

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

THOMAS PEARSALL

First in English Ancestry

Genearch of the American Family of Pearsall

Section 1, Thomas Pearsall—Section 2, Ancestry of Mary Brent—Section 3, History of the Settlement made by the Pearsalls and other Dutch-English Traders in New Amsterdam.

SECTION 1. b. 1586?

1. THOMAS PEARSALL, son of Edmund Perseall, Chapter 26, Section 1, born in England; died in Virginia 1642-3. Beginning with him we number the generations of his ancestors in England, Normandy and Norway, and also beginning with him we number the generations of his descendants in America. He married Mary Brent, daughter of William Brent, of Gloucestershire and London, England. Children:—
 1. Thomas Pearsall, Chapter 29, Section 1.
 2. Henry Pearsall, Chapter 30, Section 1.
 3. Nicholas Pearsall, Chapter 53.
 4. George Pearsall, Chapter 45, Section 1.
 5. Samuel Pearsall, Chapter 54, Section 1.

As early as 1613 Thomas Pearsall assumed the management of his father's tobacco business in England, Holland and Virginia. In 1615 he acquired this business as his own at the time of his father's retirement from active participation in the concerns of his trading as a member of the Grocers Guild of London. Thomas Pearsall did not finally remove to Virginia until sometime after 1630. Before this he traveled back and forth between the three places and was to be found wherever the conditions of the trade demanded his personal attention. The most of his time after 1621 was nevertheless spent in Virginia, which became the place where the tobacco business of the world centered after the expiration of the tobacco monopoly.

It is a very interesting historical fact, and one having a bearing upon all subsequent history, that the first awakening of a unified and inter-dependent world's commerce had its beginning in the production of tobacco in the English and Spanish colonies in America. All of a sudden the wealth of the world, the tonnage of all the European fleets of merchantmen and the competition of the keenest minded merchants of all lands were turned toward the acquisition, forwarding, distribution and merchandizing of this one product. In this contest Edmond Pearsall and his son Thomas Persall were leaders and for that reason they were called upon to stand the brunt of the battle to maintain their supremacy. An old Dutch manuscript records that in America, Beyond the South River, that is to say beyond the Delaware, in the Chesapeake country, Englishmen are settled,

freemen, but planted there by merchants on condition that they deliver as much tobacco to their masters as is agreed on. The remainder is their own. Considerable trade was carried on with them and many ships came thither from England. [Documentary History of New York, vol. 3, page 30.]

Whitaker in his tract called the New Life of Virginia, 1609-1630, says the tobacco is much vaunted and esteemed in places, yet the quantity is so great that it made the price but three pence a pound. A man can plant two thousand weight and also sufficient corn and roots and other provisions for himself. There comes yearly to trade with them about thirty-six sail of ships, and in these not so little as seven or eight hundred mariners are employed. The commodities these ships bring is linen cloth of all sorts, so of woollen cloth, stockings, shoes and the like things. Most of the masters of ships and chief mariners have also their plantations and houses and servants in Virginia and so are every way great gainers by freight, by merchandise, and by plantations. They load with staves, clap boards, choice walnut tree timber, cedar tree timber, and the like if tobacco is not to their full lading. At Christmas we had trading here ten ships from London, two from Bristol, twelve Hollanders, and seven from New England. The colonists have pinnaces, barks, great and small, and many hundreds of small boats, for most of the plantations stand upon the rivers' sides or up little creeks, and but a small way into the land, so that for transportation and fishing there are many boats. [Massachusetts Historical Collection, second series, vol. 8, page 199.]

The main port for the western shore of Virginia was at Point Comfort, while on the eastern shore, called Accomac, there were likewise several places bidding for commercial and maritime supremacy. During this period there was also a constant stream of goods and tobacco which paid no duty, by passing in trade across that no man's land, the Delaware Peninsula, which goods and tobacco were re-shipped in vessels trading in and out of Delaware Bay and River. At first every trader, including Thomas Pearsall, who was engaged in this free commerce opened his own way across this peninsula and maintained his own place on the Chesapeake from whence he trans-shipped the tobacco and other commodities brought to him by the planters with whom he personally had dealings. This made several points in the upper waters of the Chesapeake where such trading was carried on, but finally this free trade reached such importance, and was engaged in by so many competing traders, that it needed a common center in which this business could be transacted and interchanges made. It was therefore inevitable that Kent Island should become the seat of the free tobacco trade, because this Island was so located geographically that it was equally convenient to the Chester, Sassafras or Elk Rivers which had become the principal portage highways to the Delaware waters. The country of the South or Delaware River was within the jurisdiction of New Netherland, a colony of the Dutch nation, and by this means the dutiable goods, specially tobacco, were speedily removed from the power of the Virginia customs officers; on the other hand the waters at the head of the Chesapeake were so far beyond the settled frontiers of Virginia as to be free from the visits of the tax collector, and here there were no special favors enjoyed by Thomas Pearsall which were not common to all the other

traders, except of course that some like Thomas Pearsall were not only better equipped and financially more able to handle the trade that came to this island, but they possessed an already well established tobacco business.

