

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of Simon Hobley

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Simon Hobley.

Those details are –

The birth place and date, and the parentage, of Simon Hobley are unknown.

Married to Margaret Brewer at Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire on 6th April 1700.

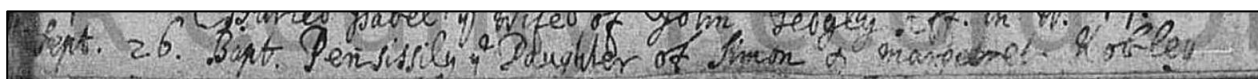
Buried at Napton on the Hill on 21st July 1729.

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

Simon's marriage

Pensissily Neal nee Hobley was baptised to Simon and Margaret Hobley in Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire on 26th September 1708, see the brief relating to her.

As set out in that brief, this is the relevant entry in the Napton parish register.



A Family Search search for a Simon Hobley in Warwickshire in 1708¹ returned a number of records, including a record of a Simon Hobley marrying a Margaret Brewer in Napton on 6th April 1700, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLB6-6XZQ>.²

¹ See

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

² URLs of Family Search records linked herein include "61903", presumably a specific member number, and likely need adapting to function.

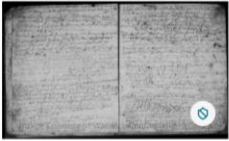
FamilySearch

Records Images Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Simon Hobley

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

SAVE EDIT SHARE



VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Document Information

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

Cite This Record
"England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963," database with images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=21&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQLB6-6XZQ, image 22 of 43.

Simon Hobley's Spouses and Children

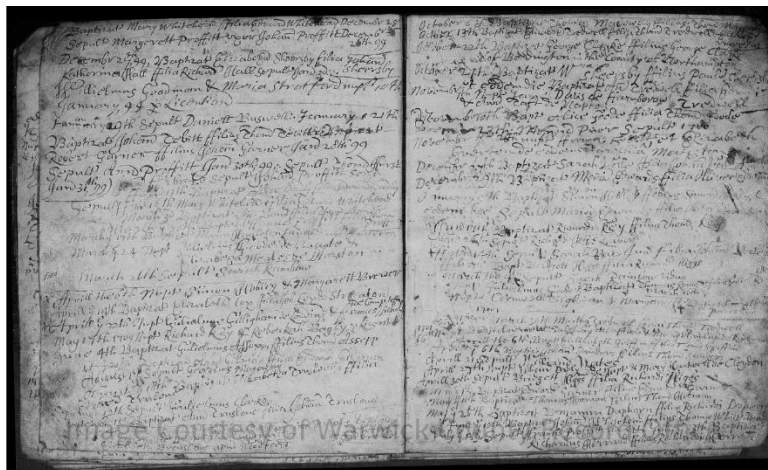
Name	Sex	Relationship
Margarett Brewer	Female	Wife
Simon Hobley	Male	Husband

Simon Hobley
Name: Simon Hobley
Sex: Male
Spouse's Name: Margarett Brewer
Spouse's Sex: Female
Marriage Date: 6 Apr 1700
Marriage Place: Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom
Event Type: Marriage

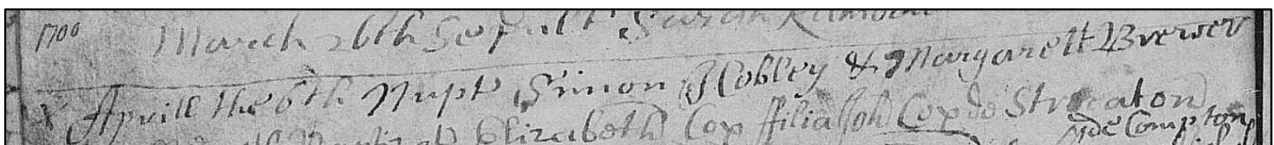
Attached in Family Tree to
Simon Hobley 1675-1721 • GZK1-2VG

Similar Records
Simon Hobley
England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963
Attached To:
Simon Hobley 1675-1721 • GZK1-2VG

This is the parish register image hyperlinked in the above record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=21&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQLB6-6XZQ>, image 22 of 43.



This is a close-up of the relevant entry.³



The search for a Simon Hobley in Warwickshire in 1708 also returned a number of children baptised to Simon and Margaret Hobley of Napton, including Pensissilly. Also, they had a John, who was not returned on the above search, but was found listed in a family tree on Family Search.⁴

³ "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 at the left-hand side of the entry is unknown.

