

CHAPTER ONE

Section 1, Welcome—Section 2, How to Read This Book—Section 3, The Coat of Arms—Section 4, The Motto—Section 5, The Name.

WELCOME.

This common salutation of reception, but unusual word of introduction, is to be taken in its broadest sense as indicating to you, dear reader, that the family of Pearsall, in all its spellings and wherever situated, is honored by your presence and is complimented by your attention. It also implies most strongly that you are welcome to wander as you please through this intimate account of our family history. While the events herein recounted are of course our family secrets, nevertheless they are hereby opened to your study, freely and unreservedly. So much so that we hand you the keys to the closet containing our most intimate family skeletons.

If you are a stranger to us, then we only ask of you the duty of a guest; namely, that when you lay down the book you will forget whatever may strike you unpleasantly, and only remember all the good that you have found; not that we need any such discrimination on your part, but that we may have for you the thought, when we bid you farewell, that you were worthy of our entertainment.

If you are a relative, and therefore our cousin, you are more than welcome, as all this wealth of great deeds herein related, and this unbroken chain of noble ancestry which is herein woven into a connected pedigree is yours—yours alone if you so desire it. All that we ask is that you will most selfishly take it all to yourself, get all you possibly can of it, so that you may emulate as far as you may be able the greatness and goodness of your ancestors, remembering that he alone is great who does noble deeds, no matter how small those deeds may be, nor how far they may be hidden from public observation.

It is too bad, but nevertheless it is a fact, that notwithstanding all these hearty words of welcome we are still strangers to each other. You will therefore enjoy your visit all the more should you at least get acquainted with the writer of this work, therefore he asks of you that you will grant him the courtesy of your attention to these few more words of personal introduction.

During the summer vacations spent on my grandfather's farm in Pennsylvania, I was most pleasantly entertained when he so frequently spoke of his father Peter Pearsall, and related anecdotes of his own boyhood spent on the farm near Saratoga Springs in New York State. My curiosity was aroused, and all my years I had longed to see the place where he had lived when a boy. As a natural sequence, a promise made in the year 1915 to my aunt and sister to investigate their children's eligibility to membership in "The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution," revived these fond recollections and re-kindled old desires to visit the Peter Pearsall farm. After a short visit the next year at my former home in Pennsylvania, I hastened to New York City, and thence to Sara-

toga Springs, where, with almost childish anticipation, I expected to find the Pearsalls thicker than grasshoppers in a Kansas corn field. To my great disappointment, not one was to be found, save those who reposed in the cemeteries. Unable to ascertain whence the living had gone, I determined to locate, if possible, the old Pearsall farm and pay a visit to the scenes so often depicted to me by my grandfather in my boyhood. I therefore repaired to Ballston Spa, County Seat of Saratoga County, where a careful perusal of the index of volume after volume revealed absolutely nothing of interest. Bitterly disappointed I resolved to journey to Albany and consult the records there. Then the motto, "Try, try again" came to mind so I decided to make a more thorough search at Ballston before my departure. This time my efforts were rewarded. I found a deed signed by George Pearsall, Jr. and his wife Priscilla in which the lands were described as being part of the Peter Pearsall farm, bought of John Muller and being part of Lots 1 and 4 of subdivision of lot 1, of the 18th enlargement, by which technical language the records located the property for me. This information in hand, I returned to Saratoga Springs, engaged an automobile and drove out on the highway towards Lake George. When the odometer clicked off two miles, the driver stopped as previously directed and I alighted. No one lived at this particular point so after a careful survey of the surrounding country, we drove a mile distant to a brick house, which turned out to be the former home of the Brills. There I was informed that we had passed the Pearsall farm, so we returned to the cross roads, which they informed me, was formerly known as Pearsall's Corners. I alighted from the auto and leisurely walked about the old farm. A very nice lady, very nearly a relation, in that her sister had married into the Brill family, informed me that I was in the promised land of my childhood. I picked wild cherries from a tall tree along the roadside, which had no doubt been planted by Peter Pearsall, and as I ate the delicious ripe cherries, I dreamed of the dim and distant past when grandfather as a boy had probably enjoyed fruit from the same tree. I wandered about the old farm and memory pictures, faded in the lapse of years, were gradually restored. There was Peter's old saw mill, now used as a granary. The old white pine stumps in the pond were relics of the great pine forest Peter had felled for the mill. Beyond the main thoroughfare was Peter's old home, a two story structure of old Dutch colonial style. True it was badly in need of repairs, still it retained its lines of former grace and grandeur. The interior was formerly in keeping with the exterior. I marvelled that a home of this character should have been built upon a farm, in those days. The furniture, of which grandfather had often spoken, was missing but the chartulary, or strong box, in which, according to the old English custom of my ancestors, the deeds, wills, other important papers and treasures were kept, remained and at the present is used by the occupants of the house as a wood box. At the base of a low range of hills, back of the house, nestled in a grove of oak and wild cherry, is the family burying ground where my great grandmother, Mary Burtis Pearsall and my great great grandfather George Pearsall and his second wife repose waiting for the great day of judgment. On that cold gray autumn day, carried away with enthusiasm, my spirits soared to the very highest, and, as I sauntered about this beautiful, highly cultivated farm, that fairly teemed with interest, my one

regret was that Peter Pearsall ever allowed so valuable a farm to slip away from him; and I wondered what could have been the cause, little dreaming that I should later learn that it was because of his very adherence to the customs of his ancestors. Strange as it may seem, another Pilgrim, on a similar mission, from that far off state where the setting sun casts its brilliant rays through the Golden Gate, crossed my path on the old farm, that afternoon; a descendant of John Brill, brother of my grandmother, Deborah-Ann Brill-Pearsall. Prior to this, neither of us had known of the existence of the other. She passed on and I returned to my dreams. Awakened therefrom by the rudely honking auto horn, I was reminded of the lateness of the hour. Happy with the results of the day, I returned to Saratoga Springs, resolved to write the genealogy of my immediate branch of the family. As I spent considerable time and money unravelling the threads of my ancestry, I had to call upon those who were not in my immediate family, and I soon accumulated a wealth of material relative to other lines. The thought, that there might be others equally as interested as I, determined me to broaden my work so as to include all of the Pearsalls in America. Later I came in touch with a branch of the family in Australia and through them came to know the cousins in England. So almost before I knew it I had compiled material for a history of the family, starting from living members of the family on both sides of the ocean and in Australia as well, an incident which, of itself, I am told is very remarkable in works in this kind. I have derived a great deal of pleasure out of the work, as step by step, I traced the family genealogy back to the Second Virginia Company of 1609, in which my ancestor held a very valuable concession. From this point it was easy to pass into the English records and from there to our Anglo Saxon and Norman ancestors. Thus, from a purely personal family genealogy the book resolved itself into a history of a family of which records existed running back to a time prior to the assumption of the family name. It is confidently believed that these historical facts will not only prove valuable and very interesting to those related to us, but they will open up new fields of research for others.

I trust that the reader will derive as much pleasure as he peruses this history, the result of my labor, as I have had in compiling it, and I use the word compile with a full comprehension of its meaning; namely, to make or form a printed work by putting together in due order materials gathered from various sources with only such changes and additions as may be deemed necessary or desirable. So marvelous a story as our family history could not be told in the words of any one connected with the family, without his being accused of all sorts of disagreeable things. In fact it is all so wonderful that I have had difficulty in believing that I was really and truly connected with it, but the records are all so clear and indisputable that they cannot be gainsaid. I have therefore taken pains to fortify each statement as far as possible by reference to some recognized authority. It can also be easily comprehended that the nearer my text adheres to the original statements, the stronger will my story be held to be. Consequently, so as to avoid marring the book with quotation marks, the reader will kindly understand that a citation means that the text is as nearly the exact words of the authority as my own version of the weight of all the authorities would permit.

In gathering and arranging the information for this work, it has been found not only convenient, but practically indispensable, to divide the family into groups, each having its own common ancestor. Although this plan may violate the rules of modern American genealogical arrangement, it has been followed in the printed book because it is believed that the reader will find the same grouping much more convenient than to jumble together all of each generation without regard to their immediate ancestry.

A perfect or nearly perfect genealogy of a family is a matter of years of search plus a lot of criticism. There is therefore only one way by which even an approximately correct family chart can be made; that is to collect and arrange all the available information into as complete a pedigree as possible. Then to publish this pedigree, thus inviting the criticism of all who are in any way interested therein.

In England, Dugdale, Camden, Mackenzie, Douglas, Collins, Chetwynd, Eyton, Erdeswicke, and many other learned men communicated the best information they possessed concerning the noble families of England and in their publications they gave many charts of ancestry. Since then there has been an almost unbroken chain of criticism tending to the correction of the errors into which these master genealogists had fallen in consequence of other sources of knowledge being opened which they did not possess or had not time to examine. While no one has thereby presumed to detract from the high standing and accepted credibility of these older genealogists, yet the result has been to bring the pedigree of certain families nearer and nearer to perfection of detail. It can therefore be safely asserted that no family can hope to have anything like a generally accepted chart until at least a century after the first publication of the generations of their ancestry. The Pearsall family is fortunate in this particular in that as early as 1530 Sampson Erdeswicke, a very able genealogist, was employed by the family to collate their pedigree, which was used as the basis of the reports severally made by the Master of Arms at the visitations which followed shortly thereafter, and hence was spread upon the public records. And Rev. Sir John Peshall published such a complete chart of the family in the year 1771, in England, and for certain patent reasons, no pedigree has ever had to undergo such a fusillade of criticism nor to stand such searching examination. Mr. Robert Pearsall of Teddington, Middlesex, England, has kindly sent the writer a copy of the original notes of Rev. Sir John which contains reference to the proof and records upon which he relied for his statement. All the visitations to Staffordshire passed upon the right of the family to bear arms. The earliest of these was in 1558 and they continued at intervals until 1664. At each of these visitations the marshals made charts of ancestry running back in the case of the Peshall family to before the middle of the thirteenth century. The Willsbridge Chart, which appears in Burke's *Founders and Royal Descendants*, was made and approved by the College of Heraldry about 1809 and later published by Burke. There have been other publications relating to the English ancestry. It is therefore with more than usual confidence that the following genealogy is set forth. And finally it should be stated that no person has been permitted to contribute to his family history any fact, based upon their own remembrance, farther than

would include the generation of their grandfather, while previously made pedigrees of any of the branches of the family genealogy have been accepted only in so far as they complied with this same regulation. With only these two exceptions, all of the pedigree of the family is based upon records of recognized authority, that have not been in any way tampered with, and which records are set out in full in the text, together with a reference to the place where the original may be consulted.