Hence this trade increased and the traders prospered mightily. This free trade was, however, enjoyed by Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders to the practical exclusion of the Puritans, who could not enjoy any special privileges at the hands of the Dutch, owing to the bitter feeling existing between the New Englanders and the New Netherlanders living at the mouth of North or Hudson River. William Claiborne, who was a factor or agent for the New England traders, with whom he had been affiliated from the time of his coming to the Chesapeake Country, was at this time secretary of the Colony of Virginia and a justice of Accomac County. He induced Governor Yeardley in 1627 to grant him a commission to explore the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay and to trade in this region. While Claiborne never was able to show that anything tangible was accomplished under this license, yet it was the foundation not only of his subsequent claims to Kent Island trading station but it also marks the beginning of the open warfare concerning the tobacco trade between the New Englanders and the Dutch-English traders. In 1628 Claiborne obtained a similar license from Governor Pott of Virginia, but nothing was accomplished under this license to in any way open the trade of Kent Island to him and his associates. So that he gained nothing by the new expedient.

The subsequent history of Kent Island with reference to Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders, as well as much of the personal history of William Claiborne, hinges upon the fact that George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, having failed in his attempt to found a colony in New Foundland, came in 1629 to Virginia to find a place in that Dominion where he could locate a colony. Baltimore's stay in Virginia was made very unpleasant by the Puritans, and, upon his departure for England, leaving his family behind him in Virginia, Claiborne was sent by the Virginia authorities to head off and defeat any grant being made by the King which would give Calvert part of the Dominion of Virginia as a separate colony. Baltimore at this time had no intention of acquiring any part of the Chesapeake country, as his request was for a tract of land lying south of the James River and extending to Albemarle Sound. This tract of land was in process of being granted to him when Claiborne appeared and, upon bringing adverse influence to bear through his Puritan associations, the grant was not completed. On the contrary, Claiborne and his associates made a special effort to induce Baltimore to take over the Delaware country extending from the North to the South rivers, which at this time was in the possession of the Dutch. It was at this time that Baltimore's attention was first directed to the trade over the Delaware peninsula which the Dutch, together with Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders of Virginia, were enjoying to the exclusion of the Puritans. Manifestly it would be for the common advantage of both parties to this controversy, according to the views of the Puritans, to have Baltimore take over this disputed territory thereby leaving Virginia's territory intact, and to grant special favors to his present Puritan and New Englander opponents, who would continue the tobacco trade to the enrichment of the proprietor of the new colony. [See also William Claiborne, by John H. Claiborne, page 62.]

It was before this time that Claiborne had become the Virginia factor of Cloberry and associates of London, who were engaged in the peltry trade with the Indians of the country tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. This firm never was interested in the tobacco trade of Virginia. Claiborne, although failing to secure the agreement with Baltimore to take the country north and east of the Delaware Bay and River, felt certain that the moment the adverse pressure of his Puritan friends was withdrawn, the King would grant Baltimore a charter for a colony located somewhere within the boundaries of Virginia, and he hoped that it would place in Baltimore's hands the outlets for the tobacco trade on the South or Delaware River. It was also within the range of possibility that the New Englanders, whom he represented, would be able by way of compromise to secure valuable trading privileges on the Delaware which would give them the tobacco trade of Kent Island, possibly to the exclusion of Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders. The next move for him, in view of such a possible outcome of this controversy, was to secure a foothold on Kent Island in such a way as not to raise any suspicion of impending change in the minds of Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders having their stations at this place. This foothold would enable Claiborne and his Puritan associates to move so quickly, once the new proprietor came in, as to take the old traders completely by surprise and result in the loss by them of their trade before they could protect themselves. William Claiborne accordingly, on May 16, 1631, secured a special license to himself and his associates and company, freely and without interruption, from time to time, to trade and traffic of corn, furs or other commodities whatsoever (meaning such commodities as were dealt in by Cloberry and company) with their ships, boats and merchandise in all sea coasts, rivers, creeks, harbors, land and territories in or near those parts of America for which there is not already a patent granted for trade. This grant, as the context of the patent clearly discloses, was primarily intended for the territory located between New England and Nova Scotia. By no manner of fair interpretation could it be extended to the grant of an exclusive trading monopoly within the Dominion of Virginia. Nor did it in any way indicate that its primary purpose was to absorb the tobacco trade of Kent Island in Virginia.

