

CHAPTER NINETEEN

SIR THOMAS DE PESHALL

Ninth in Ancestry

Section 1, Sir Thomas de Peshall—Section 2, Ancestry of Philippa Bennet—Section 3, Humphrey de Peshall—Section 4, Nicholas de Peshall.

SECTION 1.

9. SIR THOMAS DE PESHALL, son of Sir Richard de Peshall, Chapter 18, Section 1, married Philippa Bennet, daughter of Richard Bennet de Boteyle (now Butley), Chapter 19, Section 2. Children:—

1. *8. NICHOLAS DE PESHALL, Chapter 20, Section 1.
2. Richard de Peshall, Chapter 20, Section 3.

Thomas Peshall is referred to in a deed made by his father, which reads as follows: Sciant p'sentes & future q'd rot Ricus Peshall & Joana ux. domus & fil. nostro Thomas Mil & ux. Philipa Beneytt terras & tenementa nostra in Knighton & Caverswell in Staff. (Translation: Be it known to those present and to come what I Richard Peshall and Joan my wife of the home, &c. to our son Thomas, mil. and his wife Philippa Bennet, our lands and tenements in Knighton and Caverswell, in Staff. &c.) [Script. Fam. per Rev. John Peshall.]

The Harleian Mss. also contains the following: Hic Jacent Ossa Richard Benette de Botesle qui quidem Ricus obt. 11^o die Aug. 1425, cui aia requiescat in Pace Amen. (Translation: Here lie the bones of Richard Benett de Botesle, which Richard surely died the 11th day of August 1425. May his bones rest in peace. Amen. [Coll. W. Wyrley, Weavers Fam. Movi addit. per Rev. John Peshall.]

Sir Richard de Peshall had the right of presentation to the churches of North Cleobury, Hereford and to Arcobury North in Brecknuk Priory. In 1383 an exchange and moving around of three priests is recorded in the following church records.

Exchange between ds. Thomas Plordwyke, vicar of Lilleshull, and ds. John de Onne, rector of North Cleobury, Hereford, dis-letters of commission from John, Bishop of Hereford, dated in his manor of Whitteborn, May 16th,—May 27th at Heywood. The said Thomas instituted to North Cleobury at the presentation of Thomas de Peshale, son and heir of Sir Richard de Peshale, kt. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 10, part 2, page 214.]

Church of Arcobury North. A church existed here in the reign of Henry I. It was then given to Brecknuk Priory. In the Parochial inquest of 1341, the Parish assessment was reduced because 2 virgates of land lay untilled, the tenants having quitted under stress of poverty, there were no sheep in the Parish and because the small tithes, offerings, and gleb-land were computed in the church taxation, but were unavailable in estimating the ninth, Robert Halton

resigned this preferment on May 27, 1383, having exchanged with Thomas de Plaidwyk, late vicar of Lilleshall, who was admitted here at presentation of Thomas de Peshale, son and heir of Sir Richard Peshale, knight. [Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire, vol. 3, page 31.]

The history of this generation of our family will be found to be mainly concerned with the fight, which at first was a test of strength for political supremacy, between the houses of Lancaster and Northumberland. As was to be expected, our family will be found to be closely allied with the side of Lancaster and Arundel. [Counties of England, by P. H. Ditchfield, vol. 1, page 222.]

England was not yet ready to be governed by a minor as king. The old nobles were yet too strong, and the politics of the kingdom, instead of centering in the king, revolved around a clique of Earls of great estate and large armed forces. Nevertheless the experiment was tried with Richard II, with a result that proved disastrous to the king. However, Richard had the courage and the will to govern even if he did not have the training and experience necessary to cope with such great and greedy politicians as then were his official advisors. In 1389, at a council held in the beginning of May, he suddenly asked his uncle Gloucester to tell him his age. "Your Highness," said the Duke, "is in your twenty-second year." "Then," replied the King, "I must be old enough to manage my own affairs, as every heir in my kingdom is at liberty to do when he is twenty-one. I thank you, my lords, for the trouble you have taken on my behalf hitherto, but I shall not require your services any longer." On this he required the Great Seal, and the keys of the Exchequer to be given up to him, and made the venerable Bishop Wykeham his chancellor instead of the Archbishop of York. Of the other lords then in his council he retained the Duke of York and the Earl of Derby as members of a new council; but Gloucester and the rest he dismissed. At the same time no violent change was effected; and the King's assertion of his independence seems to have met with general approbation. [Houses of Lancaster & York, by James Gairdner, page 39.]

While at first this seems to have secured a peaceful kingdom, gradually there grew up a condition of distrust and lawlessness in which the followers of Arundel and of Lancaster seem to have been the chief objectors to the then condition of peace. In this line-up of the political forces, Thomas de Peshall sided with the Arundel-Lancaster contingent, so much so that he was guilty of civil warfare in county Chester, for which he was arrested, imprisoned, and held for trial. With the assistance of his relatives he escaped from this prison. Two years later it was discovered who had been his deliverers, and they were accordingly indicted in Shropshire, which was no doubt very fortunate for them, as they thereby were tried by their friends. The Plea Rolls disclose the following information concerning this incident.

Gaol Delivery made at the Castle of Shrewsbury before Robert de Charlton and John Hulle, Justices assigned, &c., on the Wednesday after the Feast of St. James. 19 Richard II. Salop. Nicholas de Peshale, the Rector of Eggemondon, and Robert de Peshale, of Knyghton, who had been indicted before Thomas Newport, and his Fellow Justices of the Peace, for aiding and abetting the escape from the King's Prison in the Castle of Shrewsbury, of Thomas Peshale, knight, Adam

Peshale, the son of Richard Peshale, chivaler, Nicholas, son of the same Richard Peshale, and Richard the servant of Thomas Peshale, chivaler, on the Sunday after the Feast of Corpus Christi, 17 R. II., and which indictment had been returned before the Justices, together with the outlawry promulgated against the said Thomas Peshale, Adam, Nicholas, and Richard, the servant of Thomas, surrendered and stated they were not guilty and appealed to a jury which acquitted them. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 16, page 30.]

Having escaped from jail Thomas de Peshall became a fugitive and must have passed over into France, where later he joined Henry of Lancaster. In the meantime Richard II. by judicial executions had gotten rid of what he deemed was the most dangerous of his so-called advisors, but after a while a dispute arose between Henry of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford, and the Duke of Norfolk, which was destined to greatly change the course of succession to the throne of England. They were summoned in the year 1398 for trial first at Oswestry and afterwards at Windsor; but as nothing could be elicited from either, except assertion on the one hand and denial on the other, it was proposed, and agreed to by both dukes, to settle the matter by wager of battle according to the laws of chivalry. The combat was appointed to be at Coventry on September 16. The whole nation was agitated at the prospect of the coming event, and when the lists were drawn up on the day appointed, Richard fearing disturbances among the nobles, had 10,000 persons in arms to keep the peace. On which side lay the sympathies of most men there could not be a doubt, for the Duke of Norfolk was commonly looked upon as the murderer of the Duke of Gloucester, and the Londoners even insinuated that the wager of battle was a plot of the King's to destroy his cousin as he had already destroyed his uncle. Henry of Lancaster, as he was popularly called, the Duke of Hereford, was everywhere the favorite.

At Coventry, on the day appointed, the combatants entered the lists. Each took an oath that his quarrel was just, the Lord Marshal examined their spears to see that they were of equal length, and a herald commanded them to mount their horses, and proceed to the combat. But at this point the King threw down his warder as a signal to suspend further proceedings, and consulted with his parliamentary council what course it was best to take in a matter so full of danger. After two hours' deliberation, the determination was announced. To preserve the peace of the realm the King decreed that the Duke of Hereford should be banished for ten years, and that the Duke of Norfolk, as it appears he had confessed to some points which might have occasioned trouble in the land, should quit the kingdom as a pilgrim, never to return, and should dwell in Germany, Bohemia, or Hungary for the rest of his days. Finally, lest they should become reconciled abroad and combine against the King, they were forbidden to communicate with each other or with the deprived Archbishop Arundel.

A decision like this was a strange perversion of justice. On the face of the matter one party was guilty of treason, or the other of gross and malicious libel. The King could not determine on which side lay the guilt, and professed to regard either party as innocent, yet out of considerations of expediency he punished both as if they had both been guilty. There was, besides, an apparent partiality shown to the Duke of Hereford on grounds which were not very explicitly de-

clared. But the unfairness of the original decision was not all; for while the sentence against Norfolk passed uncriticised, the milder sentence against Hereford was still further mitigated. Owing, doubtless, to the influence of his father, John of Gaunt, and to his general popularity, the term of his exile was reduced from ten years to six before he left the country. That of Norfolk was not altered. So the latter went abroad, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and died on his return, at Venice, of a broken heart.

In 1398, after the coup d'état by which he overthrew the lords appellant, we find Richard II. at Lichfield, where he kept Christmas with due solemnity, and while there he issued a pardon to those Staffordshire men who had supported the lords. But this was not availed of by Thomas de Peshall until after Richard had ceased to be king. [Victoria Hist. of Staff., by Wm. Page.]

The next year a rebellion occurred in Ireland and King Richard passed over with a large army to subdue that island. In the meanwhile John of Gaunt, father of the Earl of Hereford had died, and his title as Duke of Lancaster devolved rightly on his son the banished Hereford. It had also been conceded to the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk before they left England, that notwithstanding their banishment they might by attorney take possession of any inheritance that might fall to them in their absence. But the King's wants were great, the duchy of Lancaster was wealthy, and it occurred to Richard and his council, now that there was no one on that council to represent the interests of the family, that a banished man was not qualified to inherit property. The former grant was consequently annulled and the King's officers took possession of the property of the deceased duke, as a forfeiture due to the Crown. [*Ibid.*]

Henry of Lancaster, who since he left the country resided at Paris, had obtained permission of the French king to pay a visit to the Duke of Brittany. Arrived in that country he hired three small vessels with which he sailed for England, having in his company the deprived Archbishop of Canterbury, and a very small band of followers. After some days he landed at Ravenspur, in Yorkshire, a harbor at the mouth of the Humber now washed away by the sea. He made known that it was his object to recover his paternal estates, with the title, which justly belonged to him, of Duke of Lancaster, and he was joined by the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, before whom he took oath at Doncaster that he had no further aim than to seek his own inheritance.

The King's uncle, Edmund, Duke of York, whom Richard had appointed keeper of England during his absence, on hearing of Henry's landing took counsel how to oppose him. He summoned the King's retainers to join his standard at St. Alban's where he mustered 1,000 lances and 60,000 archers; but so high was the popularity of the Duke of Lancaster, so deep the general sense of the injustice with which he had been treated, that these very men declared they would not go against him. On this the Duke of York bent his course towards Wales, where Richard had always met with the most unwavering support. He reached Berkeley Castle, while the Lord Treasurer, Scrope, Earl of Wiltshire, with Bushy and Green, two leading members of Richard's parliamentary committee, went to Bristol. Sir John Bushy had been Speaker of the House of Commons before the last Parliament had dissolved; and he, with Sir Henry Green and Sir William Bagot,

were universally detested as the principal agents of the King's extortions. Meanwhile the Duke of Lancaster had passed southwards with a following which continually increased the further he went on. [Houses of Lancaster & York, by James Gairdner, page 52-53.]

Meanwhile the King himself was in Ireland, ignorant of the revolt of his kingdom at home. When he was first apprised of Henry's invasion he was thunderstruck. He had with him at that very time the son of the invader, afterwards the brilliant victor of Agincourt, Henry V. He was his godson, and he had just recently made him a knight with his own hands. But his thoughts first turned not to the son but to the father of his present enemy. "Ha, good uncle of Lancaster," he exclaimed, "God have mercy upon your soul! For had I believed you, this man would have not angered me now. You told me truly I did ill to forgive him so frequently. Three times have I pardoned him his offences against me; this is the fourth time he has provoked me." Another time, addressing the young man, "See," he said, "what thy father has done. He has invaded my realm as an enemy, killing and imprisoning my lieges without pity. I grieve for thee, for this mischance may cost thee thine inheritance." "My gracious lord," said the other, "this news distresses me greatly; but you see that I am innocent of what my father has done." "I know it," said the King, "and I hold thee guiltless." The young prince, however, along with a son of the Duke of Gloucester, was removed to the Castle of Trim for security. [*Ibid.*, page 55.]

Richard returned to England, only to find Henry of Lancaster in complete control of the kingdom. By a series of deceits the king was made prisoner by the forces of Lancaster. With great parade and blowing of trumpets Richard and his little company were conducted to Chester, where the King was confined in the dungeon of the castle. Writs, however, were issued in his name, summoning Parliament to meet at London. In a few days the journey was resumed, and dismissing most of his forces the duke brought Richard to the capital, where the former was received with acclamations, the latter with curses. The King was committed to the Tower, but even his child-queen, who was at this time but ten years old, was forbidden to visit him. On Michaelmas day his signature was obtained to an act of abdication in which he declared himself utterly incapable of governing and worthy to be deposed. The Parliament met on the following day. In it the King's resignation was read, and gave great satisfaction. An act was then passed setting forth a number of charges against his government as reasons for his deposition, which met with no opposition except from his faithful counsellor the Bishop of Carlisle, who, for challenging the right of the two Houses to take such a step, was sent prisoner to the Abbey of St. Alban's. Henry next stepped forward and claimed the throne as rightly due to him by descent from King Henry III. [*Ibid.*, page 58-60.]