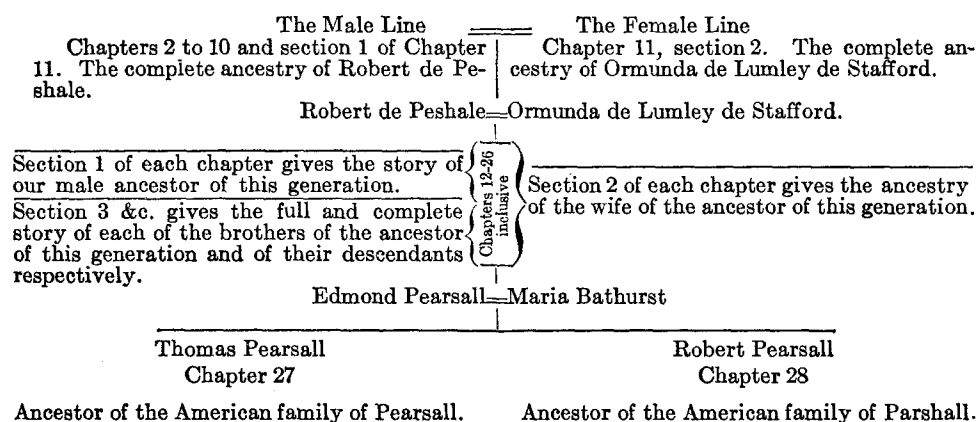
The reader will kindly understand that every fact stated in this history is supported by competent authority either in public or private records of England and America, as well as supplemented by the records belonging to or competent testimony given by the members of our family and others with whom we have consulted. To save multiplicity of citation the reader will find that the deductions as presented are supported by the next following citation in the same subdivision or section even though it may be more than one page after that on which appears the interesting fact which the reader desires to verify.

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK.

A book that is worth reading has been built up according to some carefully thought-out plan and outline which was followed by the author. If one could only definitely learn and get in sympathy with this, the writer's point of view, then possibly many books not thoroughly understood would have received more recognition. In olden time authors in the preface to their works took pains to explain to prospective readers exactly how the writer thought his book should be read. It was, however, all wasted effort, as not one reader out of a thousand read the preface. The writer of this book is therefore not going to try to tell his readers how they shall read or study this book, but he is going to give such plain directions as will enable the reader or student to safely conduct himself through the great maze of matter herein contained without getting hopelessly lost. It will not be possible to even conjecture the unnumbered ways one may enter into this labyrinth of facts and citations, as each of the thousands of names in the index offers an open door; nor is it within the power of mortal man to conjecture the journey even one such reader may take after he once begins a study of the book. The writer has done all he can to help the traveler in that he has carefully placed sign boards at each cross roads, and as one of these cross roads leads to the main highway, it is only necessary to carefully point out the main line of study and its relationship to these branching lines of investigation.

The family of Pearsall did not exist until the twelfth century when Robert Fitz Gilbert de Corbeil, having acquired the manor of Peshale, vested the same in his son Robert who began to call himself de Peshale after the name of this manor. This Robert de Peshale married Ormunda de Lumley de Stafford, a princess of the royal line of Bernician-Northumbrian kings. From them descended all who now or at any time have called themselves Pearsall, and incidentally it may be well to say that there are also several other surnames which are outgrowths of the name of this manor of Peshale, and the ancestry of the several individuals using the same, is, in this history, traced to this same Robert de

Peshale and his wife Ormunda de Stafford. Careful investigation has shown that the first to call himself Pearsall was Edmond Pearsall, merchant of the staple of London who lived in England 1531-1629 and he induced other members of the family not more closely related to him than distant cousins, to adopt the same surname. This Edmond Pearsall and his wife Maria Bathurst are the genearchs or common ancestors of the American family of Pearsall who came to this country in the seventeenth century. It is therefore evident that the primary purpose of this family history after relating their ancestry, is to tell the story of the descent of our line from Robert de Peshale who married Ormunda de Stafford, down to Edmond Pearsall who married Maria Bathurst. From this the line of descent follows the emigration of Thomas Pearsall, their youngest son, to Virginia and the subsequent emigration of some of his sons to the towns of Pearsall, Middleburg, Newtown and Flushing in Western Long Island in New Netherlands, now New York. Also the line flowing from Samuel, the youngest son of Thomas Pearsall, who remained in the Chesapeake Country. And also the Pearsall family which in this generation began when the sons of Robert Pearsall, brother of Thomas and eldest son of Edmond and Maria Pearsall, came to America and settled the one in the Chesapeake Country and the other on the Islands adjacent to the eastern end of the said Long Island, and from which in several generations came the American family of Parshall. To make the story of our ancestry more complete the work includes, so far as we could get the same, a genealogical statement of the ancestry of our mothers, the wives of our male ancestors, and in each generation we have given also such a complete genealogy of the brothers of our male ancestor as we were able to compile. Applying this information to the scheme of the book gives this chart:



If the reader is interested in the pre-American ancestry of the Pearsalls he has but to read the first section of each of the chapters from two to ten inclusive to get the male ancestry of Robert de Peshale. And to read sections two and three of chapter eleven to get the male ancestry of Ormunda de Stafford, the wife of Robert de Peshale. If he will read the first section of each of the chapters from eleven to twenty-five inclusive he will get the ancestry of Edmond Pearsall.

If he will read section two of chapter twenty-six, he will get the ancestry of Maria Bathurst the wife of Edmond Pearsall. If he will read the second section of each of the chapters from twelve to twenty-five inclusive, excepting chapter twenty-one, he will get the ancestry of the maternal line of Edmond Pearsall through whom he claims by reason of his ancestor's marriage in each of these generations.

In the American section the arrangement is different. For here each succeeding chapter represents a distinct group of the family, all descended from the person whose name heads the first section of the chapter, except chapter forty-three which contains two groups. The ramifications of descent from the common ancestor of the group are told in the succeeding sections in this same chapter, each of which is devoted to some distinct branch of this family group. Whenever some one of his descendants may have become the common ancestor of another separate group, then there will appear in the chapter a reference to another chapter where the information concerning this group will be found. The reader will also kindly remember that a letter before a name, say z or a or the like, indicates that this is the mark of a subdivision of this *same section or division* of a section and this section or division is the place where further information may be found concerning the party named.

If the reader is interested in the English family of Pearsall he will find the same in section six and the following sections of chapter eighteen. He will also find that the arrangement is the same as for the American part of this work; namely, each section represents a separate group of this family, and each subdivision represents a separate subordinate group of this main division of the family.

If the reader is interested in any other form of the family name and finds the same in the work according to the index, he will see that he has located it in one of the other sections of this work and he will also discern that this section is devoted to this particular group of the family. The references at the beginning of the section will lead him to the first section of the next preceding chapter and thereon back he will follow the line of ancestry of Edmond Pearsall to Robert de Peshale and Ormonda de Stafford and from thence on back to their ancestors so far as they appear in this work.

The reader will notice that Edmond Pearsall at the beginning of chapter twenty-six has the number one opposite his name. This indicates that he is the first or beginning generation of the American family of Pearsall. If the reader will notice he will also find that each ancestor of the several preceding generations in ancestry of Edmond Pearsall has a number opposite his name at the beginning of his chapter and that these numbers run in sequence from Edmond Pearsall to Rongvald, who was the earliest ancestor, and whose name has been preceded with the number twenty-six to indicate that he is the twenty-sixth ancestor preceding the founding of the American family of Pearsall.

THE COAT OF ARMS.

A coat of arms is defined to be a complete achievement;—An achievement is defined to be a complete heraldic composition, whether of the shield alone, or

the shield with the crest, motto and supporter, if any. All of which, while very learned, brings us to exactly where we started. It may therefore possibly be more understandable to say that the coat of arms is the object of heraldry, that is to say of the science of armorial bearing. The coat of arms is the means by which an individual of noble rank or his family is distinguished from all other families, his rank and social standing determined and his ancestry and family connections disclosed and displayed. The expression originated in the thirteenth century in the fashion followed by the nobility of embroidering the family insignia on the surcoats worn over the hauberk or coat of mail. Arms were similarly embroidered on the jupon, cyclas and tabard which succeeded the surcoat, a practice which survived till the time of Henry VIII, when the tabard came to be entirely disused except by the heralds, who still continue in England to wear on their tabards the royal arms—which marks a period of only about a century and a half during which this garment was an article of fashionable apparel. The wearing of metal armour was introduced into England by William the Conqueror; prior to that the English wore protective garments made of heavy tanned leather. The Normans used a device or cognizance in connection with their armed equipment so that no Norman might perish in battle by the hand of another Norman, nor one Frenchman kill another; and beyond a doubt each knight in the Conqueror's army had on his shield a representation of his personal insignia, as is shown most clearly in the celebrated Bayeux tapestry. From the very earliest times the Eastern Nations had distinguished noble families by some fixed sign or mark. Thus in the Bible in the Book of Numbers, chapter 2, it is recorded:

And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron saying, Every man of the Children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of his father's house; far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch. And in Psalm 74.—It is stated, They set up their ensigns for signs. At first these figures of arms appear to have been used on banners to mark the place of the chief or head of the family, and it came to mean a rallying place, the place of safety, the place of security, and hence represented tribal strength and unity of purpose. So in Isaiah 11:10 we read, And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse which shall stand for an ensign of the people, to it shall the gentile seek and his rest shall be glorious; and in the same book, 18:13, When he lifteth up an ensign in the mountains and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear you.

