## CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

## SIR HUGH DE PESHALE Sixth in Ancestry

Section 1, Sir Hugh de Peshall-Section 2, Ancestry of Juliana Corbet.

## SECTION 1.

- 6. SIR HUGH DE PESHALL, son of Hugh de Peshall, Chapter 21, Section 1, married Juliana, widow of John Sandford and daughter of Sir Roger Corbet of Moreton Corbet Castle, Salop. Child:—
  - 1. \*5. HUMPHREY PESHALL, Chapter 23, Section 1.

Sir Hugh took part in the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, where he was one of the four who were knighted on the field.

The following appears in the Harleian MSS. No. 1241, published in volume 29. The Visitations of Shropshire 1623, page 431.

Rex vicecom' Salop precipe Ric'o Sandford qd reddit Hugoni Peshall ar. et Juliana uxor eius quae fuit uxor Joh'i de Sandford rationabilem dotem in Brockton Roughall et Iuietes Ano. 10 E. 4. (Translation: The King orders the vicecount of Salop Richard Sandford that he give to Hugh Peshall, armiger, and Juliana his wife who has been the wife of John de Sandford her reasonable dower in Brockton. Roughall and Iuietes, anno 10 Ed. 4 [1471].)

Hugh Peshale, knight, of Horseley. Keeper and Justice of the Peace of Staffordshire, 1485-1489. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 1912, page 317.]

November 4, 1488, Hugh Persall, knight, sheriff of Staffordshire (account rendered by widow of Horseley). [*Ibid.*, vol. 1912, page 283.]

Sir Hugh Peshall resided at Horsley, Staffordshire, and he makes the fourth generation of our ancestors who were associated with the house of Lancaster in its efforts to get and to hold the throne of England. As to the house of York, while nominally reigning twenty-four years, nevertheless, so strong was the opposition made by the party of the Red Rose that at no time could it be said that the king of the White Rose was firmly seated upon the throne of England and that peace and harmony prevailed throughout the realm. In fact, in 1470 Edward IV. was driven into exile and Henry VI., the Lancaster king for a very brief period, was restored to the throne only to be speedily replaced by the young York king. At no other period of English history were such cruelties and barbarities practised as in the Wars of the Roses. It would be useless to attempt to try to make even a list of the crimes committed, as every act of depravity ever devised by mankind, with the help of the evil one, was perpetrated by both sides. The constant changes in the personnel of the York king's own political party and the consequent quarrels among his own followers gave the Lancaster party an opportunity every once in a while to have a rest from the everlasting harrowing they received at the hands of their enemies. The history of the time at first



seems to revolve around the acts of the Earl of Warwick, who is called the king-maker and the title is truly significant of the weakness of the York king. Warwick was however only representative of the noblemen supporting this dynasty in that he was selfish, treacherous and untrustworthy, counting his oath as lightly as a jest. In this he and they only reflected the character of the king and his household. For example, after the Battle of Chillenham, in 1471, King Edward's own conduct was cruel and unscrupulous enough. He himself, sword in hand, pursued a number of the defeated party into the abbey church at Tewkesbury. A priest, bearing host in his hand, came out to meet him at the door, and obtained from him a promise that he would spare the lives of the Duke of Somerset and fourteen other persons who had sought refuge there. But in violation of this pledge they were all beheaded two days later. [The Houses of Lancaster & York, by James Gairdner, page 195-196.]

Even his historians say that the utmost that can be said to extenuate Edward's perfidy on this and other occasions is that he had recourse to it at the most critical period in his fortunes, when beset with difficulties at every turn. His natural disposition does not appear to have been cruel; but at Barnet he gave no quarter, feeling that all was lost for him if he did not deal that day a decisive blow against the enemy.

The sudden and extraordinary changes of fortune experienced by the two rival kings during those unhappy commotions were shared by their adherents among the nobility, some of whom during the adverse circumstances of their party suffered the most severe distress and poverty. Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, who, though he had married a sister of Edward IV., took part with the House of Lancaster, was seen at one time in the Low Countries bare-footed and bare-legged, begging his bread from door to door, till he was recognized and pensioned by the Duke of Burgundy. Queen Elizabeth Woodville, when her husband was driven into exile, was obliged to take refuge in the Sanctuary at Westminster, where she gave birth to her eldest son, afterwards Edward V. [Ibid., page 197.]

This was not a time when public records were made, nor when courts sat administering exact, impartial and well balanced justice in accordance with the laws of the land. The wonder, therefore, is not only that there should be records but that our line was spared the annihilation which at this time visited so many noble English families; for no sooner was the menace of Warwick removed by his execution, than the family quarrels in the house of York not only continued the work of undermining the hold of this family upon the English throne, but secretly and in every underhand way possible the factions of York fomented the Wars of the Roses. On April 9, 1483, Edward IV. after a troubled reign of twenty-two years, died, and left as his heir a son Edward, who was only thirteen years of age, to succeed him on the throne of England. All that came to him of his father's fortune, rank and estate was lost, as his uncle Richard usurped the throne, and murdered the lad, his nephew, although he was the real king of the house of York. This murder was perpetrated because of an effort to release the young king from prison and place him upon the throne instead of his uncle.

The news of the murder excited throughout the country strong feelings of grief and indignation. But to those implicated in the conspiracy for the libera-

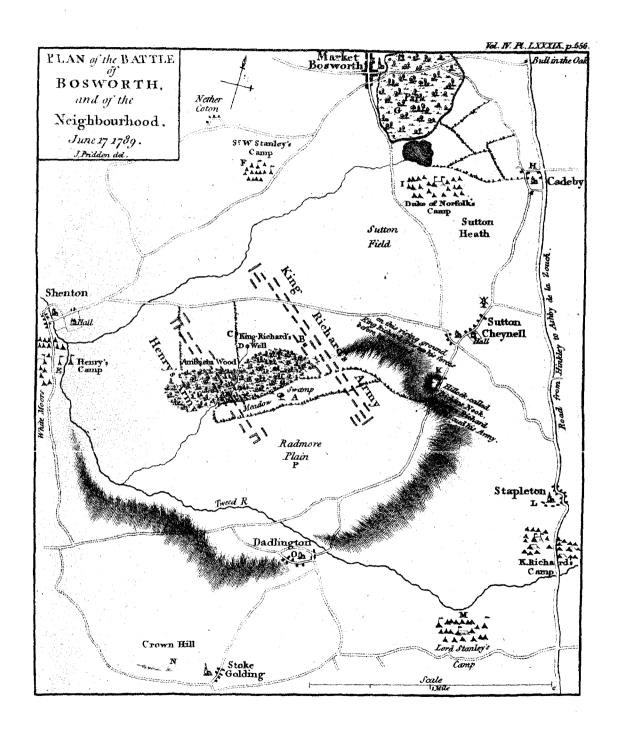
tion of the princes it was more especially alarming. A new object, however, was presently supplied to them. The male issue of Edward IV. being now extinct, a project was formed for marrying his eldest daughter Elizabeth to Henry, Earl of Richmond, a refugee in Brittany, who was regarded as the head of the deposed House of Lancaster; and Buckingham wrote to the earl to cross the seas, while he and others in England should make an insurrection in his favor. [The Houses of Lancaster & York, by J. Gairdner, page 222-224. Staff. Hist. Col. Vol. 6, pt. 2, page 249.]

