

## Medieval Swansea: City Witness activity

Thomas Marshall, Priest, native of Swansea a witness from the town

No relation to William Cragh according to the evidence I found

Involvement - He watched the hangings from a hill near the West gate. He would have been able to move round the town, but no evidence to support that he was able to visit the castle area.

Reliability and value of his witness statement – Thomas watched the hangings from a hill near the West Gate– quite a distance, (not sure of exact mileage, not sure how tall Thomas was or if his view was obscured in any way) – he testifies that he watched “William hanged by his relatives” (The word relatives is an interesting choice as it is not clear. I tried to research the context of the word relatives as it was used in medieval Wales but could not find any sources to support my theory that Thomas did not mean blood relative he meant the wider community he lived in)

Later that day he saw the crowd gathering outside the Burgesse’s house where William was and investigated seeing the corpse dead on the ground, but did not touch it, although he believed he was dead and left him. Thomas testifies that he heard William had been measured (second hand account) and that he saw him a month later fully healed (more reliable evidence)

Thomas refers to Thomas de Cantilupe as a Saint, like others in his profession did. It is hard to know whether he used the term consciously or subconsciously is not known but evidence suggests that it was a popular practice of the times. I suggest that his testimony is valuable when considered alongside the other accounts.

### Summary

I would suggest that Thomas Marshall’s testimony is valuable when used in conjunction with the other witness statements, but I am not sure how much of the hanging he would have seen from his view point, however he states that after seeing a crowd outside the Burgesses house he investigated saw the body but did not touch it, however he believed it to be a dead corpse. This evidence seems to corroborate Adam of Loughor’s and John ap Hywel’s witness statements and is valuable from that point of view.

It is valuable that he states he saw William Cragh a month after his recovery, he must have either known what William physically looked like or had it pointed out to him by others. He does state that he heard William had recovered.

From a reliability point of view, Thomas Marshall was a priest who owed his livelihood to the church and would have presumably supported the Church’s point, he referred to Thomas Cantilupe as a St. However he did watch the hanging and did see the corpse which he believed to be dead and saw William with his own eyes when he had recovered.