Thus the banner or ensign ceased to be a personal designation but rather came to mean the tribe or nation. The reason for this change in the meaning of the word ensign was that the dominion of the King had become so large that the subject could no longer see the banner. This therefore came to mean the place where the ruler actually was to be found and in the stead thereof was written orders from the sovereign bearing the impress of the device, which in modern language we call the arms of the commander. Therefore the ruler possessed himself of a signet, usually in the form of a ring, with which he stamped or sealed his approval on orders, charters, or other important records, and this insignia represented to the subject the imperative seal or signature of his sovereign. Schleimann in his *Mycenae*, page 359, describes such signet rings which he found in tombs that antedate King Solomon by several centuries. In speaking of one of them he



THE PEARSALL COAT OF ARMS

says—On seeing this marvelous ring Mrs. Schleimann and I involuntarily exclaimed, "This ring must have been seen by Homer before he described all the wonders which Hephaestus wrought upon the shield of Achilles."

There he wrought earth, sea, and heaven,
 There he set th' unwearying sun,
 And the waxing moon, and stars that
 Crown the blue vault every one;
 Pleiads, Hyads, strong Orion,
 Arctos, hight to boot the Wain.
 He upon Orion waiting,
 Only he of all the train
 Shunning still the baths of ocean
 Wheels and wheels his round again.

And likewise Judges used their signets to attest their written testimony of witness. Therefore we read in John 3: 33, He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

The Norsemen were Aryans who left Asia about the time of Christ. They were careful to maintain the old customs, specially those which related to the rank and power of the rulers. A most careful examination has failed to disclose any pictorial representations made by them, indicative of the Royal family, which did not contain the insignia which disclosed at least the name of his family. There may have been some that did not disclose this, but the Norsemen were exceedingly fond of genealogy and carefully retained everything which would enable them to prove their ancestry, if for no other reason than that ancestry meant in their time the authority and power of the ruler and willing obedience to him.

As we are writing about a family which existed long before coats of arms were known, it must seem clear that we are consequently more interested to learn, if possible, what was the *representation* of arms, i.e. insignia, which signified this family. All historians agree that recorded history in Norway began with Rognvald, Earl of More. We shall therefore begin our studies of this subject with him. His son Rollo was banished by King Harold Fairhair about 900, and his mother going before the king to intercede in his behalf said:

Bethink thee Monarch it is ill
 With such a *wolf* at wolf to play
 Who driven to the wild woods away
 May make the King's best deer his prey.

Here we have a very beautiful play upon words. The Clan of this Rognvald was represented by a Wolf head; whereas an outlaw was represented in the Norse law as a wolf, i.e. a bad, savage, wild animal whom it was a good thing to kill and which in time would do all the damage possible before he was killed. We can therefore well comprehend the veiled threat that to outlaw a real wolf was only to bid him play havoc with the King's subjects and to license him to make himself free with the King's property.

The arms, i.e. the name of the family of Rognvald was a wolf. See figure No. 1 on plate of arms. And here it may be well to say that if the reader will con-

stantly keep in mind that the Norse Rognvald, the Norman-French Lupus and the English Wolf are synonymous names and that whenever in this history the text discloses either of these names, or displays the representation of a wolf, generally a wolf's head, it refers directly to Rognvald or to his descendants. This may be called the key to our family history.

The descendants of Rognvald became scattered and dwelt in many lands where they became rulers so that it was not long before the old name and designation had ceased to be used and each branch of the family acquired a new family name and adopted its own insignia of arms. One of the grandsons of Rognvald however retained the old name and distinguishing arms. From this grandson of Rognvald descended Hugh Lupus whose arms was the wolf head erased of the field that is to say represented as forcibly separated from the body. So that at the very beginning of our male line of ancestry this was our coat of arms.








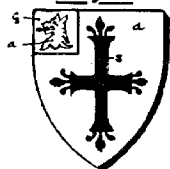






In 912 Rollo became Duke of Normandy in France; hence he felt himself a king and really was one, so he changed his arms from the Wolf to that of the Lion, so that this became the arms of our family. See figure No. 2 on plate of arms. About 1007 Mauger, great-grandson of Rollo, became Count of Corbeil and Count of Mortaigne and he changed the form of the lion as to posture, and this new device thereby became the mark by which we were distinguished. See figure No. 3 on plate of arms. To go back in the history of the countship of Corbeil, it appears, according to the local tradition, about the year 960 Count Aymon, the father of Germain, the wife of Mauger, slew a terrible dragon in that place, when the Count of Corbeil assumed that animal as the arms or distinguishing mark for his family. While there is some doubt about the matter, nevertheless, the weight of evidence seems to be that Werlac, the son of Mauger, adopted the old arms of the Count Aymon. The Swiss masters of Heraldry have given considerable study to the arms of Corbeil as achieved by Count Haymon and Werlac, and they give the authentic arms of these noblemen as they appear in figure No. 4 on plate of arms.

In 1057, William the Duke of Normandy, afterwards Conqueror of England, arbitrarily and unjustly deprived our ancestor, Werlac, son of Mauger, of all his possessions and rank in Normandy as Count of Corbeil and Count of Mortaigne, and drove him out of the country. Werlac went to Italy, where he acquired new possessions and new arms, namely a cross Flourii, that is a cross with the lilies of France at the end of each arm, which must have very cleverly distinguished him among the Italian nobility, the cross being the mark which not only represented Normandy but his Christian faith as well, while the flower, the fleur de lis, spoke only of his dear France. See figure No. 5 on plate of arms.

About 1080 Gilbert de Corbeil, grandson of Werlac, married Isabella Lupus, daughter of Richard de Avranches, a descendent of Hrollarf, son of Rognvald and brother of Rollo. Hrollarf and his descendents held to the old insignia of the wolf head, hence the wolf head was the arms of her family.

As a consequence any member of the family who descended from this marriage had the right to impale the family arms with the wolf head erased of the field, which was the arms of the Lupus or Avranches family. See figure No. 6 on plate of arms.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE PEARSALL COAT OF ARMS

<p>1.</p> <p><u>RONGVALD</u> <u>THE WOLF:</u></p>  <p><u>GU. A WOLF'S HEAD.</u> <u>ERASED. AR.</u></p>	<p>2.</p> <p><u>NORMANDY</u></p>  <p><u>GU. TWO LIONS PASSANT</u> <u>GUARDANT IN PALE OR.</u></p>	<p>3.</p> <p><u>MAUGER</u> <u>COUNT OF CORBEIL &</u> <u>MORTAIGNE IN NORMANDY</u></p>  <p><u>GU. LION RAMPANT.</u> <u>DOUBLE-QUEUED. AR.</u> <u>CROWNED OR: SAME</u> <u>AS IN THE GROS VENEOR</u> <u>ARMS:</u></p>	<p>4.</p> <p><u>AYMON</u> <u>COUNT OF COMON AND</u> <u>COUNT OF CORBEIL:</u></p>  <p><u>ARMORIUM COMITIS</u> <u>COMONENSIS IN CORBEL</u> <u>PICT IN CODICE HERALDICO:</u> <u>CONRADI GRÜNEBERG:</u></p>	<p>5.</p> <p><u>WERLAC DE CORBEIL</u> <u>NORMANDY AND</u> <u>DE BANASTRE ITALY:</u></p>  <p><u>THE SAME ARMS FOR</u> <u>PESHALL,</u> <u>BANNISTRE,</u> <u>SWINNERTON.</u> <u>IN ENGLAND:</u></p>	<p>6.</p> <p><u>PESHALL</u> <u>ARMS WITH A CANTON</u> <u>FOR LUPUS:</u></p>  <p><u>AR. A CROSS FLEURETTEE</u> <u>SA. ON A CANTON GU. A</u> <u>WOLF'S HEAD OF THE FIELD:</u> <u>ERASED.</u> <u>THE USUAL ARMS:</u></p>	<p>7.</p> <p><u>PESHALL</u> <u>WITH ESCUTCHEON OF</u> <u>PRETENCE OF THE ARMS:</u></p>  <p><u>OF LIULPH:</u> <u>AND SIWARD.</u> <u>HIS BROTHER:</u> <u>FROM HARL MSS. 1386.</u> <u>JOHN GWILLIM'S BOOK 1012.</u></p>
<p>8.</p> <p><u>PERSALL</u> <u>OF TOYNTON C. LINCOLN</u> <u>HARLEIAN MSS 1550</u> <u>fo 192v.</u></p>  <p><u>VISITATION BY ROBT</u> <u>COOKE THE HERALD IN</u> <u>1564 CONFIRMED AND</u> <u>ENLARGED BY VISITATION</u> <u>1592.</u></p>	<p>9.</p> <p><u>SIR JOHN PESHALL B.</u> <u>OF HORSLEY.</u> <u>C. STAFFORD:</u></p>  <p><u>B. 1562 — 1645</u> <u>CREATED A BARONET</u> <u>25. NOV. 1612.</u></p>	<p>10.</p> <p><u>EDMUND PESHALL:</u> <u>SON OF</u> <u>EDMUND PERSHALL PEARSALL</u> <u>OF LONDON:</u></p>  <p><u>WILL. PROVED OF</u> <u>FATHER 1629.</u> <u>AR. A CROSS FLEURIE SA.</u> <u>ON A CANTON OF THE SECOND</u> <u>a wolf's head erased field.</u></p>	<p>11.</p> <p><u>ROBERT LUCAS PEARSALL</u> <u>OF WILLSBRIDGE</u> <u>C. GLOSTER & WARTENSEE</u> <u>CASTLE SWITZERLAND:</u></p>  <p><u>B. 1795 — 1856.</u> <u>AR. A CROSS FLEURETTEE</u> <u>BETW. TWO WOLVES' HEADS</u> <u>IN BEND ERASED SA.</u> <u>Graded by Herald's Col. 1836.</u></p>	<p>12.</p> <p><u>REV. JOHN PESHALL:</u> <u>OF HAYNE WALESOWEN</u> <u>AND OXFORD:</u></p>  <p><u>B. 1717. — 1778.</u> <u>AR. A CROSS FLEURIE SA.</u> <u>ON A CANTON AZ. A WOLF'S</u> <u>HEAD ERASED OF THE FIELD.</u> <u>on an escutcheon of pretence an</u> <u>lion rampant, gu. crowned or.</u></p>	<p>13.</p> <p><u>ROBERT PEARSALL:</u> <u>OF WILLSBRIDGE FAMILY</u> <u>TEODINGTON MIDDLESEX:</u> <u>Changed in a crescent signified</u> <u>ordered on 10th a second son.</u></p>  <p><u>AR. A CROSS FLEURETTEE</u> <u>SA. ON A CANTON GU. A</u> <u>WOLF'S HEAD ERASED OF</u> <u>THE FIELD: THE ARMS OF STILL</u> <u>on an escutcheon of pretence</u> <u>AUGT 1921</u> <u>ROBERT PEARSALL DE.</u></p>	<p>14.</p> <p><u>PEARSALL</u> <u>MODERN</u></p> 