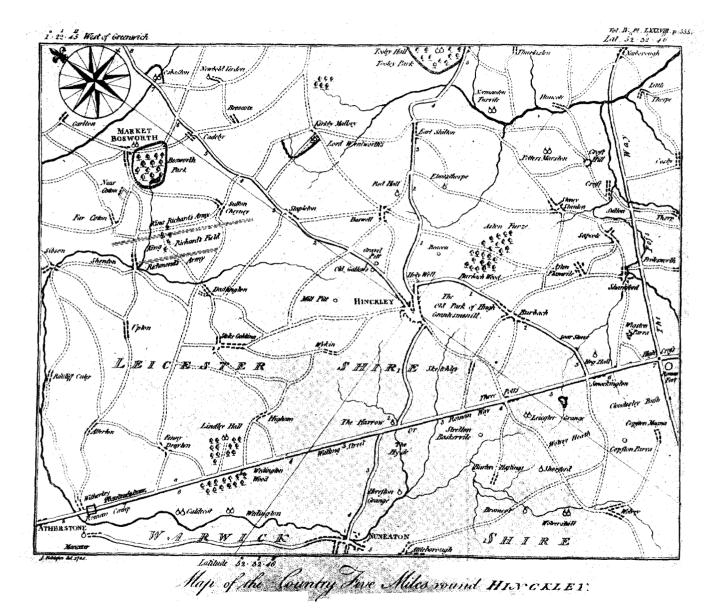
The rebellion took place as planned but Richard was cognizant of it all; perhaps he abetted it and so he easily put it down. If the first king of the house of York enjoyed the opposition of the nobles allied with the house of Lancaster the new one had added to this the secret enmity of many of his brother's best friends. King Richard, however, made every effort to get and keep friends.

He was liberal in his distribution of offices and he endeavored to put the machinery of justice in all the counties in the hands of those who were loyal or supposed to be loyal to him. In Staffordshire most of the gentry were in sympathy with the house of Lancaster. As a result, in the Commissions of the Peace for Staffordshire, issued by Richard III. in the first and second years of his reign, most of the names are those of well known Yorkists. The names of most of the principal gentry of the county are conspicuous by their absence from these lists, the only names of Staffordshire landowners on them being:—John Sutton, Lord Dudley; John Blount of Mountjoy; John Gresley; Richard Wrottesley; Humphrey Persall of Kinlet (he and his son Hugh supported the house of York); Nicholas Mountgomery; Ralph Wolseley and John Cawardyne.

But whatever arts Richard used—cajolery, promises, bribes, or threats,—to turn enemies into friends or to defeat the plans of his opponents, they never were successful except partially and for a time. Sir Thomas More, a great wit and genius, who in those days was a child, but afterwards wrote a life of King Richard from the information of persons then living, says of him that with large gifts he got him unsteadfast friendship, for which he was fain to pill and spoil in other places and get him steadfast hatred. Before his brief reign came to an end he found himself obliged to replenish his empty exchequer by having recourse once more to those detested benevolences which he had promised in Parliament should never again be levied. Such measures, of course, made him more than ever unpopular at home, while the preparations of the Earl of Richmond abroad continually gave him much anxiety. [The Houses of Lancaster & York, by James Gairdner, page 230-231.]

Richmond, however, had sent messages into England by which he was assured of a considerable amount of support; and he borrowed money from the King of France with which he fitted out a small fleet at Harfleur and embarked for Wales where his uncle, Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, possessed great influence. Richard, knowing of the intended invasion, but being uncertain where his enemy might land, had taken up his position in the center of the kingdom. Following a plan first put in use by his brother Edward during the Scotch war, he had stationed messengers at intervals of twenty miles along all the principal roads to the coast to bring him early intelligence. But Henry landed at Milford Haven at the





farthest extremity of South Wales, where, perhaps, Richard had least expected him; and so small was the force by which he was accompanied that the news did not at first give the King very much anxiety. He professed great satisfaction that his adversary was now coming to bring matters to the test of battle. The earl, however, was among friends from the moment he landed. Pembroke was his native town, and the inhabitants expressed their willingness to serve his uncle, the Earl of Pembroke, as their natural and immediate lord. The very men whom Richard had placed to keep the country against him, at once joined his party, and he passed on to Shrewsbury with little or no opposition. [Ibid., page 231-232.]

The King's unsteadfast friendships on the other hand were now rapidly working his ruin. Richard, however, was very naturally suspicious of Lord Stanley, his rival's stepfather, who though he was steward of the royal household, had asked leave shortly before the invasion to go home and visit his family in Lancashire. This the King granted only on condition that he would send his son, George Lord Strange, to him at Nottingham in his place. Lord Strange was accordingly sent to the King; but when the news arrived of Henry's landing, Richard desired the presence of his father also. Stanley pretended illness, an excuse which could not fail to increase the King's suspicions. His son at the same time made an attempt to escape, and being captured, confessed that he himself and his uncle Sir William Stanley had formed a project with others to go over to the enemy; but he protested his father's innocence and assured the King that he would obey the summons. He was made to understand that his own life depended on his doing so, and he wrote a letter to his father accordingly. [Ibid., page 232-233.]

Richard having mustered his followers at Nottingham went on to Leicester to meet his antagonist and encamped at Bosworth on the night of August 21. The Earl of Richmond had arrived near the same place with an army of 5,000 men, which is supposed to have been not more than half that of the King. That day, however, Lord Stanley had come to earl Richmond secretly at Atherstone to assure him of his support in the coming battle. He and his brother Sir William were each at the head of a force not far off, and were only temporizing to save the life of his son Lord Stanley. This information relieved Henry's mind of much anxiety, for at various times since he landed he had felt serious misgivings about the success of the enterprise. The issue was now to be decided on the following day.

At this time the Earl of Richmond asked for four knights to be detailed as his special body guard. Hugh Peshall was one of those selected for this purpose and it was agreed that the Earl and his special guards should lead the hosts of Lancaster in the battle the following day.

