

1132. **JAMES MORGAN**

Born after 1645

Died 30 Apr 1718

Married (1) 1133. Anne Hopton

Born

Died before 27 Oct 1695

Children (1) (order of birth unknown):

Edward Morgan

b.

d. in infancy

m. not

566. Edward Morgan

b. probably c1670 Monmouthshire, England (Wales)

d. after 1732 Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

m. 567. Elizabeth ----- probably c1686

Sarah Morgan

b. 1675

d.

m. Stephen Beasley 1691

William Morgan

b.

d. in infancy

m. not

Married (2) Alice Hopton Jones 27 Oct 1695 Abergavenny

Born

Died

Children (2):

unknown

Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, was a son of Sir Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet of Llantarnam, and Mary Englefield, daughter of Sir Francis Englefield of Wootton Bassett, Baronet. Sir James was born after 1645 because he was described as being under 18 years of age in 1663 in a law suit between his brother Sir Edward Morgan, 2nd Baronet, and the third husband of their mother Mary Englefield Morgan.ⁱ Anne Hopton was a daughter of Judge Richard Hopton of Bishop Frome and, later, Canon Frome, and Susan Harvey, daughter of Sir William Harvey. Judge Hopton was Chief Justice for North Wales during the reigns of King Charles II and King James II. Alice Hopton Jones was a first cousin of Anne Hopton. Her parents were Sir Edward Hopton of Canon Frome and Deborah Hatton, daughter of Robert Hatton.ⁱⁱ

... Edward Morgan (b. 1678-79; d. 1718) according to family records was a son of

Sir James Morgan, 4th Bt. of Llantarnam by a first marriage to Anne (by whom he also had a dau., Sarah, b. 1676; who m. 1691, Stephen Beasley, and settled in Philadelphia), dau. of Judge Richard Hopton, of Bishop Frome, later of Canon Frome (and his wife, Susan, dau. of Sir William Harvey), Chief Justice of N. Wales temp. Charles II and James II, and first cousin therefore of Sir James's second wife, Alice, widow of Nicholas Jones (whom she had m. 17 April 1683), and dau. of Sir Edward Hopton, of Canon Frome (see that family in Landed Gentry of Great Britain, by Deborah (d. 13 July 1702), dau. of Robert Hatton. Sir James Morgan, d. 30 April 1718, when the Baronetcy appears to have become extinct (but see *The Morgan Family* by James Appleton Morgan)...

This account confuses the date of death of Edward Morgan, Sr. with that of his son Edward, Jr. who died in 1718. The source reference, *The Morgan Family* by James Appleton Morgan, lists Edward Morgan of Towamencin and the other children of Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, without reference to a primary source of information for proof.ⁱⁱⁱ

Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam ... m. (1st) widow Ann Hopton Jones, of Canon Frome; m. (2nd) Lady Alice Hopton, of Canon Frome, cousin of first wife. Issue (1st wife): 1. Edward, d. infancy. (By 2nd wife): 2. Sarah. 3. William, d. infancy. 4. Edward ... lived near Gwynedd, then in Philadelphia Co. (now Montgomery Co.), Penna ... Sir James is buried at Stowell, County Gloucester.

The foregoing account attributes two marriages to Sir James Morgan but confuses the names of the wives and incorrectly shows the second wife as mother of three of his children. The mother of Edward Morgan and Sarah Morgan Beasley has been identified as Alice Hopton Jones, widow of Nicholas Jones, frequently, probably because she appears on the pedigree of the Morgan family of Llantarnam as the wife of Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet, which does not show his prior marriage to Anne Hopton,^{iv} but, since Alice Hopton and Nicholas Jones were not married until 13 April 1683,^v she could not have married Sir James Morgan until afterward. This indicates that Edward Morgan, who had to have been born before 1683, and Sarah Beasley Morgan, who was born in 1675, were children of their father's first wife Anne Hopton.

Alice Hopton Jones has been described as a Protestant and her marriage to Sir James Morgan probably occurred in the Church of England at Abergavenny, from which register the record was abstracted for inclusion in Catholic records, as was his death record:^{vi}

1695. Oct. 27. mar. Jacobus Morgan,* miles et Barrt. & Alicia Jones

1718. Apr. 30. died Sir James Morgan, Baronet

* Sir James Morgan, of Llantarnam, 4th and last baronet of this old Catholic family. He was the son of Sir Edward Morgan, of Llantarnam, bart., by his wife,

Mary, daughter to Sir Francis Englefield, of Wootton Bassett, bart. He married Alice, daughter to Sir Edward Hopton, of Canon Frome, co. Hereford, knt., and widow of Nicholas Jones, of Abergavenny, esq. Sir James was a non-juror in 1715, and died 30 April, 1718 (vide Bradney's *Monmouthshire*, iii,231).