⁴ See <https://www.familysearch.org/search/linker?ark=ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=21&cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQLB6-6XZQ>. These family trees, built by Family Search software and/or third party contributors, are often demonstrably wrong. However, the Napton parish

The full list of those eight children is thus a Simon, baptised on 5th January 1701, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLB6-6X8J>,⁵ a Daniel baptised on 11th October 1704, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLYV-KX6R> (also buried on 4th December 1704, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLYV-KXX3>), a Frances baptised on 16th December 1705, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGFT-BBWP>, Pensissily baptised on 26th September 1708, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGFT-BB8P>, John baptised on 25th April 1714, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLGL-92K3>, an Edward baptised on 9th April 1717, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLG2-XFPL>, a Richard baptised on 19th May 1719, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLKW-BCT2> (also buried on 17th August 1720, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLKW-BZMC>), and a Braer baptised on 8th May 1721, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QLYD-V8YN>.

Examination of the original parish records for each of the baptisms revealed no additional information about Simon and Margaret.

All of these baptisms were in Napton. All the baptism records spell the mother's name as "Margaret".

The date of the first baptism, and the place of all the baptisms, corresponds with Simon marrying Margaret in Napton on 6th April 1700. As does the 20-year sequence of baptisms after 1700, which is as may be expected from a couple who were newly married in that year.

A Family Search search for a Simon Hobley marrying a Margaret anywhere in the period 1680 to 1720 only returned the above marriage.⁶

Accordingly, Simon Hobley married Margaret⁷ Brewer in Napton on the Hill on 6th April 1700.

Simon's burial

The above referred-to Family Search search for a Simon Hobley in Warwickshire in 1708 also returned a record of the burial of a Simon Hobley in Napton on 21st July 1729, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGFP-66M7>.

The screenshot shows a FamilySearch record for Simon Hobley. The record is titled "Simon Hobley" and is categorized as "Vital • England, Warwickshire, Parish Registers, 1535-1963". It includes a thumbnail image of a handwritten parish register page. The record details are as follows:

Field	Value
Name	Simon Hobley
Death or Burial Date	21 Jul 1729
Death or Burial Place	Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom
Event Type	Burial

Additional options include "SAVE", "EDIT", and "SHARE" buttons. A "Family Tree" section offers an "ATTACH TO FAMILY TREE" button. A "Similar Records" section states "No similar records were found." A "VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" button is located below the thumbnail image. The bottom of the record shows "Document Information" with a dropdown arrow.

register was checked for John's baptism date given in a link to his name in the tree, and the relevant record was located at image 28 of 43. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WP3?i=27&cc=1462403>. The reason the search engine missed John is because his father's name is spelled as "Symon" in the parish register, and thus in the register's electronic index, and consequently the relevant Family Search database. The family tree in question also suggests that Simon and Margaret Hobley had an Anne, but a record relating to her baptism couldn't be found in Family Search's databases despite various searches. A record linked to her name in the family tree says she married in "Hellidon, Northants". See <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/L1FQ-HKN>. That seems possible because, although in the different county of Northamptonshire, Hellidon is only 4 miles south-east of Napton.

⁵ The record gives the year as 1700, but examination of the relevant page of the parish register makes it clear that it is 1701.

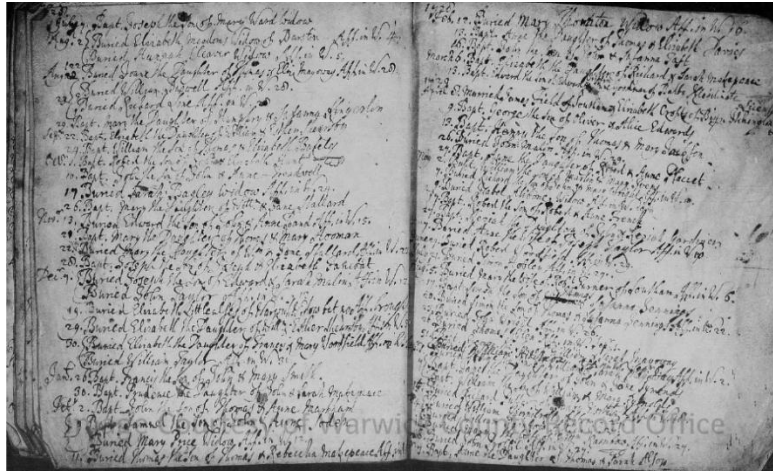
⁶ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.givenName=Simon&q.marriageLikeDate.from=1680&q.marriageLikeDate.to=1720&q.spouseGivenName=Margaret&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on>.