Bosworth Field, everlastingly famous, derives its historical name from Bosworth, one mile distant. Its real name is Redmore Plain, from the color of the soil: as the meadows on the west are called White-moors for the same reason. It belongs to Sutton Cheynell, an adjacent village on the east. It is rather of an oval form, about two miles long, and one broad, and is nearly in a line between Bosworth and Atherston. On one side was a wood and about thirty yards above

the wood is a spring, called at this day King Richard's Well. A small discharge of water flows from the well, directly down the hill, through the wood, into the rivulet; but, having no channel cut for its passage, it penetrates through the soil, and forms that morass which Henry is said to have left on his right. [History of the County of Leicester, by John Nichols, London 1811, vol. 4, part 2, page 549.]

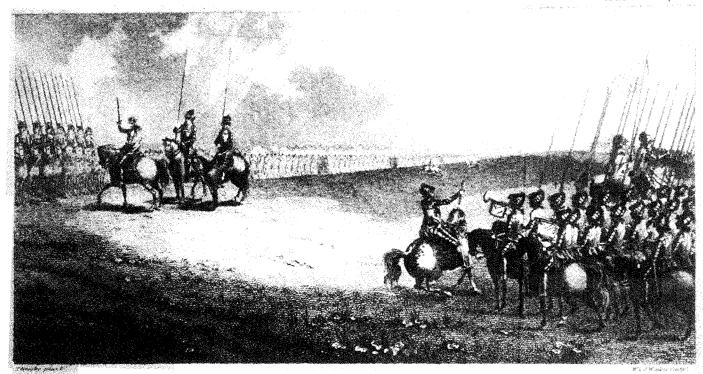
Richard, despising the supposed weakness of his adversary, yet desiring effectually to crush him, led his army, on the 16th, in great regal state, from Nottingham castle to Leicester, which town he entered in open pomp, the crownroyal on his head; and, on the 17th, quitted it in the same manner, expecting to meet his rival at Hinckley. That night he passed at Elmsthorpe, where his officers slept in the church. On the 18th he marched to Stapleton, where he pitched his camp on ground called The Bradshaws, where he continued till Sunday the 21st, when both armies came in sight of each other. In the evening Richard removed to Anbein Hill, where he pitched his field, refreshed his soldiers, and took his rest.

At this place King Richard III., as the report hath gone, was entertained here with two unwelcome accidents; the one a prediction, the other a vision. For the first, it was foretold that if ever King Richard did come to meet his adversary in a place that was compassed with towns whose termination was in ton, that there he should come to great distress; or else, upon the same occasion did happen to lodge at a place beginning and ending with the same syllable of An, as this of Anbian, that there he should lose his life, to expiate that wicked murder of his late wife Anne, daughter and coheir of Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick. The vision is reported to be in this manner: King Richard lying in his tent, there appeared unto him divers fearful ghosts, running about him, not suffering him to take any rest, still crying revenge; which vision he related to his friends in the morning. But Polydire Vergil, in his English History, in the life of King Richard III. will not have this to be any vision or dream at all, but only a guilty conscience. Another accident here happened to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, a chief friend of King Richard; who having a caveat given him by a rhyming distich, as the vulgar Chroniclers say, fixed upon his pavilion, which reads,

> Jack of Norfolk, be not too bold, For Dickon thy master is bought and sold.

But as the more received report goeth, the warning was by a letter thrown into his tent, discovering the falling off of the puissant Lord Stanley and the revolt of many other of the nobles; which he, whether upon a strong assurance of the king's power, or the touch of his own allegiance, or, perhaps, deferment of the reading thereof to some fitter time, neglected the perusal, and consequence thereof; and so, with the king, was there slain.

The next morning early, bringing all his men out of the camp into the plain, Richard ordered both horsemen and footmen to be drawn up in a length of line, that their numbers might appear as large as possible. The archers were placed in the front under the command of the Duke of Norfolk and his son the Earl of Surrey. This long vanguard was followed by Richard himself with a chosen



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band, supported on each side with wings of horsemen. The whole number exceeded 16,000.

The army of Richmond, which amounted not to 5,000, was proportionally arranged by their gallant leader. The archers, in a narrow front, were led by the Earl of Oxford; the right wing was entrusted to Sir Gilbert Talbot, the left to Sir John Savage. Richmond himself reserved a good company of horse and a small number of foot.

On each side the leader addressed his troops with a splendid oration; which was scarcely finished, says an old historian, but the one army espied the other. Lord! how hastily the soldiers buckled their helms, how quickly the archers bent their bows, and brushed their feathers—how readily the billmen shook their bills and proved their staves, ready to approach and join when the terrible trumpet should sound the bloody blast to victory or death! Between both armies there was a great morass, which the Earl of Richmond left on his right hand for this intent, that it should be on that side a defence for his part; and in so doing he had the sun at his back, and in the faces of his enemies.

The first conflict of the archers being over, the armies met fiercely with swords and bills; and at this period Richmond was joined by Lord Stanley, which determined the fortune of the day. The Earl of Northumberland, upon whose support Richard had relied, stood still with all his followers and looked on.

At Bosworth-field Richard is thought to have despised his enemy too much, and been too dilatory in his motions. As the contest was almost personal, the Royal Commanders should in prudence have kept out of danger; but, for the same reason, they were obliged to encounter the greatest danger, as they could not decently desire their followers to do for them what they themselves would not do for themselves, who alone were to be benefited. It would have been better to have appointed a band of determined men to lie by till they could see where the opposite Commander was, with orders to fight neither with great nor small, but with him only, as all depended upon his death. It seems that Richard attempted somewhat of this kind; but he should not have been of the party himself, unless he had alienated the minds of some of his chief followers, as certainly was the case. His own known character as a soldier, his superiority in numbers, and, as one should suppose, better appointed army, should not only have secured him the victory, but it should have enabled his band, chosen for the purpose, to have killed Richmond and thus ended the contest. But the followers of Richmond, although few, were experienced soldiers, trained in the years of the Wars of the Roses, and Henry selected only four knights to overcome the expected personal attack.

Says an old MS. in the British Museum, Kynge Henry askyd the vaward of lord Stanley, which he grantyd, and lent to him iiii knyghts to go with hym to the vaward, Gilbert Talbut, John Savage, sir Hughe Peshall, and sir George Stanley; thes arrayed them to the vaward with the kynge; the lord Stanley the second battail had; sir William Stanley he was the hyndermoste at the first settyng. Then they removyd to a hyghe mountayne; and, lokyng into a dale of . . . . . myles coompasse, they saw no syght for armyd men and traped steds in iiii battayls.

This small band fought so valiantly that the initiative was never with the army of Richard, so that when he ordered such a special attack to be made upon the Earl of Richmond, it was entirely too late. The tide of battle was with Richmond and it was impossible for Richard and his chosen band to reach his adversary, let alone to kill him. Sir Hugh was one of these four knights. What more can be said in praise of any soldier?