Having this license, he arranged for the financing of the effort to gain a foothold on Kent Island by securing the support of Cloberry and associates of London, who fitted out the ship *Africa* which set sail from Deal, England, May 28, 1631, bound for the Isle of Kent in Virginia. In this year of 1631 they took possession of a plantation on this Island and converted the trading post into a regular plantation. [William Claiborne, by John H. Claiborne, page 50.] Claiborne's account of this transaction being that he entered upon the Isle of Kent unplanted (but not unoccupied) by any man, but possessed by the natives of that country, with about one hundred men and there contracted with the natives and bought their right to hold of the crown of England to him and his company and their heirs, by force and virtue thereof William Claiborne and his company stood possessed of the said Island. Claiborne's biographer expressly points out that he made no pretense that a grant had been made to him for these lands either by the King or by the Dominion of Virginia, and that he based his claims solely on

occupancy. The absence of a patent for the lands cannot however affect the conclusion that William Claiborne, by his settlement on Kent Island, thereby acquired a title to as much land as he reduced to possession according to the recognized methods for signifying by this means his intention to acquire certain lands, and ultimately perfect his title by the procurement of a patent for the same. According to the custom of the times this squatter title was good as against every one claiming this particular land except the Dominion of Virginia, or the King, or those who had prior squatter titles. Hence it is well to remind the reader that his possession was not exclusive of the several holdings of Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders, nor did it extend by implication to any greater area than that which he actually reduced to possession according to the practice of the time in marking the boundaries of such claims. He was very careful not to encroach in any manner upon the holdings of those who had already established themselves at this trading post. As a result he was not molested so far as Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders were concerned. This entire proceeding by Claiborne was intended by him to give to himself personally all the advantages that he supposed would result from the foothold he thereby obtained on Kent Island, so far as the tobacco trade was concerned. His associates of the Cloberry concern never did appreciate that this Island was other than an advantageous point for the peltry trade in which they were interested.

Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders being innocent of the occurrences that happened in England, in reference to the controversy with Lord Baltimore, as to the place where he should locate his proposed colony, and seeing Claiborne and his company appear with no greater title than their own occupancy, were surprised at the foolishness of any one attempting a plantation on Kent Island at such a great distance from the settled parts of the Dominion and at a place manifestly unsuited for the production of tobacco. But as this did not interfere with their free trade across the peninsula they were content to have the matter take its own course without let or hindrance from them or either of them. It may be well to say that this apparently foolhardy venture of founding a plantation at this time on Kent Island became a very momentous event in the early history of the present states of Virginia, Maryland and New York.

In 1632, Cecilius Calvert, then Lord Baltimore, son and heir of George Calvert, lately deceased, obtained a grant of that portion of Virginia which is now included in the State of Maryland; all of what is now the state of Pennsylvania situate south of the fortieth degree of latitude, and possibly all of what is now the State of New Jersey south of the same fortieth degree of latitude. This at once discloses how far he had profited by the information given to his father, George Calvert, by Claiborne and his Puritan associates.

Calvert, by the terms of his patent, acquired not only that part of the Delaware country which was held by the Dutch, but all of the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay north of Accomac, and north of the Pocomoke River. Thereby he had also acquired the ownership of the entire portage system from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware River. The patent to Calvert specially excepted all Virginia lands already settled, and at this very time Kent Island was represented in

the Virginia House of Burgesses, so there could be no question on that score but that Baltimore's grant did not fairly include Kent Island. He had, however, no intention of foregoing the trade of Kent Island which had been so forcibly brought to his father's attention, and which alone made his entire grant a desirable acquisition. He accordingly lost no time in asserting that Kent Island was part of his land holdings. This raised an entirely new question so far as Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders were concerned, for Calvert coupled his assertion of ownership with a determination to exercise exclusive possession thereof, and an intention not to recognize the squatter rights of the traders who had made this post so valuable. Hence they were forced to join hands with Claiborne and his Puritan associates in the contention that Kent Island was a settled part of Virginia, and therefore not within the terms of Calvert's grant, but expressly excepted therefrom.

Note:—The following concerning George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, will make more clear the interdependence of the persons named in the text, so far as they severally or jointly were connected with the trading station at Kent Island, after the grant of the Colony of Maryland to the son of George Calvert. The pedigree of the Calverts, as it appears in Scharff's history of Maryland, begins with Leonard Calvert, who is said to have come from a noble family in Flanders, which may be taken to mean the country adjacent to Middleburg in Holland, as well as the Province in Belgium. He came to England where he married Alicia Crossland. Their son George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, was born in Kipling, Yorkshire, in 1582. At an early age he entered Oxford where he took his degree in 1597. In 1606 he entered the public service and the next year he was made a secretary to Lord Robert Cecil who was at this time one of the principal secretaries of State. In 1608, Robert Cecil having been made Lord Treasurer, retained George Calvert in his service and afterwards procured for him the position of a clerk to the Privy Council. In 1617 George Calvert received the honor of knighthood as Lord Baltimore. In 1619 he was made one of the principal Secretaries of State and at once became the per-

