in any event.⁷

The entry specifies that the person being buried is a widow. That is consistent with the fact that Margaret’s husband Simon Hobley was buried in Napton on the Hill on 21st July 1729, see the brief relating to him.

Margaret was married in 1700, and was likely at least about 18 when that occurred, so she would be at least about 59 if she died in 1741, which fits with life expectancy of the time.⁸

However, the above-mentioned search for a Simon Hobley in Warwickshire in 1708 also returned a record for a “Hobley” buried in Bishop’s Itchington on 18th April 1776. The relevant entry in the parish register noted this person as the “Widow Hobley of Daventry”, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SVS-29N?i=32&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVHXM-6L8>, image 33 of 33. This is a close-up of the entry.



Daventry is 6 miles east of Napton, and Bishop’s Itchington is 5 miles east-southeast of Napton. Although Daventry is nearby to Napton, Margaret had a far stronger locational nexus to Napton, being the place where she married, her eight children were baptised, and her husband was buried (see the brief relating to Simon Hobley for verification of all those events).

As no first name is stated in the Bishop’s Itchington entry, the probability that it is Margaret is quite small given the incidence of that name observed on researching numerous parish records of the time.⁹

Also, Margaret married in 1700, and was likely to have been at least about 18 when she did. If she was still alive in 1776, she would have been at least about 94. Examples of people in the 18th century living long lives have been sighted during research, but not commonly, as may be predicted given the life expectancy of the time.¹⁰ That factor further reduces the chance that the “Widow Hobley of Daventry” was Margaret.

Finally, except for the proximity of Daventry to Napton, no information was located which connected Margaret or any of her first-degree relatives to Daventry in any way.

Accordingly, Margaret Hobley was buried in Napton on 28th February 1741.

⁶ “Margery Hobley” returned no results, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.givenName=Margery&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1473014>. There were four results for “Margery Brewer” events, but all were in unrelated shires. See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.givenName=Margery&q.givenName.exact=on&q.surname=Brewer&q.surname.exact=on&f.collectionId=1473014>.

⁷ Wikipedia says “Margery” is a name derived from “Margaret”. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margery_\(name\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margery_(name)).

⁸ “[L]ife expectancy was around 37–40 years in the early seventeenth century, but worsened in the period c.1650–1740”, see *Mortality, migration and epidemiological change in English cities, 1600–1870*, Romola J. Davenport, *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 17th June 2021. Available at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7611108/>. (Despite the article’s title, the life expectancy given is for England including rural areas). Of course, 37–40 years was the life expectancy at birth, and the high infant and child mortality rates of the time meant that those who reached adulthood could expect a longer life. For England in about 1740, the Davenport study gives the mortality rate in the first year of life as “almost 20% of all live-born infants” (see Section 3.2), and the mortality rate for early childhood (ages 1–4 years) at 12% (see Figure 6).

⁹ One analysis gives the frequency of Margaret at 8.8% and Margery at about 1.5%, see *Late Sixteenth Century English Given Names: Female Name Frequency*, by Talan Gwynek and Brian M. Scott. Available at <https://heraldry.sca.org/names/eng16/eng16ffreq.html>. The article’s analysis is of a small sample, and relates to a time period which is a century earlier than the late 1600s, being the relevant time (namely, the time of Margaret’s birth). However, the top seven names accounting for 63.6% of females named were, broadly speaking, of similar dominance and incidence as female names observed during extensive research of English genealogical records covering the late 17th century to the end of the 18th century, except for Joan, which had obviously fallen out of favour by then.

¹⁰ See the preceding footnote but one.

Margaret's birth

Having married in 1700, Margaret was likely born sometime between 1660 at the earliest and 1682 at the latest.

A Family Search database search for a Margaret Brewer event between 1650 to 1685 in any location did not return any born or baptised in Warwickshire,¹¹ let alone in any Warwickshire location of interest.¹² A similar outcome ensued when "Margaret" was changed to "Margarett".

A number of other searches using a range of criteria were also carried out, including with the first name spelled as "Margery", and the surname spelt as "Bruer", without success.

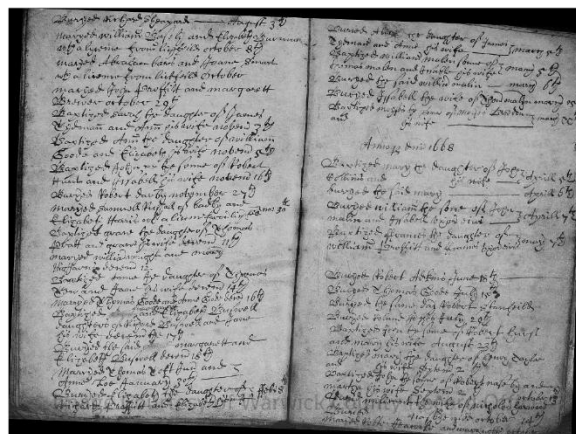
However, one search did return a Margarett Brewer who married a John Proffitt in Napton on 29th October 1667, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLFH-LQ77>.¹³

The screenshot shows a FamilySearch record for Margarett Brewer's marriage to John Proffitt. The record is titled "Margarett Brewer" and "Marriage • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963". It includes a thumbnail image of the original document and a "VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" link. The record details are as follows:

Name	John Proffitt
Sex	Male
Spouse's Name	Margarett Brewer
Spouse's Sex	Female
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	29 Oct 1667
Event Place	Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom

Below the record details, there is a section for "Margarett Brewer's Spouses and Children" showing John Proffitt as the husband. A "Family Tree" section is also visible with a link to "ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE".

This is the parish register image hyperlinked in the above record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WG1?i=38&cc=1462403>, image 39 of 53.