Says the old manuscript in the British Museum:—When the vaward began to fight, kynge Henry dyd full manfully; so dyd the erle of Oxford, so dyd sir John Savage; sir Gilbert Talbot dyd the lyke; Sir Hughe Peshall also, with many othar. Richard on his part, it is universally acknowledged, performed prodigies of valour. Desperate at last he rushed into the thickest of the fight. Shakespeare makes this act of Richard the very climax of his tragedy of King Richard III.—

Cate. Rescue, my Lord of Norfolk, rescue, rescue!
The king enacts more wonders than a man,
Daring an opposite to every danger:
His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,
Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death.
Rescue, fair Lord, or else the day is lost!
Alarums. Enter King Richard.

K. Rich. A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!

Servant. Withdraw, my lord; I'll help you to a horse.

K. Rich. Slave, I have set my life upon a cast,

And I will stand the hazard of the die.

I think there be six Richmonds in the field;

Five have I slain today instead of him.

A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse! [Exeunt.

[Shakespeare's King Richard III., act 5, scene 5.]

The old MS. makes the king's squire to be fearful of the outcome of the battle. Then to Kynge Richard, it says, ther cam a knyght, and sayd, 'I hold it tyme for ye to flye; yonder Stanley his dynts be so sore, against them no man stand. Here is thy hors for to ryde: an other day ye may worshipe wyne.' He sayd, 'Brynge me my battayl axe in my hand, and set the crowne of gold on my hed so hye; for, by hym that shope bothe se and sand, kynge of England this day will I dye; one foote away I will not fle, whill brethe wyll byde my brest within.' [Hist. of the County of Leicester, by John Nichols, London 1811, vol. 4, part 2, page 549.]

Once mounted upon a fresh horse he rode furiously to that quarter of the field where he was fully determined to if possible engage Richmond in single combat. In this fierce drive he and his guard broke through all opposing forces and actually reached the special guard of Richmond of whom, as we have seen, Sir Hugh Peshall was one, and endeavored to single out Richmond as his special adversary. He attacked Sir William Brandon the standard-bearer of Richmond and killed him. Then he assaulted Sir John Cheney whom he overthrew. Some of the accounts say that he actually reached Richmond and engaged in single combat with him. This is the view taken by Shakespeare in his work. This would seem to be a poetic license, as the body guard of Richmond ranked with England's most valorous warriors and were the equal in prowess and knightly

skill of any other quartet in the realm; and had Richmond slain Richard, as it reads in the play, then the story of the loss of the crown and its recovery together with other incidents would not have been possible. Richard's rough, fierce on-slaught was so speedily checked by Richmond's body guard, and Richard so quickly killed, that the historian and Dame Rumor have had difficulty to account for a fate so tragic of a warrior of such recognized skill, prowess and overpowering strength; hence there has arisen all this contradiction in the account of the climax of the battle. Richard being dead the battle was thereby ended. It had lasted less than two hours. [Houses of Lancaster and York, by Gairdner, page 232.]

The body of Richard being found among the slain, covered with wounds, dust and blood, after suffering many shameful indignities was hung over a horse like a calf, behind a perservant de armes named Blanch Sanglin or White Boar, who wore a silver boar upon his coat, which was also the cognizance of Richard, whose body was thus carried to Leicester in triumph that afternoon. The corpse was perfectly naked, the feet hung on one side, the hands on the other, and the head lately adorned with a crown, dangling like a thrown-mop. No king ever made so degraded a spectacle; humanity and decency ought not to have suffered it. [Ibid.]

During the sovereignty of Richard the White Boar was a common sign for the wayside taverns; thus a compliment was paid him without the house, and his health drunk within; but at his death, the landlords took down their White Boars, and where any one omitted it the fickle multitude pulled it down for him.

To this day in England we often behold the sign of the Black-boar, and the Blue-boar, but never the White. Tradition tells us, the inn where Richard slept at Leicester was the White-boar in honor of the sovereign; but the proprietor, like others, was obliged to change it for the Blue. [Hist. of the Co. of Leicester, by John Nichols, London 1811, vol. 4, part 2, page 549.]

Richard was the only English Monarch since the Conquest who fell in battle; and the second who fought in his crown; an indication of courage, because, from such a distinguishing mark, the person of Majesty is readily singled out for destruction. Henry the Fifth appeared in his at Agincourt, which was the means of saving his life, by sustaining a stroke with a battle-axe, which cleft it. But Richard's falling off, in his last fiery struggle, was taken up by a private soldier, who contrived to secrete it in a bush in the field, perhaps with a view to secure it for himself; but, being discovered, it was delivered to Sir Reginald Bray; hence arises the device of a crown in a hawthorn-bush at each end of Henry's tomb in Westminster Abbey. When the pursuit was over, Bray delivered the battered crown to Lord Stanley, who placed it on Henry's head, hailed him King, and, as usual, sung the Te Deum, and directed the soldiers to huzza the rural monarch with Long live King Henry! This was performed upon a hill near Stoek, from thence called Crownhill.

Tradition tells us they raised their voices to the highest pitch, to inform their companions in Bosworth-field, in full view of each other across the valley, that the pursuit was over, and the victory complete.

The Chronicles depict the scene most vividly as follows:

When the erle had obteined the victorie, he kneeled downe and rendered to almightie God his heartie thanks, with devout and godlie orisons. Which praier

finished, he ascended up to the top of a little mounteine, where he not onelie praised his valiant souldiers, but also gave them his heartie thanks, with promise of condigne recompense for their fidelitie and valiant feats. Then the people rejoised and clapped their hands, crying,—King Henrie, king Henrie! When the lord Stanlie saw the good will and gladnesse of the people, he tooke the crown of king Richard, which was found amongst the spoile in the field, and set it on the erles head; as though he had beene elected by the voice of the people, as in times past in diverse realmes it hath beene accustomed.

Shakespeare's presentation is also worth repeating although it is not so dramatic as the story in the Chronicles. His version goes:

Richm. God and your arms be praised, victorious friends!

The day is ours; the bloody dog is dead.

Derby. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou acquit thee.
Lo, here, this long usurped royalty
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal:
Wear it, enjoy it, and make much of it.

Richm. Great God of heaven, say amen to all!

But, tell me, is young George Stanley living?

Derby. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town;

Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw us.

[Shakespeare's Tragedy of King Richard III., act v., scene v.]

King Henry VII. had received the most of his support from the Welsh, among whom was their leader Richard ap Howell. When the battle was over Henry invited him to court, but the honest Welsh nobleman replied I will dwell among mine own people. Henry then presented him with the sword and belt he had worn that day, with which, attended by his followers, he retreated into Wales, the little king of half a county.