sonal representative of the King in his dealings with the Virginia Company. In 1625 he was made Privy Councillor to King Charles I. but declined the honor and was permitted to retire from Court. George Calvert was a member of the Virginia Company from its inception, in 1609, and continued his interest in the same so long as the company existed. In 1624 he was one of the provisional council appointed for the temporary government of that province. The family was a new one in England and the Richard Calvert who married the daughter of Sir John Peshall was the son of George Calvert. All the genealogists of early Virginia agree that the Brents were in some way related to George Calvert or to his children. His daughter married Robert Talbot, and another daughter married Thomas, Earl of Arundel, so that George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, was not only associated intimately in a public capacity with those who were interested in the conspiracy to bring King James to the throne of England, and with those who were vested with the tobacco trust in Virginia, but ultimately his children became connected by marriage with the descendants both of the conspirators, and of those who had a direct interest in the tobacco monopoly.

Thomas Pearsall and his fellow Dutch-English traders thereupon prepared to resist the claims of Calvert by force. It is true that Calvert at this time desired the cooperation of Claiborne, and that he directed his brother Leonard, who represented him in Maryland, to write to Claiborne and arrange an interview and tell him that his lordship, hearing that he had settled a plantation there within the precincts of his lordship's patent, was willing to give him all encouragement he could to proceed. That Cloberry and company had asked for a grant of the Island to them, making light of Claiborne's interest. (As a fact Claiborne had only a one-sixth interest in the venture.) That his Lordship had deferred the matter until he could come to an understanding with Capt. Claiborne, and that of course Claiborne must hold the property as tenant to Lord Baltimore, and not as tenant to the King in Virginia. Although Claiborne had as a fact established a plantation, and not a trading post on Kent Island, it was not a farm that he desired but the tobacco trade of that Island, which rightfully belonged to Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders. He was therefore compelled to go along with them in their warfare against Baltimore's claims to the ownership of Kent Island. The issue was not however made until the arrival of Leonard Calvert and his party in February, 1633, at which time both the Puritan and Dutch-English traders obtained from him a declaration as to his intentions with reference to Kent Island. By this time public opinion in Virginia had reached such a

point that it was not safe for any one to side with Calvert, specially one who hoped for political preferment in the Dominion. Hence Claiborne was threatened with the loss of his secretaryship which paid him one thousand pounds annually, besides other opportunities for profit in connection with his trade as a factor dealing in Virginia products. As a result Kent Island ceased to be a trading post and became instead a center of civil warfare with the forces of the merchants, both Dutch-English and Puritan, on one side, opposed on the other by the forces of Baltimore, and with a large portion of the general community of Virginia neutral, but suffering all the pains, penalties and tortures usually coming to the neutral onlooker.

These were the days when human life was valued lightly, and when the weakling had no place in the affairs of men. It was a time when civil strife meant the actual killing of men and the destruction of property. In those days the waste and ravage of war were no idle terms of speech, but stern and actual realities. In this particular the strife for the possession of Kent Island was no exception. The war was, however, short in duration as Baltimore was speedily placed on the defensive by the Dutch-English traders who administered to him one defeat after another. In fact they very shortly would have driven him out of the country had the English fleet not intervened, by whose aid Baltimore finally gained the victory in his warfare with these Dutch-Englishmen and their Puritan allies.

They were called Dutch-Englishmen without regard to whether they were English or Dutch as they hailed from Middleburg and Flushing, in Holland, which was a great center of English mercantile and military activities, although located in a Dutch country. It was an open market through which the merchants of all lands could do business. At this time merchants as a class were looked upon with disfavor by the kings of most lands, and every once in a while there would be a clearing out of these men of independent wealth and fortune. Invariably they seemed to have gone to Middleburg from which asylum they traded all over the civilized world. It was into this place that the Virginia Company had transferred the center of the tobacco trade, and it was from here that Thomas Pearsall and his associates had come to Virginia with their ships, mariners and retainers. Thomas Pearsall was a leader among these merchants, so much so that the old records speak of him as Mr. Pearsall, which at this time would mean Master, that is a man of authority, a man who exercises the chief control over something or some one.

While the events just detailed in reference to Kent Island were happening in Virginia, one DeVries, a celebrated Dutch trader and adventurer, had sailed into the Delaware waters to deal for tobacco and grain to be brought to him across the Delaware peninsula from Virginia, as before. But owing to the change of ownership of the Maryland country, which by its resultant civil warfare had closed Kent Island as a trading post, he found that he was compelled either to forego the cargo, or to go to Virginia direct for the same. He was a fine old man, brave, shrewd and crafty, who, however, kept the record of his life in his dairy in such a way as to put the best possible light upon his own actions. Consequently his book is one of the most delightful and valuable of the Dutch manuscripts which have been preserved. The back door trade by the Dutch, with the Virginia planters,

for tobacco, had been going on many years as DeVries well knew, and he also knew that the Delaware was not a tobacco-producing country. In fact it was at this time an unbroken wilderness practically abandoned so far as human habitation was concerned. While he was well aware that if he loaded his vessel in the Chesapeake waters he had to pay the English impost. The reason for his going to the Delaware country is at once apparent. It was an interesting situation. Unless some other outside place of loading were obtained the whole fabric of the illicit trade in tobacco across the Delaware peninsula, upon which the Virginia country and the foreign merchants had thrived, must fall and the trade would come finally under the control of the English impost acts.