The confusion over the identity of the wives of Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, obviously occurs because they were both named Hopton and from Canon Frome:^{vii}

It is stated in Harleian MS., No. 4,181, folio 247, that Sir James Morgan married Anne, daughter of Judge Hopton of Canon Frome and relict of Nicholas Jones, son and heir of William Jones, Recorder of Abergavenny. In the year 1715 Sir James was a Non-Juror living at Abergavenny with a life-estate at Panteague and an estate at Llanllowel in right of his wife Dame Alice, a Protestant, the Widow of Nicholas Jones; the estates together of the yearly value of L159: 9s. 2d.

Nicholas Jones of Abergavenny and Alice Hopton of Canon Frome were married in April 1683 at Canon Frome. Alice was the daughter of Sir Edward Hopton, who was in the Commission of the Peace, but was not a Judge; and was born on the 18th June, 1656. It is probable that this Alice, and not Anne as above, afterwards became the wife of Sir James Morgan, Bart.

Bishop Frome and Canon Frome are villages near the River Frome, between the cities of Hereford and Worcester, north of Monmouthshire (now Gwent).^{viii}

The conflicting information about Edward Morgan of Towamencin and his presumed father Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, extends to the parentage of Sir James, who was identified as Sir Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet, and his second wife Frances Morgan Lewis. Sir Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet of Llantarnam, was reported to have married (1) Mary Englefield and (2) Frances Morgan Lewis,^{ix} but Frances Morgan Lewis was the wife of Sir Edward Morgan, Jr., 2nd Baronet of Llantarnam, who was a son of Sir Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet, and Mary Englefield and a brother of Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet.^x

The pedigree of the Morgan family of Llantarnam shows that Sir Edward Morgan of Llantarnam was created a baronet on 12 May 1642. He was succeeded in title and estate by his eldest son Sir Edward Morgan (Jr.) as 2nd Baronet of Llantarnam and he was succeeded by his son Sir Edward Morgan (III) as 3rd Baronet, who died in 1681 (will proved in 1682) and was succeeded by his uncle Sir James Morgan as 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, who died in 1718 when the baronetcy expired. This pedigree chart shows that Sir Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet, had three sons, Sir Edward Morgan, 2nd Baronet; Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet, who died on 30 April 1718; and Henry Morgan of Caerleon, Esquire, whose will was dated 07 November 1714; and two daughters, Frances of Brabant in Flanders and Dorothy of Ghent in Flanders, both of whom died unmarried and whose estates were administered by their brother Henry on 07 February

1687.^{xi}

The pedigree chart does not include two other children of Sir Edward, 1st Baronet, a son William and a daughter Lucy, who are identified in another account of the family, which gives the date of administration of the estates of Frances and Dorothy as 1688 instead of 1687:^{xii}

Sir Edward Morgan died on the 24th June, 1653, leaving issue by his wife, who afterwards married Pierce Butler, Esq., and died about the year 1678: - (1) Edward, who succeeded him in Title and estate, and died on 3rd July, 1679. (2) William, to whom the Baronetcy would appear by right, to have reverted on the death of his nephew in the year 1682 (sic):but who does not appear to have assumed the title - who died unmarried, and whose estate was administered by his brother Henry on the 7th February, 1688. (3) James, to whom on his brother William's decease, about the year 1687, the Baronetcy passed, and he is recorded in Public Records as Sir James Morgan, Bart. (4) Henry, who administered his brother William's estate in the year 1688. (1) Frances, who died unmarried at Lyre, in the province of Brabant in Flanders; and whose estate was administered by her brother Henry on the 7 Feb., 1688. (2) Dorothy, who died unmarried at Ghent in Flanders; and whose estate was administered also by her brother Henry on the 7 Feb., 1688, and (3) Lucy, who died unmarried "beyond sea;" and whose estate was administered by her brother Sir James on the 25 October 1683 ...

... In Harleian MS., No. 4,181, folio 247 ... it states that Sir James was the second son of Sir Edward Morgan; while Sir Edward, in his Will, particularly mentions William as his second son ...

... There appears to have been no male issue of this marriage (Sir James Morgan and Alice Hopton Jones) surviving; and Sir James' brother, Henry Morgan, having, it is supposed, died unmarried, the Baronetcy became extinct.

