

## BASSETTs of Newport & St Arvans, Monmouthshire

I have been able to personally conduct little research about BASSETTs in the county of Monmouth. I have obtained copies of all 14 Wills in this shire for this surname. The number of Wills by location and time period are:

Monmouth	1	1725
Newport	8	1700-1773
Pontypool	3	1753-1774 (Trevethin parish)
St Arvans	1	1796
Usk	1	1777

These 14 documents describe a total of 6 families. Unfortunately, only one of these families can be connected to BASSETTs listed in the 1841 census.

That census for St Arvans parish (about 10km northeast of Newport):

Sarah Bassett	age 80	Independent
John Bassett	45	Ag Lab
Ester do	45	
Rebecca do	12	
Stephen do	10	Ag Lab
James do	8	
George do	5	
Charles do	3	

The probate document that connects to this family is:

1796 Bond for the estate of Edward Bassett of St Arvans. Sarah Bassett of the parish of Lanam in Monmouth, widow promised under bond of £200 as Administratrix of all and singular the Goods Chattles & Credits of Edward Bassett, deceased, to make a true Inventory of the Goods, Chattles & Credits of the deceased by March 1797.

This document further mentions that Sarah Bassett is the "Relict" of Edward Bassett but does not mention the names of any children or relatives. It also does not include an inventory of the estate but says that its value is under £100.

This Edward may be the same person who married Catherine Watkins in 1767 in St Arvans and had 3 daughters: Mary, Mary Martha & Elizabeth. According to Jane Dyer, Catherine Watkins Bassett died in 1783.

Edward Bassett and Sarah Moses [Jeff Bassett Line 11B] had the following children:

Elizabeth	b. 1789	St Arvans
John	b. 1790	St Arvans
Jane	b. 1791	St Arvans
Stephen	b. ca 1791	St Arvans

To follow this family a little further:

Elizabeth married Edward Woolford

Jane married William Watkins and had: James, Thomas & Mary

Stephen married Elizabeth Williams and had: Elizabeth, Sarah, Thomas & John

John married Hester Weaver and had: Sarah, Edward, Thomas, Stephen, Rebecca, James, Charles, George and another Charles.

Going back the to Edward who died about 1796, it is possible that after Catherine Watkins died, Edward married Sarah Moses and had 4 more children. As proof that Edward's estate was modest, the 1841 census lists his sons' John & Stephen as either Labourer or Ag Labourer.

A branch of the very well known Bonvilston BASSETTs had some presence in Monmouthshire. Miles Bassett (born 1670 Bonvilston, Glamorgan) married Elizabeth Watkin in 1697. They both died in Bonvilston. They had 8 children including, a son Miles (born 1705). In 1728 this younger Miles was an Apothecary living in Pontypool, Monmouthshire (which is very close to Trevethin). Miles the Younger married Anne Shatford in Trevethin in 1726 and had 13 children. However, only 6 lived to adulthood and they include only two sons: Miles and Thomas. Thomas was also an apothecary in Trevethin. He married Elizabeth Williams in Trevethin in 1773 but died the next year without any issue. His brother Miles (born ca 1731) married Eleanor Thomas in 1779 in Margam, Glamorgan and lived much of his life in Swansea (dying there in 1813). Miles & Eleanor had 4 children: Ann, Elinor, Mary and another Miles (the last). This Miles died at the age of 15 so in summary the male descendants of the Miles (born in 1670), died out by 1797 leaving no one bearing the Bassett surname in Monmouth.

Several BASSETT families shown on the 1841 census in Trevethin, Monmouth are originally from Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. The adult males are all involved in the coal or iron industry. There appears to be no connection between these families and the well known family of Miles Bassett (of Bonvilston, Glamorgan), Apothecary who died in Trevethin in 1753.

William (born ca 1816 Llanelli, CMN) was the son of David & Elizabeth Bassett. He married Hannah and had children: Hannah, Daniel, Gomer & William.

Daniel (born Feb 1789 Llanelli, CMN) was the son of Anthony Bassett & Katherine Owen. Daniel married Frances and had children: Hannah and Daniel. This second Daniel married Catherine Williams at Trevethin in 1839 and had children: Daniel, Elizabeth, Ann, Mary, William and Leah.