DeVries, as his journal shows, did not know what had happened to cut off this trade so suddenly. All he apparently learned was that there was no one there to meet with him, and his men found Kent Island practically abandoned. Nevertheless, not to be at a loss for an excuse to account for his inability to get the cargo of tobacco, he blamed the trouble on the Indians, but the cargo must be obtained or the voyage would be a financial loss, so he determined to go to the tobacco country. The account in his journal reads as follows:—On the 5th of March determined to make a voyage to the English in Virginia as we had failed to obtain corn in the South River, in consequence of the war among the Indians, by which we were placed in such danger and the grain of the Indians was destroyed and as we thought that we should not be able to find a sufficient store of it at Fort Amsterdam on the Great (North) River to serve us in our return voyage to Holland. [DeVries, New York Historical Collection.]

The truth is that the Dutch settlers at Fort Nassau had abandoned the place before 1633, and the only white residents who at this time could possibly have been on the Delaware River were the survivors of the Colonists at Swanendale in which colony DeVries was interested as one of the Patroons, and which had been situated within the present boundaries of the State of Delaware. The Indians had, however, destroyed this place in 1632, of which DeVries was fully informed sometime before he sailed from Holland; so that the Delaware was practically an abandoned country. Nevertheless he sailed into the South River, made a treaty of peace with the Indians, started a whale fishery, stayed some time and sailed up the river at least as far as Fort Nassau.

Although his journal does not say so, in terms, yet it is certain DeVries or his agent had crossed over to the Chesapeake and there had seen the practically abandoned trading post on Kent Island. There they also learned that the trading had been transferred to Accomac and Isle of Wight Counties in Virginia. We therefore deemed it advisable, he says, to sail to the English Virginia. Although there had never been any one there from this quarter, I said as I had escaped the danger in the South River, I would be the first one of our nation to venture to the English Virginia from these parts as the distance is not more than thirty leagues from the South River to Cape Henlopen. [DeVries, New York Historical Collection.]

DeVries sailed out of Delaware Bay March 16, 1633 for Virginia as he proposed above and was hospitably received by Sir John Harvey, Governor of Virginia. Upon inquiring from whence he came, and being informed from South

River, the Governor invited him to his house, and treated him to a glass of wine. The Governor then told him that South River belonged to the British, and was by them named Delaware Bay, after Lord Delaware, who some years ago had taken possession of it, but not supposing it navigable owing to the sand banks, he did not ascend the river. DeVries informed him he was mistaken. That the Dutch had built a fort there many years ago, called Nassau, of which Harvey appeared to never have heard before, and that it was a fine navigable river. The governor spoke of a small vessel that he had sent, sometime before, to the Delaware, which had not returned, and he supposed was lost. DeVries then related the circumstance mentioned to him by an Indian woman of the murder of an English boat's crew, and that he had seen an Indian wearing an English jacket, which he had concluded belonged to this boat's crew, which had been sent there to make discoveries.

In his journal DeVries says he also explained to the Virginians the situation and abandoned condition of Fort Nassau on the Delaware. He records that the governor gave him six goats for his new colony; he also purchased some provisions and obtained by secret means quite a lot of tobacco, although the latter fact is not recorded in his account. Thereupon he says he returned to South Bay where he learned that in his absence they had only taken seven whales, which yielded 32 cartels of oil. Finding the fishing here was too expensive in proportion to the profit, and the fish poor, (as a fact DeVries had obtained a fairly good cargo of tobacco which made his voyage a successful one) he returned to Fort Amsterdam, and from there to Europe. [DeVries, New York Historical Collection.]

Thomas Pearsall and his friends were located in the Isle of Wight country, and so at this time they controlled one of the two independent trading posts in Virginia. But they and Accomac traders who controlled the other trading station were at a serious disadvantage and were anxiously looking for some place where they could trade with safety and in security. Quite naturally they looked to the old Delaware loading place as being desirable.

Lord Baltimore having secured possession of Kent Island found that he had nothing but unoccupied land as Thomas Pearsall and the other traders had taken their business locations elsewhere, so Baltimore was made angry to the point of foolishly trying to pursue the old traders instead of making peace with them. At his instigation Claiborne was indicted under the Maryland laws and charged with murder, piracy and sedition. To escape punishment he fled to Virginia. Upon demand being made to Governor Harvey of Virginia, Claiborne, while not given up to Maryland, was sent to England to be tried. This concession to Baltimore greatly incensed the Virginia planters as well as the Dutch and English resident merchants against the Governor, as they looked upon Claiborne as the champion for freedom of trade which meant prosperity to Virginia. This feeling resulted in the arrest of Harvey, the English Governor of Virginia, who after due trial, was convicted. The judgment of the court being recorded on the 28th of April 1635, Sir John Harvey thrust out of his government and Captain John West to act as Governor till the King's pleasure becomes known. [History of the State of Delaware, by Francis Vincent, vol. 1, page 110.]