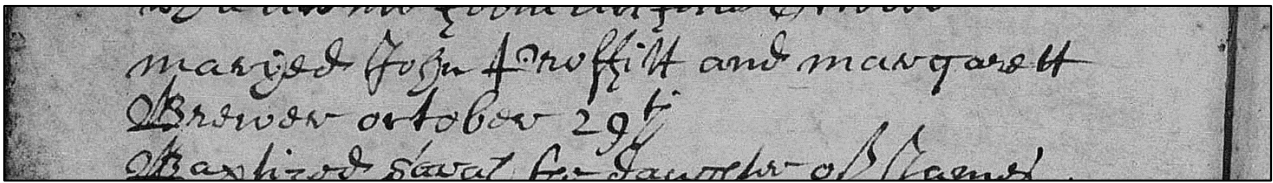
¹¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1650&q.anyDate.to=1685&q.givenName=Margaret&q.givName.exact=on&q.surname=Brewer&f.collectionId=1473014>.

¹² A family tree person record on Family Search says Margaret was born in Napton. Although that is most likely, no source for that information is given. See <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/G4XL-SLY>.

¹³ She, that is, Margerett Proffitt, wife of Johan, was also buried in Napton, on 26th December 1699, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLB6-DDK7>.

This is a close-up of the relevant entry.¹⁴



This Margaret who married in 1667 could be the aunt of the Margaret who married Simon Hobley in 1700. This is suggested by the same family name, the same location of Napton, and the one generation time gap between their respective marriages. The more unusual spelling of “Margarett”¹⁵ in both the 1667 and 1700 marriage records also suggests a connection, specifically that the later Margaret was named after the earlier Margaret.

Accordingly, the records which are linked in Family Search to the database record of the 1667 marriage were examined. However, there were none which provided any information additional to either the database record, or the original parish record. Accordingly, this line of research yielded no information about any brother of the Margaret who married in 1667, and who might be Margaret’s father.

Images of the Napton parish register are available to view on Family Search. They are difficult to read but electronically indexed. These indices were examined for the period 1650-1685, see images 23-50 of 53 of the 1604-1680 series,¹⁶ and images 2-9 of 43 of the 1680-1730 series.¹⁷

There were three Brewer/Bruer entries, apart from the 1667 marriage record set out above –

- a John baptised to an Edward Brewer on 30th January 1683, at image 7 of 43 of the 1680-1730 series, see also the corresponding database record at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLXC-1GFD>
- an Edward baptised to Edward and Mary Brewer on 12th February 1686,¹⁸ at image 9 of 43 of the 1680-1730 series, see also the corresponding database record at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLYN-Y7CW> and
- a Mary Brewer buried on 18th February 1686, at image 9 of 43 of the 1680-1730 series. Being buried six days after Edward’s baptism, it seems likely that she was Edward’s mother, and died from complications of childbirth.

(Mary is not named as the mother in John’s baptism record, but Edward’s baptism and its time difference to John’s suggest a childbearing sequence, and the paucity of Brewers in Napton at the time, demonstrated by the limited Brewer/Bruer entries in the indices to the Napton parish records from 1650 to 1685, indicate that that supposition is likely correct).

Database searches also located an Edward Brewer buried in Napton on 10th August 1681, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGF5-5WMM>. This Edward, having died in 1681, is obviously a different Edward Brewer to the one mentioned above who was baptising children in Napton after 1681. That could indicate that there was another Brewer family having children in Napton at the time, although it seems

¹⁴ Interestingly, the handwriting in the record is the same as that in the record set out above of Margaret’s 1700 marriage, 32½ years later. Compare, in particular, the capital “B” in the name “Brewer” in each record.

¹⁵ “Margaret” was five times more common than “Margarett” in Warwickshire between 1650 and 1750 (3,705 records to 703 records). See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1650&q.anyDate.to=1750&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=Margaret&q.givenName.exact=on> and <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.exact=on&q.anyDate.from=1650&q.anyDate.to=1750&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.givenName=margarett&q.givenName.exact=on>. As noted above, the spelling “Margaret” is used in this brief given the spelling of her name in the baptism records of her eight children, see the brief relating to Simon Hobley.

¹⁶ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-W7D?wc=XDLB-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867702%2C1583874817&cc=1462403>.

¹⁷ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-4SC?i=1&wc=XDLB-FM9%3A42645501%2C1583867702%2C1583874818&cc=1462403>.

¹⁸ The index, and consequently the database record, says the year is 1685, but examination of the relevant image makes it clear it is 1686.

more likely that this Edward was Margaret's uncle or nephew (or, less likely but possible also, that Edward and Mary had an Edward who died in infancy, and that they then named a subsequent son Edward).

As noted above, as Margaret married in 1700, she was likely born in the period leading up to and including 1682. Notably, Edward and Mary Brewer were having children about that time period, and they were doing so in Margaret's likely place of birth, Napton. That suggests that the John baptised in 1683 and the Edward baptised in 1686 might be siblings to Margaret, and that Edward and Mary Brewer were her parents. That is also indicated by the paucity of Brewers in Napton at the time, see above, but subject to the caveat that, for the reason just given, there may have been a second Brewer family in Napton at the time.

All records which are linked in Family Search to the database records of the above Edward 1681, John 1683, Edward 1686 and Mary 1686 were examined, but they gave no further information which suggested that Edward and Mary might be Margaret's parents.

The thesis is appealing but, given the lack of Margaret's baptism record, or some other corroborating information, proof to the "compelling evidence" standard adhered to in these briefs has not been achieved. Perhaps some future researcher will find evidence missed by the research for this brief, or evidence subsequently available as more information and records go online, and either prove, or disprove, the thesis.

Accordingly, the birth place and date of Margaret Hobley nee Brewer remain undetermined.

All that can be said is that her parents were named Brewer.