In connection with this impalement there are a series of interesting and important historical facts, namely: The family of Richard de Avranches was the only one in this part of England using as their arms the wolf head erased of the field. The male line of this family ended with Richard, third earl of Chester, who died childless, he and his bride having been drowned by the sinking of the *Blanche Nef*. Richard was the nephew of Isabella Lupus and son of her brother Hugh, earl of Chester. The generation of Isabella was therefore the last in which a female might have endowed her children with this device with which to impale their father's arms.

In the next generation after the marriage with Isabella Lupus, our ancestor acquired the manor of Peshale. As a consequence his son called himself Robert de Peshale, whereby we obtained both our name and our coat of arms. This Robert de Peshale married Ormunda de Lumley de Stafford, a princess of the royal line of kings and earls of Bernicia, Northumberland, whose arms are a lion rampant Gules crown *d'or* and double queue, whereby some bore arms argent, a cross formie sable and essunt fleur de lis, on a canton in chief gules, a wolf head erased argent, with an escutcheon of augmentation bearing the arms of the royal house of Bernicia, as above described.

There were good reasons why at this time it was not advisable for the members of our family to call attention either to their relationship to the family of Avranches, or to that of the Bernician nobility, so for several generations our family appears to have borne the arms of Werlac without any impalement or augmentation whatsoever. There is now no good reason why the American branch of the family should not adopt the impalement and augmentation that was permissible when our family name began, hence our arms would be as shown on chart.

The reader, however, must be careful to keep in mind that the arms of the family are the arms of Werlac, to wit the cross with the fleur de lis as already explained, and that the only limit of augmentation is the number of generations that have since intervened until the family came to America. Such a design would of course represent the height of armorial variety. The families in England today are represented by descendants who call themselves Pearsall, Parshall, Pexall, Pascall, Peshall and Swinnerton. The latter name needs an explanation. Robert de Peshale, grandson of Robert de Peshale and his wife Ormunda de Lumley de Stafford, called himself de Swinnerton, he having also been given by his parents the manor of Swinnerton. One of the lines of descent from him, viz: The De Swinnertons, appear to have quite uniformly adhered to the arms of Werlac, while as to the other line of descent, de Peshales, there has been considerable difference in augmentation and impalement.

In the centuries following the Conquest men were very jealous of their armorial bearings, specially of the bearings peculiar to their own family name, but gradually there arose the new rich, who, desiring to follow the manners of the nobility, assumed to themselves arms to which of course they had no right whatsoever. In many cases they copied the arms of existing families, or imitated them so closely as to make the worst sort of confusion. Gradually therefore the laws, usages and customs grew into a science known as Heraldry. In the time of Henry V the assumption of arms by private persons was restrained by royal proclamation.

This prohibited any one who had not worn them at Agincourt from assuming them except by virtue of inheritance or a grant from the crown. This was not only an acknowledgment that the King was powerless to prevent the assumption of arms by the newly rich, but it was also a royal recognition of the science of Heraldry which had been growing in public estimation in England since about the beginning of the twelfth century. By which profession the design of one's arms, or insignia, was made to conform to well defined rules for representing the parts thereof; by which also the designs to be displayed in connection therewith were strictly limited, and through which the emblems that one might use for this purpose were lawfully determined and valued. This was however a science of design and display and was independent of the right to wear the arms which anciently came only by inheritance and was to be proven by the same rules for the succession as applied to other hereditaments. If, being of later origin, the arms came by royal grant, then this was proven by the patent for the same. Or if it was acquired by grant from some other individual, then this was to be proven by the record of the charter of the same on file in the Herald's Office.

While the intention of the King no doubt was to preserve the ancient customs of the Kingdom and the standing of the nobility, the result was to destroy the old armorial bearings as used by families of long established rank. The old family designation was an *armes parlantes*, or a device which spoke or indicated phonetically the family name of the individual. Hence it needs no expert in heraldry to translate the meaning of the device of the Wolf's head used by Rognvald, or of the Cross of suffering which Werlac adopted after his banishment from Normandy. It is true that these old coats of arms were no longer useful for this purpose after the individual had acquired a surname, but the new science should have emphasised the fact that one's ancestor had held lands or titles in such a manner as to make the holding dependent upon his connection with a certain and immediate ancestry, and of which ancestry the present user of the device was a lineal descendant. The moment that it was determined that the right to bear such arms or insignia could be acquired by prescription, that is to say by proof, that the individual claiming the right to bear the arms and his ancestors had worn them beyond a certain period of time, irrespective of further proof that these arms were appurtenant to certain lands, or to certain offices of rank in the kingdom, which called for the use of such an insignia; or when it came to be that they were created by royal patent; or that they could be acquired by grant from an individual, then the old meaning of the coat of arms ceased to have a place in the science of Heraldry, and the arms became merely the outward designation of a man of social and courtly rank above the common people. In this sense we cordially agree with the statement made by A. C. Fox, in his work called *Heraldry Explained*, when he says that there was no such thing as a coat of arms (as we now use and understand the term) in existence at the time of the Norman Conquest and this date can certainly be extended to the beginning of the twelfth century; after that coats of arms were in practical and universal use throughout Europe—During that period we get the crusades and some writers assign the origin of the science to that time.

The reader should therefore keep these distinctions in mind in studying the

growth of the arms of this family and it will add to his interest in the subject in determining, if possible, the time when the insignia ceased to be the family name and became the embellishment of the individuals of our family and the indication of their rank. Recurring to the King's proclamation, it is well to remember that our ancestor, Nicholas de Peshale, fought at Agincourt.

To enforce the observance of this law heralds, visitations, or processions through the counties were instituted and continued from time to time till the reign of William and Mary. These heralds were directed to visit the counties and there find out who were bearing arms and by what right they claimed such privilege. The earliest visitation to Staffordshire was in 1528, at which time the Peshall arms were approved. In 1483 a Heralds College, or college of arms was founded by Richard III., the president of which is the Earl Marshall of England, an office hereditary in the family of Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who nominates the three kings of arms, six heralds, and four pursuivants who are members of the collegiate chapter. It is now a crime for any one within the United Kingdom of England to bear arms without a hereditary claim by descent, or a grant by competent authority. This College or Court has reduced the subject to the precision of a science. In addition there have been libraries of books written upon the subject. There also are quite a few men who devote themselves to the solution of the many problems that are constantly arising, and who therefore may be said like lawyers to practice in the Court of Heraldry.

It is stated authoritatively that the Willsbridge pedigree of Pearsall has been passed by the College of Heraldry. This does not mean that every statement therein made is guaranteed to be true, but that the arms are true as stated, and that the right by descent is allowed.

In all the visitations our ancestors were called upon to prove their right to have armorial bearings, which has resulted in a number of manuscript pedigrees, made and reported by the Master of Arms, which are on file either in the British Museum or in the office of the College of Heraldry, and these almost invariably contain drawings of the arms borne by the then living members of the family. While there may be many differences in the relationship of the intervening generations, as shown in these charts and pedigrees when compared one with the other, these conflicting statements have not resulted, and cannot result, to change but to greatly strengthen the claim of descent from the original bearer of the arms.

