

## The MORLEY Family

The MORLEY name can be found in many parish records throughout the counties of England. There are also several towns called MORLEY in England, one in Derbyshire another in Norfolk and in West Riding, Yorkshire. The local names usually denoted where a man held land, and also indicated where he lived; earlier records find the name MORLEGE in the Domesday Book 1086; Milo de MORLEIGH was mentioned in 1196 in the county of Berkshire; Johannis de MORELAY was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax 1379. There was also a Marmaduke MORLEY who was a lord of the manor in Nottinghamshire in the 1500s, we may have stemmed from his line, but if so, up to now it cannot be proved.

There is a coat of arms for the MORLEY name, recorded in the Sir Bernard BURKES General Armoury 1884. Although we are not entitled to use this coat of arms or its motto I thought you might like to see it anyway.

**ARMS - Sable three leopard's heads or jessant de lis argent**  
**CREST - A man in complete armour proper garnished or in the Dexter hand baton gold across his body a sash azure.**  
**MOTTO - *S'ils Te Mordent, Mord Less***  
**Translation - *If they bite thee, bite them***



It did not become law to register a child's birth or a marriage in England until 1837; therefore, the parish records have been the main source of information before that date. Unfortunately, the Lincolnshire parish records began in the mid-1600s and very little can be found in this area before this date, there were some MORLEY'S records in the Protestation Returns for Lincolnshire 1641-1642; recorded were: -

**William MORLEY** - of Gosberkirk  
**Lewes MORLEY** - of Kirton  
**Thomas MORLEY** - of Tathwell taken Sunday 13 March 1641  
**Valentine MORLEY** - of Hogsthorpe taken Friday 18 March 1641  
**Robert MORLEY** - of Burton Seper Stather taken Sunday 6 March 1641  
**John MORLEY** - of Crowle  
**John MORLEY** - of Winterton  
**Robert MORLEY** - of Barton on Humer [St Mary] taken before Sir William PELHAM of Caistor on Sunday 6 March 1641.  
**John MORLEY** - of Gresby [Grasby] taken Friday 11 March 1641 taken before Sir William Pelham of Caistor

Some of our MORLEY family left wills, without these we would not have been able to find out spouse's names and grandchildren; using these wills this story began about 350 years ago with John MORLEY born c1660 in Lincolnshire, England, who is our great grandfather times 11 generations.

Tracing backwards I began with the only person I had to begin with was William Joseph MORLEY who was born in 1850 Hackney, London. Finding a William age one year old in the 1851 census was going to be difficult. I eventually found him and his father Robert MORLEY and from this entry I was led back to Lincolnshire and the MORLEY family heritage.

The Beginning - John MORLEY born c1650, occupation 'carpenter', married Mary [possibly RANSON], they had six children. Thankfully, John left a will in 1734, and it is from this that we are able to name his children.

As the eldest son William MORLEY, born 1694, was named the executor of his father will; in this will, William was left the land, *“a close of pasture of Hough on the Hill near Gelston, called Moor Close, about 3 acres, for the term of his natural life”*. The daughters Dorothy and Elizabeth were bequeathed *“all the goods and chattels,”* the other children John, Mary and Nathaniel had died by the time the will was proven and administered in 1740.

William MORLEY was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son and 5<sup>th</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY. His occupation was recorded as a *“miller”*. William appears to have married for the first time when he was 60 years old. [If he was married before, a marriage has not been found]. His wife was Mary HARMSTON they were married in 1755. William fathered his first and only child in 1756 and called him John MORLEY. John was five years old when his father died. Found in the Bishops Transcripts was a record alongside William's burial entry was written, *“William MORLEY a married miller age 66 years”*. John MORLEY inherited the land in Gelston when his father William died in 1761. John's occupation was also a *‘miller’*; he married in 1780<sup>1</sup> Esther HARDY in the village of **HOUGHAM**. John's will dated 1820, shows he had added to his inherited assets quite handsomely. Listed was; *“3 dwelling houses in Manthorpe cum Little Gonerby in Grantham, with yards and garden buildings.”* These houses must have been a source of income for John and Esther as they were rented. The tenants were, *‘Mr. TUCK, Benjamin WOOD and Julian AUSTIN.’* John left these houses to his son William; he also left his wife Esther £300 which was owed to him by William BROWN. This will was changed over time and some of it was crossed out. John names his children then disinherited them; it is unclear why? At the time his will was proved and granted to his son heir and executor in 1824, William MORLEY [born 1781], his assets amounted to just under £1,500.

William MORLEY'S occupation was also a *‘miller’*; he left a will dated 1860 when he died in 1862. In this will he mentions his great grandfather's land in Gelston [now recorded in 3 wills and passed down 4 generations]. *“Containing three acres and two roods [more or less]”* this land was left to his wife Mary [DAWSON] MORLEY, and upon her death it was to be passed to Robert BROWN of **HOUGHAM** [son in law] husband of Jane [MORLEY] BROWN. When Mary died in 1867 and after 133 years [that we know of] these *“three acres and two roods”* of land in Gelston, Lincolnshire that had been in the MORLEY name were transferred to the BROWN name.

Robert MORLEY the tenth of eleven children born the William and Mary [DAWSON] MORLEY was born in 1821 in the town of **MARSTON**, [registered in **HOUGHAM**] his occupation was *“carpenter”* obviously his oldest brothers would have carried on as millers like their father but it appears Robert had to find another trade to survive and he left Lincolnshire sometime before the 1851 census was taken in Lincolnshire. After a long search county by county I found Robert, his entry was found in the 1851 census for Hackney, London recording the fact.

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<sup>1</sup> Whilst trying to find proof of this marriage some strange records were found. According to The International Genealogical Index IGI [Latter Day Saints] it appears you can add to this index without proof. Found in the IGI were three marriages for Esther HARDY all on the same day all in the same town and same County of England. In two of these the groom was named as HARVEY and ELSON the other was *‘our’* John MORLEY. It must have been very confusing for our poor Esther on that day at the altar if this was so. Thanks to David MEREDITH of Nottinghamshire he was able to go and check the actual Parish Register and we are now able, for certain say that John MORLEY was the only person to marry Esther HARDY on the 8 August 1780 in the Hougham Church. It appears the HARVEY / ELSTON researchers needed a groom for their Esther HARDY and pinched ours. To prove she *‘is’* ours a copy of the actual page of the church register is enclosed.

