

9056. **EDWARD MORGAN**

Born c1550
Died 26 Mar 1633/4 Monmouthshire, Wales
Married (1) 9057. Elizabeth Smith

Born
Died

Children (1) (order of birth unknown):

4528. William Morgan

b.
d. 09 Mar 1633/4 Monmouthshire, Wales
m. 4529. Frances Somerset

George Morgan

b.
d.
m.

Humphrey Morgan

b.
d.
m. Catherine Herbert

Rhys (Rees) Morgan

b.
d.
m.

Married (2) Margery Hasel

Born
Died

Children (2) (order of birth unknown):

William Morgan

b.
d.
m.

John Morgan

b.
d.
m.

Francis Morgan

b.
d.
m.

Winifred Morgan

- b.
- d.
- m.

Elizabeth Morgan

- b.
- d.
- m.

Edward Morgan was a son of William Morgan of Pentrebach and Llantarnam and his wife Elizabeth Mansel, daughter of Sir Rice Mansel of Margam, Knight. Elizabeth Smith was a daughter of Hugh Smith of Long Ashton in Somersetshire. Margery Hasel was a daughter of Hugh Hasel, Esquire.ⁱ

Although Edward Morgan, Esquire, was sheriff of Monmouthshire in 1582 and was a member of Parliament from Monmouthshire in 1584-85 and 1586-87, he was a Roman Catholic and had trouble with the authorities because of his religious convictions. On 01 April 1605 he was convicted of recusancy before Sir Christopher Yelverton and Sir David Williams, Knights, sitting as justices at Assize at Usk, for not "repairing to church to hear God's divine service." In consequence two-thirds of the rents from his manors and lands were forfeited to the use of the king.ⁱⁱ When his father died in 1582 Edward Morgan inherited, among other properties, Llantarnam Abbey and a history of the abbey describes Edward as "a rather intriguing character" who may have conformed to the edicts of the state church during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when he sat in Parliament:ⁱⁱⁱ

His signature appears to the Instrument of an Association organised throughout England, in 1584, for the protection of Queen Elizabeth. The seal of Edward Morgan is on the document. If he did then conform, he atoned for his sin of apostasy by his loyalty to the Faith in the succeeding reign. There is evidence in the history of the Llantarnam branch of the Morgan family of a strong twin loyalty: loyalty to the Faith and loyalty to the Crown with the constant difficulty of reconciling these two loyalties. In 1605, Edward Morgan was convicted of recusancy ... For many a long year did Edward Morgan pay his fine of L20 a month for recusancy. But the oddest event in his career is that he coolly offered King James a present of L1000 to purchase exemption from taking the oath of allegiance. The offer was accepted and a royal order made out that it should never be tendered to him. All the papers relating to this unconstitutional act are in the British Museum. Edward Morgan's letters bearing the sacred monogram, I.H.S. dated May 1612, are written from his lodging in Holborn, London, where he was attending the Privy Council "respecting the Oath of Allegiance." He was then 63 years of age and spoke of his infirmities "whereby I account myself half covered in my grave," but he survived for 25 years.

Aged 63 in 1612, Edward Morgan was born about 1550.

Frances Somerset who married William Morgan was a daughter of Sir Edward Somerset, 4th Earl of Worcester, K.G.,^{iv} and Elizabeth Hastings.^v

George Morgan, Esquire, lived at Lanson Fawr.^{vi}

Catherine Herbert who married Humphrey Morgan was the only child and heir of William Herbert of Crindau, Esquire.^{vii}

Rhys (Rees) Morgan may have been named after his grandfather Sir Rice Mansel of Margam in Glamorgan, Knight, whose name was also spelled Rees.^{viii} Their names may have been phonetically interchangeable. Rhys Morgan died without surviving issue.^{ix}

Sir Edward Mansel, brother of Elizabeth Mansel who married William Morgan, married Jane Somerset, daughter of Henry Somerset, 2nd Earl of Worcester, and sister of William Somerset, 3rd Earl of Worcester, who was a grandfather of Frances Somerset who married Elizabeth Mansel Morgan's grandson William Morgan.^x

Long Ashton is a few miles southwest of Bristol, England, in what is now the county of Avon, across the River Severn from Newport in Gwent, Wales. The town of Usk is on the river by the same name, northeast of Llantarnam and Newport.^{xi}

NOTES

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. *ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ. Photocopy, *Llantarnam Abbey Through the Ages*, pages 8-17, monograph, unidentified author, Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, Llantarnam Abbey, c1978.

^{iv}. *Supra* note 1.

^v. *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.

^{vi}. *Supra* note 1.

^{vii}. *ibid.*

^{viii}. *Supra* note 5.

^{ix}. *Supra* note 1.

^x. *Supra* note 5 and *The Complete Peerage*, George E. Cokayne, London, 1910-1959.

^{xi}. Royal Auto Club maps.