

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 October 1561 and proved 18 September 1562, of Thomas Morgan of Arkstone, Herefordshire, said to have been the father of Anne Morgan (d. 19 January 1607), the wife of Henry Carey (1526-1596), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Hunsdon, patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

For the will of the testator's grandfather, David ap Gwillim Morgan of Kingstone, Herefordshire, see TNA PROB 11/21/332.

The testator bequeaths £3 to William Jones:

*Item, I give and bequeath to William Jones, my brother's son, £3 of lawful money of England.*

According to the will of David ap Gwillim Morgan, *supra*, it would appear that the testator had a younger brother, 'John Williams alias John ap Morgan'. According to Welsh custom, it may be that the latter's son took the name 'William ap John alias William Jones', which would account for the fact that the son of the testator's brother had a different surname from the testator.

The testator states in the will below that his daughter, Margaret Morgan, had married 'John Danser', who may have been John Dancey of Webton:

<http://www.danseynet.net/forum3/viewtopic.php?f=22&t=934>.

In her will, TNA PROB 11/109/47, Lady Hunsdon (see above), said to have been the testator's daughter although she is not mentioned in the will below, bequeathed certain items of plate to her nephew, James Morgan (d.1620):

*Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr James Morgan, my nephew, one great silver spout pot which is always remaining in my chamber, and also one great white bowl of silver which was commonly used in the buttery and did remain always in the butler's charge weighing together forty ounces.*

The testator states in the will below that his legitimate son, Charles Morgan, had predeceased him, apparently leaving only a daughter, Jane Morgan. Since the testator mentions no other legitimate sons, it appears that Lady Hunsdon's nephew, James Morgan (d.1620), may have been the son of the testator's natural son, Thomas Morgan. In his own will, TNA PROB 11/135/571, James Morgan states that his father is still living, which rules out the possibility that he could have been the son of the testator's deceased legitimate son, Charles.

LM: T{estamentum} Thomas Morgan

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of October in the year of Our Lord God 1561 and in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Thomas Morgan of Arkstone in the county of Hereford, esquire, whole in body and of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do constitute, ordain and make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried where it shall please God;

Item, I bequeath to the cathedral church of Hereford 12d;

Item, I bequeath to the Vicar of Kingstone for my tithes forgotten 12d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Morgan, my natural son, all my lands and tenements, meadows, leases and pastures, rents and hereditaments with their appurtenances which I have within the county of Carmarthen, to have and to hold to him and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten;

And in default and for lack of such heirs the said lands and tenements and other the premises with all other their appurtenances to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Morgan th' elder, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margaret, my daughter, now married to John Danser [=Dansey], gentleman, to the preferment of her said marriage £40 of lawful money of England, the said £40 to be paid within 4 years next after my decease, that is to say, every of the said 4 years £10;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Morgan, my daughter, to the preferment of her marriage one hundred marks of lawful money of England to be paid within one quarter of a year next after the day of her said marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath to Jane Morgan, the daughter of my son, Charles Morgan, deceased, to the preferment of her marriage £20 of lawful money of England to be paid within one half year next after her said marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Jones, my brother's son, £3 of lawful money of England;

Item, I will that my funeral charges shall be according to mine estate and degree;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wife, all my lands and tenements which I have in the parish of Llangwunedur in the county of Brecknock called Eglos yayle, to have and to hold to her and her assigns during her life natural in augmenting of her

jointure, and after her decease the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Morgan, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth, my wife, all my goods and chattels moveable and unmovable, all the kine that I shall have at the day of my death in Blayne Rhwunwye and in Blayn Bargod in the county of Glwade Morgan [=Glamorgan?] only excepted, which kine I give and bequeath to my right heir;

And also I give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth, my wife, all my lands and tenements, meadows, leases and pasture, rents, services and hereditaments that I have within the parish of Llanvapley in the county of Monmouth, to have and to hold the said lands and tenements and all other the premises with their appurtenances in Llanvapley unto th' end and term of ten years then next ensuing and fully to be completed and ended, and after the said ten years expired, the remainder thereof to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Morgan, forever;

Item, I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, of my said goods and chattels to her by this my last will and testament given and bequeathed and of the rents and profits of the said lands and tenements in the parish of Llanvapley aforesaid during the said 10 years shall pay and discharge all my legacies aforesaid with my funeral expenses in manner and form aforesaid;

Item I do constitute, ordain and make the said Elizabeth, my wife, my sole executrix of this my last will and testament to see the same fulfilled and executed accordingly, and her overseers therein More Aphoell [=ap Powell?] and Thomas Morgan, my son, to the which More and Thomas for their pains herein to be sustained I give and bequeath to either of them 40s over and besides their reasonable charges and expenses to be sustained in that behalf;

In witness hereof to this my present testament I have put my seal and subscribed my name the day and year above-written;

This present testament was sealed [+in the presence of?] of William Marbury, clerk, David Gln, clerk, Robert John William, William Jones, and others.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London decimo octauo Die mensis Septe{m}bris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo secundo Iuramento Iohannis Will{ia}ms Procuratoris Elizabete Relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento nominat{e} Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o &c de bene &c Ac de pleno Inventario Necnon de vero et plano comp{ot}o Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

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[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the eighteenth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-second by the oath of John Williams, proctor of Elizabeth, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full inventory and also to render a true and plain account.]