The only clue to finding the real Robert MORLEY knew that he had a son William Joseph MORLEY who was born in 1850 Hackney London, I did not know who his father was until this entry was found in the census. Robert had two sons that I can find Robert born 1849 and William Joseph born 1850. Their mother was Sarah SMALLWOOD. Sarah died before 1881 and the next time Robert was found he had remarried a lady named Mary WILKSHIRE.

Robert's son William Joseph MORLEY married Mary Ann BARRETT two of their children later emigrated, Rupert to Canada and Herbert to Australia. The following document lists some their descendants

In April 2001 David MEREDITH, [no relation to the MORLEY'S] who lives in Nottinghamshire, England just over the border from **MARSTON** and **HOUGHAM** kindly travelled there for us to take some photos for this document. The following is his account of his travels that day.

David MEREDITH: *"Well not wanting to waste the day I popped over to Lincoln, hoping things would brighten up, and at least came away with a few more entries for you - which of course you now have. On leaving Lincoln, the weather hadn't cleared up in fact if anything it was shaping up to rain - so I made a minor detour and called in on a friend who had done some work on a family by the name of TREADGOLD, one of whom was a miller at both **MARSTON** and **HOUGHAM** from about 1835 through to the latter half of that century. I gleaned a little information about the TREADGOLDS and more to the point, where to locate one of the mills. I left and set off for **MARSTON**. On arrival it was just spitting with rain and alas was still dull. Still I took about 21 shots of which you have 'no.4' and I will send the rest this week in batches. However, you will understand why some of them are rather dark!*

*I found the headstones for Robert's father and grandfather' - no.4 being his grandfather's which starts off 'In memory...if you would care to add this to the village listing entry for his epitaph. As you will see when you get the remaining snaps, these headstones were in a line as was the custom for the better off members of the parish. I'll also send some notes to accompany the photos but I can tell you now that it is quite possible that one or more of the adjacent plots may well have been MORLEY graves. But I can't confirm this because either there is a headstone missing or they are no longer legible. As I was leaving the churchyard an old gal wandered in who had come to lock up the church. We got talking and she showed me inside and put some lights on so as I could take a photo - not brilliant but at least you will get a glimpse of where the MORLEY'S spent their Sunday mornings!" "About the 'mills'...There were two watermills straddling the River Witham at **MARSTON** though this is not strictly speaking correct because one of them is actually just inside the **HOUGHAM** parish boundary, but it is accessed from **MARSTON** being a fair distance from the actual village of **HOUGHAM**. As you might expect, the **MARSTON** watermill is located at the end of Mill Lane... it is the subject of a certain degree of angst. The villagers had hoped to restore and preserve it for posterity but I gather they were unable to obtain the capital required by way of grants and fundraising in order to purchase the property. This was all going on about four years ago and their plans were scuppered when the property was sold to a policeman.*

*Because of the standoff between the villagers and the present owner, nobody gets past the gate or is allowed to take photographs etc. That was what I was told anyway. I should perhaps enlighten you here by saying that in a former life I was a serving police officer with the Nottinghamshire Constabulary and like a challenge...I didn't get very far, but I will set the scene anyway. Just prior to the end of Mill Lane, there is what I take to be an early Victorian cottage, which was the miller's abode. It has been extended. Beyond that is a gateway [modern addition to keep the nasty villager's out] which gives access to the old mill building - again thought to be early Victorian - this has been added to and is now a private residence. The 'mill' part of the*

*complex is adjacent to the River Witham. I knocked politely on the door and got no reply - someone was in because there was a car parked outside. Hence a bout of firm knocking, which produced a rather worried looking female who gave me a 'who are you and what are you doing on my land', look I introduced myself together with identification establishing that I was a retired bobby - po face didn't want to know - I got the story about the ill feeling in the village - she didn't like the fact that I knew that a policeman owned the property and flatly refused to allow me further access to take any photo's as it was private property. So I left - but I have taken two shots for you to view. Coming away I spoke to chap who lived next to the cottage and he filled me in on more details regarding the mills. This one he said, was not the original, but was he supposed, built on the site of an earlier mill. The other watermill could be viewed by following the lane back to the main road where I was told to turn left and continue towards the outskirts of the village turning left again into a lane that would take me to the second watermill. I wouldn't be able to get right up to it because the lane then became a private road - visitors not welcome. The chap then added that what was the watermill building was actually on the opposite side of the river and as such was in the Parish of **HOUGHAM** - hence my earlier comments.*

*I went there and took a long shot of the second mill that appears on maps as Mill Farm and **HOUGHAM** Mill depending on when they were printed. If we were not in the middle of the present foot and mouth fiasco I could have hopped across the fields for a closer shot. Not so at present as farmers do not take kindly to interlopers and I am not playing tag with farm dogs or an old boy and his twelve bore! There is more. My sources tell me that once upon a time there was also a watermill actually in the village of **HOUGHAM** but that for some reason the river was diverted making it redundant. A windmill was then erected in the village but this does not survive to the present day. It is highly likely that you **MORLEY'S** will have at one time or another, occupied one or more of the 'mills' described above - my **TREADGOLD** source suspects that the **MORLEY'S** and **TREADGOLD'S** swapped mills now and again.*

*David MEREDITH*

This chapter is a record of the **MORLEY'S** I found that connect to my husband

I hope you find it all interesting.

I have not exaggerated any details; they are just the facts.