One more Carmarthen family was found in Monmouth in 1841: John Bassett married Mary Phillips at Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan in 1811. They had children: David, Ann, John, Evan and Margaret. The 1851 census says that John was born at Llangendeirne, CMN ca 1784. His wife, Mary, was born in Swansea ca 1787. A search of the Llangendeirne parish records will be required to learn the names of his parents.

If anyone has access to parish records from Monmouthshire, a great service to the BASSETT community could be rendered by searching for BASSETT baptisms for the parishes of: Magor, Newport; Pontypool; St Arvans and Usk.

Moving much further back in time, the earliest record of a BASSETT in Monmouth is the family of John Bassett, son of William Bassett (of Beupre) and Catherine Mansel. John was born about 1554 and married Ann Prichard about 1579. According to Christopher Bassett's 19<sup>th</sup> century book, John (sometimes called John William Bassett) founded the BASSETTs of Caerwent (which is 10km east of Newport). No Will has been found for John but it is known that he had the following children: Edward, Harry, William, Mary and Lettice.

Another early Monmouth record is the 1681 marriage of Thomas Bassett of Blanch Roberts which took place at Monmouth, Monmouthshire. No issue from this marriage is known.

Now on to the Bassett Estate records of Newport. The earliest is a bond for the estate of Roger Bassett, Innkeeper of Newport which took place in 1700. Unfortunately, bonds typically provide little genealogical information. This bond reveals that Roger left behind a wife, Mary and that a Thomas Bassett was one of the appraisers of his estate worth £210. Mary wrote a will in 1719 which was probated in 1720. In this will she mentions a brother, Rowland Riddy thus revealing her maiden name. She bequeaths her houses and lands in Monmouth unto her daughter, Anne Bassett. No further information is known about this family.

In 1701 letters for administration were applied for by Sarah Bassett the "relict" of Thomas Bassett, Tanner of Newport. This means that Thomas died without any will. The inventory of his estate reveals a value of £20. Nothing further is known of this family.

In October 1701 Thomas Bassett, Innholder and gentleman of Newport sat down and wrote his last Will and Testament. It was probated in April 1702. He mentions a son, Charles Bassett and a wife, Barbara. His will mentions a father-in-law, Charles William thus revealing his wife's maiden name. It mentions a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Williams, John Williams, Apothecary and a nephew John Williams of Lancarvan, Glamorganshire and. Thomas was wealthy, leaving an estate valued at £805. His status was further revealed by mention in his will of a gift of a gold ring valued at one guinea to one Charles Kemeys of Kevenmably, Esq (who was of a well-known family and a member of Welsh aristocracy). Sadly, just 4 years later, the son, Charles Bassett died as revealed by the Bond for the Estate of Charles Bassett, Gent of Newport in 1706. In this short document Barbara Bassett "the lawful mother and Executrix of all and Singular ye Goods Chattles and Credits of Charles Bassett late of ye towne of Newport." It is not known when Charles was born nor if he ever married and had children. Barbara died about 1722 without a will as shown by the 1722 Bond for the estate of Barbara Bassett, widow of Newport. Bond was provided by Thomas Boncher but no relationship is revealed. No record has been found of how her estate was distributed.

Thomas Bassett, the Elder, of Newport (probably the same person who was an appraiser of Roger Bassett's estate in 1720) wrote a will in 1734 that was probated in 1735. He names a son, Thomas Bassett the younger; a wife, Mary Bassett (named the Executrix) and grand daughters Mary Morgan and Elizabeth Morgan. The will was witnessed by Wm Riddy (possibly a relative of Mary Riddy Bassett, Roger Bassett's wife). His estate was valued at under £20.

Lastly, Ann Bassett, single woman of Newport wrote a will in 1771 that was probated in 1773. In this will she mentions an aunt, Martha Phillips the wife of Thomas Phillips of Newport and names Martha the Executrix of her estate. More research is needed to determine which Bassett family Ann fits into.