

4528. **WILLIAM MORGAN**

Born

Died 09 Mar 1633/4 Monmouthshire, Wales

Married 4529. Frances Somerset

Born

Died

Children (order of birth unknown):

2264. Edward Morgan, 1st Baronet of Llantarnam

b. 1562

d. 24 Jun 1653

m. 2265. Mary Englefield

William Morgan

b.

d. c1641

m. Catherine -----

Henry Morgan

b.

d.

m.

John Morgan

b.

d.

m.

Elizabeth Morgan

b.

d.

m. Sir Philip Jones

Winifred Morgan

b.

d.

m. Percy Enderby

William Morgan of Penrhos Fwrdios, Esquire, was a son of Edward Morgan of Llantarnam, Esquire, and Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Hugh Smith, Esquire, of Long Ashton in Somersetshire. Frances Somerset was a daughter of Sir Edward Somerset, 4th Earl of Worcester, K.G.,ⁱ and Elizabeth Hastings.ⁱⁱ

William Morgan was identified incorrectly as the son of John Morgan of Caerleon and his wife Elizabeth Gwyn and as the purchaser of Llantarnamⁱⁱⁱ but he was their great-grandson and Llantarnam actually was purchased by his grandfather William Morgan of Pentrebach, who was married to Elizabeth Mansel. His father Edward was the son of

William Morgan and Elizabeth Mansel. His grandfather William was a son of John Morgan of Caerleon and Elizabeth Gwyn.^{iv} John Morgan of Caerleon descended from Morgan ap Llewellyn, lord of St. Clere and Tredegar, who was a descendant of Cadivor Fawr, lord of Kilsaint.^v

Sir Edward Somerset descended from King Edward III of England and his queen Philippa of Hainault through their son John Plantagenet of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and King of Castile and Leon, and his mistress and eventual third wife Katherine Rouet Swinford whose son John Beaufort, 1st Earl of Somerset, married Margaret Holland. Their son Edmund Beaufort, 4th Earl of Somerset, married Eleanor Beauchamp and had Henry Beaufort, 2nd Duke of Somerset. By his mistress Joan Hill, Duke Henry had a son Sir Charles Somerset, K.G., who was created the first Earl of Worcester in 1514. Charles Somerset married Elizabeth Herbert, only daughter and heir of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon, and his wife Mary Wydeville. Their son Henry Somerset, 2nd Earl of Worcester, Lord Herbert, married(1) Margaret Courtenay and (2) Elizabeth Browne, daughter of Sir Anthony Brown and Lucy Neville. By his second wife he had William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, K.G., who married (1) Christian North, first daughter of Edward North, 1st Lord North, by his first wife Alicia Squire, and (2) Theophilia Newton Cradock. By his first wife, William Somerset had Edward Somerset, 4th Earl of Worcester, K.G., who married Elizabeth Hastings, daughter of Francis Hastings, 2nd Earl of Huntingdon, K.G., Lord Hastings, and Catherine Pole.^{vi}

William and Frances Somerset Morgan were ardent Roman Catholics:^{vii}

... William Morgan had won the heart and hand of Lady Frances Somerset, daughter of the Earl of Worcester. She was one of the “fair daughters of Raglan.” Their whole family were converted to the true faith by the saintly Jesuit, Father Jones, and William and Lady Morgan became the founders of the Jesuit Mission in Wales.

Soon after her conversion, she (Lady Frances), reflecting that most of her husband’s Estates consisted of Church Livings, dealt with him about making some satisfaction for the same. Both her husband and herself conceived well that Missionaries of the Society should be maintained in both parts of Wales to labour therein. And accordingly the Lady made a Will, her husband assenting and subscribing thereunto, and thereby ordered that two of the Society should be maintained in North, and two in South Wales for that end and purpose.

In a report from the High Sheriff of Herefordshire, to the Privy Council, 1605, Father Jones is called “the firebrand of all” and the lay gentlemen who run this course with the Jesuits are ... “Mr. Morgan, the younger, of Llantarnam, with whom the said Jones, the Jesuit, is very often, sometimes for a month together.”

The same report shows that William Morgan was under suspicion as being “busy about Armour,” about to take a dangerous part in the political affairs of his time in 1605, the year of the Gunpowder Plot. As proprietor he did not survive his father

by a full year.

The statement that “he did not survive his father by a full year” refers to the death of William Morgan on 09 March 1634 after his father Edward had died on 26 March 1633:^{viii}

Edward Morgan of Llantarnam, esq., M.P. co. Mon. 1584-5 and 1586-7; sheriff 1582; ob. 26 March 1633/4.

William Morgan of Penrhos Fwrddios, esq., ob. 9 March 1633/4; adm'on to Edward the son 1635. Inq. p.m. 21 May 1635.