*Jill Morley [South Australia]*

Email [jillmorley@bigpond.com](mailto:jillmorley@bigpond.com)

*Extracted from my book on my husbands **MORLEY** family*



**Photo 1: The Grave of John MORLEY baptised 1 August 1756 in MARSTON,  
Buried 2 October 1824 at the St Mary's Church Yard, Lincolnshire**

**Photo 2: The Grave of William MORLEY baptised 14 October 1781 MARSTON, buried 2 May 1862 in St  
Mary's Church Yard, MARSTON in Lincolnshire**



**Photo 3: St Mary's Church Yard in MARSTON, Lincolnshire**

[The above photos were courtesy of David MEREDITH of Lincolnshire, taken 2001]



**Photo 4: Side view of St Mary's Church Yard, MARSTON, Lincolnshire.**



**Photo 5 and 6: Millers Cottage in Mill Lane, MARSTON, in Lincolnshire, England.**



**Photo 7: Left: The MARSTON Water Mill in Mill Lane, MARSTON, in Lincolnshire.  
Photo 8: Right: Mill Lane, MARSTON, in Lincolnshire.**

[The above photos were courtesy of David MEREDITH of Lincolnshire, taken 2001]

# The MORLEY Tree

**[not complete to be used as a guide only]**

**Eduard De MOVERLYE**  
Born: 1550 Whaplode Lincolnshire

↓  
**Robert MORLEY**  
Born: 1583

Married: c1606, **Rose SPILSBIE**

↓  
**George MORLEY**  
Born: 1633

Married: 1655 Lincolnshire,  
**Anne**

Above line is a likely family connection? - Proven line in this book begins here?

**John MORLEY** [Occupation: carpenter]

**Born: c 1650-60 MARSTON Lincolnshire, England**

**Died: 1739/40 Lincolnshire; Will: 1734 Lincolnshire**

**Married: 1686 Thorpe Lincolnshire**

**Mary RANSON**

John MORLEY Born: 1684 <b>MARSTON</b> Lincolnshire	Elizabeth MORLEY Born: 1686 <b>MARSTON</b> Lincolnshire	Nathaniel MORLEY Born: 1689 <b>MARSTON</b> Died: 1716 Lincolnshire	Mary MORLEY Born: 1693 <b>MARSTON</b> Lincolnshire	Dorothy MORLEY Born: <b>MARSTON</b> M: James SEWARDS	<b>William</b> <b>MORLEY</b> <b>Born: 1694</b> <b>MARSTON</b> <b>M: 1755</b> <b>Mary</b> <b>HARMSTON</b>
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**John MORLEY**  
**Will: 1820**  
**Born: 1756**  
**1<sup>st</sup> M: 1780 Esther HARDY**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> M: 1797 Sarah MITCHELL**

<b>William</b> <b>MORLEY</b> <b>B: 1781</b> <b>Will: 1860</b> <b>M: 1801</b> <b>Mary DAWSON</b>	Elizabeth MORLEY B: 1782	John MORLEY B: 1784	Richard MORLEY B: 1786	Alice MORLEY B: 1789	Mary MORLEY B: 1790	Nathaniel MORLEY B: 1793	Thomas MORLEY B: 1793	Thomas MORLEY B: 1797
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John MORLEY B: 1802 <b>MARSTON</b>	Richard MORLEY B: 1804 <b>MARSTON</b>	James MORLEY B: 1806 <b>MARSTON</b>	William MORLEY B: 1808 <b>MARSTON</b>	Thomas MORLEY B: 1810 <b>MARSTON</b>	Thomas MORLEY B: 1812 <b>MARSTON</b>	Jane MORLEY B: 1813 <b>MARSTON</b>	Charles MORLEY B: 1815 <b>MARSTON</b>	Mary MORLEY B: 1817 <b>MARSTON</b>	Elizabeth MORLEY B: 1820 <b>MARSTON</b>	<b>Robert</b> <b>MORLEY</b> <b>B: 1821</b> <b>MARSTON</b> <b>Lincolnshire</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> M: Sarah SMALLWOOD</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> M: Mary WILKSHIRE</b>	George MORLEY B: 1826 <b>MARSTON</b>
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_1 <sup>st</sup> Marriage_	_2 <sup>nd</sup> Marriage_
Robert Dawson MORLEY Born: 1849 Hackney	Francis Henry MORLEY Born: 1862 Hackney
<b>William Joseph</b> <b>MORLEY</b> <b>Born: 1850</b> <b>Hackney</b> <b>Marred: 1874</b> <b>Mary Ann BARRETT</b>	

## The MORLEY Family

### John MORLEY

Born: c 1660 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

Died: 1739 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

Buried: 25 January 1739 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

Married: c 1686 Thorpe, Lincolnshire

### Mary RANSON

Born: c 1676

Died: 1734 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

Buried: 3 September 1734 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

**Will dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 1734<sup>2</sup>** *In the Name of God Amen I John MORLEY of MARSTON in the County of Lincoln 'Carpenter' being of a Sound Mind and Memory [praised be God] do make, ordain and declare this my last Will and Testament in Manner and Form following, that is to say, first and principally, I commend my Soul unto the Hands of Almighty God, hoping thro' the Merits of my Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to inherit Eternal Life; My body I commend to be buried at the Discretion of my Executrix hereinafter named; and touching on what Worldly Estate God hath been pleased to bless me with, I dispose of the same in Manner following.*

*First of all I give devise and bequeath all that Close of Pasture Ground with all & Singular its Appurtenances lying in Gelston within the Parish of Hough on the Hill in the County of Lincoln aforesaid commonly called Moor Close & containing by Estimation three acres [be the Same more or less] to my son William MORLEY for and during the Term of his Natural Life; and from and after his Decease to the Heirs of his Body lawfully begotten or to be begotten, & to their Heirs & Assignes for ever; but for Want of Such Issue, to my Daughter Dorothy the wife of James SEWARDS her Heirs and Assigns forever. Also I give and bequeath all My Household Goods of whatsort soever to my two daughters Elizabeth MORLEY and Dorothy SEWARDS to be equally divided between them, Share and Share alike. And lastly all and Singular the Residue of My Goods & Chattels, [after my Funeral Charges Debts and Legacies are paid and discharged]*

*I give and bequeath unto my s'd daughter Elizabeth MORLEY, whom I likewise nominate constitute and appoint Sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament, hereby revoking & disannulling all other Will & Wills by me heretofore made. In*

*Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand & Seal this first Day of November in the Year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and thirty-four. Signed Sealed published and declared by the above named {his Testator John MORLEY to be his last Will and Testament}*

*The Mark of X John MORLEY in the presence of us who subscribed our names as Witnesses {mark at the Request and in the Presence of the Testator} Anthony FOOTITT, Robert WARD, [J?] W MORGAN Clerk*

*Probate proved and granted on Jan 31 1740-1 to Elizabeth MORLEY the within mentioned Executrix was this day Sworn before me Richard EASTON.*


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<sup>2</sup> LCC WILLS 1740/132



Funeral Charges Debts and Legacies are paid and discharged) I give and bequeath unto my <sup>only</sup> Daughter Elizabeth Morley, whom I likewise nominate constitute and appoint Sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament, hereby revoking & annulling all other Wills & Wills by me heretofore made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this first Day of November in the Year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and thirty four

Signed Sealed published and declared by the abovesaid Testator John Morley to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who subscribed our Names as Witnesses at the Request and in the Presence of the Testator

John Morley 

his

Mark

Part of the original will of John MORLEY made 1<sup>st</sup> November 1734

MARSTON, a neat village on the south bank of the Witham, 5½ miles N. by W. of Grantham, has in its parish 488 souls, and 2391A. 3R. 17P. of fertile land. About a mile W. of the village is *Hougham* and *Marston Station*, on the Great Northern Railway. Sir J. C. Thorold is lord of the manor, owner of nearly all the soil, and patron of the Church (Saint Mary,) which is a large edifice, in the decorated style of the 14th century, with a tower containing five bells, and crowned by a broach spire. In the south chapel is the recumbent effigy of one of the Thorolds. In 1670, *Sir Wm. and Lady Ann Thorold* gave for charitable uses 12 acres of land, at Bassingham, and 16s. 22r. at Gelston. This land is now let for about £40 per annua, out of which £2. 10s. is paid to the poor of Cranwell, and £2 to those of Bassingham, and the remainder belongs to this parish, viz., £2. 5s. to the parish clerk; £20 to five old men and five old women; and the remainder for distributions of coals, clothing, and money, among the poor parishioners, together with £11 from the *Poors' Close* (8 acres,) given by an unknown donor; and £3 from £100 three per cent. stock, derived from various bequests. This parish is also entitled to a share of *Dame Margaret Thorold's Charity*, from which the school here is endowed

with £65 a year, for the education of poor children. For an account of this charity, see *Sedgebrook*. Here is a small Wesleyan chapel.

Adams Richard, shoemaker  
Brown Wm. butcher  
Crow John, vict. Thorold's Arms  
Goulson Benjamin, shopkeeper  
Goulson Page, blacksmith  
Harmston Wm. wheelwright  
Jardine Wm. schoolmaster  
Kenney James, butcher  
Lane John, tailor  
Lord Thos and Son (Wm.) farriers  
Morley Wm. corn miller  
Rowland Edw. shopr. and shoemkr  
Tieman Richard, blacksmith  
Wilkinson Chas. shopr. & bricklayer

FARMERS. || Briggs Robt.  
Brown Thos. || Mason Geo. Draper  
Dolby Wm. *Marston Hall*  
Farmer Thos. || Seiles John  
Leighton Wm., constable  
Threadgold Rt. miller || Worth Wm  
POST OFFICE at W. Atters. Letters  
via Grantham.  
CARRIERS, James Whiley and John  
Johnson, to Grantham Sat., and  
Newark Wed.  
TRAINS five or six times a day from  
Hougham and Marston Station.

Except from the HISTORY GAZETTER AND DIRECTORY OF LINCOLNSHIRE 1856

[By William WHITE; Publisher: L. LEADER; Independent Office Sheffield 1856]



Google Earth Photo: entrance to MARSTON 2014

HOUGHAM, or *Haugham*, an ancient village, near the river Witham,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles N.N.W. of Grantham, has in its parish 315 souls, and 2411a. 2R. 16P. of land, mostly the property of Sir J. C. Thorold, the lord of the manor. Sir G. E. Welby, Earl Brownlow, and a few smaller owners, have estates here. The *Church* (All Saints,) is a large structure, mostly in the early English style, with a tower and three bells. It was renovated a few years ago, and in its chancel is the monument of a Knight Templar. The benefice is a *rectory*, with that of Marston annexed to it, valued in K.B. at £33. 8s. 6d., and now at £559, in the patronage of Sir J. C. Thorold, and incumbency of the Rev. H. B. Thorold. At the enclosure, 313A. 2R. 25P. of land was allotted in lieu of tithes. The poor have the interest of £20, of which £14 was left by Mrs. Berry, and £4 by Mary Wildman. The manor house of Hougham is an ancient moated building, now occupied by a farmer. The *Rectory House* is a neat residence, near the church. About a mile from the two villages is *Hougham and Marston Station*, on the Great Northern Railway, 6 miles N.N.W. of Grantham.

Ashforth Thos. N., station master  
 Asher Wm. tailor  
 Blackbourn Edward, shopkeeper  
 Farmer Wm. vict. Red Lion  
 Harmston Wm. wheelwright

Jackson Wm. parish clerk  
 Noutch Jas. joiner || Moss Mrs My.  
 Parkins Wm. baker and blacksmith  
 Rowding Thomas, shoemaker  
 Rowding Wm. corn miller

Saxelby John, shopkeeper  
 Thorold Rev Henry Baugh, M.A.  
*Rectory*  
 Worth John, joiner and surveyor

FARMERS. || Brown Robt. Fras.  
 Broadhead John, *Manor House*  
 Farmer Wm., *Grange*  
 Hickson Richard || Scott Thomas  
 Parke Chas. Jas. || Worth John

Except from the HISTORY GAZETTER AND DIRECTORY OF LINCOLNSHIRE 1856

[By William WHITE Publisher: L. LEADER; Independent Office Sheffield 1856]



**Photo: All Saints Church in HOUGHAM, in Lincolnshire**

**1<sup>st</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY**

**John MORLEY**

Baptised: 21 September 1684 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

**2<sup>nd</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY**

**Elizabeth MORLEY**

Baptised: 12 December 1686 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire.