The King's next thought was for his noble body guard who had defended him against the personal onslaught of Richard, and who overcame this vicious attack, which had it resulted otherwise than it did, would have completely closed the course of Lancastrian occupation of the English throne. Thereupon Henry VII. knighted, on the field of battle in full view of his army, Sir Robert Tunstall, Sir John Savage, Sir Hugh Peshall and Sir Gilbert Talbot. After King Henry VII. had gone to Leicester there were others knighted, either this same day or the next, so that those knighted at Bosworth finally included the following named gentlemen: Gilbert Talbot, John Mortain, Richard ap Thomas, Robert Point, Humphrey Stanley, John Turberwide, Robert Willoughby, Hugh Pershull, Richard Edgecombe, John Bickenigle, de Baron de Congow &c. [Bosworth Field by W. Hutton, page 138.]

King Henry was not so foolish as to desire to continue this civil warfare, so he very wisely married Elizabeth, princess of York, and daughter and heir of Edward IV., whereby he brought the Wars of the Roses to an end, and the House of Tudor, as representing both Lancaster and York, became firmly seated on the throne of England, where for one hundred and eighteen years it fills the brightest

pages of English history. It is with this incident that Shakespeare closes his tragedy of King Richard III. He makes Richmond say:

Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled, That in submission will return to us: And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament, We will unite the white rose and the red. Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction, That long have frown'd upon their enmity! What traitor hears me, and says not amen? England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself; The brother blindly shed the brother's blood, The father rashly slaughter'd his own son, The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire: All this divided York and Lancaster, Divided in their dire division. O, now let Richmond and Elizabeth, The true succeeders of each royal house, By God's fair ordinance conjoin together! And let their heirs, God, if thy will be so, Enrich the time to come with smooth-faced peace, With smiling plenty and fair prosperous days! Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord, That would reduce these bloody days again, And make poor England weep in streams of blood! Let them not live to taste this land's increase, That would with treason wound this fair land's peace! Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again: That she may long live here, God say amen!

[History of the County of Leicester, by John Nichols, London 1811, vol. 4, part 2, page 549-55.]

This house of Tudor ruled England for many a year and only passed away with the death of the mighty Elizabeth, the virgin queen. The new king at least knew his friends, and the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire issued by Henry VII., as might be expected, contained the names of those who had been loyal to the house of Lancaster and consequently it included a larger proportion of the gentry of the county. It is dated the 27th September, 1 Henry VII. and contains the following names:—J. Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; Thomas Stanley of Stanley, knt.; John Sutton of Duddeley, knt.; John Gresley, knt.; Humphrey Stanley, knt.; Hugh Peshall, knt.; \*Humphrey Starky, knt.; \*William Wilkes; William Basset; Hugh Egerton; Richard Wrottesley; George Stanley; Hugh Erdeswyke; \*William Harper; \*Robert Hill; \*John Blount; and \*Thomas Tremayle. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 6, part 2, page 249.]

Those on the list marked with an asterisk were the professional Justices whose names occur in all the Commissions issued. The two Staffordshire lords, Audley and Devereux of Chartley, had attended the coronation of Richard III. The former was therefore left out, and the latter had been killed at Bosworth.

It is to the everlasting credit of King Henry VII. that he not only recognized their service by dubbing upon the field of Bosworth his four special guards to be knights, but he placed upon the records his own acknowledgement of the service.

In the Patent Roll of 1 Henry VII. pt. 4. m. 205, we find the following letter: 'For Sir Hugh Peshale, knt.:—The King, in consideration of the good and faithful

service which his dear knight of his body, Hugh Peshale, had done him and still continues to do, grants by these presents to said Hugh a certain annuity or annual rent of £20 sterling, to have and annually to receive from Michaelmas last past for the term of his life at the receipt of the Treasury by the hands of the Treasurer there for the time being at Easter and Michaelmas by equal portions, in anything otherwise stated to the contrary notwithstanding. Witness by the King at Westminster, 7 August. (1486.)

The terrible hardships of the Wars of the Roses told heavily upon the health of those who survived. Sir Hugh Peshall was dead in 1488, two years afterwards, while his son Humphrey, who served as his father's esquire, only survived him one year, dying in 1489.

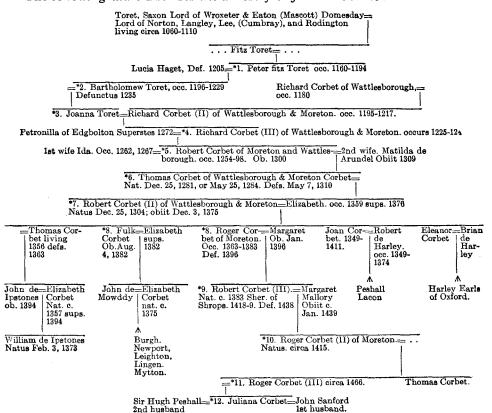
It is a rather unusual family distinction that our ancestors served at Agincourt and at Bosworth Field, each of which was not only memorable in English history, but was a victory for a king of the House of Lancaster who was actually in command of his army.

It was perhaps not an unusual incident of family history that there should be two members of the Peshall family, having high rank in the forces, arrayed in the Battle of Bosworth, but that they should both be named Hugh, and that one served King Richard III., while the other was in the special band of protectors for King Henry VII. was very far removed from the usual course of English family history. But this conflict of Hugh vs. Hugh also marks the time when the quarrels of the Kinlet and the Horsley branches of the Peshall family had reached a very strong heat. It was not possible for the two families to admit that they were in any way related, or that they had so much as a common ancestry, and a member of either of these families would not in any manner associate with the other. In fact it was an offense for their respective friends to in any way confuse the two families in their conversation and for this blunder there would be immediate reminder of the differences between the Peshall followers of the Red and those of the White Rose. Under such conditions our Sir Hugh did the proper and obviously right thing in changing the spelling and pronunciation of his family name. He became Pershall and was called Peer-saal, whereas the Kinlet branch of the family adhered to the old spelling of Peshall. The Ronton Branch, who were also followers of Lancaster, likewise changed the way of spelling the family name, but they dispensed with the silent h and became Persall. Thus there came about three distinct ways of spelling the common family name of Peshale, among the several branches thereof, residing practically in the original Staffordshire locality. An unexpected result of this change, when the families at Horsley and Ranton, circa 1486, ceased to use the old surname, and the Kinlet branch ceased, in 1490, to be a male line, was that the old appellation of Peshall came to an end just three hundred years after its first adoption as our family name. But they all adhered to the old sound of Paar-sall.