It has been said that when Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam, died on 30 April 1718, the family estate passed to Frances Morgan Bray, daughter of his nephew Sir Edward Morgan, 3rd Baronet of Llantarnam, and that Edward Morgan of Towamencin and his sister Sarah Morgan Beasley of Philadelphia, apparently took no action to contest the inheritance.^{xiii} However, although the baronetcy reverted to him, Sir James did not inherit any of the family lands. He lived at Abergavenny, the home of his second wife Alice Hopton Jones Morgan,^{xiv} with a life-estate at Panteague and an estate at Llanllowel in right of his wife Alice at the combined yearly value 159 pounds, 9 shillings and 2 pence.^{xv} Furthermore, Frances Morgan Bray and her unmarried sister Anne Morgan divided the lands of Sir Edward Morgan, 3rd Baronet, before 1718. The life-estate at Panteague apparently was part of the family lands which James Morgan held under a lease. In the indenture by which Anne Morgan and Frances Bray divided their father's real estate on 31 March 1707, the list of property in Panteague (Panteg) included a tract of 75 acres and 26 perches of land that was described as:^{xvi}

21 parcels, 2 houses, 2 barns (by lease granted to Sir James Morgan), held by Richard Morgan David & W. Jones

Since the Morgans of Llantarnam were such devout Catholics, with Sir James Morgan being fined as a non-juror as late as 1715, it is curious that Sir James took a Protestant as his second wife and that his son Edward Morgan of Towamencin became a Quaker and his daughter Sarah Morgan Beasley became a Baptist. However, as different as Catholics and Protestants may seem today, they shared their opposition to the Church of England, the state church, in the 17th and 18th centuries. Non-jurors were persons who refused to take an oath of allegiance to their ruler or government. As such, the baronets of Llantarnam were continually subjected to the sequestration of their estates by Parliament. By frequent compoundings or settlements the Morgans managed to retain their property from seizure. The largest settlement paid by the Morgans was 1007 pounds in 1666 when Pencoyd Castle was sequestered.^{xvii}

There are six probate records in the Court of the Bishop of Llandaff, Wales, pertaining to a James Morgan:

James Morgan	Abergavenny	Will 20 Oct 1697	1- 87
James Morgan	Abergavenny	Admin 03 Oct 1711	2- 8
James Morgan	Abergavenny	Admin 08 May 17283-	17
James Morgan	Abergavenny	Admin 09 Nov 1736	3-100
James Morgan	Abergavenny	Admin 20 Apr 1768	4- 64
James Morgan	Llanvihangel Llantarnam	Admin 24 Sep 1721	2-112

The first five records do not pertain to Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam and the six one, which probably does, is missing from the collection.^{xviii} One may speculate that the published connection between Sir James Morgan and Edward Morgan of Towamencin was obtained from this administration record before it was lost.

The parish of Llanvihangel Llantarnam is generally known as Llantarnam since there is no other parish by that name in Wales. Llantarnam appears to come from Nant Teyrnion, where Nant, which means brook, becomes Llan. Teyrnion is a man's name. Teyrnion, Lord of Gwent Iscoed, was described at the best man in the world. The census of Henry Compton, Bishop of London, in 1675, gave the adult population of Llantarnam Parish as 27 Conformantes, 13 Papistae and 3 Nonconformantes. It is a large parish, bounded on the east by the River Avon Lwyd and stretching for five miles from Pont-hir to the top of the mountain called Mynydd-Maen at a height of 1500 feet. It remained sparsely populated until about 1855 when growth began with the introduction of industries, such as the iron and brick works, at Cwmbran.^{xix}

When Sarah Morgan married Stephen Beasley (Beaslee, Besley, Bazelee, Bazelle, Bezle), who was a Baptist, she embraced his religion and in consequence she was disowned by her father, a Roman Catholic. When the Beasleys emigrated to America, Sarah's brother Edward either accompanied them or followed later. Stephen Beasley

was a ship-builder in Swanson Street in Philadelphia and made several voyages to Europe in his own ships. He died on 04 January 1749. Stephen and Sarah are buried in the same grave in the Baptist burying ground in LaGrange Place in Philadelphia according to an entry in the Bible of their son-in-law Richard Morey. During the Revolution Stephen Beasley, Jr. was captain of the guard boat Viper of the Pennsylvania State Fleet and participated in all of the battles on the Delaware River in the defense of Philadelphia. He remained in naval service until 1780. In addition to Stephen, Jr. who married Hannah Palmer, Stephen and Sarah Morgan Beasley were the parents of Sarah Beasley who married (1) Thomas Williams, (2) ----- Allen and (3) Richard Morey (Morrey); John Beasley who married Elizabeth Evans; Frances Beasley who married Zephaniah Holwell; and Simon Beasley who married Jean -----.^{xx}

According to the records of Pennypack Baptist Church of Philadelphia, Sarah Beasley Williams was dismissed from the church to go to Old England in 1727 and returned in 1733. Perhaps she went there in connection with the administration of her grandfather Sir James Morgan's estate in 1721.