Now in point of fact Henry was not the next in succession. His father, John of Gaunt, was the fourth son of Edward III., and there were descendants of that King's third son, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, living; so that it should have been quite unnecessary to go back so far as Henry III. At one time Richard himself had designated as his successor the nobleman who really stood next to him in the line of descent. This was Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, the same who was

killed by the rebels in Ireland. This Roger had left a son Edmund to inherit his title; but Edmund was a mere child, and the inconvenience of another minority could not have been endured. So the nation was very well disposed to accept Henry as king without inquiring too closely into his claim by birthright; and Henry put forward a claim through his mother founded upon a very idle story indeed, a story so extravagant and untrue that it looks as if it had been invented to serve his purpose. The truth, however, seems to be that it was current in the days of his father John of Gaunt, who got it written in some chronicles which were sent to different monasteries, to flatter his vanity; and perhaps John of Gaunt expected that he himself might have been able one day to claim the crown upon the strength of it. This story was that so far back as the days of King Edward I. the succession had got out of the true line of descent; that the eldest son of Henry III. was not King Edward, but his brother Edmond Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, who was commonly reputed the second son; and that this Edmund had been purposely set aside on account of his personal deformity. The plain fact of the matter was that Edmund Crouchback was six years younger than his brother Edward I., and that his surname Crouchback had not the smallest reference to personal deformity, but only implied that he wore the cross upon his back as a crusader. [Houses of Lancaster & York, page 58-60.]

Archbishop Arundel then stepped forward and led Henry to the throne, on which, after a brief prayer, he took his seat amid generous applause. The Parliament then dissolved after having sat a single day. As it had been summoned in Richard's name, its authority expired with his. Neither Parliament, judges, nor officers of any kind throughout England had any authority now till the new King had renewed their commissions. But Henry summoned the same Parliament to meet again six days afterwards, appointed new officers of the crown, and then withdrew to his palace.

In all this the house of Arundel was very active, and Thomas de Peshall was a participant. It was not, however, until four years later that he was in Shropshire when he presented the pardon of King Richard granted in 1398, four years after the commission of the offence, which discloses that Richard's disposition was not unkindly even to his enemies. At the time this was granted King Richard greatly desired peace in his realm and the loyal support of his people. He was, therefore, not disposed to be severe if by clemency he could gain the adherence of those who had previously opposed him.

Coram Rege 4 Henry IV. 1403, Salop. Thomas Peshale, chivaler, who had been committed to the King's gaol in Shrewsbury Castle, by Richard Talbot, one of the Justices of the Peace, for divers felonies, and who had feloniously broken out of prison on the Sunday after the Feast of Corpus Christi 17 R. II., surrendered at this term and was committed to the Marshalsea, and being brought before the Court he produced Letters Patent dated 5 May, 21 R. II., pardoning him for all felonies, &c., perpetrated before the last day of the previous January and he prayed he might be released, and the said letters having been inspected, he was discharged from custody. The Letters Patent described him as Thomas Peshale, chivaler, son of Richard Peshale, chivaler. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 16, page 30.]

At this time the lawlessness in Staffordshire between the factions of Lancaster and the old ruling combine was so notorious that it excited such bitter feelings throughout England that King Henry felt called upon to give the county his personal attention.

The young King Henry V. was at Lichfield in the spring of 1414, and Sir John Bagot was in attendance upon him in his double capacity as a knight of the Household and as Sheriff of the county. Staffordshire appears to have been in a state of chronic warfare, owing to old-standing feuds amongst the knights and squires of the county. Edmond de Ferrers, the lord of Chartley, petitioned Parliament in 2 Hen. V. (1414) that Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon had assembled a number of armed men and, accompanied with Thomas Giffard of Chilington and the Venables, Davenports, and Mainwarings of Cheshire, had broken down his park palings, and killed one of his servants. At the same date Hugh Erdeswick petitioned Parliament that Edmund de Ferrers had assembled a large body of man and had lain in wait to kill him. The presentments and indictments laid before the King will be found in Vol. 17 of Staff. Col. and fill over twenty-seven pages of print. One of these states that the Erdeswicks had assembled more than 1,000 men in 1409, and had marched with them into Derbyshire with a view of killing John Blount of Barton in that county. Another indictment describes the Myners of Uttoxeter as notorious robbers, lying in wait on the roads, and guilty of many murders. Ralph Marchington, the lord of Caverswell, had assembled more than 100 men arrayed in manner of war to prosecute a private quarrel of his own. Sir John Cokayne of Ashbourne had assembled 200 for the same purpose in order to resist the malice of Sir Roger of Bobynhill, who had raised forces to kill him. The Peshalls of Chetwynd had collected 400 Welshmen and others, and had laid siege to the Priory of Wenlock, and the sheriff of co. Salop had been forced to raise the posse of the county in order to relieve the Prior, &c. All of which gives one a very fair glimpse at the state of warfare in Staffordshire-Shropshire. [Staff., Hist., Coll., vol. 16, page 39.]

Roger Corbet, of the vill of Shrewsbury, esquire, Nicholas Peeshale, of Webenbury, co. Chester, esq. son of Thomas Peeshale, chivaler and Richard son of Thomas Leche, servant of the said Roger, yeoman, on Wednesday, next before Palm Sunday in the second year of the reign of Henry V. with force and arms, viz.—swords and staves, made an assault on Roger Lymy one of the collectors, for a moiety of one fifteenth granted to the King in the first year of the same king and did beat him, wounded and maimed against the peace &c. [Shropshire Archeological & Nat. Hist. Soc., page 395.]

SECTION 2.

Ancestry of Philippa Bennett. We could not find any authentic genealogy of this family, so the reader will have to be satisfied for the present by the following extracts from our notebook.

In 4 Edward III. a jury find that Henry Benet, with Stacy de Bastleye (Eustace de Basterleye), and William de Woure, owe the king £10 3/1½ for "busca," sold them in bosco de Moilewyk. In a Survey of the Castle of Denbigh,

made in the reign of Henry VIII. and quoted in *Ancient and Modern Denbigh*, the following description is given of the place mentioned in this finding, viz.:—North from the said castle, within one mile of the same, are two fair parks, paled round, replenished with fallow deer; the one called Garthsnodoech. . . . The other park is called Mollewike, the herbage whereof, with the keeping of the same, is granted by the King's Majesty to one Nicholas Fortescue, Esquire, for the term of his life, and the fee of £4 11/ by the year; the same park being three miles round, replenished with six score fallow deer, whereof fifty are deer antler, and the rest are rastall.

In the earlier survey made in 1334 (8 Ed. III.), by Hugh de Beckele, a translation of which is printed in *The Records of Denbigh and its Lordship*, by John Williams (of Gwersyllt School, Wrexham), the following particulars are given, viz.—Another large inclosed park, which contains four hundred two score and two acres, of land and wood, called Moillewyk, and the underwood, if cut down, might be worth eleven pounds eight shillings yearly, and the herbage there is worth twenty-one pounds six shillings per annum. In all thirty-two pounds fourteen shillings. Charges ten pounds ten shillings; so the clear annual value, twenty-two pounds, four shillings.

The following extracts from the Index of Welsh Records relate likewise to the same person, viz.:—In 17 Edw. III., Henry Benet appears as witness to a deed executed at Rothland (Rhuddlan). He was also witness to another deed, undated. 1325, Henry (Benet), Eustace de Basterlegh, William de Woure, Thomas de Hanvile, Ralph le Taillour, Matthew de Wygan, Richard de Knokyn, and Roger Fraunceys, to the Earl of Chester, recognizance for £10. (19 & 20 Edw. II.) 1327, April 15, Henry Benet of Rothelan to John Fraunceys, recognizance for 40s. (20 Edw. II.) 1330, Nov. 3, Eustace de Basterley, John Fraunceys, Henry Benet, and Thomas Brown, to Simon de Ruggeleye, recognizance for £16. (3 & 4 Edw. III.) 1332, Oct. 27, Warrant to the Chamberlain of Chester for attermining to Eustace de Basterley the payment of the arrears of the farm of the mills of Rhuddlan, Robert de Basterlegh, Robert le Creuker, William Wodclef, John de Smalwode, Henry Benet, Simon le Cornifer, Henry de Esco, John de Haldenby, William de Wovere, and Robert de Hulton, sureties. (6 & 7 Edw. III.) 1336, Oct. 8, John Fraunceys, Henry Benet, William de Wovere, and Thomas de Hanvil to the Earl of Chester, recognizance for £30 yearly for the farm of the mills of Tentraf and Dissart (10 & 11 Edw. III.) for the farm of the pleas and perquisites of the courts, markets, and tolls, of the Pix of the town of Rothelan, together with the fisher of the Cloit, and for £14 yearly for the farm of the meadow of Craghanan. 1348, April 11, Adam le Parker, Richard le Parker, Stephen le Parker, Henry Benet, John le Parker, Briceus de Shagh, and Robert le Parker recognizance to the Earl of Chester (21 & 22 Edw. III.) 1360, Nov. 29, Henry Benet, pardon to, for the acquisition made by Alice de Tabbeleghe, late wife of Henry le Wolf, of land and wood in Eavenstrete, in Rushton from Reginald, the great-grandfather of Reginald de Gray, of Ruthin. (34 & 35 Ed. III.) [Historic Society Lancashire & Cheshire, new series, vol. 2, page 45-46.]

The following further extracts from the Index of Welsh Records, relate to other, but probably allied, Cheshire Bennetts, viz.:—1395-6. Under date 9th

March, 1395-6, in a writ of livery to Philip son of Urian de Egerton, it is recited that, apparently before 1343, Hugh de Coton granted to David the son of David de Eggerton, the manors of Eggerton and Wychehalgh, with the homage and services of John son of Hugh Benet. (19-20 Ric. II.) 1397, Nov. 20. Richard Benet, appointment of, as an archer of the livery of the Crown, with 6d. a day for life (21 & 22 Ric. II.) 1400-1, Jan 22. David le St. Pierre, Richard de Honkeylowe, Richard son of Roger de Cholmundele and John son of William de Golburn, sureties in £10 for the good conduct of Richard Benet of Nantwich (1 & 2 Hen. IV.) 1406, June 18. Commission of Richard Benet of Nantwich, by Henry Prince of Wales, as one of the collectors for the hundred of Nantwich of the fine of 3000 marks, granted by the people of Chester to the king, 3rd Nov., 1403, for having his pardon (6 & 7 Henry IV.) 1408. In a writ of livery to John Lovel, Kt., reciting the findings of an inquisition, it is stated that Henry Benet, among others, held for a term of years in Copenhale from John Lovel, Kt., late father of the said John Lovel, Kt. (9 & 10 H. IV.).

Connected with these deeds the genealogist gives a short pedigree, commencing with one Benedictus or Benet, without Christian name, and his brother Hamo de Benet. The former is father of Henry Benet, baly, or governor of Rothland (Rhuddlan) Castle, and of Peter Benet of Salghall Massy, referred to in the first of the above-mentioned deeds, and himself the father of the Peirs Benet to whom the second deed relates. The younger brother, Hamo de Benet, appears as the father of Maule, wife of Wm. Birkyn de Olerton. 3 R. 2. [Historic Society Lancashire & Cheshire, new series, vol. 2, page 45-46.]

The Peirs Benet, party to the deed of 4 Richard II.—probably a young man at that time—was in all likelihood the grandfather of Philippa Bennett and father of Richard Bennet, but all this is the merest conjecture, as the most careful research failed to discover the needed pedigree. It would be interesting to know definitely to whom the Rev. John Persall and the Earl Marshals refer when they name Philippa Bennett, as wife of Sir Thomas Peshall. The Rev. John Persall says that the Bennetts were de Botesle.

The Rev. James B. Johnston in his book, *The Place Names of England and Wales*, says:—(Wilts) we have a Butlesleye which must represent a Butela or the like. [History of Modern Wilshire by Richard Harris & Sir Richard Colt Hoan, London 1830, vol. 2, page 2.]

Butley, (Tunestall sul.) Dom. Butelea. This may be 'outside the meadow' Buteleye. Dom. Cheshire and Butcombe.

The history of Modern Wiltshire by Richard Harris and Sir Richard Colt Hoan, London 1830, vol. 3, part 2, History of Hundred of Warwickshire, gives the following pedigrees of Benett of Norton Bank.

John Benet. 1267, Sheriff of Wilts. 21 Henry IV.

John Benet of Wilts, appointed by the king, constable of Monmouth Castle 20, Edward II.

John Benet, living at Endford, Wilts. 12-15 Edward III.

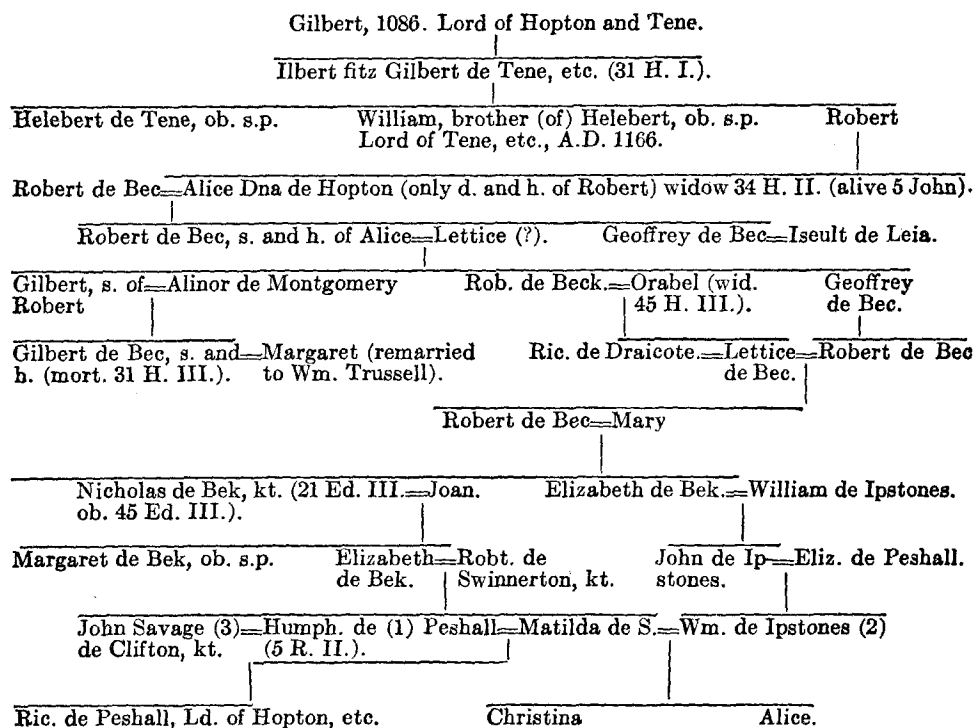
Thomas Bennett, founded the family of North Barent, long seated at that place. This covers briefly all that has been gleaned concerning this particular maternal line of our ancestry.