Because a certain physical object or a peculiar device is allowed as representing the arms of a family, does not mean that any and every such object will answer the purpose, as it must be represented as granted by the College of Arms.

In Burkes General English Armory we find the arms of Pershall or Peshall of Horsley, co. Stafford to be:

Ar. a cross pattee, flory sa.; on a canton gu. a wolf's head erased of the field.

Crest. a wolf's head sa. holding in the mouth a marigold ppr. Ar. means argente meaning silver,—which when it is not in color is expressed by the shield being plain.

The arms of Peshall have been passed upon many times and necessarily there is considerable variation, by way of modification, growing out of claims by marriage, or of maternal descent of the individual whose arms are then under con-

sideration. There seems however to have also been some want of harmony as to the form of the cross. That given for Peshall of (Bromley, co. Kent) being a plain cross. This was the arms claimed by Edmund Pearshall, Pearsall als Peshall, brother of Thomas Pearsall who was the ancestor of the American Pearsalls of various spellings. The Shropshire family used the cross formee, while the Eccleshall family, co. Stafford were granted simply a cross. All the grants agree that the cross, no matter what its shape may be, must be floryee, that is a cross flowered at the end of each of the terminals, arms and stems, in this case with the fleur de lis. The heraldic lily differs from that of the garden in having three leaves instead of five. The cross must be sa. that is sable or black, which, when not in color, is depicted by cross-lines horizontal and perpendicular. A canton means cornered; it is less than the quarter and comprised only a third part of the chief and is formed by a perpendicular line drawn from the top of the shield meeting another drawn horizontal from the side. The canton always occupies the dexter chief of the escutcheon unless otherwise expressed. The chief is the uppermost third part of the escutcheon divided horizontally. Gu. means Red.

The wolf head is Sa. i.e. sable as already explained. It is also to be erased of the field, that is forcibly torn from the body. A head forcibly erased has its severed part jagged like the teeth of a saw. The field means the balance of the shield which would of course contain the remainder of the wolf were it to be shown as a whole animal. Ppr. means in their natural color. The colors are also represented by the precious stones.—Silver by pearls and the red by rubies; the black by diamonds.

The lion is rampant, that is with both fore legs elevated, the dexter uppermost and the head seen sidewise. The dexter hind leg also higher than the sinister as the weight of the creature were borne upon the latter. The escutcheon being Gules or red, and the lion being crowned or, that is yellow to represent gold.

THE MOTTO.

It is of course generally understood that the motto is simply an expression of one's guiding idea or principle appended to a coat-of-arms. In a great many cases it has some reference to the crest, badge or to some bearing of the escutcheon. Sometimes two mottoes are used, one above the crest and the other below the shield. This heraldic motto is, strictly considered, not hereditary but personal, hence it may vary in each succeeding generation or those of the same generation may have different mottoes although they may be as closely related as brothers. It is a rather interesting observation that the Peshale family but rarely used a motto with its coat-of-arms. Sir Adam de Peshale of Weston-under-Lizard used *Spes me in Deo*, and there are some who assert that the family motto is *Fortes fortuna juvat*, but the writer could find no instance where it so appeared upon the records. The Rev. John Peshall took *Suum Cuique*, Richard Pearsall *Sine crimine sine metu* and Robert Lucas de Pearsall *Better death than shame*. Robert Pearsall of London prepared the plate of the arms for this book and we were pleased, as no doubt the rest of the family will be, to have him use his personal motto. In a letter to the writer he said that uniformly he is successful in any

competition when he uses this motto, and as Robert Pearsall is a very successful man, it appeared as a happy thought to use it in connection with this family history. The truth would however seem to be that there is no recognized family motto of the Peshale-Pearsall family and one is at liberty both historically and of personal right to use whatever motto strikes their own fancy.

The motto of John Peshall who married Helena Harcourt was *Bien venu ce que ad viendra.*

THE NAME.

From what has been said in connection with the arms it is quite evident that the real name of the family is Wolf, changing from Rognvald, the Wolf, in Norway to the Latin, Lupus, in Normandy. When the Normans went to Normandy they adopted the French system of calling themselves de or of the place which they held in feudal service to the Duke of Normandy. Here Rollo became duke and our family name was changed to de Normandi. And, as we have seen, our later ancestor came to be Count of Corbeil, so that thereby we were de Corbeil. The Countship of Mortaigne does not appear to have remained long enough in the family to have affected our name. Then came the emigration to England. Our ancestor had the Norman dislike of the barbarous English place names, so the next generation called themselves son of, or Fitz; therefore in our case the name was rendered as Robert Fitz-Gilbert de Corbeil. The next generation saw a marriage with a daughter of the Northumbrian royal family and almost unconsciously the son of Fitz-Gilbert became de Lumley and his father having acquired and given him Peshale, he became likewise de Peshale. In those days men had as many de or of names as they held manors. The name Peshale, as a family name, had its beginning in Robert the son of Robert Fitz Gilbert de Corbeil as he was the first to call himself de Peshale. He was also de Lumley. It was not until the second generation after, that the de Lumley was dropped as Robert de Peshale de Lumley had a son John who had the same surnames. Peshale always was a divided manor; there was a part of it held of the Bishops of Chester and John de Peshale de Lumley also acquired Swinnerton by marriage with the daughter and heir of Fitz Alan. It happened that John de Peshale had several sons. To his son Robert he gave Swinnerton when he married the heiress of Suggenhulle and Bishops Offley, so that Robert became de Suggenhulle de Swinnerton, names which of course remained with his children, and they became the ancestors of the Swinnertons and Sugnals. The Peshale manors were divided by John as follows: to his son William he gave half of the manor held of Robert de Toesni de Stafford; to his son Roger he gave the other half; to his son John he gave the Bishops manor of Peshale. In later generations part of the Bishops Manor came to John Swinnerton, grandson of Robert de Swinnerton de Suggenhulle, by purchase from Dorothy Peshale, great-grand-daughter of John de Peshale, and her husband William de Fisher, de Suggenhulle, de Peshale. Roger's descendants appear to have gone away from Staffordshire, but they continued to call themselves de Peshale, although they sold their interest in the Stafford manor of Peshale to William or his descendants. The part of the manors vested in William was divided between his sons Stephen and Walter. Stephen's share was

conveyed by his son Robert to the same John de Swinnerton who had married his, Robert's, sister and heir, Eleanor de Peshale. A part of the other half descended to Adam de Peshale, grandson of Walter, who married Alice, daughter of this same John de Swinnerton and his wife Eleanor de Peshale. She brought as her marriage portion, her father's holdings in the Peshale manors, and thereby part of the Bishops manor and a large share of the other manor of Peshale came to be vested in the heirs of this Adam de Peshale. It is from this Adam de Peshale that we descend. He is descended, as we have seen, from Robert de Peshale who married Ormunda de Stafford about 1130, and this Robert was the first to call himself de Peshale, where our family name had its beginning.

Peshale was unnoticed in Domesday. Walter Chetwynd notices Peshall in his history of Pirehill Hundred, but strange to say, he seems to have had knowledge concerning only the Bishops manor and the same applies to the annotator of his history.

The earliest spelling and the one which prevailed at the time of the conquest is Peshale. This is probably a very old Saxon holding. The name readily resolves itself into two elements; first, Pe, and second shale. The first is pronounced as though it was spelled Pär, or rather as if there was a series of broad A's as Peaa or Paaa; the same as Derby in the Cockney drawl is pronounced Därby and Clerk as Clärk, the first of which still records the old Danish spelling Deoraby, or like the long drawl in Dauston which is the present day name for a place that originally was Daegas Stone*. In the softer Saxon, Cymen's Ora, which was the place name of the spot where in 477 Aella and his sons landed on the coast of England is now called Keynor, while Cissas chester, that is to say Cissas town, named after another son of Aella, is now Chichester. A marked characteristic of the Staffordshire, Shropshire dialect is its broad and heavy drawl. #It is a strange coincidence that the name of Peshale never lost its sound of broad A, which must have been the distinguishing characteristic of the name of the man whose name this first element perpetuates. Henry Harrison in his Surnames of the United Kingdom, a concise Etymological Dictionary, London 1912, following Franklin, suggests that this name may have been the old French Pere, if not the rare Anglo-Saxon Paghere, to which we add that it designates the King Peada who made a permanent encampment here early in the eighth century. George Omerod, in his History of Cheshire, page 159, says of him, Peada, called Weda, by Malmsbury, the son of King Penda, began his reign anno. Dom. 655, November the 15th, over the south part of Mercia, by the permission of Oswy, king of Northumberland, while Mearwoldus, another of Penda's sons, held the western part under the same king Oswy, as Simon of Durham testifies. He married Alflada, the daughter of Oswy, two years before his father Penda's death, on this condition, that he would turn Christian, and promote that religion in his own country. Accordingly, he was baptized by Fianaus, in the king of Northumberland's palace, being in a strong town near the Picts-wall, called Admurum, and since called Walton, eight miles west of Newcastle. This was done in anno Dom. 653. Afterwards, as a testimony of his conversion, he began the foundation of the stately abbey of Peterburgh, but being prevented by death, left it to be

*Making of England, by John Richard Green, page 226.