The death date of 04 January 1749 for Stephen Beasley also has been assigned to Sarah Beasley Morgan who was said to have been born in 1691.^{xxi} Since this account confuses Sarah's marriage date of 1691 as her birth date, the death date assigned to her may also be confused with that of her husband.

Richard Morey, who married Sarah Beasley Williams Allen in 1746 at Oxford Trinity Church, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, was the son of Humphrey Morey (Morrey), Mayor of Philadelphia.

After the death of John Beasley, his widow married ----- Edwards. The will of John Beasley (Bazelee), Jr., a shipwright of Southwark District in Philadelphia, which was dated 30 July 1768 and proved on 25 August 1777, named his wife Martha as his sole legatee and executrix.^{xxii} The descendants of John Beasley and Elizabeth Evans were identified by Appleton Morgan.^{xxiii}

The records of Pennypack Baptist Church show that Stephen Beasley, Jr. and Hannah Palmer were married on 29 January 1729 and baptized on 07 November 1734. His name appears on a mortgage dated 30 July 1743.

Frances Beasley and Zephaniah Holwell were the parents of Zephaniah, Jr., Sarah and Stephen Holwell.

Simon and Jean Beasley had John and Edith. Edith Beasley married John Dresley on 13 August 1750. The administration of the estate of Simon Beasley is recorded.^{xxiv}

STEPHEN BEASLEY

Born

Died (04 Jan 1749 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?)

Married Sarah Morgan 1691

Born 1676

Died (04 Jan 1749 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?)

Children (order of birth unknown):

Sarah Beasley

b.

d.

m. (1) Thomas Williams

(2) ----- Allen

(3) Richard Morey 1746

John Beasley

b. 1716

d.

m. Elizabeth Evans 1738

Stephen Beasley Jr

b.

d.

m. Hannah Palmer 29 Jan 1729

Frances Beasley

b.

d.

m. Zephaniah Holwell

Simon Beasley

b.

d.

m. Jean ----- before 21 Sep 1737

NOTES

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- i. *A History of Monmouthshire From the Coming of the Normans into Wales Down to the Present Time*, Joseph Alfred Bradney, C.B., M.A., F.S.A., Volume III, Part 2, comprising 16 parishes and hamlets in the Hundred of Usk, including Llanfihangel Llantarnam, Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, London, 1923.
 - ii. *Burke's American Families with British Ancestry*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1977, from *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry*, John Bernard Burke, London, 1939, page 2974.
 - iii. *A History of the Family of Morgan*, James Appleton Morgan, privately, New York, c1902.
 - iv. Supra note 1 and *The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal, Being a Complete Table of All The Descendants Now Living of Edward III, King of England*, The Marquis of Ruvigny and Raineval, T.C. & E. C. Jack, London, 1905.
 - v. Supra note 2.
 - vi. *Catholic Record Society Publications*, Volume 7, page 228, 1927.
 - vii. *Historical and Genealogical Memoirs of the Morgan Family as represented in the Peerage of England by the Right Hon. the Baron Tredegar*, G. Blacker Morgan, privately, London, 1891.
 - viii. Royal Auto Club road maps.
 - ix. Supra note 3.
 - x. Supra notes 1, 4 and 7.
 - xi. Supra note 1.
 - xii. Supra note 7.
 - xiii. Supra note 3.
 - xiv. Supra note 1.
 - xv. Supra note 7.
 - xvi. Supra note 1.
 - xvii. Supra note 3.
 - xviii. Research report, John G. Griffiths, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England, 1985.
 - xix. Supra note 1.
 - xx. Supra note 3.
 - xxi. Supra note 7.
 - xxii. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Will No. 60, Book R, page 92.
 - xxiii. Supra note 3.
 - xxiv. in Philadelphia Administration Book G, page 81, Administration No. 6, dated 1757.