## SECTION 2.

Ancestry of JULIANA CORBET. It is an important fact that three generations of our ancestors were intimately associated with the Corbets, on the side

of the house of Lancaster, in the War of the Roses. To us therefore the Red Rose has a deep significance and commands more than usual sentimental interest. The following chart discloses the ancestry of Juliana Corbet.



The numbers indicate the divisions of the text which follows.

Domesday surveys Moreton Toret, now Moreton Corbet as one of Turold de Verley's and in the following words:—Ipse turoldus tenet Mortone et Hunnit de eo, cum fratre suo. Ipsi tenuerunt (tempore Regis Edwardi) et liberi homines fuerunt. Ibi 1 hida geldabilis. Terra est II carrucis. Ibi sunt (II carrucae) cum v. servis et uno bordario. Valebat x solidos. Modo (valet) XVI solidos. (Translation:—Turold with his brother holds Mortone and Hunnit from himself. They held (in the time of King Edward) and have been free men. (They held) there 1 geldable hide. The land is 2 carrucates with 5 servants and one bordar (in Norman times, a villein who held a cot by his lord's pleasure, with a small holding of land, for which he rendered menial service.) It was worth 10 soldios. It is worth altogether 16 solidos.) [Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire, vol. 10, page 184-192.]

Whatever were the misfortunes of Hunnit and his brother Uluiet, it is certain that the descendants of their contemporary and compatriot, Toret, succeeded to some of their estates, and it is also certain that a lineal descendant of the said Toret is at this day Lord of Moreton Corbet. These are terms in which very few

Shropshire estates can be spoken of. It is therefore becoming to trace so ancient an inheritance with the greatest attention through the earlier and darker period of its vicissitudes.

Toret was a Shropshire landowner not only in the reign of Edward the Confessor and William I., but was surviving in the reign of Henry I., and was then holding, not his Saxon or Domesday estates, but certain manors under Robert fitz Turold, which manors had previously been Hunnit's or Uluiet's.

\*1. PETER FITZ TORET, who appears first in 1160, was more probably the grandson or great-grandson, than the son of Toret. In that year a Donum of £46 4s. 4d. was assessed on the greater Proprietors of Shropshire. Peter Fitz Tured's proportion was a considerable one, viz. 7s. 3d., but it was excused by a Writ of King Henry II. In 1167, the Demesne-lands of Peter Fitz Torette paid an amercement of 6s. 8d., set upon them by Alan de Nevill, then Justice of the Forest. Peter fitz Thoret in 1180 attests Deeds of William fitz Alan (II), of Madoc, son of Gervase Goch.

It was the daughter of this William Fitz Alan who married Dr. Walter Peshale, I. Peter Fitz Thoret also attested very many of the deeds of Walter de Dunstanville (I). In these attestations, none of which can be accounted later than 1194, he is often followed by his sons, Philip and Bartholomew, one or both of them, and incidentally by a third son, Walter. It is further probable that Gerard fitz Toret, of Evelith, was a fourth son of Peter fitz Toret. Philip, the eldest of the above sons, died without issue, and in his father's lifetime. He was the second son.

\*2. BARTHOLOMEW FITZ TORET, who continued the line. His attestation of a Charter, which passed in or about the year 1196, is remarkable. He is called Bartholomew de Morton, and his name is followed by that of Richard Corbet, who was already his son-in-law. [Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire, vol. 10, page 184-192.]

In the year 1214, Morton was assessed 40s. to a King's Tallage. It is not certain that Morton-Toret was meant, but, if it was, there can be no doubt that the impost arose in the contemporary confiscation of Bartholomew de Morton's estates. A letter from the Sheriff of Shropshire, written to King John soon after Easter 1215, expressly names Bartholomew Turet as one of the only seven Salopians who had been, and still continued to be, adverse to the King in the existing civil war. On February 25, 1216, King John orders William Earl of Pembroke to give Bartholomew Turet's land and Castle of Morton to Engeram de Pratellis, to hold during the King's pleasure. A Writ of King Henry III., dated November 4, 1217, certifies that Bartholomew Turet had returned to the fealty and service of the Crown. Copies of this Writ were addressed to the Sheriffs of five Counties, viz., Shropshire, Cornwall, Oxfordshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire.

Bartholomew de Moreton appears in his undoubted rank as a Shropshire Knight in 1229. He was deceased in 1235, and was succeeded, in Shropshire at least, by his grandson, Richard Corbet (III.), son and heir of Richard Corbet (II.) by

<sup>\*3.</sup> JOAN, daughter and coheir of the above Bartholomew.

We must now pass to a distant County, to show how some at least of Bartholomew Toret's scattered possessions had accrued.—Bertram Haget, of Helagh (Yorkshire) lived in the reign of Stephen.—With Faricius, his brother, he attests the Foundation Charter of Sallay Abbey;—a House which had its beginning in 1147, under the auspices of William de Percy. About the same time Bertram Haget gave a Hermitage and some land in the wood of Helaghe to Gilbert, a monk of the French House of Marmontier. The object was of course to found a Monastery. Among the Witnesses of the grant were Pharice Haget and others of the Grantor's family.

Geoffrey Haget confirmed his father's grant, in a Charter which, from the names of its witnesses, passed between the years 1161 and 1184. The Church of St. John de Parco (afterwards known as Helagh Park) was, at the date of this Charter, in existence, and Gilbert (the above-named Monk of Marmontier) was at its head. The Deed is attested by Ralph Haget, Geoffrey's brother. Neither Geoffrey Haget nor his brother, Ralph, left any issue. Geoffrey's heirs were his four sisters, Lucia, Alice, Gundred, and one unnamed, but who married Alan fitz Brian of Bedale. Gundred Haget died without issue, so that her share of her brother's estates, consisting of lands at Baynton, was divisible among her three sisters. Lucia Haget in the original partition had Wighall and Esdike. This Lucia was the wife of Peter fitz Toret, and the mother of his son Bartholomew. It is clear that the son took his name from his maternal grandfather, Bertram Haget. Alice Haget, apparently the third sister of Geoffrey, had Helagh, and married John de Friston. Her only daughter and heir, Alice, married Jordan de St. Mary; and a Charter, which the said Jordan and Alice executed jointly to Helagh-Park Priory, has the attestation of Bartholomew Thuret. This Charter undoubtedly passed in or about the year 1219. We now return to Bartholomew Toret, as our principal subject. If he had succeeded his father before 1196 it is indirectly evident that he had succeeded his mother before 1205. In that year he was fined no less a sum than 20 marks in composition of King John's sixth scutage. The debt was assessed and paid in Shropshire in that and the following year; but Bartholomew Toret had no tenancy in Shropshire which could have subjected him to such a liability. It was his mother's inheritance which made him thus important.

