SOME FAMILY CONNEXIONS OF WILLIAM MORGAN, F.R.S. (1750–1833)

PEDIGREES showing the family connexions of William Morgan, F.R.S., have been deposited in the library of the Society of Genealogists. They are of considerable interest and the profession is greatly indebted to Sir William Elderton, K.B.E., who prepared them. The genealogical tables display the fruits of many years of research; they continue the work which Sir William Elderton undertook when he gave his lecture on William Morgan to the Faculty of Actuaries in December 1931 (T.F.A. 14, 1).

In the Genealogists' Magazine (Vol. 12, No. 10) for June 1957, under the title at the head of this note, there is an article which describes the pedigrees and gives abridgments of the larger tables. Copies of this number of the Genealogists' Magazine can be obtained at a price of 4s. from the Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London, S.W. 7, or from the Institute.

The first two sections deal with Morgan himself, his parents and his uncle, Richard Price, D.D., F.R.S. The third section deals with his direct descendants, the connexions being of considerable interest.

(i) The Travers connexion

William Morgan's daughter married Benjamin Travers, F.R.S. (1783–1858), a member of a well-known family, which operated an old-standing provision business. A daughter of another part of the family became the mother of Florence Nightingale, the 'passionate statistician'.

(ii) The Rogers-Sharpe-Towgood connexion

William Morgan's eldest son, William (1791–1819), married Maria Towgood, one of the beautiful nieces of Samuel Rogers, the banker poet. Karl Pearson, F.R.S. (1857–1936) married into this family so that his three children (one of whom is Professor E. S. Pearson, who was recently elected an Honorary Member of the Institute) are second cousins once removed to a grand-daughter of William Morgan.

(iii) Arthur Morgan, F.R.S. (1801-70)

William Morgan's youngest son, Arthur, succeeded his father as Actuary of the Equitable, which office father and son held for over 95 years.

(iv) John Morgan (1797-1849) and the Gosse-Epps connexion

Between these two sons who followed in their father's footsteps were John (1797–1849) and Cadogan. The former married Anne Gosse, a cousin of Philip Henry Gosse, F.R.S. (1810–88), whose son Sir Edmund Gosse (1849–1928) married Ellen Epps. She was the aunt of Sir George Selby Washington Epps, Government Actuary from 1936 to 1944. S. F. Isaac, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Institute, is descended from another branch of the Epps family.

(v) William Morgan (1831-97)

The eldest son of John Morgan and Anne Gosse was William Morgan (1831-97) who became Assistant Actuary of the Equitable.

(vi) The Waugh connexion

Anne Gosse Morgan, daughter of John Morgan and Anne Gosse, married Alexander Waugh. Their son, Arthur Waugh (1866–1943), was well known in the publishing world and the grandsons, Alec and Evelyn Waugh, are well-known writers.

(vii) Cadogan Morgan and the Vachells

The other son of William Morgan was Cadogan Morgan (1798-?) whose daughter married Ivor Vachell. The copy of Morgan's portrait, which is now in Staple Inn Hall, was presented by their son, A. C. Vachell.

The fourth section of the article deals with William Morgan's brother, George Cadogan Morgan (1754-98), through whom there was a connexion with William Darwin (1839-1914), the eldest son of Charles Darwin. The fifth section deals with the Price, Coffin and Williams connexions, through William Morgan's wife and his sisters.

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