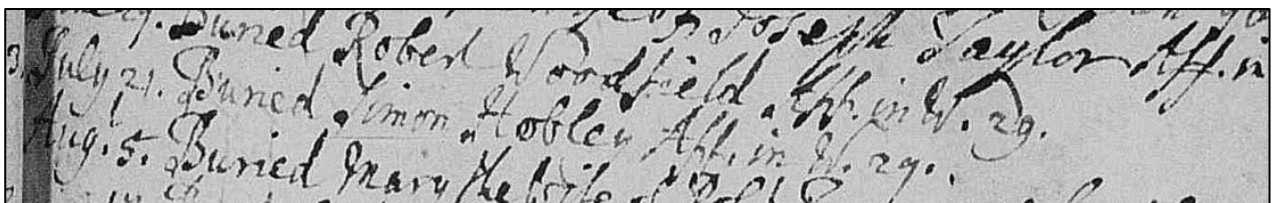
⁷ The spelling used in the baptism records, as the more commonly used spelling, is adopted rather than that in the marriage record.

This is the parish register image hyperlinked in the above record, see

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WRC?cc=1462403&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQGFP-66M7>.



This is a close-up of the relevant entry.⁸



Margaret's 1742 burial record notes that she was a widow, see the brief relating to her. Given Braer was baptised to her and Simon on 8th May 1721, Simon died sometime between 1720 and 1742, which corresponds with the above record. Also, he was almost certainly buried in Napton. He was married there, and his eight children listed above were all baptised there.

A Family Search search for a Simon Hobley burial anywhere in the period 1720 to 1770 only returned the above burial.⁹

However, this 1729 burial of Simon Hobley could also be Simon and Margaret's first child baptised on 5th January 1701 (see above). But, given that Simon junior would be 28 by 21st July 1729, it is quite unlikely that he died then, having survived infancy and early childhood and their high mortality rates of the time,¹⁰ and now being at his physical prime.¹¹

Accordingly, Simon Hobley was buried in Napton on the Hill on 21st July 1729.

⁸ The entry ends in "Aff. in W." and a date. The abbreviation 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.

⁹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&q.deathLikeDate.from=1720&q.deathLikeDate.to=1770&q.givenName=Simon&q.spouseGivenName=Margaret&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact-on>.

¹⁰ The infant mortality rate in England in the period 1700-1749 was about 340 deaths per 1,000. See *Infant mortality by social status in Georgian London*, by R J Davenport, J P Boulton and J Black, Newcastle University, 2013, pages 4-5. Available at <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/pauperlives/documents/Davenportinfantmortalitybysocialstatusdraft4.pdf>. The study *Mortality, migration and epidemiological change in English cities, 1600-1870*, by Romola J. Davenport, *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 17th June 2021, available at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7611108/>, verifies that rate of "about 34%". It 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).

¹¹ "Young adulthood typically covers the period from 20-35 years of age, when both biological function and physical performance reach their peak": see *Aging and Exercise*, by Roy J. Shephard, *Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine and Science*, 7th March 1998. Available at <https://www.sportsci.org/encyc/agingex/agingex.html>.

Simon's birth

Having married in 1700, Simon was likely born sometime between 1660 and 1682.¹²

A specific Family Search database search for a Simon Hobley event anywhere between 1660 to 1682 did not return any born or baptised in Napton.¹³ The Napton parish records were also manually examined from 1660 to 1682, being images 32 to 50 of the 1604-1680 series,¹⁴ and images 2 to 6 of the 1680-1730 series.¹⁵ No Simon or Symon Hobley baptism was encountered. In fact, no Hobley record at all was encountered in that period in the Napton parish records, which may indicate that Simon relocated there from elsewhere.

However, the Family Search 1660-1682 database search did return a Symon baptised on 20th October 1663 to Richard and Joane Hobley in Long Itchington, which is very close to Napton, being 4 miles north-west of it.¹⁶

This is the record, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NY58-KS8>.¹⁷

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org record for Symon Hobley. The record is titled "Symon Hobley" and is part of the "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975" database. The record includes a "Check Image Availability" button, a "Document Information" section, and a "Collection Information" section. The "Document Information" section shows the record is from the "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975" database. The "Collection Information" section shows the record is from the "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975" database. The record also includes a "Cite This Record" section with the citation: "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NY58-KS8 : 4 February). The record also includes a "Symon Hobley's Parents and Siblings" section with the following information:

Symon Hobley's Parents and Siblings			
Rich Hobley	Father	M	
Joane	Mother	F	

The record also includes a "Similar Records" section with the text: "No similar records were found."

This is the parish register image which includes that baptism, and which was found upon manually searching the images of Long Ichington's "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1653-1713", see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6LWS-VD7?i=9&wc=X63M-L29%3A42645501%2C1583872502%2C1583871413&cc=1462403>, image 10 of 46.