#Conquest of England, by J. R. Green, page 198.

finished by his brother Wulferus. He enjoyed his kingly dignity but five months, being slain by his own wife, say some; by his mother, say others; by whichever most unnaturally, in the very feast of Easter, anno Dom. 656. The cycle of the sun that year being twenty-one. The dominical letters (it being Bis-sexstle) C.B. the cycle of the moon eleven. Easter fell upon the seventeenth day of April, on which day he was murdered. Peada was a man full grown before he came to kingly dignity, and this he only enjoyed as an under-king to his father-in-law Oswi of Northumbria and after his death, King Oswy swayed the scepter of Mercia between two and three years; at which time Immin, Eaba, and Eadberht, three captains of the Mercians, rebelling against Oswy, prevailed, and lifted up Wulferus, the second son of Penda, into the Mercian throne. There can be no question that Peada was connected with the history of Staffordshire as on his return home, after he became a Christian, he brought four priests along with him, one of whom Dicema made his place of habitation at Litchfield, and the others were placed in other churches in the vicinity of Peshale. [Rev. Stebbins Shaw, History of Staffordshire, vol. 1, page 231.]

The editor of The Parshall Family Book, says that he found the name spelled Peashale, a form which the most diligent search failed to show to reward our efforts, except as written by some clerk of the records long after the family name Peshale had become extinct. Peashale is purely colloquial and was used only by Robert Peshall of Bloor Pipe and Sir John Peshall of Horsley as the sound value of their surname when they returned to the spelling of Peshall as their surname at the beginning of the seventeenth century. It never was used as the name of the manor or to indicate the village. Hence this was a very modern way of sounding the name of the old manor. It cannot possibly indicate anything of value in the determination of the origin of this place name. The author of the Parshall book accepts this as the oldest form, and concludes therefore that it is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon compound Peashealh or Peashale, signifying the home of the Peacock. The Anglo-Saxon for Peacock, he says, was *pärva* or *peä*, the latter being the contracted form. "This noun being weak masculine normally took the weak genitive inflexion N becoming *pean*, but to form the compound *peashealh* it must have taken the strong inflexion S; the explanation of this is that the word *pea* was in this case the name of a man and so would take the strong inflexion in the genitive like other proper nouns." This explanation not only destroys the value of the first element *Pe* with its *paar* sound but it is remarkable as coming from one whose whole book is predicated upon the statement that the *äh* or broad sound of A is a vitally essential part of the first element of the name, whence his name Parshall. He is, however, in agreement with all who have studied the first element, as to its meaning and signification,—namely, that it is the name of a man and that it represents the first element of his name and is the equivalent of *Pea*, sounded phonetically as *Päär*, *e* having the broad sound of *a* and *a* having the sound of *är* or *äh*.

It could only be the name of a king whose connection with this vicinity would be recalled for so long a period as to lose all but the first element in his name, and there was no other Saxon king except Peada who could possibly meet the requirements. This King's name was phonetically *Paardah* and it is easy to see how in

the compounding of words to make the name Peshale the second element of the king's name was lost in the long drawl of the a's, which represent the sound of the first element of Peshale with its peculiar sound or drawl of r. The loss of the last element of a man's name in the final form of a community name is a common incident of the history of geographical names. Many examples could be given but one will do. A hermit founded in Northumberland, about 670, a little religious house around which a little town grew up which as years went by became Botulf's town, and this as the centuries passed became Boston, which evidences a greater change than in the change of Peada's shield to Peshale. [Making of England, by John Richard Green, page 341.]

The second element of the word is shale—and it has puzzled several of the investigators. Dr. Parshall says the second syllable is health, an Anglo-Saxon word, the exact meaning of which is still doubtful, it is very common in place names shortening to hale, ale and all, equivalent of hiding place, mans abode, house or hall, and he therefore reaches the conclusion that the manor was formerly the property of an Anglo-Saxon chief Parva or Pea, the Peacock (it was in fact Peada's shield) and that his manor received the name of Peashealth or Peashale; a conclusion which is utterly destructive not only to the primary contention of the distinguished and learned doctor that the first element of his name is Par (shall), but it also completely destroys the obvious division of the elements of this word, as the s is an essential part of the second element, to change which it is evident that thereby the structure of the name would be entirely altered. The old English word Pea, meaning a pea fowl, was sounded as pē—like the legume common to our gardens today—e.g. Gilded als the fethers of pea, [Child's Ballads 1. 274] It may be that he really intended to refer to a form of the old Gaelic terminal *Airigh*, a shieling, that is a temporary shelter, which would give exactly the right value of this second element of the name. Moreover, Dr. Johnston in his Place Names of England and Wales, London 1915, page 52, places the value of Heall, as a palace, court, a royal residence, hence a mansion or a hall, a permanent and pretentious house, a meaning utterly impossible to apply to the manor of Peshale. While Henry Harrison says the last element is the equivalent of old English hyll or Middle English hull, meaning a hill, which is very interesting as this is not a hill place, but a low meadow-like manor in the bend of a stream; nor was it the place of a hall or castle such as would be long remembered as the dwelling place of the lord of a manor. That this is so is proven by the fact that it was entirely overlooked by the assessors in the time of the Domesday survey. It will be noticed that these scholars treat the s as being the possessive of the first element, which makes it very evident that they were puzzled as to the derivation of the second element, and therefore they endeavored to change this part of the name so as to bring it within the terms of a common element whose meaning they understood.

The truth is that shale is a very rare termination for a place name and is not generally found in England. In fact it seems to be almost entirely peculiar to this Shropshire-Staffordshire-border locality. So rare is the termination that those who have examined it are content to give it the meaning it has at the place where it is used, e.g., a hut, or a hut on the side of a hill pasture, or a fisherman's hut at

the mouth of a stream. The general conclusion from all of which is that the word signifies a temporary shield or shelter as distinguished from a permanent habitation, such as a hall or castle. This is the most obvious derivation of the name which is generally at an early day written shele, which in the Shropshire dialect would be written phonetically shale, and which word in the West Country represented the temporary summer shield or shelter of a herdsman.

—When twilight dimmed the green hill side,
Far in his lonely shiel the shepherd died. [Erskine.]

[History of County of Durham, by Robert Surtees, London, 1820, vol. 2, page 94.]

We have in this same Staffordshire locality another place with the same termination, namely Lilleshall, a parish three miles south of Newport. The old contraction of which, Lialeshelle, as late as 1872 still lingered among the people. The last element of which has been compared to the shield, board or breast of a plough, l'escutcheon or shield in the treatise of Walter de Bibbesworth XIII century in *Wr. Vocals*, vol. 1, page 169. [Shropshire Word Book, by C. A. Jackson, page 384.] Then there is possibly Eccleshall, another Staffordshire vill, situate about a mile from Pershall. In fact with few exceptions this termination denotes a Staffordshire-Shropshire-border place name.

This word Shale or Shall in all of its forms, when used to describe the habitation of man, always implies a temporary structure. For example,

I saugh him carien a wind-melle
Under a walshe-note shale. [Chaucer, House of Fame, 1. 1281.]

A martiall kinde of men, who from the moneth of April unto August lye out scattering and Summering (as they tearme it) with their cattell, in little cottages here and there, which they call sheales and shealings. [Holland, tr. of Camden, p. 506. Davies.]

To be wi' thee in Hieland shiel
Is worth lords at Castlecary.
[Ballad of Lizie Baillie, ii.,
Chamber's Scottish Song, iii. 144.]

The swallow jinkin' round my shiel, [Burns, Bess and her Spinning-Wheel.]

The second element in the name is the equivalent of a shield or temporary protection, and this would apply to the base of an army or cantonment. The name records the fact that King Peada, while yet a prince, encamped or made this his base encampment, and he may have wintered here in his campaign with his army. This section was in those days the hunters' paradise, and this was a kingly hunters' camp, visited yearly, when it would be gay with all the surroundings of royalty.

In the light of subsequent investigation it appears that King Peada had erected a temporary shield or shelter just outside of what is now Eccleshale, where he stationed troops to guard against the encroachments of the Welsh, intending to immediately proceed to the erection of a castle or fort at this place. His reign lasted less than a year, so that he died before his plans had been carried into effect. Upon his death, there was a period of two years during which Oswi of Northumberland, the father-in-law of Peada reigned in Mercia. After this Wulfhere, the brother of Peada, reigned. He carried out his brother's plans in the main, but did not build upon the old site. Hence it became known locally as

the shiel or shelter of King Peada, later corrupted into Peshale to distinguish it from the castle of his brother, King Wulfhere. The latter built himself a castle or manor within two miles of Peshale and later in 670 he founded and erected the priory of Stone still a mile further east, and evidently here he was also only carrying out the primary intentions of King Peada. The remains of King Wulfhere's castle were still visible as late as 1542. This Byri (Bowery) Hall stood on a rock by a brookside, whence appeareth, says John Leland, father of British topographers, in 1542 great dykes and squared stones. It is a mile from Stone towards the Marches. [Counties of England, by P. H. Ditchfield, vol. 1, page 230.] All of which is still further confirmed by Walter Chetwynd in his history of Pirehill Hundred in Stafford, wherein he says—Within Darlaston on the top of a rising ground the marks of some fortifications are yet visible. The tradition is that here was once the seat of Wulfere, King of Mercia, which, beside some other authorities, has this to confirm it, that Rob. de Suggenhull, and Petronilla his wife gave a messuage and certain lands to the Priory of Stone, lying within Darlaston and adjoining to the hill called "Wulferecestre." Darlaston is in the parish of Stone, and Hundred of Pirehill. [Hist. Coll. of Staff. vol. 12, page 100.]