**3<sup>rd</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY**

**Nathaniel MORLEY**

Baptised: 21 January 1689 **HOUGHAM**, Lincolnshire

Died: 1716 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Buried: 24 June 1716 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

**4<sup>th</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY**

**Mary MORLEY**

Born: 1693 in **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Baptised: 13 January 1693 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire



St Mary Church in MARSTON, Lincolnshire

[ The Year: 1781 ] Page 10

John Morley of the Parish  
of Marston in the County of Lincoln  
and Esther Hardy of this Parish and  
County aforesaid be. single Persons  
were married in this Church  
by Licence this 8th Day of August in the Year  
of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty  
by me Robt. Graham Curate  
This Marriage was solemnized between Us John Morley  
and Esther Hardy  
In the Presence of } John Parkins  
Richard Hardy

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Thomas May of the Parish  
of Newark upon Trent in the County of Nottingham  
and Mary Tallent of this Parish both  
single Persons  
were married in this Church  
by Licence this 5th Day of January in the Year  
of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty  
one by me Robt. Graham Curate  
This Marriage was solemnized between Us Thos. May  
and Mary Tallent's Mark  
In the Presence of } William Cook  
Robt. May

The top section of this page from the HOUGHAM parish register is the actual entry for the marriage of John MORLEY and Esther HARDY Witnesses were John PARKINS and Richard HARDY on the 8 August 1780 they were married by Robert GRAHAM the curate of the church.

### 5<sup>th</sup> child of John and Mary MORLEY

#### William MORLEY

Baptised: 20 November 1694 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Died: 1761 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Buried: 16 June 1761 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Married: 14 August 1755 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

#### Mary HARMSTON

William MORLEY was 60 years of age when he married Mary HARMSTON in 1755. As no other marriage can be found for him in the parish records, we can assume this to also be his first marriage. He was 61 years old when he fathered his first [and only] child in 1756. William MORLEY died in 1761 and appears to have left his son John MORLEY [age 5 years] as his legatee. John later mentions in his will dated 1820 the land which has been in the MORLEY family for many years.

When William MORLEY was buried on the 16 June 1761 the Bishop's transcripts recorded him as, '*married Miller age 66 years*'. William married Mary HARMSTON on 14 August 1755 in **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire.

Mary [HARMSTON] MORLEY re-married Francis WILLCOCK at **MARSTON** in Lincolnshire; they had a least three children.

### 1<sup>st</sup> child of William and Mary [HARMSTON] MORLEY

#### John MORLEY

Baptised: 1 August 1756 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Died: 1824 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Buried: 2 October 1824 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire<sup>3</sup>

Married: 1<sup>st</sup>: 8 August 1780 **HOUGHAM**, Lincolnshire

#### Esther HARDY

Baptised: 27 August 1758 **HOUGHAM**, Lincolnshire

Daughter of Richard HARDY and Alice COLLINGWOOD

Buried: 11 March 1793 **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire

Married: 2<sup>nd</sup>: 7 February 1797 Hough on the Hill, Lincolnshire

#### Sarah MITCHELL

John MORLEY and Esther HARDY were married in the Church of all Saints in **HOUGHAM**, by Banns, both were '*single persons*', and both signed their names. John was described, '*of MARSTON*', and Esther '*of this parish*'. Curate Robert GRAHAM married them. Witnesses to their marriage were John PARKINS and Richard HARDY [bride's father].

Richard HARDY, father of Esther HARDY, was listed in the **MARSTON**, Lincolnshire's Poll Book for 1818. His occupation was recorded as '*gardener*' who resided at **MARSTON** and held '*freehold*' land at Carlton Scrope. Esther [HARDY] MORLEY, age 34 years, was buried 9 days after the baptism of her twin sons Nathaniel and Thomas. Sadly one of her twins, Thomas, died and was buried 17 days after his mother.

John MORLEY second marriage was to Sarah MITCHELL they were married by Licence he was described as '*Widower of MARSTON*', and Sarah as a '*single Woman, of this parish*'. Both John and Sarah signed their owned names. Witnesses at their marriage were, Joseph SIMPSON and Richard BAKER.

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<sup>3</sup> John MORLEY 'occupation miller' was listed in the 1818 Poll Book for Gelston in Lincolnshire as the owner of 'freehold' land.

### The will of John MORLEY 'Miller' of MARSTON<sup>4</sup>

*This is the last Will and Testament of me John MORLEY of MARSTON in the County of Lincoln, Miller. I will that all my just Debts Funeral and Testamentary Expenses be in the first place paid and discharged by my executors hereinafter named. I devise to my beloved Wife Sarah MORLEY and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life. All those my three Messuages Dwelling-houses or Tenements situate and being in Manthorpe cum Little Gonerby in the Parish of Grantham in the said County with the yards and gardens buildings and appurtenances there unto adjoining and belonging now in the several tenures or occupations of.. Tuck Benjamin WOOD and Julian Austin MONTRIOU there several and respective under tenants or assigns, and after the decease of my said Wife I devise the said three Messuages or Tenements with their appurtenances unto all the Children of my Son William MORLEY which shall be living or wherewith his Wife shall be ensient at his decease and to their several and respective heirs and assigns for ever as tenants in common and not as joint tenants and if there shall be only one such Child then to such only child his or her heirs and assigns forever. And in case any one or more of such Children shall happen to depart this life under the age of twenty one years without leaving a Child or Children him her or them surviving them I devise the part and share parts and shares of him her or them so dying as well original as accruing under this Clause unto the survivors of such Children [if more than one] and to their several and respective heirs and assigns for ever as tenants in common and not as joint tenants or unto the surviving Child [if only one] his or her heirs and assigns forever. I give to my said Wife Sarah MORLEY and her assigns for and during the term of her natural Life the use and the Interest of the sum of three hundred pounds now due and owing to me from one William BROWN and secured to me on Mortgage of his Estate in Manthorpe cum Little Gonerby aforesaid. And after her decease I give the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds part of the said sum of three hundred pounds unto my Son John MORLEY for his own use and I give the sum of [end of page one] signed John MORLEY One hundred and fifty pounds residue of the said Sum of three hundred pounds unto and equally between my three Daughters Elizabeth MORLEY, Alice MORLEY and Mary MORLEY for their and each of their own use. And also I give unto my said Wife Sarah MORLEY ~~and her assigns for and during the term of her natural life the use but not the property of and in~~ [this part of the will was crossed out] ~~For her own proper use and Benefit All my Household goods furniture~~ [And after her decease I give all my said household goods and furniture unto and equally between and amongst my said children, William MORLEY, John MORLEY, Elizabeth MORLEY, Alice MORLEY and Mary MORLEY for their respective proper use and benefit. [This part was crossed out of the will]*