¹² The family tree on Family Search referred to above (see <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/pedigree/landscape/GZK1-2VG>) links to Simon's "person record" (see <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GZK1-2VG>) which says that he was born "about 1675", and in Napton, but selecting the box headed "Birth" in the person record takes one to the birth details, which give as "the reason this information is correct" that it is "estimated". Both the year and the place would thus appear to be just guesses by the contributor to the family tree.

¹³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&offset=40&q.anyDate.from=1660&q.anyDate.to=1682&q.givenName=Simon&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on>.

¹⁴ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-WYR?i=31&wc=XDLB-3TL%3A42645501%2C1583867702%2C1583874817&cc=1462403> and following.

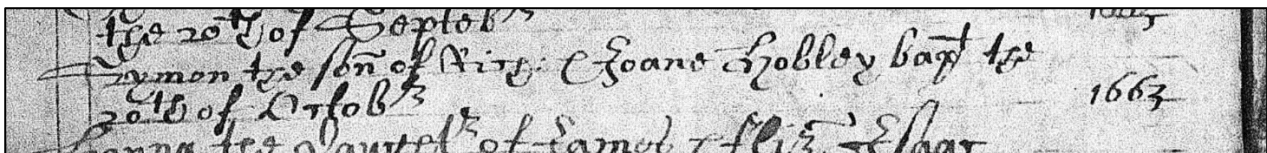
¹⁵ See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DCGS-4SC?i=1&wc=XDLB-FM9%3A42645501%2C1583867702%2C1583874818&cc=1462403> and following.

¹⁶ Another result of the search was an unnamed female "Hobley" born 25th July 1657 in Long Itchington to Joseph and Jease Hobley, and who died the same day. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NY58-K8D>. A check of the Long Itchington parish register could not locate any record in date order which would allow one to verify those details. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6LWS-XMH?i=5&wc=X63M-L29%3A42645501%2C1583872502%2C1583871413&cc=1462403>, image 6 of 46.

¹⁷ Note that the original parish record was not located and inspected. The baptisms from 1660 to 1682 in the bundle of images for Long Itchington's "Baptisms, marriages, burials 1653-1713" commence at image 7. See <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6LWS-891?i=6&wc=X63M-L29%3A42645501%2C1583872502%2C1583871413&cc=1462403>. However, the entries are in very flowery script, and extremely difficult to read as a result. The images are also not electronically indexed – the Family Search database record for the 1663 Long Itchington baptism comes from Family Search's "England Births and Christenings" database.



This is a close-up of the relevant entry.



If this was the Simon Hobley that married Margaret Brewer, he would have been about 36 when he married in 1700, and about 65 when he died in 1729. That age at marriage is perhaps later than that of most grooms but, nevertheless, Symon is still a potential candidate in terms of his age.

“Symon” is an obvious variant of Simon, and it is noted that, in the baptism record of Simon’s son John, baptised on 25th April 1714, see above, his name was spelled “Symon”. It is also noted that Long Itchington was the place where Simon Hobley’s daughter Pensissily¹⁸ was said to be resident at the time of her marriage in 1733, see the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley, although that link is not a strong one given seven decades had passed since Symon’s 1663 baptism. Also, Simon and Margaret Hobley did name a son Richard, although he was their fifth son, and Richard was a name commonly encountered at the time.

Richard and Joane Hobley also christened several other children in Long Itchington, namely an Elizabeth on 18th September 1656 (born 21st August 1656), see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JWZ7-572>, a Richard on 15th January 1659¹⁹ (born 4th December 1658), see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NG1V-MM9>, an Izabell on 16th January 1660, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J3WB-P24>, the above Symon on 20th October 1663, a Joseph on 30th November 1666, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JQTN-JVH>, and possibly²⁰ a John on 7th September 1670, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NG1V-7LN>.

However, inspection of those records and any records linked in them provided no information which suggested a connection to the Simon Hobley who married Margaret Brewer.

¹⁸ Assuming that Thais is Pensissily, which the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley finds is the case.

¹⁹ The record says 1658, but of course that is impossible given the birth date. Likely the Family Search transcription software has not discerned the change of year.

²⁰ The mother is not named in the record, and there were other Hobley families apart from Richard and Joane baptising children in Long Itchington in the mid-17th century, such as Joseph and Jease Hobley, footnoted above, and Richard and Susan Hobley, who had a son, in fact a son named John, born 7th September 1655 and baptised 7th October 1655, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JQTN-JQK>. Since Richard and Susan already had that son John born 1655, it seems most unlikely that the John baptised in 1670 was theirs, especially since searches did not return any Long Itchington burial record which might be for the 1655 John.