This act of Baltimore had solidified the Dutch English merchants in opposition to him, as they were all equally guilty with Claiborne. It was evident that should he be convicted and punished it would not be long before they would meet the same fate. As after events proved, Thomas Pearsall and his sons were more or less active in this opposition and took part in the events that immediately followed, which happenings so materially affected our family history in America, as thereby our ancestors came from Virginia to what is now Long Island, New York.

It may be well to state here so as not to break the continuity of the story that with one exception, that of the youngest brother Samuel, the next generation of the Thomas Pearsall family had at this time arrived in America. With one exception they came in Dutch bottoms or in their own boats. The only ones coming directly from an English port was Thomas Pearsall, aged 26 years, who sailed October 24, 1635, from ye port of London, aboard the ship *Constance*, Clement Campion master, bound for Virginia, and Samuel who came later with the *Brents*. The others, who came from the Dutch ports of Flushing and Middleborough, were Henry Pearsall, George Pearsall and Nicholas Pearsall sons of Thomas Pearsall, while some years later the sons of Robert Pearsall, the oldest son of Edmond Pearsall, citizen and grocer of London, became interested in the tobacco business along with some of the associates of Claiborne, and at that time William Pearsall, son of Robert Pearsall, located in Henrico County, Virginia, and Robert Pearsall, Junior, sailed in and out of New Amsterdam and New England ports, but that was some time after the center of the tobacco trade had been transferred to Long Island, near Amsterdam, as we shall presently relate.

To resume the story—so far no great advantage had been obtained by either side in the fight between Baltimore and the Dutch-English and Puritan merchants. It was however evident to the Isle of Wight and the Accomac traders that they must find a safe harbor or there would be warfare between the two geographical divisions of their own forces, so the Dutch-English traders were united in an effort to find a place where they could trade and be beyond the control of either the Virginia or Maryland custom officer. In this Thomas Pearsall took a leading part, although he and his associates were careful to as far as possible hide themselves under the acts of those who were their agents. At this time DeVries returned from Europe and arrived upon the scene. In his diary, with his usual desire to appear entirely innocent, DeVries sets forth what happened in the Chesapeake country, while he was there. The wonderful ignorance of the man as to events that were then shaping themselves, is well worth attention.

DeVries had sailed July 10, 1634, from Amsterdam, to the Guiana Coast and to the West Indies, whence he sailed up the coast of the mainland to Virginia. In his journal he says:—we arrived about 4 o'clock in the afternoon before the fort called Point Comfort. Here we found a ship from London in which was Sir Harvey, governor in behalf of the King of England. He was sent to London by his Council and the people who had made a new governor which later turned out badly for them. (Which observation discloses that DeVries wrote in his diary his account of this visit to Virginia, sometime after the events related herein had happened.) I landed here all the English men whom I had rescued (Refugees

from the Tortugas where the Spaniards had broken up an English settlement), and endeavored to obtain some provisions in order to sail to New Netherlands, to make my ship tight, as it was extremely leaky, which I could not do in the English Virginia. As it was not the season to trade for tobacco, I let all of cargo lie here and gave directions to trade when the crop of tobacco should be ripe, and I would return again when the unhealthy season should be over which would be about September. [DeVries, New York Historical Collection.]

DeVries, as he says in his journal, was compelled to explain again to the Virginians the situation of Fort Nassau and its delightful prospects as a trading point, to which on the previous occasion Governor Harvey had turned a deaf ear. But conditions had now changed and Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English merchants were willing to back almost any enterprise that would save their business from annihilation, and continue the harmony of action which had been renewed among them. They had tasted the bitterness of the dissension which had come from their loss of Kent Island.

DeVries impressed upon the traders that Fort Nassau upon the Delaware was unoccupied and apparently abandoned by the Dutch. That it was only a short run by water which could be made easily by the pinnaces of the planters and that there they could get a harbor which would compensate them for their loss of Kent Island and the companion harbors on the Delaware; that once more all the traders would be united in a common trading post and the old foreign free trade would be renewed. This arrangement appeared also to be so advantageous to the Dutch, as no doubt was insinuated and urged by DeVries, that no opposition was looked for in that direction. Governor West eagerly seized the opportunity which his temporary authority afforded to execute the design. The money to finance the venture was furnished by the Dutch-English merchants of whom Thomas Pearsall was one. A party of fourteen or fifteen Englishmen was accordingly dispatched from Point Comfort under the command of George Holmes to occupy the vacant Dutch fort. The enterprise was promptly effected for it was unoccupied even by the Indians, and there was no one to oppose the invaders, while Thomas Hall was commissioned to inform the Dutch authorities of the re-opening of this trading post.