*And my will is that what I have hereby given and devised to my said Wife Sarah MORLEY is by me intended and shall be by her accepted and taken in lieu [law or bar?] and full satisfaction of all Dower and Thirds at Common law by Custom or other Interest which she can claim or may be entitled to out of the Close or particular land or ground hereinafter by me devised to my said son William MORLEY and his heirs. I devise All that my Close piece or parcel of meadow or pasture land or ground situated lying and being in Gelston in the parish of Hough on the Hill in the said County containing by estimation three and a half acres [more or*

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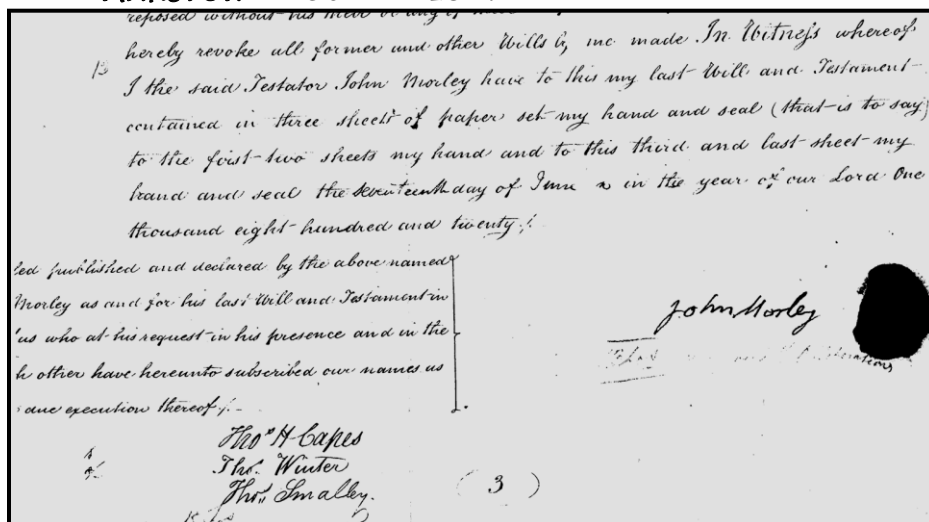
<sup>4</sup> LCC WILLS 1825/195 [Dated 17 June 1820]

less] now in my own occupation with appurtenances unto my said son William MORLEY and his heirs and assigns forever. And as to the rest residue and remainder of my Personal Estate and Effects whatsoever and wheresoever and of what kind or nature soever I give the same and every part unto & ~~equally between~~ [this part was crossed out of the will] ~~son?~~ For his own proper use and Benefit ~~[and amongst my said Children]~~ [this part was crossed out of the will] ~~William MORLEY [John MORLEY, Elizabeth MORLEY, Alice MORLEY and Mary MORLEY for their respective proper use and benefit.~~ [This part was crossed out of the will leaving William MORLEY his son as the only benefactor] And I do hereby make and appoint my Friends Thomas MITTON of MARSTON aforesaid Gentleman, James HARDY of HOUGHAM in the said County Farmer and Frederick NEWCOME of Grantham aforesaid Gentleman Trustees and Executors of this my Will And I do authorize and empower my said Trustees and Executors to apply all or such part as they shall think proper of the Rents and Profits of My Said Messuages of Tenements so devised to the Children of my said Son William MORLEY as aforesaid in and towards the maintenance education [end of page two] signed John MORLEY and bringing up of the said Children during their respective minorities so as the part to be expended upon any one child is not to exceed his or her share thereof and it is my Will that the residue of such rents and profits shall be accumulated for the benefit of the Said Children according to such their respective shares therein Provide always and my Will and Mind further is that my said Trustees and Executors shall and may retain and deduct by and out of the monies which by virtue of this my Will shall come to their and each of their hands and also shall and may allow to his and their Co-trustee all such Costs Charges and Expenses as they shall respectively pay sustain expend or be put unto in the execution of trusts hereby in them respectively reposed and that they shall be charged and chargeable only to each of them his executors and...

[Page 3 continues with closing statements reliability of Executors etc., and is dated and signed] by the testator John MORLEY on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1820.