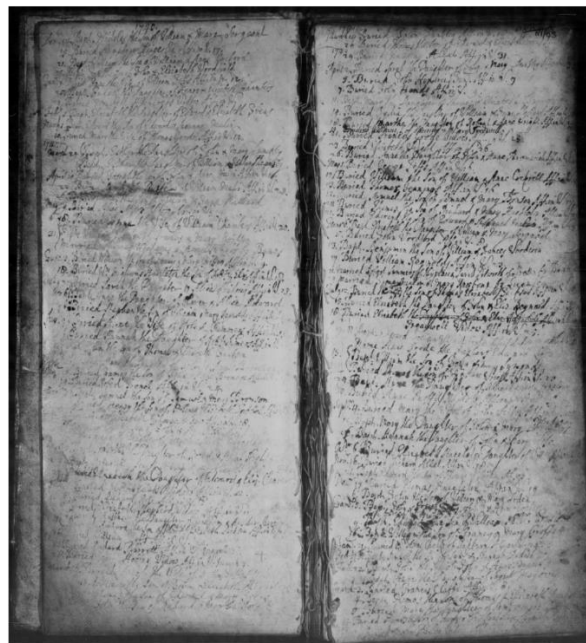
A Family Search search reveals that there were quite a number of Hobleys in Long Itchington in the mid-17th century²¹ as well as later.²² Indeed, during the latter half of the 17th century, there was also a significant number of other Hobley families in the slightly wider area,²³ in particular in Warwick, 11½ miles west by north of Napton, and in Coventry, 13½ miles north-northwest of Napton.

Also, the proximity of Long Itchington to Napton (four miles) may not be such a cogent connecting factor when it is also noted that the Family Search search in the wider Warwickshire area mentioned above also returned Hobley events in 1692 and 1694 in Southam, three miles west by north of Napton, and in 1693 and 1695 in Birdingbury,²⁴ five miles north-northwest of Napton, and being a place far more connected to Pensissily than Long Itchington, as she baptised three children there and she and her husband Henry were buried there, see the briefs relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley and Henry Neal.

A real difficulty relating to the present research was the significant gaps in, and the legibility issues of, parish records, which makes the chance that a Simon Hobley baptism record is lost or was missed a real and significant prospect. As Family Search says of the older records on which its own databases are built: “The farther back in history you go, the less documentation you will find. Records were not always kept. Over time it is common for what records there were to be destroyed or misplaced”.²⁵

To which may be added that, as the search for ancestors goes farther back in time, one more frequently observes parish register pages or entries which are illegible, incomplete or inaccurate, or in Latinate form and consequently difficult and laborious to read or decipher. As a consequence, partial records and transcription mistakes were often observed in the Family Search indices of the images of parish registers.

This image of two Napton parish register pages from 1741 in the brief relating to Margaret Hobley nee Brewer illustrates a number of the legibility issues which were often encountered in older parish registers, including severely faded entries, ink splotches and smears, entries which crowd each other, and illegible handwriting.



²¹ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&offset=20&q.anyPlace=Long%20Itchington%2C%20Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on>.

²² A number of Hobley records were encountered in Long Itchington upon the manual examination of the images of its parish register during the later period of 1710 to 1759 for research relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley, see the brief relating to her.

²³ See

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/record/results?count=20&q.anyDate.from=1640&q.anyDate.to=1700&q.anyPlace=Warwickshire%2C%20England&q.anyPlace.exact=on&q.surname=Hobley&q.surname.exact=on>.

²⁴ The two events are also listed as occurring in Marton. Marton's parish register sometimes recorded Birdingbury events for some reason. Two further examples from 1729, the burials of John Neal and Goody Neal, are given in the brief relating to Pensissily Neal nee Hobley.

²⁵ See https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Rookie_Mistakes.

Although the 1663 Long Itchington Symon Hobley was a good candidate to be the husband of Margaret Brewer and the father of Pensissily Neal, and indeed the only age-appropriate Simon/Symon Hobley actually found in the research, those facts alone are insufficient to ordain him as such when there may be other potential candidates who cannot be located due to the significant gaps in, and legibility issues of, the contemporaneous record, as noted above, and where the chances that there are such other potential candidates is heightened due to the significant number of other Hobley families in the locality at the time, also as noted above, and when, also, a more logical location for Simon's birth is Napton as the place where he married, baptised eight children, and was buried.

Accordingly, the birth place and date, and the parentage, of Simon Hobley remain undetermined.