There never has been any question but that all this was done under the authority of the Virginia government, nor does it appear that Holmes or Hall were either of them planters or merchants. They were soldiers of fortune, open to employment in any venture that promised pay, profit or pleasure. As a fact Holmes was well paid by Governor West for his part in this enterprise; probably he took care of Hall as well, as appears by the records of Virginia land patents issued to him.

As to the others engaged in this expedition there is every reason to believe that it was composed of the sons of the Dutch-English merchants, so that it will be entirely within the possibilities of the facts to say that Thomas, Henry, Nicholas and George Pearsall were members of the party. In order that the plan might be carried through with proper detail, and that the Dutch authorities might at once be made cognizant of the good intentions of the transaction, and so that DeVries might be made to appear entirely innocent of any connection

with the enterprise and although it was intended that DeVries should sail at once to the North or Hudson River, Thomas Hall was despatched overland from Fort Nassau through New Jersey to New Amsterdam to inform the Governor and secure his acquiescence to an act which appeared so manifestly for the benefit of the Dutch traders and merchants.

At the same time DeVries sailed to Manhattan. Of course DeVries would have the reader believe that it was nothing more than an interesting coincidence that he should be paying a social visit to the Governor when Thomas Hall appeared before Governor Wouter Van Twiller to tell the story of the occupation of the abandoned Fort Nassau on the South River and to receive the expected approval, approbation and entertainment. What must have been the consternation and disgust of both of them when Van Twiller would not look upon the proceeding in any other way than as an armed invasion of the Dutch territory, whereas, there never has been a word written to make one believe that these men carried any other arms than those which men of that day were accustomed to carry on their trips for business or pleasure away from home. At this time the fort was entirely unoccupied and there were not half a dozen white men living on the whole river front so there was no reason for warfare. The Governor immediately despatched an armed force to the South River and took the whole party prisoners, and brought them to New Amsterdam. It was at this time that the Pearsall brothers first met and formed a deep and lasting friendship with Tymen Jansen the ship carpenter, with whom they were later to be so closely related in New Amsterdam and whom they were to raise so suddenly from the position of a mechanic to that of a rich burger that his career seems like that of one who had rubbed Aladdin's lamp. But at this time the Pearsall brothers and their associates were in rather an awkward predicament and it is fortunate that Jansen was their jailor. But in the meantime DeVries seems to have brought the Governor to see the folly of his procedure, and the likelihood of its destroying absolutely the valuable trade between Virginia and New Netherlands, as well as the golden tobacco trade with Holland direct. The Governor's pride had, however, to be catered to and he seems to have been satisfied if his domain remained intact, and so that he could send home a report that he had successfully repelled an armed invasion of the Dutch territory by the powerful English. Probably no man in all American Colonial history has ever been in a tighter place than was DeVries at this time. With his old cargo, to be paid for in tobacco, in the hands of and trusted to the angry Virginia merchants, and one can well understand how angry Thomas Pearsall must have been by the capture of his sons, financial ruin certainly stared DeVries in the face should Virginia declare war upon the Dutch. To make it worse his ship sailed under the Dutch flag so that in case of war it might be used to fight his friends and business associates in Virginia.

The final outcome is creditable to his skill as a diplomat. Van Twiller, although hot-headed, was no fool. He could see that any act of his which would tend to destroy the valuable tobacco trade with the Virginia planters which the Holland merchants enjoyed, would bring punishment, quick, severe and drastic upon his own head, and in the long run offended national dignity would yield to the demands of profitable trade. As a result Van Twiller became as anxious to