SECTION 3.

HUMPHREY DE PESHALL, son of Sir Richard Peshall, Chapter 18, Section 1, married Matilda de Swinnerton, daughter of Robert de Swinnerton and Elizabeth Bek. Child:—

1. Richard de Peshall.

A note to Walter de Chetwynd's History of Pirehill Hundred gives the following interesting chart concerning the de Bek-de Swinnertons.



This is the third Humphrey Peshall marrying a Swinnerton and it added its share to the difficulties incident to the segregation of the early generations of the Ranton Branch of the family. See Chapter 18, Section 8.

Sir Robert de Beke, kt., 43 Ed. III., was certified to hold two knts' fees in Hopton the Teane, with Free-Warren in all his demesne lands there, being then likewise possessed of the manors of Dover and Repindon, Merthon and Mounselon, co. Derb. and Salop, together with 100 acres of land in Tillington, and several burgages in Stafford, most of which descended to Helena, his daughter and heir, who, by marrying Sir Robert de Swinnerton of Swinnerton, kt., brought a fair additional revenue to that ancient family, which was again transferred to the Peshalls in the next generation by Maud Swynerton, their only daughter and heir, first wife of Humphrey de Peshall, by whom she had issue Sir Richard de Peshall. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 12, page 140-141.]

The following chart gives the pedigree of those descending from Sir Humphrey de Peshall.

*1. Sir Humphrey de Peshall=Matilda de Swynnerton, dau. of Robert de Swinnerton & Elizabeth de Beck; she married 3 times, second to W. Ipstonea, & third to John Savage.

†Isabella=Henry Vane of Huden
in Kent died circa 1456

*2. Richard de Peshall=Elizabeth Peshall de Knighton

Agnes dau. of Sir Robert Edgerton Kt. of Muchel, 1st wife.

*3. Humphrey de Peshall=Letitia Harcourt second wife

Joan=a son of Edmund Appulby

Katharine=

*4. Hugh de Peshall=Isabella Stanley

*5. Richard, 3 years old, 13 Henry VII. (1398)

Richard

Lyttleton=Alice

John Blount=Katharine de Peshall

Isabella=Richard Vane

Joice=Humphrey Wolryde of Dudmaston

Sir George Blount

Sir Gilbert Talboy=Elizabeth Blount

Henry VIII.

Henry Blount

Agnes=Richard Lacon

Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond.

The numbers refer to the divisions of the text which follows.
†N. E. Hist. & Gen. Reg. Vol. 2, page 143.

As to the ancestry of Matilda de Swinnerton: Humphrey married Matilda, the daughter of Sir Robert de Swinnerton, he died in 1385 and was fourth in descent from Stephen de Swinnerton, one of the sons of John de Swinnerton, who died in 1254, and his wife Eleanor de Peshall, so that Matilda and her husband were cousins. Matilda married secondly Sir William de Ipstones, kt. and he died Oct. 1399. Roger de Swinnerton was slain by Sir John de Ipstones, kt. Feb. 1394. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 12, page 140-141.]

The following chart gives the ancestry of Matilda de Swinnerton.

Stephen (de Swynnerton) de Uselwall, son of John de Swynnerton= . . .
and Eleanor de Peshale his wife; occ. as Juror 1276

Roger, son of Stephen de Swynnerton, occ. 1278; Lord—Joan (daughter of Sir Robert de Swynnerton, 1286; a Knight, 1290; died circa 1298. | Hastang?) rel. 1298, 1299.

Sir Roger de Swynnerton knight, of Swynnerton; a=Matilda, relict 1357-8.
manor in 1300; summoned as a Baron 1337; died 1338

Sir Roger de Swynnerton Knight, eldest son; died r.p. and s.p.=Matilda, relict 1327

Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Sir Nicho—Sir Robert de Swynnerton—Joan, second wife, relict 1396
las Beck, Knight, first wife

Sir Humphrey de Peshale= Matilda	Sir William de Ipstones, Knight, second husband, died Oct. 1399	Sir John Savage, Knight, third husband.
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Richard de Peshale, son and heir superstes 1450.	Christian aet. 6, 1399.	Alice, aet. 3, 1399.	Sir John Savage of Clifton, Knight.	Six other children
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*1. Humphrey Peshall died while Matilda his wife was under age, and she, with her young child Richard, was sent to Chetwynd, and put in charge of the Lady Joan Peshall, her deceased husband's mother. Sir John de Ipstones, knt.,

of Ipstones, whose wife was one of the Shropshire Corbets, thought that this young widow, with her large property, would be a good match for his son; so on the 8th December, 1388, he came with an armed band to Chetwynd and carried Matilda away by force to his vill of Ipstones, and there he imprisoned her until she consented to convey to him the manor of Hopton, and her lands in Tene, Knighton and Tillington, and also to marry his son, William de Ipstones. [Shropshire Arch. & Natural Hist. Soc. vol. 6, new series, page 219-220.]

The Plea Rolls give quite a full account of this affair.—Gaol Delivery at Shrewsbury Castle before Robert de Cherlton and John Hulle, Justices assigned &c., on the Saturday after the Feast of St. Margaret, 14 Richard II. Salop. John de Ipstones, chivaler, John Cockyn (Cockayne), chivaler, Thomas Beck, chivaler, John Pecke, Thomas Scot, Henry de Onne, Thomas Sutton, William Hunte, and 8 others, had been indicted before Hugh Burnell, and his Fellow Justices of the Peace, for entering Chetwynd Park, armed as for war, on the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Lucy, 12 R. II., and feloniously breaking into a house called Le Mote, within the Park, and taking a battle axe, worth 6s. 8d. and a bow worth 40d., a primam worth 20d., and taking and abducting from the same place, Matilda, late wife of Humfrey de Peshale. The defendants surrendered and appealed to a jury which found they were not guilty. It is noticeable that one of the abductors was Sir Thomas Beck, presumably a near relative of Matilda's on her mother's side; and he assisted in this outrage from his annoyance at the large Beck estates having passed away from his family. [Shropshire Arch. & Natural Hist. Soc., vol. 6, new series.]

Matilda's relatives not unnaturally looked upon the result of the trial as a miscarriage of justice, and looked out for an opportunity of revenge. Some three years afterwards, Sir John de Ipstones, who was a knight of the Shire, was on his way to Westminster to attend Parliament when he was met by Roger de Swynnerton, Matilda's uncle, who waylaid him and slew him, February, 1394. Her husband, Sir William de Ipstones, died October, 1399, at the early age of 26, leaving two daughters, Christina, aged 6, and Alice, aged 3 years. Matilda afterwards married a third husband, Sir John Savage, knight, of Clifton, and by him had a family of seven children. Her abduction, and the forced feoffment of her lands, led to a good deal of litigation at the Stafford Assizes, 1402-1404, and the jury found a verdict in her favor, with damages. There was also further litigation in 1446.

*2. RICHARD DE PESHALL, son of Humphrey, married Elizabeth Peshall de Knighton. Child of the first marriage:—

1. Humphrey de Peshall.

Children of the second marriage:—

2. Joan de Peshall, married Edward Appleby. Child:—Richard Appleby.

3. Katherine de Peshall, married ——. Child:—Alice — married Thomas Littleton.

At the time of his father's death Richard de Peshall was a minor in ward to Sir Hugh Berwick of Shropshire.

The parliament of 1381 had made a presentment against the malefactors called maintainers, who in different counties supported themselves by plunder,

one of their great objects being to carry off the heirs of men of property, whom they restored after the payment of a heavy ransom. Amongst the rest the following appears: Bundle 4, No. 113. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 7, part 1, page 241-242.]

A tres reverent piere en Dieu tres noble et tres gracios Seigneur levesque de Duresme Chancellor Dengleterre Supplie humblement Hugh [indécipherable] de Salop que come devant le darrein passage votre tres sovereign Seigneur le Roy en les parties de Normandie le dit Hugh fuist retenez ovesque le tres noble Count de la Marche et ovesque luy en sa compagnie avait estee en toutz les graciosous iournes de votre dit tres sovereign Seigneur le Roy en Normandie et en France tanques la tarde quil fuist mys en Engleterre a cause del infirmitie Devant quel temps et dedans il estoit et est a tort forciblement disseizez des diverses teres et tentz dans la ville de Salop suisdit et dautres terres et tentz dans le Countee de Salop par Richard Peshale fitz de Umfrey Peshale del Countee de Stafford Esquier Margarete Bevelbych sa *suante servaunte John Lancestre auterment dit Lanchestre del ville de Slepe en le Countee de Hertford yoman sa feme William Forster de Salop drapier John Dover Tailleur de Salop Roger Forster de Welyngton Roger Forster de

Salop et autres de lour conyve et assent a final amentiaement et perpetual disheritison de dit suppliant et ses heirs por toutz iours sil nait votre gracios remede en especiale celle partie. Que please a votre tres reverent paternite graciosment considerer cest graunde tort avaundtit et sur ceo al reverence de dieu graunter a dit suppliant briefs sur certains peynes directz as suisditz disseisours eux streitement chargeantz et comandantz destre devant vous en la Chancellerie [indécipherable] certain iour par votre sage discrecion alimite por illeques respoudre a dit suppliant en la matere avaundtit et en autres queux adonques eux serront pleinement declarez Por dieu et en oeuvre de charitee considerant tres gracios Seigneur que le dit suppliant ne pourra maintenir brief dassise durant labsence de votre dit Seigneur le Roy et que coment le dit suppliant retourner a soun suence suisdit ovesque tout le haste quil pourra aver apres le recovere de soun infirmitie sicome il est assure et oblige.

Translation

To the very reverend father in God, the very noble and very gracios Lord, the bishop of de Durham, the Chancellor of England. Hugh Berewyck de Salop humbly petitions that inasmuch as [since] before the last passage [voyage beyond the sea] of your very sovereign lord, the king, into the districts of Normandy the said Hugh was retained [a retainer] along with the very noble Count of the Borders and with him in company has been upon all the gracios journeys of your said very sovereign lord the king in Normandy and in France until now lately that he was sent back to England because of illness before this time [period] and within it he was and is wrongly and by force dispossessed of diverse lands and holdings in the town of Salop aforesaid and of other lands and holdings in the county of Salop by Richard Peshale son of Humfrey Peshale of the county of Stafford, Esquire, Margarete Berewyck his servant (successor), John Lancestre otherwise called Lanchestre of the town of Slepe in the county of Hertford, yeoman, Elizabeth, his wife William Forster of Salop, merchant, John Dover, tailor, of Salop, Roger Forster of Welyngton, Roger Forster of Salop and others by means of their connivance and assent

to final loss of rights and perpetual disinheritation of the said petitioner and his heirs for ever [all days] if he have not your gracios assistance in this particular case. May it please your very reverend fatherhood graciosly to consider this great wrong aforementioned and thereupon to the reverence of God to grant to the said petitioner writs, upon certain penalties fixed upon the aforesaid dispossessors, rigidly charging and commanding them to appear before you in the Chancery upon a certain day fixed by your wise discretion in order thereafter to reply to the said petitioner in the matter aforementioned and in others which then will be to them fully stated. For the sake of God and as a work of charity let your gracios lordship consider that the said petitioner could not keep the terms of the writ of settlement during the absence of your said lord the king and [that] how also the said petitioner returned to his possessions aforesaid with all the speed that he was able to make after [the] recovery from his illness, seeing he is covenanted and liable.

*Blotted and difficult to read; probably successor is correct.

The most interesting detail concerning this petition is that it shows that Richard de Peshall was still in touch with the old Northumbrian homeland and with St. Albans Church.

An Inquisition of Knights' Fees in 1399 mentions: Richard de Peshall held the manor of Patteshull for the term of his life, the property reverting to the Astley family on his death.

6 Henry IV. Knights' Fee. Richard Peshall ten. 1 fee in Hopton. Richard Peshall 1 fee in Patteshul.

10 Henry V. Richard Peshale in Pateshul, ten. in Hopton pays 1 fee.

November 7, 1435, Richard Peschale of Patshull, Keeper and Justice of Peace. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 1912, page 281.]

Richard de Peshall very early experienced the pain and penalties that came to those who become sureties for their fellowmen, as the Plea Rolls disclose:

De Banco Trinity 8 Henry V. 1421, Hertford. A precept was sent to the sheriff on the complaint of John Talbot, knight, William Talbot, knight, Thomas Giffard, armiger, Richard Peshale, son of Humphrey Peshale, Ralph Carnok, and John Gatage tenants of all the lands and tenements lately belonging to Thomas Skynnere of Salop deceased in co. Salop that whereas the said Thomas Skynner had acknowledged to owe to Thomas Bane, knight, and to William Lucye, knight, now deceased, under a statute merchant at Salop 500 marks and the said William

Lucye by his deed had remitted to the said Thomas Skinnere all actions real or personal, that nevertheless the said Thomas Bane under pretence of said statute merchant sued for execution against them to their great damage, and expense. He was therefore to call all parties before him and do what was right according to law and custom and to summon the said Thomas Bane. Thomas did not appear. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 17, page 73.]

The endless litigation between the heirs of Margaret de Beck fills pages of the Plea Rolls. Staff. Richard Peshale sued John Savage, knt., for the manors of Tene, Blythewode, and Hopton, and 20 marks of rent in Draycote, which John de Beck, the parson of the church of Chekeley, had given to Nicholas de Beek and Joan, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and which should descend to him by the form of gift, and he gave this descent:—Nicholas de Beek married Joan, temp. E. III. and had a daughter Elizabeth who had a daughter Matilda, who had a son Richard de Peshale, the plaintiff. John appeared by attorney and defended his rights, and the suit was adjourned to the Octaves of St. Michael. [*Ibid.*, vol. 16, page 96-97.]