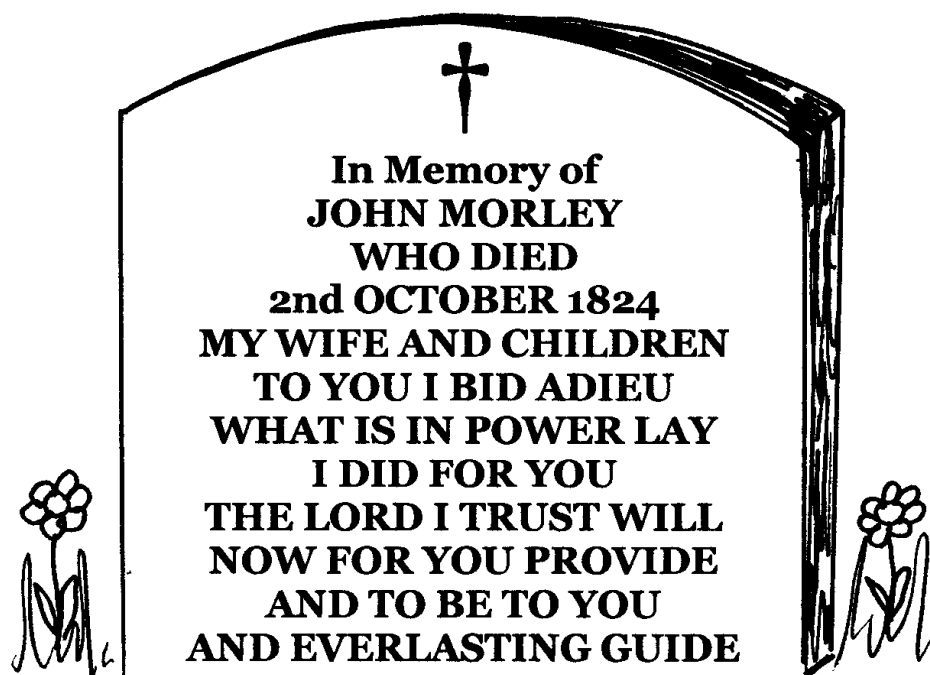
Witnessed by: Thos H. CAPES Thos WINTER Thomas SMALLEY

Probate was proved and grated to the legatee [William MORLEY] on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1825 [eight months after his father was buried] - under the value of £1,500 The Testator died at MARSTON 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1824



Part of the will of John MORLEY dated 1824 his signature and thumb print.

A Gravestone can be found for John MORLEY in the St Mary's Church in MARSTON, Lincolnshire bearing the inscription:



**1<sup>st</sup> child of John and Esther [HARDY] MORLEY**

**William MORLEY**

Baptised: 14 October 1781 MARSTON, Lincolnshire<sup>5</sup>

Buried: 2 May 1862 MARSTON, Lincolnshire

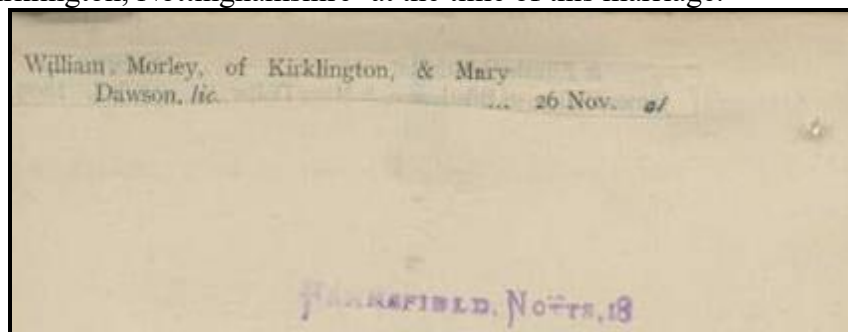
Married: 26 November 1801 Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire

**Mary DAWSON**

Baptised: 26 January 1783 Hawksworth, Nottinghamshire

Buried: 18 August 1867 MARSTON, Lincolnshire age 84 years

William MORLEY and Mary DAWSON were married, in Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, by Vicar William BECHER. Joseph WASS and Mary SHARP witnessed the union; all parties signed their own names. Both bride and groom were single at the time, William MORLEY was recorded as living in 'Kirklington, Nottinghamshire' at the time of this marriage.



Marriage index card in Nottinghamshire Records office

<sup>5</sup> The entry in the Marston Parish Records has the following: 1781 William son of John and Hester [sic] MORLEY baptized October 14th.



Mary DAWSON was the daughter of William DAWSON and Jane BONSOR and William DAWSON was the son of Brian and Elizabeth DAWSON  
 Other children of Brian and Elizabeth DAWSON were.

1. John DAWSON baptised 22 October 1751, Flintham, Nottinghamshire.  
 He married Elizabeth they had at least one child, Sarah DAWSON baptised 9 October 1782 Flintham. Recorded in the Probate wills administrations for 1806 was John DAWSON occupation 'victualler' [beer house owner].

2. Ann DAWSON baptised 30 August 1758, Flintham, Nottinghamshire.  
 Mary's mother, Jane BONSOR [BONSER] was daughter of 'farmer' William BONSOR and Elizabeth RAILTON who were married 7 November 1756 at Whatton in the Vale, Lincolnshire.  
 Other children found with the same parents were.

1. William BONSOR baptised 6 August 1758 Whatton Lincolnshire
2. Elizabeth BONSOR baptised 27 August 1760 Whatton Lincolnshire
3. Mary BONSOR baptised 26 September 1762 Whatton Lincolnshire

William DAWSON and Jane BONSOR were married by Banns that were posted in the Church on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1777. Their marriage took place at Hawksworth in Nottinghamshire on 24 November 1777 and witnessed by John BONSOR [father of the bride] and Samuel NAIL.

William and Jane's children were-

1. William DAWSON baptised 2 April 1789, his grave can be found with his parents in Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, died in 1815 and buried 28 June 1815 aged 26 years.
2. Jane DAWSON baptised 24 November 1777 Hawksworth.

William MORLEY was Executor and benefactor of his father, John MORLEY'S will [1820], and this will was proved and granted to William on the 7 May 1825. William MORLEY had his will drawn up on 14 April 1860.

William Morley 55	Miller	Y
Mary do 55		Sh
Charles do 25	Miller	Y
Elizabeth do 10		Y

1841 UK census: MARSTON, Lincolnshire [Mary said not born in this county] Ref: HO 107 /620 /20

The 1851 UK census for MARSTON in Lincolnshire recorded the following  
 William MORLEY age 69 years born: 1782 MARSTON, Lincolnshire Occupation: Miller employing 1 man  
 Mary MORLEY age 68 years born: 1776 Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire  
 Charles MORLEY age 35 years born: 1816 HOUGHAM, Lincolnshire Occupation: Journeyman Miller

William Morley	Head	Mar	69	Miller (employing 1 man)	Marston
Mary	Wife	Do	68		Farnsfield
Charles	Son	Do	35	Journeyman Miller	Marston
Thomas Borsow	Head	Mar	40	Employer of 23 (2 boys)	Marston
Catharine	Wife	Do	30		Long Benning
Thomas	Son	Do	9	At home	Marston
Mary A.	Daughter	Do	8		Do
Catharine B.	Daughter	Do	6		Marston