See also Place Names of Cumberland by Walter John Sedgefield, Professor of English Language in the University of Manchester, England, 1915, where it is shown that the same meaning of temporary shelter occurs in the Norman word Skjol, a shelter cave; in dialect it occurs in Shiel, Sheil, and shield which means a hut, shed, cottage, a temporary shelter erected for the use of a shepherd during the summer months. A peculiarity of this word is that it seems to have its meaning modified by association. In connection with a fisherman it is a hut, as to a farmer, it is a shed, as to a shepherd, it is a tent, but always it is a temporary shelter. It is easy to see therefore that the meaning of the last element in Peshale is governed by the value of the first or other element, with which it is associated in word building. With this thought in mind, it is easy to make an accurate definition of the word Peshale, namely King Peada's shelter.

The second element shale is pronounced as though it were written säll. It should have been pointed out, in stating the phonetic equivalent of the first element, that Staffordshire-Shropshire is the land of Cockney English. The place where the old clipt dialect with its broad drawl has survived even to the present day. It seems almost unnecessary to state that in this dialect the letter h is valueless. These Shropshire folk knew their defect and were willing to joke about it. The learned Dr. Skeat, a great English lexicographer, who did not use the sound of a in his own name, in a letter to Dr. Murray of Oxford, a well known and learned Shropshire man, said:—

And you laugh ha! ha! defying fate
As you tackle the terrible aspirate;
The H that appals the cockney crew,
Lancashire, Essex, and Shropshire too.

To which Dr. Murray replied:—

Professor S. Keat will have his fling,
And say what he likes about any thing;
But "poor letter H" in its real state,

Is that of a mere voiceless aspirate:
 So He, who o'er the Dictionary reigns,
 Will find his life full of "Aiches and pains."
 [Shropshire Notes & Queries, vol. 5, page 12,
 and vol. 6, page 16.]

The subject was too good to be allowed to remain with these learned gentlemen, so other wits took a hand in the game with the following among other results:—

Remonstrance of the letter H to the inhabitants of Shropshire.

Whereas by you we have been driven
 From hearth and home, from hope and heaven,
 And placed by your most learned society
 In exile, anguish and anxiety.
 We thereby claim full restitution,
 And beg you'll mind your elocution.

And this is the Answer of the Inhabitants of Shropshire.

Whereas we have rescued you, ingrate,
 From hell, from honor and from hate,
 From Hedge-bill, horsepond, and from halter,
 And consecrated you in altar,
 We think your claim is an intrusion,
 And will not mind our elocution.

[Shropshire Notes & Queries, vol. 6, page 38.]

Here then in the word Peshale we have a curious combination of letters making a man's name. And sound it as you may in the local dialect, you could not escape the sound of the r in the first element, while try as hard as you like, in this Shropshire dialect, the voiceless aspirate h refuses to register. But when the cockney Englishman removed from Staffordshire to other parts of the British Isles, the spelling of his name in the way that was peculiar to his old home locality received in the new place an entirely different rendering of its sound value according to the letters that formed the elements making his family name. Hence the appellation by which he was known underwent a material change either in spelling or in the pronouncing of this surname; in some instances it no doubt was not only changed as to the letters making up the same but he thereby acquired an almost entirely different surname. As a consequence, were it not for the records fixing this ancestry and the arms they severally carry on their shield, it would not be possible to trace their ancestry to the Staffordshire beginning in the old common and original family name. Those who have given much study to the subject of changes in our surname say that from time to time, before the fifteenth century, branches of our family settled in Cheshire, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hertford, Derby and elsewhere in England and that as a consequence the family name in these localities was changed to Pashley, Purslow, Passelew, Passal, Pesenschale, Peschale, Purshale, Pascal, Porselly, Pursley, Passaley, Pursel, Pexsall and other like spellings. And unless one were accurately conversant with the dialects then current in these several localities they could not be able to say at all positively the exact values, if any change in the sound, which was thereby brought about in the family name. But nevertheless at the end of this same period of three centuries, since our surname was assumed by our ancestor because of the name

of the manor which he held in Staffordshire, the only variation of this name that had occurred in the old home locality was to change the spelling from Peshale to Peshall. It would seem therefore that it would be certain that our family name had by this time become fixed and unchangeable.

If however there came a time when the family for any reason desired to change the spelling of their surname and yet keep the old appellation, then the natural sequence of change would be to add an r so as to emphasize the long drawn sound peculiar to the first element of the name and to drop the silent h which must have been trying to the sensibilities of their friends who were not cockney Englishmen. It is therefore interesting to notice that this is what actually began to occur among the learned clerks and recorders of public and ecclesiastical records, at the end of the fifteenth century. Or more accurately at about 1486, which was the time of the few years which brought to a close the life of Sir Hugh of Horsley who was knighted at Bosworth Field. Henry Harrison who has had access to an old manuscript relating to the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485) gives the following quotation:—

Sir Robert Tunstall a noble knight
And come of Royal ancestrie
Sir John Savage wise and right,
Sir Hugh Persall there was three.

[Percy's Folio MSS. of Bosworth Field.]

The important point to be impressed upon the reader's attention is that all the authorities agree that this change in the way the name was spelled on the public records began contemporary with the close of the life of Sir Hugh of Bosworth Field. We desire also to say that we have approached this remarkable variation in the family name from this point of observation, so as to raise in the reader's mind the inquiry as to why such a change should have come about at all and what could have induced it to have occurred at this particular time after the surname had come to be so well established with the members of the family and why it should have happened in Staffordshire where the name had been known for over three centuries without any material variation. And we have also directed attention in this way to this remarkable occurrence because for a long time, before we knew the real underlying reason for this change, we were possessed only of the common information that subsequent to 1486 such a variation did occur in certain Staffordshire localities in the spelling of our surname.

In studying this subject it will be well to remember that no matter which word in the English language one may be considering it is certain that primarily it had its beginning, as an English word, in some historical incident of great or trifling import. Hence it has come to be an axiom arising from the solution of dialectal problems that very much of our history as an English speaking people lies hidden in the words of our daily use. This so far as family history is concerned can be as truthfully said of one's surname. For example, in the present instance it happened that at the Battle of Bosworth Field the family divided in their allegiance between the two claimants to the English throne. At that period there were three different divisions of the family in Staffordshire, namely: those of Horsley and those of Ranton who supported the side of Lancaster. They changed their name

so that the Horsley branch was known as Pershall and the Ranton branch as Persall. Whereas the third, or Kinlet branch, who supported the side of York, adhered to the old spelling of Peshall. All this will be more fully gone into in speaking of the history of the several branches of the family. It is sufficient at this time to point out that it was this historical incident which brought about this change in our surname at this time among those who were connected with the Horsley and Ranton Branches of the family. Later, when the family at Horsley became very rich from the Virginia tobacco trade, it returned to the spelling Peshall, but this lasted only for the one generation, after which the members of this branch, who were actually residing at Horsley, returned to the spelling, Pershall. But before the change had been made to Peshall, one of the members of the Horsley family was engaged in trade in the City of London as a merchant of the Staple and he had widely departed from the Staffordshire spelling of his family name and although he also attempted to adopt the spelling of Peshall when he acquired his wealth from the Virginia tobacco trade, the change could not be made to stick.

The important fact to be remembered in this connection is that the families at Horsley and Ranton from the end of the lifetime of Sir Hugh had begun to call themselves Peer-sall (The Horsley folks pronouncing it as though it were written Pier-saal, while the Ranton folks pronounced it as though it were spelled Pear-sall). The continuation of the voiceless h made no difference to the family at Horsley as the cockney English to this day have a strong liking for this much abused and by them little used letter. When a certain one of the Horsley family located in London for the transaction of business, his spelling of his surname received from his neighbors and business associates an entirely different phonetic value than that to which he had been accustomed in Staffordshire, for by this time the soft English of Kent had become the accepted dialect of the metropolis. This Edmond Pershall thereupon changed the spelling of his surname to Pearsall. As a merchant of the staple, he was one who dealt in or exported the so-called small staple commodities of England, namely, Wool, Wool Eels and Leather as well as the products of these materials. This trade took him to all parts of England so that he came into contact with the members of the family of the several lines which traced their ancestry to the old manor of Peshale in Staffordshire. He entered into this trade some time about 1552, and from that date there came about a disposition on the part of these several families to adopt a common spelling of the family name. It is therefore easy to see why this desire for harmony in the spelling of the family name did not also extend to the members of these several branches who resided in the non-wool sections of England, or whose ancestors having come before this to London they were not brought into contact with Edmond Pearsall either in a business or family way. It also happened, no doubt casually, that all the members of the family who adopted the spelling Pearsall were of the Ranton branch excepting Edmond Pearsall and his sons who were of the Horsley branch of the family.

How uniformly the members of the Ranton branch, who were located in the wool growing and wool manufacturing sections, accepted the new spelling for the designation of their family name, is shown by the work of Henry Hamics, who in

his Dictionary, published in 1912, of surnames of England, gives the phonetics and orthography of the family name as Pearsall, Persaul, Persoll, and shows no other way of expressing this surname.

The subject of the changes in the spelling of the family name will be more particularly referred to in relating the stories of the several generations of the family in the following history; it will then be possible to enter in greater detail into the reasons for the particular incidents to which we can now only briefly refer. But the reader must not lose sight of the important fact that the family in Staffordshire was well satisfied with the original spelling of Peshale, as modified into Peshall, until after the battle of Bosworth Field, and the modification then adopted by the Horsley and Ranton branches of the family continued in some branches of the Ranton family until the present day, and by the home-staying members of the Horsley branch until the male line became extinct. And that those who followed the lead of Edmond Pearsall were engaged either in wool growing or in cloth manufacture. Hence we find that the spelling of Pearsall, among the Ranton branch, is confined to those who at that time lived in or near Hales-owen. Kidderminster and several near by places in Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Salop, and in Toynton in Lancashire.