Staff. Richard de Peshale sued John Sauvage, knt., for the manors of Caldon, Waterfall, and Russhton, and 100 acres of heath and 100 acres of marsh in Corneford, and the third part of the manor of Astanesfeld, which John de Beek, the parson of the church of Chekeley, and John Heycok, chaplain, had given to Robert Swynnerton and Elizabeth, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and which, after the death of Robert and Elizabeth, and Matilda, their daughter and heir, should descend to him as son and heir of Matilda. The same process was followed as in the last suit.

De Banco 3 Henry VI. 1425 Staffordshire. In the suit of Richard Peshale against Richard Lyversegge for the manors of Tene, Blythawode and Hopton and 20 marks of rent in Draycot which he claimed as heir at law of Nicholas de Beck who was seized of the manors and rent temp. Ed. III. and from whom he gave this descent:—Nicholas de Beck—Joan—Elizabeth—Matilda—Richard de Peshale the Plaintiff.

Richard Lyversegge appeared in person and called to warranty John Savage, knt., and asked that he might be summoned in cos. Stafford, Derby, and Chester. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 17, page 101.]

The same order was made a remanet as before against John Savage, knight. [*Ibid.* vol. 17, page 102.]

De Banco 3 Henry VI. 1425 Staffordshire. The suit of Richard de Peshale against John Savage, late of Chekley in co. Stafford, knt., in a plea of debt was made a remanet because John was in the service of the King in Ireland in the retinue of Edmund, Earl of March, and Ulster the king's lieutenant. [*Ibid.* vol. 17, page 100.]

De Banco Trinity 4 Henry VI. 1426 Staffordshire. Richard Peshale, of Patteshull sued Thomas Taillour of Brewode, husbandman, Henry Northale of Brewode, barker, John Colyns, yoman, Roger Nicholas, yoman, and John Form, husbandman, all of Brewode, to give up to him 6 oxen, 16 steers, and 6 cows, with 10 pounds which they unjustly detained. The defendants did not appear. [*Ibid.* vol. 17, page 113.]

De Banco Trinity 4 Henry VI. 1426 Staffordshire. Richard Peshale of Patteshull sued Thomas Rogers of Norton near Little Wyrley, Richard Claret of Norton, John Pykford of Norton, John Benet of Little Wyrley, William, son of John Benet of Little Wyrley, and 12 others named for breaking into his close at Patteshull and taking 6 oxen, 16 steers, and 6 cows worth 12 pounds. None of the defendants appeared. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 17, page 114.]

De Banco Hilary 8 Henry VI. 1428 Staffordshire. Richard Peshale armiger sued in person William Alynson of Wednesfield, William son of John Benet of Norton, and William Mitton of Great Wirley for breaking into his close at Patteshull and taking 6 oxen, 6 cows and 5 steers belonging to him worth 9 marks. The defendants did not appear. [*Ibid.* page 118.]

Coram Rege. Easter 7 Henry VI. 1429 Staffordshire. Richard Peshale, sued in person Thomas Weston of Weston in co. Stafford, in a plea of trespass. Thomas did not appear. [*Ibid.* page 124.]

De Banco Hilary 12 Henry VI. 1434 Staffordshire. Richard de Peshale sued Henry Sheldon of Tatenhal for forcibly depasturing cattle on his corn and grass at Pateshull. Henry did not appear. [*Ibid.* page 148.]

In 1436 he received the title and arms of Knightley by special grant from his cousin, Joan, daughter of Roger de Peshale, by Joan de Knightley. The actual document making the grant reads as follows:—‘Noverint universi per presentes me, Joannam nuper uxorem Willelmi Lee de Knightley, dominam et rectam heredem de Knightley, dedisse, concessisse, et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Ricardo Peshale, filio Humfridi Peshale scutum armorum meorum; Habendum et tenendum ac portandum et utendum ubicunque voluerit sibi et heredibus suis imperpetuum; Ita quod nec ego nec aliquis alius nomine meo aliquod jus vel clameum seu calumpniam in predicto scuto habere potuerimus, sed per presentes sumus exclusi imperpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum apposui. Datum apud Knightley die Mercurii proxima post festum Paschae anno regni Regis Henrici sexti post conquestum quarto-decimo.’ (Translation: ‘Let all know, by means of these presents, that I, Joanna, lately wife of William Lee of Knightley, lady and rightful heiress of Knightley have given, granted and confirmed by this present document, my coat of arms to Richard Peshale, son of Humphrey Peshale, to be held, preserved, worn and used wherever he wishes by himself and his heirs for ever. Therefore neither I nor anyone else in my name can have any right, claim or pretension to the said coat of arms, but are excluded by these presents for ever. In witness of the matter I append my seal. Given at the house of Knightley last day of Mercury after the feast of Easter, in the 14th year of the reign of King Henry VI. after the conquest. [The Ancestor, vol. 9, pg. 220 & Notes & Queries 3rd series vol. 6 page 126 & 204.]

Camden in his Remaines quotes this translation and says,—Touching the granting of arms from some great Earls, and passing of coats from one private person to another, some precedents are here inserted, which were all before the reduction of the Heralds under one regulation. The effect of this grant was to strip the giver of her arms and to confer them exclusively upon the grantee. It, of course, raised an interesting question as to whether or not Joan Lee was entrenching upon the prerogatives belonging exclusively to the Crown, and today

she would certainly be interfering with the duties of the Heralds College. Evidently the parties to this transaction or their successors doubted the validity of the deed of transfer as they subsequently had the same accepted and recorded in the Heralds College, where the confirmation is recorded as follows:—

Richard Peshale, son of Humphrey confirmed die mercurii prox post festum Pasche. 14 Henry VI., 1436, by Joan wife of William Lee of Knightley. There has been considerable discussion as to the arms intended to be granted. Philippa Swinnerton Hughes, nee Pearsall, a learned authority says: The question as to the arms does not seem so susceptible of solution as that in reference to the identity of the grantee. Were they the paternal arms of Joan or were they the quarterings inherited by her in right of her mother, the heiress of Knightley. An answer in the affirmative as to the former involves the anomaly of granting to Richard Peshale arms identical with his own, for it is not probable that at so late a date as 1436 different arms would be borne by members of the same family. The supposition presented by the other alternative is scarcely less anomalous, as Richard Peshall, the suggested grantee, was already entitled to quarter the arms of Knightley through his grandmother, Alice, second wife of Sir Thomas de Pershall, Knt., and daughter, and heir of Roger Knightley of Gnosall, co. Stafford, grandson of Sir Robert Knightley of Knightley. The learned lady's difficulty arose from her premise that Humphrey, father of Richard, was son of Sir Thomas, which is an error. Sir Thomas and Sir Humphrey were brothers, sons of Sir Richard, who married Joan Chetwynd. On the assumption of the validity of Joan Lee's grant it would appear several families, still extant, as co-heirs of Richard Peshale her grantee, inherit as quarterings the arms, of which she divested both herself and those of her name in favor of him and his heirs exclusively. [Grantees of Arms in Dockets & Patents to the end of the 17th century, by J. Foster, edited by W. Harry Rylands. Camdens Remaines, 1st ed. pg. 220. Notes & Queries, 3rd Series, vol. 6, page 204.]

Joan was the wife of William Lee, and neither he nor she had heirs of their body begotten, and Joan not only granted her arms but entailed some of her property as well to Richard Peshale, for three years after the date of Joan's grant, viz., in the 17th of Henry VI., Richard Webb, Vicar of Albrighton, and Nicholas Wiston, feoffees of Joan, limited the manor of Wyrley Parva to Joan for life; after her decease, to Richard Peshall, son of Sir Humphrey Peshall, and the heirs of his body, and in default of such issue, to Richard Peshall, son of Sir Thomas de Peshall, Knt., and the heirs of his body. Richard Peshall, the son of Sir Humphrey, was father of Humphrey Peshall, lord of the manor of Knightley, and under the limitations of the entail, lord of the manor of Wyrley Parva, as also under the same limitations, of that part of Knightley.

De Banco Hillary 17 Henry VI. 1439 Stafford. Richard Peshale armiger sued in person William Chayne late of Long Field in co. Salop, gentleman, and William Kenn, late of Long field, his servant, for breaking into his house at Patteshule and taking goods and chattels to the value of 20 pounds. The defendant did not appear. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 3, n.s. p. 147.]

De Banco 24 Henry VI. 1446 Derbyshire. John, son of John Savage, knt., sued Richard Peshale, son and heir of Matilda, late wife of John Savage, knt., for

15 messuages, 3 tofts, 130 acres of land, 7 acres of meadow, 8 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, and a moiety of a fourth part of 200 acres of heath in Repyndon, Moleton, Tykenhale, Staynstone and Twyford, as his right and inheritance, and he stated one John Daniell, knt., his ancestor was seised of the tenement in demesne as of fee, temp. E. II., and from the said John the right descended to one Margaret as daughter and heir, and from Margaret to one John Savage, knt., as son and heir, and from John Savage to the plaintiff as son and heir. (24 Henry VI.) Richard denied the seisin of John Daniell and called to warranty Richard Beke, who was to be summoned for the morrow of All Souls. [Staff. Hist. Col. vol. 3, n.s. page 171 & 173 & 175.]

Derbyshire: By another writ the same John Savage sued Richard Peshale, for moiety of the manor of Dore near Norton, and gave the same plea, and Richard called Richard Beke to warranty. Staff. By a third writ John Savage sued Richard Peshale for the advowson of the church of Chalkey (Chekley), and stated that John Danyell, knt., had been seised of the advowson temp. E. 2, and had presented one John Beke, his clerk, who had been admitted and instituted on this presentation and from John Danyell he gave the same descent as before. Richard denied the seisin of John Danyell and called Richard Beke to warranty.

Staff. By a fourth writ John Savage sued Richard Peshale for the manor of Russheton Spencer, and 20 acres of land, and 1,000 acres of moor in Corneford, and gave the same descent as before from John Danyell, knt., viz. Margaret:—John Savage, knt.:—John Savage, the plaintiff. Richard denied the seisin of John Danyell and called Robert Haydok to warranty, who was to be summoned for the morrow of All Souls.

24 Henry VI. Derb. On the Roll of the term of Holy Trinity 24 H. 6, Roll 405, it was contained as follows, Derb. John son of John Savage, knt., had appeared before the Court of John the Cardinal Archbishop of York, John the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert the Bishop of London, William the Bishop of Lincoln, and six other Bishops named, William the Marquis of Suffolk, Henry Earl of Northumberland, John Viscount Beaumont, Walter Lord Hungerford, Ralph, Lord Cromwelle, Ralph, Lord Snedeley, John Somersett, Clerk, and six other clerks named, Edmund Hungerford, knt., John Beauchamp, knt., James Fenys, knt., Edward Hulle, knt., John Sauntle, armiger; John Vampage, armiger; and Richard Alred, armiger; and sued Richard Peshale son and heir of Matilda late wife of John Savage, knt., for a moiety of the manor of Dore near Norton as his right by the King's open writ of right. And the cause, on the petition of the said John son of John Savage, asserting he had not had full right in the Court of Robert Strettey, then Sheriff of co. Derby, had been moved to this Court by the King's writ to be heard on the Octaves of Holy Trinity, on which day John son of John sued Richard Peshale for the said moiety and stated that his ancestor John Danyell, knt., had been seised of it in demesne as of fee, in the reign of King Edward II., and from the said John the right descended to one Margaret as daughter and heir, and from Margaret to one John Savage, knt., as son and heir and from the said John son of Margaret, to this John son of John Savage, knt., the plaintiff as son and heir. And the said Richard defended his right and had called to warranty Richard Beke and Richard now appeared and John son of John Savage

then sued the said Richard Beke and repeated his plea as above. And the said Richard Beke the tenant by the warranty denied the seisin of John Danyell and offered to defend his right by the body of his freeman Nicholas son of John Barker who was present in Court and if any ill should befall him quod absit he was prepared to defend it by another &c. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 3, page 173.]

25 Henry VI. Staff. In the suit of John, son of John Savage, knight, versus Richard Peshale for the manor of Rushton Spencer, and 1,000 acres of moorland in Corneford and in which Richard Peshale had called Richard Beke to warranty, a duel was waged as in the other suits. Richard Beke not appearing, after the duel had been waged, John, son of John Savage, recovered the manor and moor, and Richard Peshale was to be compensated by Richard Beke. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 3, page 177.]

Staff. The same process was followed in the suit of the same John, son of John Savage, knt. versus Richard Peshale for 22 messuages, 356½ acres of land, 18½ acres of meadow, 347 acres of pasture, 2 acres of wood, 200 acres of moor, and 2s. 10d. of rent and the moiety of the fourth part of an acre of meadow in Tene. Richard Beke did not appear after the duel had been waged, and the tenements and rent were adjudged to John, son of John Savage, knight, for ever.

De Banco Hilary 36 Henry VI. 1458 Staffordshire. Thomas Asteley armiger and John Walto deacon of the church of St. Mary in the Castle of Leicester, executor of the will of Joan de Knightley late widow of William Lee, armiger, sued John Harecourt, late of Eluchale armiger and Roger Clark of Haloughton, gentleman, executors of the will of Richard Peesal, late of Knightley armiger for a debt of 10 marks. The defendants did not appear. [*Ibid.*, vol. 4, n.s. page 105.]

De Banco Staff. An assize, &c., if Elizabeth, formerly wife of Richard de Peshale, and Richard Ball, clerk, had unjustly disseised John Savage and Matilda his wife of the manor of Hopton, and a rent of 6s. 8d., and a rent of a pair of gloves furred with grees in Knyghton and Tillington. The defendants denied having done any injury to the plaintiffs and put themselves on the assize. [*Ibid.*, vol. 15, page 115.]