At this time, the Julian calendar was in use wherein the year began on 25 March, so historians frequently show March dates as 1633/4 to indicate that it was 1633 on the old calendar and 1634 on the current Gregorian calendar wherein the year begins on 01 January. In actuality, at the time of Edward Morgan's death 26 March was the 2nd day of the 1st month 1633. William Morgan then died, less that 12 months later, on the 09 March in the same year, 16 days before the year ended on 24 March.^{ix}

The Gunpowder Plot was engineered by a Catholic named Robert Catesby in 1604 to blow up the King, lords and commons at the opening of Parliament. Both the Catholics and the Puritans of the time had appealed to King James I for better treatment. They were being fined for recusancy, which was the refusal to attend the services of the Church of England. King James remitted the fines for recusancy but banished the Catholic priests from London. Thereupon Catesby decided to destroy the powers that dealt with his co-religionists so harshly. He communicated his idea to Guy Fawkes, a cool and intrepid soldier in Flanders, who found it acceptable and came to England. The conspirators placed barrels of gunpowder in a cellar that ran beneath both houses of Parliament with the intention of exploding it during the second session of Parliament on 05 November 1605. However one of the conspirators became afraid and betrayed the plot. Fawkes was apprehended in the act of setting the fuse to the powder and he and his companions, who were captured with him, were executed. Afterward the persecution of the Catholics increased.^x

The maiden name of Catherine, wife of William Morgan (Jr.), is not known. They had two children, Joseph who was underage in 1641 and Winifred Morgan. The will of William Morgan, who lived at Pentrebach, was dated 19 July 1641 and proved on 18 February 1641/2.^{xi}

Henry Morgan also lived at Pentrebach.^{xii}

John Morgan, who lived at Trostre, had two sons, William and Edward Morgan.^{xiii}

The husband of Elizabeth Morgan, Sir Philip Jones, Knight, lived at Treowen.^{xiv} He was the eldest son of William Jones of Treowen and Llanarth, Esquire, and his wife Jane who was the only daughter and heir Moor Gwillim of Monmouth, Esquire. Sir Philip was in Raglan Castle when it was taken and destroyed by Sir Thomas Fairfax. His will was dated in 1659 and he died the following year. Sir Philip and Elizabeth Morgan had

William who married Mary Anderton; Henry who married a Milborne; Edward; Elizabeth who married Hugh Lewis; Winifred who married George Watkins; Mary who married a Milborne; Anne; Frances; Clare; Margery; Jane; and Lucy.^{xv}

Percy Enderby who married Winifred Morgan was from Lincolnshire, England. He learned the Welsh language and wrote *Cambria Triumphans*.^{xvi} He also wrote a poem in 1661 extolling the virtues of the Morgan family. The title was defined as meaning “a personification of a Morgan patriarch of the acclaimed oldest branch of the family, that of Tredegar of South Wales,” and several explanatory footnotes accompanied the transcription.^{xvii}

Prosopopoeia Tredegar

You who by Right enjoy a Morgan's Name,
Know that from Me you do enjoy the same:
I am the Root, ye the Branches are,
Whose Gallant worth hath spread itself so far,
That Ireland in her rebellious Time,
Found a stout Morgan(3) to reprove her crime;
Not only to reprove, but to beat down
The proud opposers of Eliza's Crown.
The Netherlands, had there no Morgan(4) been
Had lost their bravest Towns, and never seen
The Peace they now enjoy; let them erect
The Choicest Columns that an Architect
Can frame by Art, they will Atoms be
In the Respect of Morgan's gallantry.
How many this Country(5) glory in my Name?
How many Morgans glory in the same?
All sprung from Me, Pencoyd, Lantarnam sore,(6)
Penhow, St. Pierre, Pentlau, which doth store
This Shire with many Stems, I reckon not
The 'mediate Branches by myself begot.
Grindy and Pentre-bach,(7) had that not known
A winter's Frost, might have some Blossoms shown.
Old Wernycleppa, and Tredoneck's Race,
Hopkins of Machen here must find a place;
Rupera and Rubenny, though it be
[Out of the Circle of this Countrie(8)];
And so Lan Rumney, yet must bend their knee,
And from Tredegar fetch their Pedigree.
Wonder not that I do not Machen name,
Were not the Lambeaux then the Coates same
Which learned Heralds know to be a Sign
That he's the Heir apparent of that Line.
What families from hence to England went,
And there to Knightly Offsprings gave Descent?

Morgan of Weston and the Southern Line
Of wealthy Morgans, whose great wealth does shine
Like Stars; can tell you yet from Me their Sun,
Their brightest Light, and Lustre first begun.
From Me they issued, first from Me they were,
And first took Life, which in my Hemisphere
Of lesser Rank, what numerous Branches be;
'Twould trouble even the deepest Heraldry
To find Distinctions, how to Subdivide
The treble younger by the Father's Side.
Who was himself, when first his House begun,
But third or second to a younger Son.
Thus hath the Highest blest me, blest be He,
The Author of All Offsprings through Eternity,
Amen

(3) Sir William Morgan, Knight, of Pencoed. Sir William, in the year 1579, wrote from the Court to Sir Edward Stradling: Whereas I am appointed by the Queene and the Councill furthewith to go in to Ireland with the men owt of South Wales, which I doubt and feare I shall finde exceedinge rawe, yet my trust and hope is in you that you will be careful to helpe me to suche men as shal be able of bodie, whereby the Queene may the better be servid, and I therebie may get fame honestlie ... prauinge yow ... that their cottes[coats] may be reed, with a little alce of grene ... and that they may have some allowance of some convenient store of powder for to traine their shotte while they are of this side the sea, and on the sea in goinge ...