His estate in Leicestershire, from whomsoever derived, was probably that estate at Houghton, which we find afterwards in Corbet of Moreton. In Cornwall he held one of those lesser Fees which were technically known as Fees of Moretain. The only allusion to this tenure, places it in Streton. It was assessed in the year 1235 to the Aid on marriage of the King's sister, and the Roll clearly shows that Bartholomew Toret was deceased at the time, for the estate is described as "unum feodum minutum quod fuit Bartholomei Toret in Streton." (One small fee or holding which is to (belongs to) Bartholomew Toret in Streton.) It was perhaps his feudal connection with Dunstanvill which introduced Bartholomew Toret to this distant county.

\*4. RICHARD CORBET (II). of Wattlesborough, who married Joan, daughter, and, in her issue, coheir of Bartholomew Toret. The said Richard is he who occurs from 1195 to 1217, and he was son of the Richard Corbet of 1180.

He seems to have died before his father-in-law, Bartholomew Toret, and it was his son and Bartholomew's grandson who, as Richard, son of Richard Corbet, granted Buildwas between 1217 and 1225. In fact, we have had good proof that the wife of Richard Corbet (III.), and the mother of Robert Corbet, was not a Toret, but a lady named Petronilla, who is said to have brought with her estates at Booley and Edgbolton.

\*5. ROBERT CORBET, March 1, 1254, Giles de Erdinton sues him for disseizin, viz., for depriving the said Giles of common pasture in Morton and Preston. A second writ on the same business issued on July 30, 1255. Giles de Erdinton was lord of Shawbury, Besford, and part of Preston Brockhurst.

At the Inquest of Bradford Hundred, taken in 1255, Robert Corbet appears as Lord of Morton. It contained one geldable hide (the Domesday estimate). It consisted of half a knight's fee including Preston, of the Fief of John de Chetewynd. It paid 4d. yearly for stretward, but nothing apparently for motfee, and it did suit every three weeks to the Lesser Hundred Court. At the Assizes of January 1256 Robert Corbet officiated as a Juror for Bradford Hundred. His suit with Giles de Erdinton was tried. Giles claimed the right of common, above alluded to, in respect of his tenure at Besford. It was a right throughout 40 acres of moorland in Morton and Preston. Corbet maintained that Giles and his ancestors had had no such right, except on payment of certain acknowledgments in the shape of corn and poultry; but Erdington asserted a free right, and Corbet was convicted of the disseizin.

Robert Corbet has not yet been noticed as Sheriff of Shropshire. He served that office for the quarter ending Michaelmas 1288, and for the year ending Michaelmas 1289. On the Assize Roll of 1292 he is mentioned as one of those Sheriffs who had served since 1272, and were still living. On this Assize-Roll Moreton Corbet is at length described by that name. Robert Corbet's exercise of Free-Warren there, was presented by the Bradford Jurors, as was his like privilege in Preston Toret, presented by the Pimhill Jurors. His defence about Preston was exactly that which we have seen him offer about Evelith, viz. that it was a member of Moreton Corbet, and so included in the King's Charter. This defence held good for Preston, but not for distant Evelith. A patent of December 4, 1295, appoints Sir Robert Corbet and Master Adam Gest, Clerk, to be Assessors and Collectors of the eleventh and seventh in the County of Salop. The Inquest on Robert Corbet's death sat at Moreton on Sunday, Jan. 15, 1301. The passage about Moreton itself is sadly defaced. It was, with its members, held by knight's service under John de Chetwynd. John de Wrothe, who had held some parcel of the manor under Robert Corbet, had enfeoffed the said Robert and his wife Matilda, conjointly, in the said parcel. Matilda may not have retained the same till her decease. She was the sister of Edmund Fitz Alan, earl of Arundel.

We shall pass over

- \*6. THOMAS CORBET, son and heir of Robert, to
- \*7. ROBERT CORBET (II), son and heir of Thomas. He was born Dec. 25, 1304, and was consequently under 12 years of age when the Nomina Villarum of 1316 marks him as Lord of the Vill of Moreton Corbet. In 1326 he

was still without the degree of knighthood. His public life was nearly coextensive with the long reign of the third Edward, for he died on Dec. 3, 1375. Pursuant to a Writ of Nov. 26, 1355, an Inquest reported that Robert Corbet's wish to have view of frank-pledge in Moreton Corbet would only injure the Crown to the extent of about 3s. per annum, which was the average amount of amercements incurred at the Sheriff's two Tourns by Corbet's men, for breaches of the assize of bread and beer, for bloodshed, homsoken, and forestall.

This Robert Corbet purchased Shawbury from Giles de Erdinton, but without that Royal License which was necessary to the transfer of a tenure in capite. On Oct. 30, 1359, he had petitioned the Crown to excuse this act, and to allow him to enfeoff Hugh, Vicar of Shawbury, and William, Parson of Upton, in the same, who, being seized, were to settle the Manor on Robert Corbet, Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs. The matter was referred to an Inquest ad quod damnum, which reported the Manor to be held by half a knight's fee, and to be worth £3, 6s., 8d. per annum, and not more, seeing that it had already, by Royal License, been dismembered of several tenants. On April 16, 1363, a Fine was levied, whereby Hugh le Yonge, Clerk, Thomas de Lee, and Hugh Parrok, Vicar of Shawbury (Trustees), settle the Manor of Moreton Corbet on Sir Robert Corbet and Elizabeth, his wife, for their lives, with remainder to their son, Fulk, and the male heirs of his body, with remainder to Roger, Fulk's brother, and the heirs of his body, with ultimate remainder to the right heirs of Robert Corbet.

An Inquest, held on May 25, 1369, found Shawbury to be held in capite for a sixth of a knight's fee, and to be worth 100s, per annum, and that it would not damage the Crown if Robert Corbet, of Morton and Elizabeth his wife, were to convey the same to Thomas Gery, Vicar of Morton, and Thomas Lee, of Sondbache, who were to entail the same. The Inquest found, moreover, that Moreton Toret and Boleve would remain to Robert Corbet, and that Moreton was held of Richard de Peshall, as lord of Chetwynd, through his wife Joan, daughter and heir of her father John de Chetwynd by knight's service, and was worth £10 per annum, and that Boleye was held in socage of the Abbot of Salop, and was worth 40s. per annum. This Sir Richard de Peshall was ancestor of Sir Hugh Peshall, as we have already seen. In October 1371 a Fine was levied, whereby Thomas Gery, Vicar of Morton, and Thomas de Lee, of Southbache, settle Shawbury Manor on Sir Robert Corbet and Elizabeth, his wife, for the longest of their lives, with remainder to Fulk, their son, and his heirs male, with remainder to Roger, Fulk's brother, and his heirs male, with remainder to the right heirs of Sir Robert. This Fine was levied by Precept of the King.

