

How did Alicia Warburton connect to Charles Mongan, the future Bishop Warburton?

By Elaine Hopper

I am exploring the connection of Terence Charles Mongan to an Alicia Warburton, who in May 1792 was mentioned as the relation behind Mongan's change of name to Warburton. It seems likely she was from a family originating in Frodsham, Cheshire. There are connections to Frodsham stated in the will of a London distiller of Drury Lane, William Warburton, died November 1783 at Stephen Tissington's Mile End Road establishment.

There was a William Warburton, Alicia's late brother, Esquire of London, who was also mentioned in the change of name document. It is likely this man was the distiller, described in a court case as an ill old man at the time of his death. In a case related to his former host Stephen Tissington in 1784 an allegation was made that one of the executors to the will of the distiller, had "robbed the orphan" of his inheritance. Who was this orphan?

In the will a son William is listed as well a late brother of the distiller, Thomas of Frodsham. A sister Mary Nickson alias Starky is also mentioned. No wife is listed. The necessary siblings, William the distiller, Alicia his sister, Mary another sister, a likely brother Thomas who died in Frodsham earlier in the year 1783 can be found baptised as children of a William Warburton of Frodsham the children being born in the years 1710 to 1723. However, the Mary baptised in Frodsham in 1711 appears to have died in 1714. So when the sister Mary Nickson alias Mary Starkey mentioned in the distiller's will was born is as yet unknown. No mother is listed on those baptisms - that was the usual practice then.

The distiller's son William is stated in his father's will of 1783, to be in North America with the 31st foot regiment. This regiment took part in the Battle of Saratoga where Mongan was also present as chaplain, in the 62nd foot. The battle was very bloody with many deaths and injuries. The pair may have well met there or in the imprisonment camp afterwards.

It may be that the distiller's "son" was adopted; another William born in Frodsham to a father William in November 1748, had died 3 weeks after birth. At time of the distiller's will, in 1783, his son William was unmarried and aged about 30. It is possible he was actually the illegitimate son of an Ellenor Warburton born in a town, Lymm, nearby on Jan 25 1753, and baptised on

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3 Feb 1753. That William may have been adopted by the distiller after the loss of his own baby William.

A William Warburton is mentioned in a Frodsham land deed of 1866 as being aged 13, son of the distiller of London. In 1787 a William Warburton age 34 is named on another lease for 3 lives in Nether-ton (part of Frodsham). Before he went to North America, William had been named as the father of a child extraordinarily christened Easter Christmas Warburton. The case was heard was in a hearing on 6 January 1775 by the St Clement Danes church board where the unmarried mother, Catherine Wetherspuron gave evidence as to the father of her child born at Christmas in 1774 . She was unsure at one time of the man's name but the account, which crosses out the names Robert Warburton and James Warburton as the father finally says he was William Warburton, son of William Warburton distiller of Drury Lane. See *London Lives*. Catherine later called the child Hester and on ancestry the father is said to be James Warburton. The 1783 will of the distiller says his son William had injuriously incurred debts and that was why his allowances were to be doled out monthly unless money was needed for advancement in the army where he might be given up to 500 pounds to pay for commissions.

The woman Alicia Warburton who championed the change of name for Mongan is not mentioned in the distiller's will. and how/when she lived and died after the name change is not yet known. If she is the Frodsham, Alice Warburton born to a William Warburton 1723 she would be 69 in 1792 when the name change occurred.

In the distiller's will there is a 100 pounds to go to a Mrs Sarah (Drugal/Sougall??) of Henry Stree Dublin wife of Mr -----(Drugal/Sougall/Sougah?) This is a substantial amount of money and it would be good to know who she might be. So far deciphering the name and testing it in A 1783 directory that included Henry Street Dublin did not provide an answer.

Unresolved is the name of the Bishop Mongan Warburton's mother. Agnes Bayle housekeeper to the Bishop of Clogher (who was Bishop Hotham in the year of her will of 1793) may be the woman, She is a phenomenon in any case, being the only female housekeeper, and one of only 3 housekeepers, whose wills are listed in the Index among hundreds of names. See the Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland under Bayle, Agnes for the year 1793 . VERAX, a columnist in the newspapers of early 1800s, describing what he knew of the Bishop's early life, wrote that he believed the Bishop's mother was a respectable woman, a housekeeper to the Bishop of Clogher and he

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named Hotham.

Some of VERAX's other information is demonstrably erroneous, however. Agnes would need to be born by 1715 or later to be having children around 1750. Perhaps she was housekeeper later in her life, first to John Garnett and then to Hotham who came to Ireland from England. Dominick the harper is believed to have been born c1715 and his three sons born from 1750 to 1754. The first child of the Bishop, a son born about 1775 in the US, was named Garnett which may have been in tribute to an earlier Bishop of Clogher, John Garnett 1707 - 1782 born at Lambeth, who would have been of possible help to the child Charles Mongan born c 1754. Garnett was Bishop of Clogher from 1758 -1782. If the Bishop's father, harper Dominick O'Mungan was popular with wealthy and influential patrons, as appears to be the case, Garnett the Bishop may have been one of them. VERAX's account is important (Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette - Thursday 07 September 1826) published immediately after the death of the Bishop Warburton. Later accounts were sometimes scathing about the wealth the Bishop was able to accuue.

The next query is how an Agnes Bayle might relate to the Warburton family as the change of name declaration said that the connection was on the Bishop's maternal side. I have found a marriage of a Mary Warburton to James Bayley in 1738 in Fleet street. Note the y in that name though. He was with the 3rd regiment of foot, and a widower. Mary was a spinster of the parish of St Martin in the Fields. If James Bayley was some relation of Agnes Bayle, then the "relationship" of the future Bishop to a maternal Warburton connection, may be in this scenario. More sleuthing required.