(4) Several cadets of the family followed the wars in the Low Countries, and appear prominently and valiantly in the history of that warfare; notably Sir Thomas Morgan, Knight, who formed the regiment since known as the "Bufs," and was governor of Bergen-op-Zoom in the year 1594; Sir Mathew Morgan, Knight, and General Sir Charles Morgan, Knight, who succeeded in command of the "Bufs," and especially distinguished himself in the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom, in the year 1621.

(5) i.e, County.

(6) "Sore," unidentified as a locality; was perhaps, used adjectively with Llantarnam, to denote a lingering tenderness there after recent extortions by government seizure of estates, etc., and by the imprisonment of Sir Edward Morgan, of Llantarnam.

(7) Pentre-bach within the parish of Llantarnam, formerly a Morgan residence.

The appearance of (3) as the first footnote and the absence of the footnote denoted (8) in the poem, suggests that this transcription was lifted from another context verbatim and published without editing. Sir William Morgan of Pencoed, who was to lead troops to Ireland in 1579, must have been related to William Morgan of Penrhos Fwrddios, Esquire, who purchased Llantarnam and died in 1582, through his great-great-grandfather Sir Thomas Morgan of Pencoed whose son Sir John Morgan was described

as of Caerleon where he was keeper of the royal park.^{xviii}

Footnote 6 could have been more positive in interpreting the word sore as a poetic application, describing Llantarnam as filled with sadness, grief or sorrow; distressed; as in a sore hardship. In archaic usage, sore meant sorely and an obsolete definition is to wound; to make sore. Heartsore is an adjective meaning feeling or showing grief; grieved.

Elizabeth Stradling, daughter of Sir Edward Stradling, married John Morgan, son of John Morgan and Letitia (Lettice) Herbert, daughter of Sir George Herbert of St. Julians, and grandson of Sir Morgan John and Margaret Morgan, daughter of Thomas Morgan of Pencoed. John Morgan and Elizabeth Stradling were the parents of Miles Morgan, an adventurer who died in 1581 on a voyage to America with Sir Humphrey Gilbert.^{xix}

The description of Lady Frances Somerset as one of the “fair daughters of Raglan,” refers to Raglan Castle, which is about 15 miles from Newport in Gwent (formerly Monmouthshire) near the intersection of Route 40 from Abergavenny and Route 449 from Newport to the town of Monmouth.^{xx} Edward and Frances Hastings Somerset were buried at Raglan Castle.^{xxi}

It is likely that the so-called conversion of William and Frances Somerset Morgan actually was an mistaken interpretation of their decision to actively support the Jesuits. Their fathers were active Catholics, with William’s father being fined for recusancy in 1605^{xxii} and Frances’ father was a Papist who, ironically, served as a commissioner for the expulsion of Jesuits from Wales in 1602/3.^{xxiii}

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. *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, John Burke, Esq., and John Bernard Burke, Esq., London, 1841, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1977.
 - iii. *A History of the Family of Morgan*, James Appleton Morgan, privately, New York, c1902.
 - iv. Supra notes 1 and 2.
 - v. Supra note 3.
 - vi. *The Kings and Queens of Great Britain*, a chart, Anne Taute, Elm Tree Books, London, 1976; *A Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire*, Sir Bernard Burke, C.B., LL.D., London, 1883, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1978; *The Complete Peerage*, George E. Cokayne, London, 1910-1959.
 - vii. Photocopy, *Llantarnam Abbey Through the Ages*, pages 8-17, monograph,

- unidentified author, Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, Llantarnam Abbey, c1978.
- viii . Supra note 1.
- ix . *Julian to Gregorian*, John W. Heisey, article in *Antique Week/Tri-State Trader*, Genealogy Section, Knightstown, IN, 1986.
- x . *Lincoln Library of Essential Information*, Volume 1, 13th Edition, The Frontier Press, Buffalo, 1967.
- xi . Supra note 1.
- xii . *ibid.*
- xiii . *ibid.*
- xiv . *ibid.*
- xv . *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, John Burke, Esq., Volume IV, London 1834-38, reprinted Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1977.
- xvi . *ibid.*
- xvii . *Morgan the Family*, American Genealogical Research Institute, 1975.
- xviii . *ibid.*
- xix . *ibid.*
- xx . Royal Auto Club map.
- xxi . *The Complete Peerage*, George E. Cokayne, London, 1910-1959.
- xxii . Supra note 7.
- xxiii . Supra note 20.