It must be however kept in mind that this new spelling so far as Edmond Pearsall was concerned did no more than to bring the family name into such form as to express in Middle English the same pronunciation as had been adopted about 1486 by the Horsley branch of the family. For an examination of the records of that time, made by the clerks, especially at Eccleshall as early as 1535, when the system of keeping parish records began, discloses that both the family name and the name of the old village of Peshall, which had grown up on the old manor from which our family name is derived, was spelled as follows:—Pearsall, Pearshall, P'sall, Peashall, Peshall, Persall, Pershall, and Persoll. And the same results would come from an examination of any of the parish records of the places where these Pearsall families resided. For example, in reading the records of the Church of St. Marys at Kidderminster one is struck with the quickness with which the Persall spelling, which they had brought from their old home in the Parish of Ranton, and which they had continued in Hales Owen and elsewhere, became Pearsall as soon as Edmond Pearsall began to visit the locality of Kidderminster in connection with his trade as a merchant of the staple.

In making this change the family as we have said followed the lead set by Edmond the merchant of the staple of London. The Recorder of the Inns of Court and the clerk of the Grocers Guild, as well as Cuthbert Booth, who knew him intimately, record his name the first as Pearsall, and the second as Piersall, while Cuthbert Booth, who had been having the most intimate dealings with him; records in 1612 that Edmond was called Pearsall, Pearshall and Persall. And as he spoke in the light of documents before him, which had actually been signed by Edmond, it also discloses the way that Edmond Pearsall followed before finally settling on the Pearsall spelling. The progress being clearly indicated as that he came to London as Pershall, which he changed to Persall by dropping the h. Then he went to Pearshall thus taking up the beloved h. And finally he came to Pearsall, as he found it impossible to carry the silent h in the language of the

London metropolis. Brown in his *Genesis of America* gives a copy of his signature which reads Edmond Pershall.

The reader should however note that although some of the members of the Ranton branch of the family changed the spelling of their surname to Pearsall, they did not change the articulate utterance for their surname, which they had used since the time of the Battle of Bosworth Field. They still were called Paar-saal, pronouncing the first element—Pear—the same as the name of the fruit, with the long drawl of the cockney English dialect. The last element they sounded the same as the last element in the word—Tattersall. Whereby some of their modern descendants are getting a phonetic value very much like the first and last elements in the word—parasol. As a fact, the writer found in Canada a record where a member of the family was recorded as Parasol. It was only a few weeks ago that a member of the family of the Ranton branch now living in England, sent the writer a copy of his book mark in the form of a rebus, wherein he represented the first element of his name by a picture of a pear. On the other hand, Edmond Pearsall not only changed the form of spelling his surname to Pearsall, but he likewise changed the same phonetically to conform to the sound values of the soft middle English dialect. He and his sons and their descendants gave articulate utterance to their surname by sounding the first element—pear—the same as the last element of the old English word appear, or as the clerk of the Grocers guild phonetically expressed it as Pier (sall). The last element of the surname they gave its middle English phonetic value of saull. While now the Long Island and other New York folks, and those who came from that State, all descendants of Edmond Pearsall, pronounce the last element in their family name the same as the last element in the word Tattersall, which strange to say is the name of an English family who likewise originally wrote their name as Tattershall. [Cf also *The Century Dictionary* and the *Century Cyclopedia of Names*.]

Later, when they had acquired great wealth from the tobacco trade with Virginia, Robert, brother of Edmond, and Sir John of Horsley his nephew, and Edmond himself, changed to Peshall, which spelling they continued until their respective deaths; and so it will be found recorded in their several last wills. They had become intimate long before this with one Sampson Erdeswicke, a celebrated historian and genealogist, who pointed out to them the spelling of their surname as Peshall according to certain ancient deeds that he had seen; but inasmuch as these deeds were made in the second period of the transition of the family name, they used the spelling of Peshall instead of Peshale. The really amusing part of the matter was that owing to passage of nearly a century since any one had called themselves Peshall, it followed by a strange coincidence that by applying the middle English value to the letters used in this spelling of their surname, they also changed the sound of the same. For the records disclose that they called themselves and became known as Peashall. Robert Peshall died without heirs male, so this designation went no farther in his line. Sir John, the nephew, became a baronet under the designation of this surname, but his children repudiated the same and went back to the old Staffordshire designation of Pershall. As to Edmond, his will signed by his scrivener, calls him Edmond Peshall, and this is the only evidence that he continued to use it except that his second

son, Edmond of Bromley, Kent, called himself Peshall, although he had been born Pearsall and had so been entered at college. But as his sons died without male heirs this designation died with them. The other two sons of Edmond, Robert and Thomas, adhered to the Pearsall spelling. The sons of Robert, the oldest son of Edmond, came to America at the close of the seventeenth century where they were known as Pearsall. This line finally became centered in James Pearsall, grandson of Robert, and he changed the spelling of his name to Parshall, thereby becoming the genearch of the American family of Parshall.

Thomas Pearsall, the younger son of Edmond, came to America, settling in the Chesapeake country of both Virginia and Maryland. He called himself Pearsall. Later some of his sons came to New York where the eldest son Thomas married into a Dutch family and some of his descendants went back to the Ranton form of Persall and others to Parcel. But they did not however change the sound value of their name. Hence we find in the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of New York, and in New Jersey as well, that the clerk wrote the name Pearsall just as frequently as he wrote the more accepted Dutch spelling Persall. Another branch migrated to Pennsylvania where the spelling was changed to Peirsall and Piersall, so as to more accurately record the sound values of the name. Still later, according to family tradition, there was in one branch in Dutchess County, New York, a marked political difference growing out of the Revolution, and one brother changed the spelling of his name to Piersall, which is exactly the same spelling and the same sound value as is given by the clerk of the Grocers Guild in London, when he wrote the name of our ancestor Edmund Pearsall, whom the clerk knew intimately and met daily for quite a number of years. At the same time the clerk of records of the Inns of Court, who knew him equally well, recorded his name as Pearsall. Thus they both placed on record the same statement of sound value concerning his name as they both knew it, and at this particular time he spelled his name Pearsall.

The family name when our ancestors came to America was known and spelled as Pearsall, but for some reason or other, not easy to entirely understand, there has been very much variation of spelling of their surname among the descendants of these first emigrants who were the sons and grandsons of Edmond Pearsall, merchant and trader of London. The following list will give some of the present day designations of the American members of this family, viz.:—Pearsall, Parcell, Parsells, Parsels, Parsill, Pearcall, Pearceall, Pearsel, Pearsell, Persall, Persel, Pershall, Parshall, Perzel, Piercall, Pierceall, Piersall, Purcall, Pursell, Purcel, Purcell, Purkell, Pursel, Persle, Pursell, Pussal, Pyssel, Pearsol, Pearsoll, Piersol, Peirsol, Parcelle, Parsells, Parcells, Parcoll, Parsoll, Parsolls, Parsil, Persil, Parsils, Persils, Perceauall, Pearceauall, Pertil, Peartil, and many other forms of the same name. The reader, it is hoped, will find his own manner of spelling the family name in the above list but if he fails he need not be discouraged as the record herein of the American branches will disclose his peculiar style along with the pedigree of his branch of the family.

The difficulty in gathering the records has not been, so far as the living members of the family are concerned, to get the facts, but to make the individuals believe that the way they used to designate their surname was not necessarily

the way they had always indicated the family name, and that they represented some variation of the Pearsall surname which would be proven by the generations of their ancestors.

We desire therefore in conclusion to say that the purpose of this present undertaking is primarily to present the ancestry for the Family of Pearsall. If the reader will kindly keep this before him as he reads the pages of this history, he will find it much easier to grasp the proof of the several generations of our family as herein presented. If he is of our branch of the family then sooner or later he is bound to come to an ancestor who spelled his name as Pearsall, whereas if he is of some other branch of the family of Peshale, then he will find the data presented in such a manner that he can determine his ancestry without in any way touching our pedigree until his branch shall come into the main or elder line of the Peshale ancestry.

Recurring to a final consideration of the surname of Pearsall we have stated that originally our family name had its origin in the manor of Peshale in Staffordshire, the name of which our remote ancestor adopted as a place name and which his descendants subsequently assumed as a surname. So likewise, in the case of those who make up the several groups, who now or formerly called themselves as Pearsall, it will be found that practically this newer designation is a place name, hence it is a place name within a place name. For as a fact this variation of the original name is confined to the descendants of sons of Edmond Perseall, who came to America, landing first in the Chesapeake Bay County of Virginia, and to the members of the Ranton branch of our family who settled along the road that leads from Hales Owen to Birmingham in England, and to a small number of those members of the Ranton Branch who settled at Toynton and upper Toynton in Lincolnshire, England. The spelling Pearsall is also a business name, as it had its origin with those members of the family who were associated with Edmond Pearsall in the marketing of the Staple of England, or who, being his sons, succeeded to his business. And to show how completely these three groups have absorbed all the history of the original family to the exclusion of all the others with all of their many spellings of the original surname, we will close this story of the Name with the following citations from standard English authorities, e.g.:

The standard English Dictionary of surnames which gives the following: Pearsall and Pearsaul belong to Pershall or Pershiell (Staff). A. D. 1188, Peshull; Persoll is the same as Pearsall, and

A Dictionary of Family Names of the United Kingdom by Mark Anthony, M.A., F.S.A., gives.—Pearsall, an estate in co. Stafford, now written Pearshall or Pershall. The family are of Norman origin, having been founded at the place referred to by Robert, a follower of Robert of Stafford, early in the reign of the Conqueror. He was son of Gilbert, son of a Count of Corbeil in Normandy.