The jury stated that one Nicholas de Beek, chivaler, the lord of Tene (Teane) was formerly seised in fee of the manor of Tene together with the reversion of the manor of Hopton, and of other lands and tenements and rents and services in the said vill of Knyghton and Tillyngton, and by his deed which had been produced in court, had granted that the reversion of the manor of Hopton which Mary de Beek, the mother of Nicholas, held for her life of his inheritance, and which should revert to him at her death, should remain to John de Beek, the rector of the Church of Chekkeleye, and to his heirs for ever. By virtue of which grant the said Mary attorned herself to the said John, and the said John de Beek, afterwards by an indented deed which was produced in court, had granted that the reversion of the said manor, which Mary held of him for her life, should remain to the said Nicholas and to one Joan then his wife, and to the heirs of their bodies, and Mary afterwards died, and Nicholas and Joan entered the manor of Hopton by virtue of the remainder, and were seised of it in demesne as of fee tail, together with the rent of 6s. 8d. from Knyghton, and the rent of a pair of gloves furred with grees in Tillyngton, and they had issue one Elizabeth, and Nicholas and

Joan died, and after their death Elizabeth their daughter entered as their daughter and heir and died seised of the said Manor and rents as in fee tail, and after her death Matilda the plaintiff entered as daughter and heir of Elizabeth, and was seised of the said manor and rents, until John de Ipstones, chivaler, on the Wednesday after the Feast of the Conception, 12 R. II., had taken the said Matilda from Chetwynd in co. Salop, and had carried her to the vill of Ipstones in co. Stafford, and had there imprisoned her until Matilda under duress and coercion had made grants and feoffments to the said John and to his heirs, of the manor of Hopton, and the said rents, and likewise of other lands and tenements, but on condition that the said John de Ipstones should re-enfeoff the said Matilda of the manor of Hopton and the above rents, and Matilda had afterwards called upon the said John at frequent times to re-enfeoff her of the manor and the said rents, and he had refused to do so, and John de Ipstones had issue one William to whom Matilda had been married, and John de Ipstones had died, and after his death William de Ipstones had entered the manor of Hopton and the said rents, and had endowed the said Elizabeth formerly wife of Richard the mother of the said William from the said manor and rents and William had issue Christiana and Alice, and after his death the said Matilda called upon the said Christiana and Alice to re-enfeoff her in the manor of Hopton, &c., and they had refused, and Matilda then entered into the manor and rents, and was seised of them until the said Elizabeth, formerly wife of Richard, and Richard Ball had unjustly disseised her, and they assessed her damages at 40 marks. John Sauvage and Matilda were therefore to recover seisin of the said manor and rents.

As to the ancestry of Elizabeth de Peshale de Knighton. She was the descendant of Richard de Peshall and his wife Margery de Knighton. His genealogy is set out in chapter 17, section 5. This Elizabeth de Peshall was the last representative either male or female of this Richard de Peshall. And this together with the assignment of the arms of Knightley from his cousin Joan, daughter of Roger Peshale, has made Richard Peshall appear to be several different persons.

PLEA ROLLS. (William Salt Society) 36 Henry VI. [N.S. V IV p 105-8] Thos. Astely, arm. and John Walton, executors (1455) of Joan de Knyghtley 112 Late wife of William Lee, arm. sue. John Harrcourt, of Elnehale, and Roger Clerk, of Haloughton, gent, executors of Richard Pessale, late of Knyghtly.

*3. HUMPHREY DE PESHALL, married first, Agnes, daughter of Sir Robert Edgerton of Munchel; second, Letitia Harcourt. Child of first marriage:—

1. Hugh de Peshall.

Child of second marriage:—

2. Richard de Peshall.

Humphrey de Peshale was a Keeper and Justice of the Peace, 1460-1485. He was sheriff in Shropshire in 1463. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1912, page 316.]

Besides Knightley, Humphrey Peshall owned the manors of Little Wyrley, Hopton, Teyne, Little Onn, Blythewood, Caldon and Waterfall, as well as other land and property in the town of Stafford. The Staffordshire property he held in accordance with the custom of Borough English by which the inheritance passed to the youngest instead of to the eldest son.

Ward Lapp Ricus Purcell gent. in term VII. 14s. 4d. Humfrud Purcell gent. in term VII. 8s. 4d. [Shropshire Hist. Col., vol. 8, page 454-455.]

De Banco Trinity 36 Henry VI 1458 Staffordshire. Humfrey Peshal sued Thomas Brent of the parish of Alstonfeld husbandman and Henry Colyn, Roger Johnson, Thomas Hethele, all of Alstonfeld for depasturing cattle on his grass at Alstonfeld. The defendants did not appear. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 4, n.s. p. 107.]

De Banco Easter 3 Edward IV. 1464 Staffordshire. Humfrey Peshal, armiger, sued Hugh Leonesdale late of Eccleshal, Walker, and John Balle late of Eccleshal for breaking into his close at Bishops Offeley and taking 4 heifers worth 40s. The defendants did not appear. [*Ibid.*, page 126.]

De Banco Hilary 4 Edward IV. 1485 Staffordshire. Humfrey Peshale sued John Poynow of Stretton for a debt of 6 pounds and he sued John Gryffyth of Hyglwalgranse, Thomas Verdun of Coton near Mylwche and another for a debt of 6 marks and he sued William Bail of Bromly Abbatis for 40s. The defendants did not appear. [*Ibid.*, page 135.]

In March, 1470, at the date of the Rebellion of Warwick, urgent commissioners of array were issued to raise troops in the Midland counties. The Commissioners for the co. Stafford were William Lord Hastings, Walter Blount, Lord Mountjoye, Sir John Stanley, Sir John Greseley, Humphrey Peshale, William Basset, Philip Oker, and George Stanley. [*Ibid.*, vol. 7, n.s. page 58.]

7 Henry VII., 1491, Commissioners for collecting subsidy granted by Parliament for that year.—Richard Wrottesley, Humphrey Persall, Humphrey Swynnerton, and Thomas Wilkes. [*Ibid.*, page 50.]

Among the Hopton deeds the following appears:—7 H. VII., Rogerus Draycott de Draycott dedit Humfrido de Peshall de Hopton unum messuagium in Hopton in excambio pro quadam parcella terra vocat le Parkfield juxta Draycott. (Translation: Roger Draycot of Draycot gives to Humphrey de Peshall of Hopton one messuage in Hopton in exchange for a certain piece of land called le Parkfield next Draycot.)

23 Ed. I. (A.D. 1295) Robertus fil Leticiae de Bek and de Hopton (an agreement about three roods of land in Hopton, near land of Sir Ric. de Draycote. Kt).

12 Henry VII 1497. Richard Wrottesley, Humphrey Persall, Humfrey Swynnerton and Thomas Wells appointed commissioners for collecting the subsidy granted by Parliament in that year. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 6, n.s. page 250.]

Humphrey Peshall died May 26, 1498. The record of the Inquisition upon his estate reads as follows: Commission 9 June 17 Hen. VII. (1502). [Chancery Inq., p.m., series 2, vol. 16, page 30.]

Inquisition 7 Sept. 18 Hen. VII (1502). Humphrey Persall was seised in fee of the undermentioned manors and advowson and being so seised by charter gave them to Robert Harcourt, knt.—John Aston of Heywood, Nicholas Sutton, esquires, William Gebons, clerk, Rector of the church of Eyton and John Moreton, clerk, Rector of the church of Blymhill to the use of his last will. They were seised thereof accordingly in fee, and being as seised by charter gave the manor of Knyghtley and Little Onne to the said Humphrey Peshall and Lettice (Leticie) his wife for the term of her life. She survived him and was still in seisen thereof in her demesne as of free tenement.

By his writing, set out in full in English, 18 April, 13 Hen. VII (1498) by the description of Humphrey Peshale esquire he declared his last will as follows: Reciting that in performance of covenants upon his marriage with Letice sister to Sir Robert Harcourt, knt., he had given her the said two manors; he directs that his next heir shall find her security that she shall not be troubled in her possession of them and in default gives her all other his manors &c. for life. If at any time thereafter there be male issue by his said wife, he directs that after his decease the manors of Hopton, Theyne, Blythwoode, Caldon, Waterfall and third part of the manor of Astonfeld and the advowson of the church of Chekley and after his wife's decease the manors of Knyghtley and Little Onne shall be to such heirs, and in default shall be to his right heirs general, viz. his daughters born or to be born and their heirs,—He was seised in fee of the undermentioned messuages &c. in Stafford which are within the fee or fee tail of any hereditaments within the said fee they descend to the youngest son of the deceased as heir and not to the elder son. They descend and ought to descend to Richard Peshall his youngest son by virtue of the custom of the aforesaid fee. He died May 26, 13 Henry VII. (1498). Richard Peshall is his son and heir male between him and the said Letice begotten and is aged 3 and more.

Manor of Knyghtley worth £10 held of John Bowrchier, knt., lord de Bernes, by service of fealty,—other services unknown. Manors of Hopton, Theyne, Blithwodde and Little Onne and advowson of church of Chekley worth £20 held of Edward Duke of Buckingham, by service of fealty, other services unknown. Manor of Caldon worth 40s. held of George earl of Shrewsbury, by service of fealty, other services unknown. Manor of Waturfall and third part of manor of Astonfelde worth £4 held of the King in chief, service unknown. A messuage and four cottages and 5 gardens in Stafford worth 20s. held of the King in chief—service unknown. Now 12 June, 19 Henry VII. the said feoffees appear in the Court of Chancery and confirm above and say that Humphrey has issue Hugh, who had issue Katharin, and died in the lifetime of Humfrey, afterwards at Beaudeley, co. Worcs. Katharin married John Blounte, Esq. and is now aged 21 and more, and said Richard was born afterwards and the lands not entailed above should descend to Katharin as daughter of Hugh son of Humphrey. John Blount and Katharine both survive. [Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, 18 Henry VII, Series II, vol. 16, No. 9.]

The Harcourt pedigree will be found in the chapter devoted to John Peshall, who married Helena Harcourt. The additional information particularly relating to this marriage is as follows.

Sir Thomas Harcourt married 1406, Jane daughter of Sir Robert Fraunceys of Formark, M.P. living 1449. One of their sons, Sir Robert Harcourt, K.G., was born 1410; died 1470. He was only 10 years old at his father's death, and the custody of his person and estates was granted to Sir John Wilcotes. But his mother carried off Robert and his three brothers to the home of their stepfather, Sir Robert Strelley. Robert was born at Ellenhall on Sept. 20th, 1410, and proved his age as follows:—Proof of age of Robert son of Thomas Harcourt chiv. at Staff. 4 Feb. 10 Hen. VI. 1432, before Robert Whytegreve escheator, by the oath of Richard Nowell, aged 60 and more, being sworn and examined, says that

Robert Harcourt was born at Elnehale and baptized in the Church of that vill, and was 21 on 20 Sept. last. And this he knows because William Nowell his Father was buried in the Church of Chebbesey by Elnehale, the same day that Robert was baptized. Roger Swyneshed, aged 50 and more, says the same, and this he remembers because he married a certain Alice on the day Robert was baptized. William Warde, aged 46, says the same and this he knows because he was then carrying a certain pelvem cum lanatro et menstrabat aquam compatribus, of the said Robert on the day he was born and baptized. Richard Warde, aged 47, says the same, and this he knows because William his son was confirmed at Eccleshall by the Bishop on the same day. John Fernyhalgh, aged 45, says the same, and knows it because he had a certain grange at Shaldeforde burnt on that day. Humphrey Westwode, aged 50, says the same, and knows it because he built a new hall at Offley on that day. Thomas Jerveys, aged 51, says the same and knows it because he was compat of Thomas son of Nicholas Jerveys, who was baptized at Eccleshall the same day. John Jerveys, aged 60, says the same and knows it because he was present and carried a certain Cerun in the Church of Elnehale on that day. Richard Banastore, aged 48, says the same and knows it because a certain John, his son, was born and baptized at Gnoweshale the same day. William Preston, aged 50 (?) says the same and knows it because Alice his daughter was married to Richard Jurdan in the Church of Stafford that day. Roger Gawode, aged 48, says the same and knows it because riding toward Stafford he fell from his horse and broke his arm on that day. John Bedolf, aged 57, says the same and knows it because he took seisin to himself and heirs of a messuage in Eccleshall of Richard Bedolf, chaplain, on that day. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1914, vol. 2 n.s. page 199.]

Even before his majority he settled affairs with the Astleys so far as Ellenhall was concerned. By Final Concord of 1430, Ellenhall was conceded to Robert Harcourt, subject to his mother's life interest in a third, with remainder to his heirs and in default successively to his brothers Richard, John and William and his uncle, Richard Harcourt of Saredon and their heirs. For this Harcourt paid Astley 300 marcs. In 1437 he was suing his former guardian, Wilcotes, for waste in Ellenhall, and he is then still described as esquire. Three years later, when suing the Erdeswicks for taking his goods at Pillatonhall, he is described as chivalier. In 1444-5 he was sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, and in 1446 he was sent to Dover to receive the Queen. In 1447, and again in the Yorkist Parliament of 1430, he was M.P. from Oxfordshire. In the Yorkist Parliament of 1460 he sat for Berkshire. By Edward IV. he was made a Knight of the Garter in 1463. In the following year the King granted him £300 a year for life "for his great and laudable services at the siege of Alnwick, and for the custody of the said Castle." The next year he was sent as ambassador to France. But at last, on November 10th, 1470, he was slain by the Bastard of Grafton, during the brief Lancastrian recovery.

This is the account, taken from contemporary documents, of the feuds of the Harcourts and the Staffords of Grafton and Chebsey; but why it started no man knows; but in addition to the causes for the family differences between the Harcourt factions, the quarrel was largely aided and abetted by the incidents that

resulted from the civil warfare in England known as the War of the Roses. The Harcourts of Gnoweshale were distinctly Yorkists. In the Notes on Kinlet, speaking of the Blounts, the author says—Like many other Yorkists of that period, inflamed with resentment against the usurpation of Richard III., he was fortunate enough to embrace in time the victorious party of Henry VII. It may be that this was a locality sentiment in the vicinity of Gneweshale and that it affected this branch of the Harcourts in the same manner; but Hugh Peshale remained loyal to the House of York. [Shropshire Archeology, 3rd Ser., vol. 8, p. 121.]