Robert Corbet had three sons, Thomas, Fulk, and Roger. All three are said to have been the sons of his wife Elizabeth, but indeed, were there not some proof of that fact, we should have supposed that Thomas, certainly the eldest son, was by a previous marriage. Thomas died long before his Father, leaving an only daughter, Elizabeth, born about 1357, and married, in or before 1375, to Sir John de Ipstones. It was evidently the object of Sir Robert and Elizabeth Corbet to disinherit this Elizabeth, Robert's granddaughter and right heir. The Inquest, ordered Dec. 11, 1375, and taken Jan. 9, 1376, gives the said Elizabeth as Robert Corbet's heir, but also gives a list of his estates and their entails, which

shows to how little she can have succeeded. We give the substance of this list in as concise a form as its interest will permit:—

Shawbury:—Manor:—held as in the Inquest of 1369, entailed and in the Fine of 1371. Bragynton:—Hamlet:—settled by a similar Fine to the like uses; held of the Earl of Stafford as Lord of Caus. Wattlesborough, Heye, and Bredeshull; Manors; settled to the like uses; held of the Earl of Stafford. Hemme; manor; settled to the like uses; held of Adam de Peshale as Lord of Idsall. Kynwarten; 20s rent; settled to the like uses; held of the Lord of Wattlesborough; i.e. of the deceased, himself. Stirchley; 20s. rent; and 3dwts of gold; held of the Earl of Arundel; settled to the like uses. Morton Corbet; manor; held of Richard de Peshale, as Lord of Chetwynd; no entail stated. Harpcote; held of Robert de Ferrers, as lord of Wem, by service of 8s. rent; no entail stated. Habberley; held by knight's service of Hugh Earl of Stafford, as Lord of Caus; no entail stated. Rowton and Amaston; held of Nicholas Burnel, by service of £9 rent; no entail stated. Bletchley; manor; held of the Lord of Stoke-upon-Tern, by service of 12s. rent; settled on Robert Corbet, deceased, and Elizabeth his wife, conjointly, with remainder, after death of the survivor, to Roger, son of Robert, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Fulk, brother of Roger, and the heirs of his body, with ultimate remainder to the right heirs of Robert Corbet. Lawley; manor; held of Peter de Eyton by service of 5s. rent; settled to the same uses. Shrewsbury; 8 messuages, 20 acres of plough-land, and 6 acres of meadow, held in burgage settled to the same uses. Besford; manor; held in capite by knight's service; settled, by Fine with Master Richard de Longenolre, Parson of Nesse, and Thomas de Morton, Parson of Cardeston, on Robert Corbet, deceased, and Elizabeth his wife, conjointly, and for life of the survivor, with remainder to their joint heirs, and ultimate remainder to the right heirs of Robert Corbet. Shawbury; 3 messuages and 5 bovates; held also in capite; settled to the same uses. Bausley; manor; held of Fulk fitz Warin, of Whittington, by knight's service; settled to the same uses. Looking at this list of estates, one can well understand not only why the families of Corbet and Peshall should intermarry, but can as well appreciate why they were so closely associated in the Wars of the Roses.

\*8. FULK AND ROGER CORBET:—Fulk Corbet, son of Robert and Elizabeth, died on August 4, 1382. An Inquest was ordered on August 10, and held on September 7, following. He died seized of nothing in-fee; nor had the entails recited in the last Inquest operated in his favor in any apparent case except that of the Manor of Shawbury. But entails, not recited in the last Inquest, had caused him to die seized of Moreton Corbet, Harpcote, Rowton, and Amaston; and these, it seems, were entailed on him and his heirs male, with remainder to his brother Roger and the heirs of Roger's body. As to Wattlesborough Manor, Heye Manor, Bredeshull Manor, Hemme Manor (and with it the vill of Hinnington), Kynnerton vill, Stirchley, and Habberley, these Fulk Corbet is now explained to have held, conjointly with Elizabeth, his surviving wife;—with remainder to the bodily heirs of himself and the said Elizabeth;—with remainder to Roger, Fulk's brother, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the right heirs of Robert Corbet (Fulk's Father). This, though partly inconsistent with the details of the former Inquest, is most probably correct; for there can be no

doubt that the Manors, &c., last named descended to Elizabeth, Fulk's only child and heir, who was born about 1375, was aged 7 years and upwards at her father's death, and who afterwards married John, Lord of Mowddy, and was ancestress, through the De Burghs, of the four Shropshire families of Newport, Leighton, Lingen, and Mytton.

It is obvious in respect of Moreton Corbet, that the entail, settled by the Fine of 1363, and recognized on Fulk Corbet's death, without male issue, must have conveyed that estate to his brother Roger and his lineal heirs. The lineal descendant and representative of the said Roger Corbet is at this day seized of Moreton Corbet.

A word here about Elizabeth, granddaughter and right heir of Robert Corbet (II). She was still living when, on March 10, 1394, the King's Writ of Diem clausit announced the death of Sir John de Ipstones, her husband. Sir John died seized, in her right, of the Manor of Besford, and of 3 messuages and 3 bovates in Shawbury, all which were held in a pite;—also of the Manor of Bausley, held under Fulk fitz Warin, then in minority. This is much what we should have expected from the settlements, cited under the Inquest of January 1376. Subsequently all these estates were obtained from the heirs of Ipstones, by the heirs of one or other of the two brothers, Fulk or Roger Corbet. In conclusion, something about Shawbury Manor (as distinct from the 3 messuages and 3 bovates last mentioned). The remainders specified in the Fine of October 1371 brought it, on Fulk Corbet's death without issue male, to the heirs male of his brother Roger.

- \*9. ROBERT CORBET (III) son and heir of the said Roger, settled it on himself, his wife Margaret, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to his own right heirs. A Writ of February 6, 1439, announces the death of the said Margaret, then widow of Robert Corbet. An Inquest held at Bridgnorth on Nov. 12, 1439, found that the said Margaret had died seized in fee-tail of Shawbury Manor, and with remainder, as last specified.
- \*10. ROGER CORBET (II), son and heir of the said Margaret and of Robert Corbet, was the heir therefore of Shawbury Manor, and was now 24 years of age and over.

He was succeeded by his son,

- \*11. ROGER CORBET, of Moreton, who was one of the followers of the house of Lancaster in the Wars of the Roses, and whom we have seen along with Hugh Peshall, father of Sir Hugh, and others making war upon the Countess of Shrewsbury's estate in Whitchurch and Blakemore in 1466, and committing great damage, for which the Countess claimed damages in a suit in Staffordshire Courts, 5 Edw. IV. [Staff. Hist. Col., vol. 4, new series, page 138.]
- \*12. JULIANA CORBET, daughter of Roger Corbet, married first John Sanford, and second Sir Hugh Peshall.