1851 UK census – MARSTON, Lincolnshire HO 1072138

### **The will of William MORLEY of MARSTON in Lincolnshire**

*This is the last Will and Testament of me William MORLEY of MARSTON in the County of Lincoln, Miller. I devise all that my close of land situate at Gelston in the County of Lincoln aforesaid containing three acres and two roods [more or less] with the appurtenances unto my wife Mary MORLEY for her life without impeachment of waste. And from the decease of my Wife I devise the said close of land and hereditaments unto Robert BROWN of HOUGHAM in the County of Lincoln, Farmer his heirs and assigns forever. I bequeath all the furniture and household effects in and about my dwelling house at the time of my decease to my said wife Mary MORLEY for her life and from and after her decease I bequeath the same furniture and effects to my children William MORLEY, Jane the wife of the said Robert BROWN, Thomas MORLEY, Robert MORLEY and George MORLEY to be equally divided between and amongst them share and share alike. I bequeath all and singular the residue of my personal Estate [subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses] unto my said wife Mary MORLEY and the said Robert BROWN their executors administrators and assigns Upon trust to collect and convert the same into money and to invest the monies to arise there from in their, his or her name upon Government real or other sufficient security at interest with power from time to time to alter vary and transpose the investment for or with other securities of the like nature at his or her discretion Upon further trust to pay or retain the annual income of the said trust monies unto her my said wife Mary MORLEY for her life and from and after the decease of my said wife Upon trust to stand possessed of the said trust monies and the stocks funds and securities upon which the same may be invested and the interest and dividends and annual proceeds thereof In trust for my said children the said William MORLEY, Jane BROWN, Thomas MORLEY, Robert MORLEY and George MORLEY to be equally divided between and amongst them share and share alike. I empower my said trustee during the life of my said Wife to carry on my business of a Miller and for that purpose continue tenants of the Mill and premises which I shall use at my decease or to hire and use any other Mill and employ my stock in trade and personal Estate as they may think fit And I declare that during such time as any business of a Miller shall be carried on by my said trustees or trustee being in pursuance of this my Will my said trustees or trustee shall stand possessed of any interested in the said business of a Miller and the stock effects monies and personal Estate employed therein and the profits to arise from the same Upon and for the same trusts intents and purposes upon or for which my said trustees or trusts would in pursuance of this my Will stand and be possessed and interested in the monies to arise from the sale collection and conversion of my said residuary personal Estate and the stocks funds and securities on which the same might be invested as herein before mentioned and the interest dividends and annual produce thereof in case my said Estate was sold and collected immediately after my decease or as near thereto as circumstances will permit. I devise all my real Estate which shall at my decease be vested in me as trustee or mortgagee to the trustees for the time being of this my Will their heirs executors and assigns subject to the equities affecting the same respectively....*

From this point the will goes on to cover possible problems arising from one or more of the 'trustees' being unwilling to undertake the position of trustee, or being incompetent to do so or indeed the death of one of them, together with the usual proviso's of liability etc.

The will was drawn up by Benjamin THOMPSON, a Grantham Solicitor and was witnessed by him and his clerk and went through Probate at Lincoln on 8 January 1863. The value

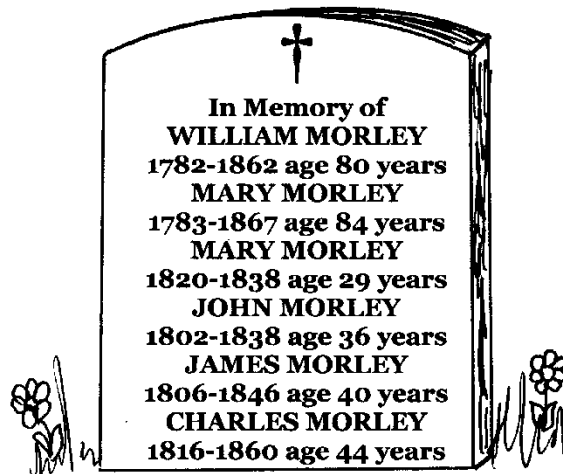
of the Estate was given as 'under £300'. The Solicitor seems to have made a job of writing up the will, perhaps to justify a bigger fee!

The important items are clearly the naming of his wife and issue. The fact that he was resident in **MARSTON** and he was renting a Mill, that he had land at Gelston of particular significance ties in with the 1818 Poll Book entry re the John MORLEY, a Miller, resident at **MARSTON** with freehold land at Gelston. [I believe that this John was William's father]. William appears in the 1851 census returns taken at **MARSTON** which state he was aged '69', born at **MARSTON** and a master miller employing 1 man. His wife Mary was aged '68' and born at Farnsfield, Notts. Their son Charles was living with them, he being a 'journeyman miller'. The Bishops Transcripts records William's occupation in 1821 as a 'corn miller'. William MORLEY was buried in the St Mary's Church in town of **MARSTON** in Lincolnshire.

<b>MORLEY William.</b>	8 January.	The Will
Effects under £300.		of William Morley late of Marston in the County of <b>Lincoln</b> Miller deceased who died
		2 May 1862 at Marston aforesaid was proved at <b>Lincoln</b> by the oath of Robert Francis Brown of Hougham in the said County Farmer one of the Executors.

**Probate for his will**

A gravestone can be found today for William and Mary MORLEY with some of their children - inscribed is the words:



*This is the last Will and Testament of me William Morley of Marston in the County of Lincoln Miller I devise all that my Close of land situate at Gelston in the County of Lincoln aforesaid containing three acres and two roods (more or less) with the appurtenances unto my Wife Mary Morley for her life without impeachment of waste And from and after the decease of my said Wife I devise the said Close of land and hereditaments unto Robert Brown of Hougham in the County of Lincoln Farmer his heirs and assigns for ever I bequeath all the furniture and household effects in and about my dwellinghouse at the time of my decease to my*

Part of the will of William MORLEY dated 14 April 1860