1448 Plea Rolls. The servants of Sir Robert Harcourt of Stanton and Bosworth, knight, designing the death of Sir Humphrey Stafford and of Richard Stafford, his eldest son, on Wednesday before Corpus Christi, 26 Hen. VI. in the High Street of Coventry, at the time of the fair, had collected other malefactors . . . 60 in number, armed . . . with salades, jakkes, swerdes, and billes by the procurement of Lady Jane Harcourt of Bosworth, widow . . . and had insulted, beaten and wounded Sir Humphrey and . . . murdered Richard Stafford and William Sharpe his servant, . . . and with salades and "dpiloidis" defensible, long swords and short pole-axes, gleyves and daggers had beaten and wounded Sir Humphrey Stafford and Richard Beauchamp arm. and 9 servants of Humphrey's . . . and had left Humphrey insensible and nearly dead so that his life was despaired of . . . For this, which is only told from the Stafford side, Sir Robert was outlawed. But with the Yorkists back in power in 1451 and Sir Robert in Parliament, the outlawry was annulled, so he formally surrendered at the Marshalsea in Feb. 1451, saying that he had been in Chester Prison when the outlawry had been promulgated. Among those who stood surety for him were: Walter Blount of London, arm., Richard Harcourt of North Leigh, Oxon, arm., William Vernon, of Harlaston, arm., and John Harcourt of Ellenhall, arm. In the Staff. Hist. Colls. is an even fuller account of the killing of the Staffords by Sir Robert and John Harcourt of Eccleshall arm.—Robert with a two-handed sword had struck Richard Stafford on the head, causing a mortal wound, &c. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1914, page 200-204.]

The Coram Rege Roll of 32 Hen. VI. continues the fight—Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, Richard Beauchamp of Grafton, and 400 others, on May 1st, 1450, assembled at Felde in Wychewode, and went thence by night to Stanton Harcourt, and had attached at break of day Robert Harcourt and his servants whilst they were at their devotions, and had driven them into the church tower of Stanton Harcourt . . . They besieged them for six hours, burnt part of the church, even the crucifix, and completed their crimes by carrying off seven horses and all the Harcourts' household goods, which are curiously and laboriously set out in full. And by one of the 1,000 arrows William Massey had been slain. As soon as the Lancastrians got back to power in October, 1470, the Staffords had it back on Sir Robert, and slew him. In 1471, Margaret, widow of Sir Robert Harcourt, appealed William Stafford, the Bastard of Grafton, Thomas and Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, arm., and about 150 others, mostly from South Staffordshire, for the death of her husband. And thereafter, year after year, for four years, she appealed them, but got no justice; whence we deduce that the Staffords of Grafton and Chebsey reverted to the winning side.

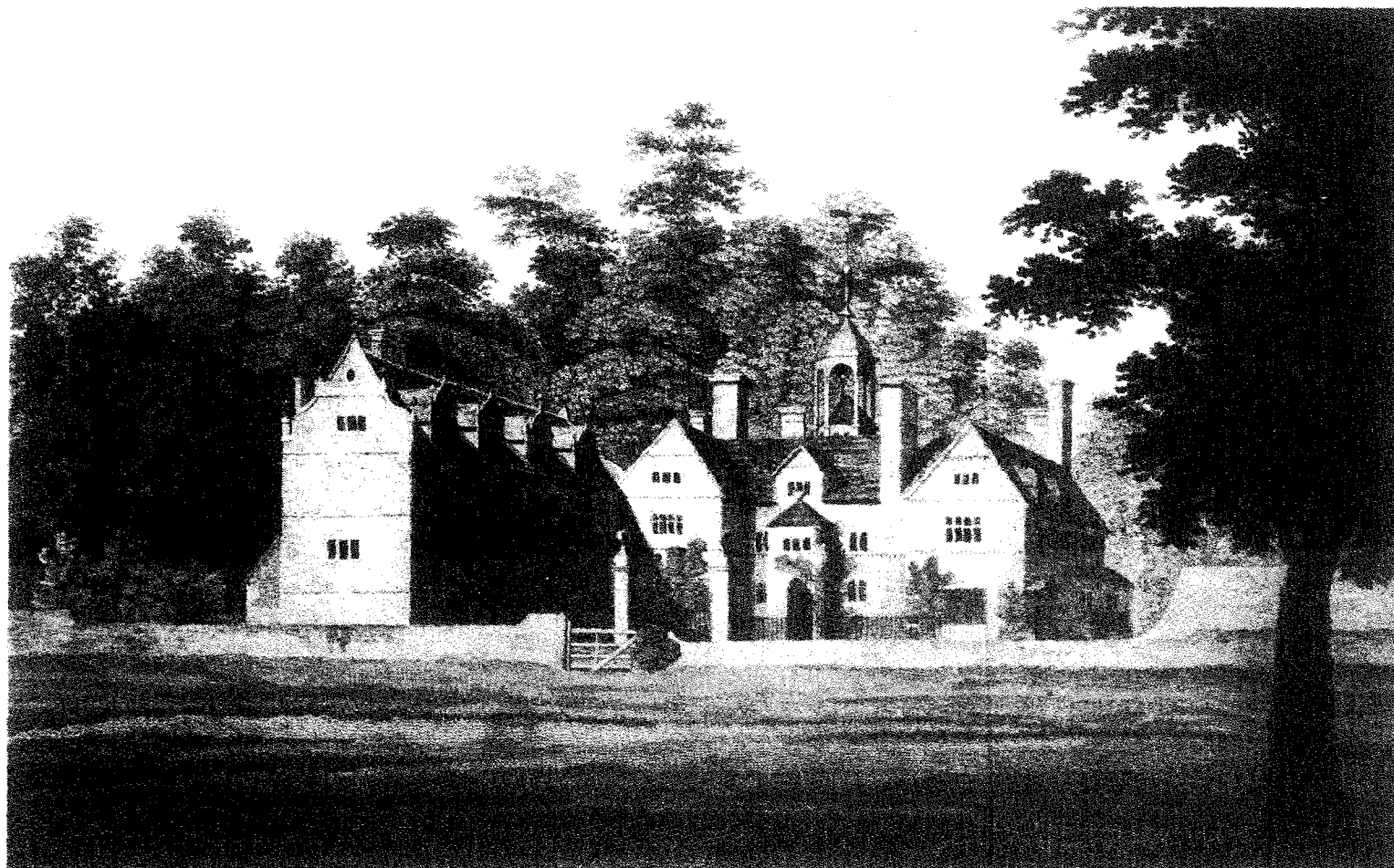
Sir Robert had married, before 1440, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Byron of Clayton, Lancaster, then widow of Sir William Atherton. In 1474 she is suing for dower, and obtaining it in Shareshull, the Saredons and Coven. Now these were the Shareshull manors that passed to Richard Harecourt, in 1401, and were settled to him and to his heirs. For that reason we conclude that Richard died without issue—that he was not ancestor of the Harcourts of Ranton—and that the manors passed to Sir Robert, either as remainder man or as heir at law.

The Staffordshire Inquisition on the death of Sir Robert is as follows:—At Penkridge 29th Oct. 11 Ed. IV., 1471, before Humphrey Persall and John Wode of Kele, commissioners, by the oath of Thomas More of Penkridge, Thomas Caldewall, John Cresewall, John Onn, John Sondon, Thomas Salte, Roger Pyry, of Sharishill, John Pitte of Saredon, Will. Barker of Horsebroke, Richard Rede of Preston, Will. Kyng, Will. Smyth, who say that Robert Harcourt, kt., by charter dated 12 Dec. 19 Hen. VI. held Elnhale with Margaret, late his wife, formerly wife of William Athirton, kt., to them and their heirs male; and in default it remains to Richard, brother of Robert and his heirs male; and in default to John, another brother and his heirs male; and to William, another brother; and then to Richard Harcourt, uncle of the said Robert; and then to the right heirs of the said Robert. That it was worth £10 and held of the Bishop. They say he was lately seised of the manor of Sharishill, the Sardons, Lache, and of 2 parts of the manor of Coven and Brinsford, and so being seised before his death, by a charter dated at Lache, 4 Sept. 32 Hen. VI., conveyed them to trustees. And that he died 14 Nov. 10 Ed. IV., 1470, and that John Harcourt is son and heir aged 20 and more.

John Harcourt, who was 20 at his father's death, married Anne, daughter of Sir John Norris of Bray, Berks, who bore him a son and survived him. John Harcourt, who was never a knight, went to France in 1475, and died June 26th, 1484. The Inquisition on his death states that he left a son, Robert, aged 19, and more (in 1486), and unless we allow some exaggeration in this age it will be seen that John must have married Anne before his sixteenth birthday.

Sir Robert Harcourt married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Limerick, or Lymbrake, and had a son John who predeceased him while still a minor, and four daughters and coheiresses. One of these, Lettice, married first Humphrey Peshall, and secondly Thomas Nevill. The Harcourt Papers say that Sir Robert was standard bearer at Bosworth Field, 1485, which would mean that he was in the army of King Richard III. and afterwards made his peace with King Henry VII. He served as Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1493, and of Staffordshire in 1494-5, and in the latter year he was created Knight of the Bath. In 1501 he was one of the squires of the body to Henry VII. By an earlier settlement all the ancestral estates reverted on his death to his second cousin, Simon Harcourt of Witham, Oxon, who was even then a great warrior and landed proprietor, the grandson of Sir Richard Harcourt of Witham.

*4. HUGH DE PESHALL, died July 27, 1490, married circa 13 Ed. IV. 1474, Isabella Stanley, daughter of Sir John Stanley of Pipe and Elford, Miles and Bannerett, and his wife Isabella Vernon of Hadden in le Pike, Militis [Misc. Her. and Gen. N. S., vol. 3, page 8.] Children:—



WIRLEY HALL

1. Katherine de Peshall, married Sir John Blount.
2. Joyce de Peshall, married Humfrey Wolrech.
3. Isabella de Peshall, married Richard Vane.

In the struggle between Richard III. and Henry, Duke of Richmond, this Hugh Peshall gave his services to Richard, the reigning king. This branch of the family were staunch supporters of the House of York.

Sir Hugh died in 1490 and is buried in Christ Church, London. The will of Sir Hugh Peshall is recorded in the Prerogative Court of Chancery, Somerset House, London, England. He names his wife Isabella, his natural daughters Alinora and Alice, also his three daughters born in lawful wedlock, namely Catharine, who is married to Sir John Blount; Isabella who is married to Rd. Vane; Jacosa who is married to Humfrey Wolrech. He also names John Stanley of Pipe. The will is dated February 15, 1488, and was proved in 1490.

Sir Hugh was buried in the church of the Grey Friars, Christ Church, Newgate Street, London. The present church was built on the choir of the old church in the eighteenth century, and the Post-office on the nave. [Strykes Survey of London.] In the Register of the Sepulchral Inscriptions existing Tempo Henry VIII in the Church of the Grey Friars, London appears;—Dms Hugh P'Sall (Peshall) obit 27 July 1490. [Collectanea Topographica et genealogica, vol. 6, page 385. From note book of Phillippa Swinnerton Hughes née Pearsall.]

After his death, his widow received a pardon from King Henry VII, and was enabled to retain her husband's property, which would otherwise have passed to the State. The letter granting the pardon is preserved on the Patent Roll of 6 Henry VII., m. 7 (13): Pardon for Isabel Peshall: The King, of his especial grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, has pardoned, remitted and relaxed to Isabel, late wife of Hugh Peshall, late sheriff of the county of Stafford, administratrix of the goods and chattels which were the said Hugh's, and tenant of the lands and tenements which were hers and the said Hugh's, or which were the said Hugh's or otherwise granted to him or her, and all debts, accounts, profits, arrearages and sums of money whatsoever due to the said King by the same Hugh for any cause touching the said office of Sheriff, and statute or order to the contrary notwithstanding. Witness the King at Westminster 10 March, (1491). By Writ of Privy Seal, &c.

In the line up of the armies at Bosworth Field both sides hoped for the support of the House of Stanley with its large fighting force. Richmond was the fortunate one and beyond a doubt the fate of the contest was decided the moment the Stanleys took a definite stand for Henry Richmond, who at this field became Henry VII King of England. It was hardly within reason that a daughter of this House should be subject to confiscation of her estates by reason of her husband having supported the side of Richard III. This pardon was consequently only a gracious acknowledgement by the King of the heavy debt of gratitude that he owed to the members of the House of Stanley. This Hugh Peshall was the last of the original spelling of the name although in the Horsley branch there was in a later generation an effort made to restore the original spelling. The Horsley and Ranton Branches were still male lines. But they had changed their way of spelling and pronouncing their surname at the close of the Battle of Bosworth Field,

so that there could by no possibility be any confusion between those members of the family who supported the House of Lancaster, and this, the Kinlet, branch who supported the House of York. The Stanley ancestry was to bring the children and grandchildren of this Sir Hugh Peshall of Kinlet into very intimate relationship with the House of Tudor, which, by the Battle of Bosworth Field, came to rule England.

Lady Isabella Peshall survived her husband until 1519, at which time she died, having first made her last will which is on file in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and is preserved at Somerset House, London, in 26 Aylosse. Her will was probated February 28, 1519, and is written in a very obscure Latin-English dialect. A translation of this will reads as follows:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, Lady Isabella Peshall, of sound mind and in possession of my mental powers in my last sickness do make my will in which I am remembering in this manner. I am first commanding this to be done before I give up this common body to the Almighty God and I remind you to then bury me in the Holy shrine of Trinity Monastary de Calia. I further remind you at this time to sit before the Lord, face to face, as is your custom while hearing the services of the dead. Item I give this bed of feathers which I predict to be of great pecuniary value to Robert Powey. Item I give to Marie, as before stated, six equal bundles of my young flax which is now growing. Item, I give to Robert Powey one thousand equal bundles of the same. Item I give to Agnes an interest in the wine which is in the chests at St Canerlet. Item I give to Albora (Blount) the small bed upon which I raised my daughter. Item I advise, name and appoint Katharine Mary Blount my daughter and Mark Sherman executors for me in order that they themselves may dispose and etc. Item I give to Marie, the dependent of Lord Thomas Blount, Militis, that which he owes me. Item I give to all my God-daughters, Coquina Roberta Powey and Marie Dundenda equal portions of my horses and an equal portion of my horses to Robert Dundenda who in past time has been my cup bearer and who was cup bearer in my parlors. These witnesses testified, Lord Leonardo Iryland, Henrico Lawdewyn and Rico Bartott.

Hugh Peshall had his residence at Little Wirley. Little Wirley is a hamlet so called to distinguish it from another Wirley in the parish of Cannock, and hundred of Cudleston. This manor was held of the Bishop of the time when William the Conqueror made his Survey, as before mentioned under Norton. [History of Staffordshire, by Rev. Stebbins Shaw, vol. 2, London 1798.]

Afterwards the D'Oileys, who were also lords of Ronton and Shenston, as there noticed, were owners of it. 1st Edw. II. Sir John D'Oiley, knt., being lord of Wyrley Parva, released to Alice, the daughter of Thomas de Norton, and to Richard de Bentley and Maud his wife; all his right to that land and heath lying in length from a field called Starehurst to a place called Cnaven castle, and in breadth from the king's high-way, called Watling-street, to a called Cronebrook, which land and heath lay in the fee of Norton. Not long after, this manor was given by the said John D'Oiley, with Alice his daughter in marriage, to Robert de Knightley, who, being lord of Little Wyrley 6 Edw. II. granted to William, son of Philip Alwyn, eight royal acres of wood and waste land lying at

Great Wodend, betwixt Watling-street and Midlestrehoo, in exchange for his estovers and common of pasture in Gretwode, viz. eight cart loads of wood, and the same of hedgewood, which the said William was wont to have yearly out of the said wood; and if Alice, the wife of the said Robert, should out-live him, and question the said William, then he was to re-enter upon his estovers again. [History of Staffordshire, by Rev. Stebbins Shaw, vol. 2, London 1798.]

This Robert de Knightley was dead before the 9th Edw. III. when the said Alice was lady of Little Wyrley. They had issue Robert de Knightley and John de Knightley, to which John the said Alice granted this manor and Norton, for his life, paying him annually a rose, as appears by the confirmation thereof from Robert de Knightley to the said John his brother, 14 Edw. III. John D'Oiley also released to the above John 15 Edw. III. John de Knightley was lord of this manor from the 15 Edw. III. to the 40th Edw. III.; but whether it were the aforesaid John, or John de Knightley his nephew, is not certain. But certain it is, that Roger de Knightley had issue John, who had issue Joan, his daughter and heir, married to Roger de Peshall, who had issue Joan, their daughter and heir, who became the second wife of William Lee, a lawyer and justice of the peace for county Staffordshire, who enjoyed a great estate with her, she being possessed of Patteshull, Knightley, and this manor, with several other lands in this county, and elsewhere; but she, surviving her said husband Lee, gave her estates to the heirs of those from whom they came to her. We have already seen how this Joan Lee conferred her arms on Richard Peshall, the grandfather of Hugh, and also enfeoffed him with the estate of Little Wirley. So that, in the 17th Hen. VI. Ric. Webb, vicar of Albrighton, and Nic. Whiston, cap. her feoffees, settled this manor, &c., upon the said Joan for life, and after her decease to Richard Peshall, the son of Humphrey Peshall, and to the heirs of his body; and, for want of such issue, to Richard Peshall, the son of Sir Thomas Peshall, and to the heirs of his body, &c.

The old manor-house, called by some Little Wirley Hall, by others Wirley Grove, from the fine phalanx of elms and other large trees by which it is sheltered from the North, is a very picturesque and curious specimen of the hospitable mansions of our forefathers.

KATHERINE PESHALL, daughter of Sir Hugh Peshall, married in 1491, John Blount, Esq., the son and heir apparent of Sir Thomas Blount, kt. of Kinlet, in the county of Salop.

Upon the death of Letitia Peshall, her granddaughter Catharine obtained the manors of Knightley and Little Onn. John Blount was made a knight of Kinlet Feb. 27, 1530 (22 Henry VIII). Catharine Peshall died 32 Henry VIII. (1541.)

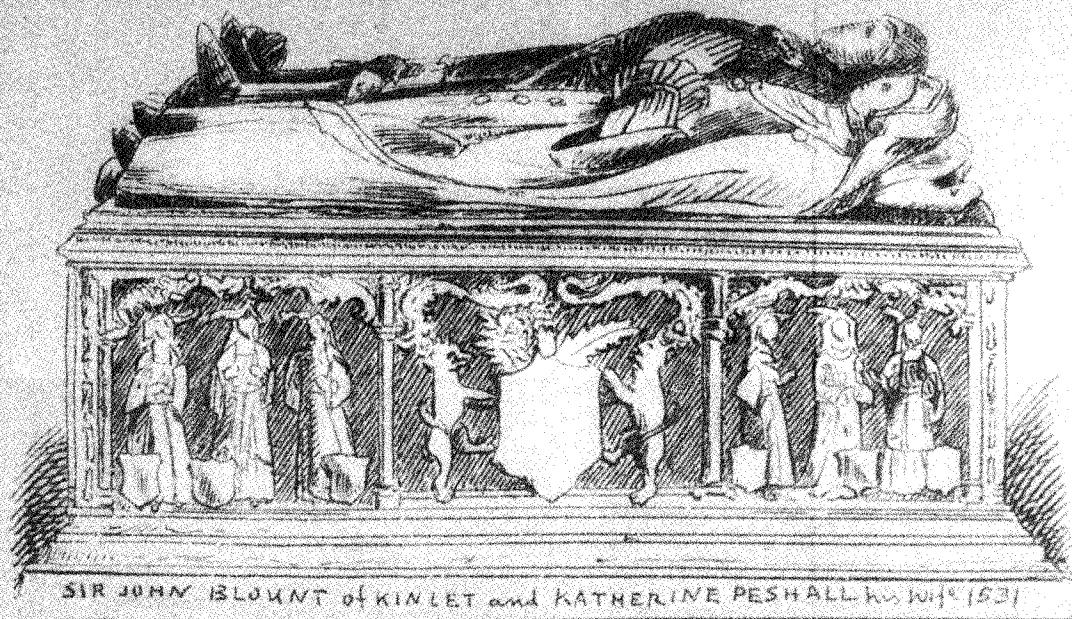
Sir John Blount of Kinlet was arrived at man's estate in the first year of Henry VII., there being a proviso in the act of resumption of that year that it shall not extend to, or prejudice John Blount "of (or in the keypyng of) the park called Clibery in the County of Shropshire and the seyalingaye of the forest of Wire, in the said county, to him granted by the now King," Sir John resided at Bitterley during the life of his father, whom he survived a very few years, deceasing Feb. 17th, 1531. [Shropshire Archeological Soc., 3rd series, vol. 8, page 123-124.]

In Kinlet Church is an alabaster monument with a knight and his wife, and round it is carved the following inscription:—Hic jacet corpus Joh's Blount milit'

fili et heredis Thome Blount milit' filii et hered' Hu'frid Blount milit' ac d'ha Katherina uxor dicti Joh's filia et heres sola Hugonis P'sall milit' ac dom' Isabelle uxoris sue filiae dom' Johis Stanley milit qui quidem Joh'es Blount obiit xvii die mensis Februarii anno d'ni MCCCCXXXI cui' an'e propicietur deus amen. (Translation: Here lies the body of John Blount, chivaler, son and heir of Thomas Blount, chiv., son and heir of Humfrey Blount, chiv.; and Katherine wife of the said John, daughter and sole heir of Hugh P'sall, chiv. and Isabella his wife, daughter of John Stanley, chiv. This John Blount died the 17th day of February in the year 1531, amen.)

Their sons were George, Henry Blount of Bewdley, who by Joan, daughter of John Somervile of Edreston, in co. Warwick, left a son George; and William Blount, third son. The daughters were Rose, wife of William Gristling of Lincolnshire, Albora unmarried; Agnes, wife of Richard Laken, Esq., of Laken and Willey; Isabel, wife of William Reade; and Elizabeth Blount, who became successively the wife of Gilbert, Lord Talbois, and Edward Clinton, Lord Clinton and Say. This lady also bore in 1519 to King Henry VIII., a son called Henry Fitzroy, whom his father in the year 1525 created Earl of Nottingham, and Duke of Richmond and Somerset; Lieutenant-General and Warden of the Scottish Marches, and Lord High Admiral of England. With the young prince, Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, so well known for his poetical talents and cruel fate, was brought up as play-fellow; and this friendship was endeared, says Lord Herbert, by a match of the said Duke with Mary, the Earl's sister. But this young duke died without issue July, 1536, and is buried under a superb tomb at Framlingham, the sepulture of his wife's ancestry.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Sir John Blount and Katherin Peshall, was a lady of great personal attractions. Lord Herbert says of her that she was thought, for her ornaments of nature and education, to be the beauty and mistress-piece of her time. In her youth she gained the affections of the young Henry VIII., and became the mother of his favorite son, Henry, Duke of Richmond. Halle, a contemporary writer, thus relates the affair: "You shall understand, the kyng in his fresh youth, was in the cheynes of love, with a fair damosell called Elizabeth Blunt, daughter to sir John Blunt, knyght, which damosell in synging, daunsyng, and in all goodly pastymes exceded all other; by the which goodly pastymes she won the kynges harte; and she again shewed him such favour, that by hym she bare a goodly manne childe, of beautie like to the father and mother. This child was well brought up, like a Princes child, and when he was vi. years of age, the kyng made hym knight, and called hym lord Henry fitz Roy, and on Sondaie beyng the XVIII daie of June, at the manor or place of Bridewell, the saied Lorde, ledde by twoo Erles, was created Erle of Northyngham, and then he was brought backe again by the saied twoo Erles; then the Dukes of Norffolke and Suffolke, led hym into the great Chamber again and the kyng created hym Duke of Richemond & Somerset: and the same daie the lorde Henry Courtenay Erle of Deuonshire, and cosyn germain to the kyng was created Marquis of Excester." Henry Fitzroy was born at Blackmore, in Essex, in 1519, and Cardinal Wolsey was his godfather. Dugdale, in his Baronage says, that Henry, Duke of Richmond, was the natural son of King Henry VIII., begotten on the body of



MONUMENT IN KINLET CHURCH. J.C.B.C. vol. 1007.



KINLET CHURCH (S.W. VIEW)
Showing the 13th Century Tower and the 15th Century Porch

H. H. Morgan, 1905

Elizabeth, widow of Sir Gilbert Tailboys; but in this he is mistaken, for the birth of this child took place before her marriage with Gilbert, Lord Talboys. Henry Duke of Richmond, who was made Knight of the Garter, Lord High Admiral of England, Ireland and Normandy, and Lieutenant of Ireland, was present at the interview between his royal father and the French King, Francis I., in 1532. He was married in the following year to Lady Mary Howard, daughter of the Duke of Norfolk, but died without issue, on the 22nd of July, 1536, when he was only seventeen years of age, and was buried at Fromlingham in Suffolk. The tradition in England, says Robert Pearsall, is that the Duke of Richmond was poisoned by order of Anne Boleyn and her brother at St. James, Westminster. Visitation of Shropshire 1666. (6172. Plut. LVI.I.) says K. H:8: begatt a sonne upon the daughter of Sir John Blunt called Hon. Fitz Roy & created him Duke of Richmond & Somerset &c. Then it gives a large shield of 29 quarterings of Sir Jno. Blunt, as follows:—1. Blunt. 2. Sodington. 3. Hereton. 4. Lacy de Bretham. 5. Marshall. 6. Marshall. 7. Strongbowe. 8. Mackmorrough. 9. Clare. 10. Consull. 11. Fitzhamon. 12. Cornwell. 13. Brompton. 14. St. Halory. 15. Bruse. 16. Millo. 17. Newmarch. 18. Removile. 19. Corbett of Cause. 20. Hereford. 21. Peshall. 22. Chettwyne. 23. Careswell. 24. Knightley. 25. Pantolph. 26. Swinnerton. 27. Beck. 28. Hastings. 29. Frussell. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1912, page 76, part 2.]

Sir George Blount, eldest son of Sir John, was born in 1513, and received an education befitting the antiquity and opulence of his family. The rank and connections of his aunt gave him distinction in the court of Henry. The age of chivalry was not then past; all the young men of fashion in those days were eager to signalize themselves in the field, and we know from his epitaph that Sir George Blount served in the wars of France and Scotland. He was 31 years of age, in the prime of life and full enjoyment of his future, when, in July, 1544, Henry VIII. passed over to the siege of Boulogne. In 1563 he served the office of sheriff. The historian adds, he was very personable and of great expectation, insomuch that he was thought, not only for hability of body, but mind, to be one of the rarest of his time. [Shropshire Archeaological Soc., 3rd series, vol. 8, pages 124-27. Fol. cxliii. The Tryumphaunte Reigne of King Henry the VIII.; Halle's Chronicles—The Union of the two noble and illustre famelies of Lancastre & Yorke.—1550.]

The state of Wales 1542-3, 34 and 35 Hen. VIII., c. 269129.—contains a saving of the rights of George Blount, Esq., son and heir of Sir John Blount, Kt., deceased, as Steward of the King's Lordships of Bewdley and Clebury; so that he was not then knighted, which is rather extraordinary, as he had been several years in possession of his estate, and was so highly connected at Court. Perhaps he disdained so promiscuous an honor. He was, however, frequently a representative in Parliament, as in 1547, when he appears with the title of knight, for the county; in 1553 for Bridgnorth; in 1554 and 1555 for Wenlock; in 1558 for Bridgnorth; in 1563 for Wenlock; in 1570 and 1571 Member for the Shire again. In 1545 Sir George was one of the executors of the Duchess of Northumberland, widow of John Dudley, beheaded.

In those days, when Lord Chancellors could not address the Parliament without a plentiful quotation of Scripture, and when Privy Councillors could pull prayer books out of their pockets at the Council Board, religion was not, as at

present, deemed unworthy the attention of men of the world; but the frequent changes in the national worship had left no great stability of principle in the higher ranks. Sir George Blount was too good a courtier to offend the imperious Henry by any dissent from that monarch's faith, yet he doubtless concurred with the reformation under his successor, as he was appointed Chief Commissioner for the Survey of Colleges and Chaunctries in this county, under the Act of Parliament 1st Edw. VI., and received for his share of the spoils a grant from the Lord Protector of the Chauntry of St. Mary, in the neighboring church of Alveley. He died on the 20th of July, 1581, when he had attained the age of 68 years. [Shropshire Archeological Soc., 3rd series, vol. 8, page 124-27.]

The family of Laken was seated, from very remote antiquity, at a place of that name in the parish of Wem, which passed, through heiresses, into the family of Hose and Banaster. Alan de Lakyn, the founder of the second branch, lived in the reign of Richard II., and was grandfather to William Laken, a justice of the King's Bench in 1466. [Shropshire Arch. Soc., 3rd series, vol. 8, page 124-127.] Sir Richard Laken, father of the judge, married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir Hammond de Peshall, and from them Richard Laken, who married Agnes Blount, was fourth in descent. Richard Laken, Esq., died January 15th, 1532-3, leaving his son Rowland, an infant of the age of 5 years, heir to the Manors of Willey, Borwarderley or Broseley, Harley, Kenley, Wylderton, Stretton, Stowe, and Bolde, besides extensive estates in Wem, Wulversley, Lopynton, Edstaton, Coton, Laken, Bradeheth, Shrewsbury, Smethcote, Weston, Stowe, and Newton. To these large possessions he afterwards added his uncle's estate at Kinlet, but seems never to have removed his residence to this place, as he was 54 years of age when that succession devolved upon him. At least, in the visitation he is styled of Willey, which place his ancestor, Sir Richard Lakin, obtained in marriage with Elizabeth Peshell. Mr. Lakin was a justice of the peace and quorum in 1585, and a commissioner for disarming the recusants. [Shropshire Arch. Soc., vol. 8, 3rd series, page 124-127.]

Isabella Blount, daughter of Katherine Peshall and John Blount married Richard Fane, Esq., of Tunbridge, co. Kent. [Notes & Queries, 3rd series, vol. 6, page 205, and Visitation of Shropshire, 1623.]

Jocosa, aliter Ellin, daughter of Katharine Peshall and John Blount married Humphrey Wolryche of Dudmaston, co. Salop, 17 Hen. VII., and was mother of Roger Wolryche, who married Katherine, sister of Charles, Duke of Brandon, and o.s.p.; John Wolryche, ancestor of the Wolryches of Dudmaston, Barts., so created May 4, 1641, extinct; he married Mary, daughter of John Gattacre "The fair Maid of Gatacre" and Edward Wolryche of Dynmore., co. Hereford, ancestor of the Wolryches of Croxley House, co. Herts. [Notes & Queries, 3rd series, vol. 8, by Phillippa Swinnerton Hughes, nee De Pearsall, and Visitation of Shropshire, 1623.]

4. Edward Wolryche; 5. Humphrey Wolryche; 6. a daughter married to Sir Richard Peshall, knt.; 7. a daughter married to Wolley of Worley; and 8. Elizabeth married to Edward Hopton.

Harleian MSS No. 1241 gives the Wolryche pedigree. The marshall was however in error as to the father of Joyce Peshall who married Humphrey Wool-

Inquisition taken at Bretwood, co. Staff. 17 Nov. 16 Hen. VIII. (1524) to enquire after the death of Richard Persall. The jurors say that Richard Pessall was seized of a messuage and lands in Stafford Borough. The said Richard died 10 August 12 Hen. VIII. (1520) and Richard Appulby, gent., son of Joan sister of Humfrey Pessall, father of said Richard and Alice Lytleton, widow, daughter of Katherin, sister of the said Humfrey Pessall are next of kin of said Richard and his heirs and Richard Appulby is aged 60 years and Alice is aged 60 years. John Blount, Esq. has taken the issues and profits of the lands since Richard's death, but by what right the jurors know not. [Chancery Inquisitions, Post Mortem series II, vol. 41, No. 50.]

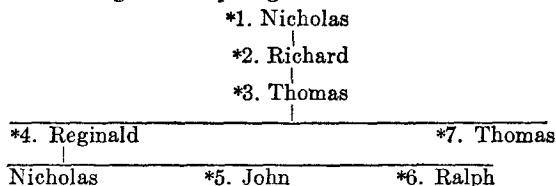
Humphrey Pyssal of Knightley, armiger, and others sued by George, Duke of Clarence for abducting the daughter of Edmund Appulby who is under age. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 4, n.s. page 163.]

SECTION 4.

*1. NICHOLAS DE PESHALL, son of Sir Richard Peshall, Chapter 18, Section 1. Married ——. Child:—

1. Richard de Peshall. See No. 2.

The following chart will give the pedigree of this line as follows:—



The numbers refer to the divisions of the text which follows.

Gaol Delivery made at the Castle of Shrewsbury before Robert de Charlton and John Hulle, Justices assigned, &c., on the Wednesday after the Feast of St. James, 19 Richard II. 1396 Salop. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 16, page 30.] Nicholas de Peshale, the Rector of Eggemondon, and Robert de Peshale of Knyghton, who had been indicted before Thomas Neuport, and his fellow Justices of the Peace, for aiding and abetting the escape from the King's Prison in the Castle of Shrewsbury, of Thomas Peshale, knight, Adam Peshale, the son of Richard Peshale, chivaler, Nicholas, son of the same Richard Peshale, and Richard the servant of Thomas Peshale, chivaler, on the Sunday after the Feast of Corpus Christi, 17 R. II., and which indictment had been returned before the Justices, together with the outlawry promulgated against the said Thomas Peshale, Adam, Nicholas, and Richard, the servant of Thomas, surrendered, and stated they were not guilty and appealed to a jury which acquitted them.

Nicholas de Peshale is named in the Plea Rolls, Coram Rege, 20 Richard II. (1399) as being the son of Joan Peshale nee Chetwynd, who had been the wife of John Bate of Horsley, co. Stafford. Nicholas at that time was outlawed. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 16, page 31.]

*2. RICHARD DE PESHALL. Child:—

1. Thomas de Peshall.

The Sheriff was ordered to produce *Coram Rege*, 2 Henry V., Richard Pershall of Newport, co. Salop. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 16, page 20-21.]

*3. THOMAS PESHALL, of Newport, Salop, married ——. Children:—

1. Reginald Peshall. See No. 4.
2. Thomas Persall. See No. 7.

Coram Rege 17 Edward IV. 1478 Salop. It had been presented at Ludlowe before Richard Grey, the son of the dearly beloved Consort of the King, and his Fellow Justices on the Tuesday after the Feast of Holy Trinity, 17 Edward IV, on the oath of twelve jurymen, that Hugh Peshale, of Knyghtley, co. Stafford, armiger, on the 10th of August, 16 Edward IV., at Newport, co. Salop, had given divers liveries of cloth and gowns, to Thomas Peshale, of Newport, co. Salop, Reginald Peshale, of Newport, Roger Burton, of Newport, Richard Mon of Newport, Maurice Taylour, alias Maurice ap Jernan ap Atkyn, of Newport, Thomas Burton, Thomas Wryght, Henry Rise, all of Newport, Edmund Lee, of Edgemunon, co. Salop, and five others named against the ordinance and provision of the Statute, and which indictment the King for certain causes had ordered to be brought up and terminated in this Court. And at this term the said Hugh and the other defendants appeared by their attorney and pleaded that the indictment was insufficient in law, as it did not mention what liveries had been given, or that they had been accepted. And the indictment having been examined, the Court was of opinion that it was insufficient, and that the said Hugh and the other defendants might be discharged. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 16, page 110.]

Coram Rege 17 Edward IV. 1478 Salop. Hugh Pessale, of Knyghtley, co. Stafford, armiger, John Byrne, of Chircheyton, co. Stafford, Henry Goodeclerke, of Knyghtley, John More of Whetynaston, Thomas More of Whetynaston, Thomas Erhall, of Knyghtley, Robert Sambroke of Oulton, co. Stafford, William Chetewyne, of Mochelayston, co. Salop, John Stoke of Pykstoke, co. Salop, Thomas Pessale, of Neuport, co. Salop, Reginald Pessale of Neuport, and sixty-two others named described as of Neuport, Eggemund, and other places in co. Salop, were attached at the suit of William Yonge, knight, for breaking into his close and house at Kaynton on the 1st February, 16 Edward IV., burning his fences, and beating and wounding his servants, and so threatening them that they were afraid to leave the enclosure of their houses and he lost their services for a length of time. The defendants appeared by attorney and asked for license "*inde interloquendi*" up to a month from Michaelmas, which was granted. A post-script shows further adjournments of the suit, in the same plea, up to Michaelmas term, 18 Edward IV. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 16, page 109.]

*4. REGINALD PESHALL, married ——. Children:—

1. Nicholas Persall.
2. John Persall. See No. 5.
3. Ralph Persall. See No. 6.

Subsidy Roll. Salop. Sum paid by way of anticipation of subsidy granted 34-35 Henry VIII. (1543) by inhabitants of Shrewsbury. Villa Salop:—Nicholas P'sell in lands 20 marks 8 shillings 8 pence.

It is interesting to note that the family kept constantly returning to the vicinity of Edgmond. Thus Newport was founded within the royal manor of

Edgmond. Newport appears to have been founded by the Anglo-Norman king, Henry I., in whose time the burgesses of Newport enjoyed franchises and had customs. King Henry II. by his charter, dated at Brewood, between the years 1163 and 1166 confirms to the Burgesses of Novo Burgo all those liberties and rights which they had in the time of King Henry his grandfather. At the assizes of 1203, the new borough was represented by its own community. It was alleged against them that the assize of Bread was not kept in their town. [Shropshire, Its Early Hist. & Antiquities, by John Corbet Anderson, London, 1845.]

On January 23, 1287, King Edward I. at Shrewsbury, inspected and confirmed Henry the Second's charter to the burgesses of Novus Burgus. At the assizes of 1292, the "Vill of Neuport" was represented by William Noblet, its chief bailiff, William Rondulf, Richard Alemond, Robert de Morton, Richard de la Loue, John Rondulf, and Roger Priest, jurors. Under the head, De Libertibus, it was presented at these assizes, that the burgesses of Novus Burgus claimed to have a court, to assize bread and beer, and to have a merchant-guild. Appearing, the burgesses explained that they had exercised these franchises from time immemorial. They adduced Henry the Second's charter, and said that both before and after that charter, they had exercised these franchises.

Newport Church, coeval with the borough, of Newport, was originally an affiliation of Edgmond; and, as such, belonged to Shrewsbury Abbey.

*5. JOHN PERSALL: Northampton Records:—

In the Name of God Amen I John Perresall the VII day of January in the year of our Lord God 1527 make my testament and last wyll after this form following fyrst I bequeath my Sole unto Almighty God & lady Seynt Mary & to all the holy company of hevyn my bodie to be

buried within the churchyard of Irthingborowe Item I bequeath for my mortuary [destroyed] after my bodie is brought to the earth my debts & will fullfilled I bequeath all to Marjory my wyffe who I also make my executrix.

*6. RALPH PERSALL.

In dei nomine Amen the 26th day of April in the yere of our Lord God anno domini 1560 I Raphe Persall of Sutton in the Countie house of Northampton in the County of Northampton, Clerk Vicar of the parish of All Saints though sicke in bodie but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be given to Almighty God make my testament and last will in manner and forme following First I commend my Soule &c &c &c & my bodie to be buried in the Parish Churchyard of All Saints aforesaid—Item I give & bequeath to Agnes my wife Wm Persall my son Elisabeth and Marye Persall my daughters all my goodes household stuffe & all that I give whatsoever they be equallie and valably (?) amonge the three & be divided and parted by and with the aide and advice of Henry Neale, Martin Addams and William Stanley all of Northampton aforesaid and I will that my debts be paid by my Wiffe and my said iii children equallie out of their parte

and portions and I comytte the custodie and guidment of Mary my daughter to the said Agnes my wife and the custodie guidment and bestowinge of William my son and Elizabeth my daughter I comytt to the said Henry Neale Martin Addams and to William Stanley as to them [a few words obliterated] their parte or portions of goods—Item I order & make the said Agnes my wife & William Persall my sonne Elizabeth & Mary Persall my daughters executors of this my last will & testament to performe the same in . . . behalf and I gyve the said Henry Neale, Martyn Addams and William Stanley 10£ to either of them and to Martyn Addams my latin bible for and towards their pains to see the same performed & I have desired the . . . names are here under written that is to saie Robert Senell . . . Ward. John flow and John Broke they to be witnesses of the same. Probate was given the sixth daie of July 1560. By the same authority.

*7. THOMAS PERSALL:—

The Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London Bundle 10. No. 99, Early Chancery Proceedings. To the right reverend Lord and father in God the Bishop of Bath and Chancellor of England.

Bisecheth lowly your poure bedeman Thomas Persale of London, Bladsmyth where that your said poure bisecher on the XI day of Aprill in the XI yere of the reyne (II. Hen. VI. A.D. 1433.) of our Soverane lord the King that now is at present at the prayer and special request of one Stephen Alby of Hithe in the countie of Kent was bound by his dede obligatorie to one Richard Lovelace Citezen and Mercer of London in. iiij lbs sterlinges in the which iiij lbs the said Stephen thenne was in dette to the said Richard and the said iiij lbs to be paid to the said Richard on the first day of Maij thatt next commeth as in the said obligation more playnly it appiereth. The said Thomas then trusting verilly that the said Stephen wolde have saved him as of and for the said payement

harmless the which iiij lbs for default of payement of the said Stephen thereof at said daye of payement your said nowe poure bisecher by the helpe of his friends payd to the said Richard Lovelace to his grete grievans and hurt at that time and yet is And it is like to turne to him in most grievous hereafter without your special grace [to] plead it to your good and gracious Lordship to consider these premises and holde that your said bisecher hath no remedie against the said Stephen as for the payment of the said iiij lbs atte common lawe And so to grant a writte and demand [subpoena] [so that Stephen] appear before you in the Chancery of our said Soveran lord at a certayn day by you graciously to lymyte and that then the said matter may be examined And that your said bisecher may have right of the said Stephen as for the recovery of the said iiij lbs as good conscience and truth requireth. And that for the love of God and in way of Charitie.