get rid of the party of Englishmen as he had been to secure them in the first place. The Dutch historians try to give the affair the serious aspect of real war and to derive much honor to their countrymen from the capture of these unarmed Englishmen, forgetting that but a few months previous these same men had stood off Lord Baltimore's force in armed combat and had only surrendered to the British fleet. Had it been real war these men would have disdained to have surrendered and would rather have accepted death. It was all a comedy, yet filled with tragic possibilities, and the coolness with which these Englishmen, among whom were the sons of Thomas Pearsall, met this unusual situation is to be greatly praised. However, Van Twiller having determined to get rid of the Englishmen and thus avoid trouble with his own home government took counsel of DeVries, as the latter intended he should, who advised him that inasmuch as he was about to sail for Virginia he would take the prisoners with him to Virginia free of cost to anyone. This was a change of his plans, as we have seen that he had just departed from Virginia because it was an unhealthy place in summer and he had no intention of returning there until September. But the march of events was such as to make his immediate sailing for Virginia most advantageous to his private interests. To his delight Van Twiller jumped at the offer as did the English prisoners, and they immediately transferred themselves pack and sack to DeVries' boat, who hastened with them to Point Comfort where he arrived just in time to stop a real war party which was about to move against the Dutch settlement on the Delaware, for Thomas Pearsall and his associate merchants were now determined to avenge the indignity inflicted upon their sons and agents. No doubt therefore DeVries' departure had been hastened by the news which reached New Amsterdam that the Virginians were preparing for a warlike attack upon the Dutch on the Delaware River, with the strong probability that the seat of war would also include the Hudson River country. DeVries statement in his diary is so ingenuous that it will bear repeating. He says Governor Wouter Van Twiller desired that I should take them to the English Virginias where the English were expected to assist them. They therefore took their leave of Wouter Van Twiller who was Governor. We arrived at Point Comfort before the English fort, landed the Englishmen whom we had brought with us at Cieketon (Kecoughtan—the home of William Claiborne), where we found a bark lying with twenty men bound for South River to aid them, but our arrival with their people frustrated their design. And to demonstrate that at this time the Dutch-English traders commanded a great fleet of armed merchant vessels, a competent authority records that when DeVries arrived in the James, in the autumn of 1635, he found thirty-six sail at Blunt Point alone. [Economic History of Virginia, by Philip A. Bruce, vol. 1, page 311. Lamb's History of New York City, page 76.]

When he returned to Manhattan next spring DeVries, looking to the possibility of future inquiry into his own connection with the affair, reported that he had found Virginia was not a good place for Hollanders to trade at. [Broadhead's History of New York, page 263, 259.]

The English Government as a result of these events felt that they had the trade so well under their control that they would complete the demoralization of Thomas Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders by prohibiting any British

subject from going in a Dutch vessel to the Hollanders' plantation on the Hudson River. This was a piece of bad politics as it only made the old merchants more desperately in earnest to again enjoy the free trade in tobacco. [Broadhead's History of New York, page 263, 259.]

By this time it was seen that Fort Nassau would not have been the right place for this free trade, as it also was within the possible boundaries of Baltimore's grant. What was needed was a place which was claimed by so many colonies as to be practically an every man's land, yet a no man's country. Only two such places presented themselves; one was Long Island, over which the Dutch and New England colonies were fighting; the latter being also divided among themselves, the desires of each New England colony over-balancing the general anxiety to possess this valuable land. But even this place was filled with possibilities of heavy taxation from the Dutch and New Englanders, and moreover it was not only debatable land but the contest for its ownership had so far resulted in its being left as an abandoned wilderness. No doubt the Dutch-Englishmen could maintain themselves against all adversaries wherever they located, but they were not seeking to continue the present state of war, but a place where they could trade in peace. Hence it was better to wait until some one of these northern colonies obtained an actual foothold upon this island. The Netherlands therefore at this time made the first settlement near what is now Brooklyn. This gave the Dutch a place to negotiate for with the Dutch-English traders in connection with the valuable tobacco trade.

In the meantime the trade had not been entirely lost. In fact much of it remained which was divided between the Isle of Wight and the Accomac traders. The records of the Isle of Wight country where Thomas Pearsall was located are unfortunately not available. The records of Accomac, covering this period, show that much trade was carried on with New England; also with the Delaware and Susquehanna country, and with Holland and New Netherlands. That large numbers of Dutch and English merchants resided on the Eastern Shore, or visited it at frequent intervals, and that there was much illicit trading and smuggling to defeat the English impost duties. [History of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, by Jennings Cooper, 1911, page 70.]

Lord Baltimore, in his efforts to secure the trade in tobacco, made an attempt in the year 1637 to have himself appointed Governor of Virginia. He did not make the proposition openly but approached his Majesty through the mediations and influence of his friend, Secretary Windebank. As an inducement, he offered to undertake to increase his Majesty's revenue from Virginia 8000 pounds yearly and to do this without imposing any additional duties. This will give some idea of the extent of the free trade that even under these adverse conditions was at this time getting by the Virginia customs officers. [Maryland Archives, Council Proceedings, vol. 1, page 41-42.]

Sir John Harvey was reinstated as Governor by the English Crown in January 1636. Thus all possibility of a renewal of Kent Island as a common trading point for all the Dutch-English traders ceased because of the new colonial government that was successfully interposed between the Delaware Bay country and the Virginia tobacco planters. The Kent Island settlement relapsed into a

state of continued warfare between those Puritans whom Claiborne represented and the proprietor of Maryland.

Before this time the warfare had reached so acute a stage that it was evident that although Lord Baltimore would hold on to the Kent Island trading station, yet the Dutch-English traders, by refusing to trade there, had rendered it worthless as a business place. In this emergency an effort was made to bring the Pearsall-Peshall combination back again to Kent Island. This was not difficult to accomplish in view of the relationships existing between the children of Sir John Peshall of Horsley and the families of Calvert and Brent.

The reader will recall that it was in 1615, some seventeen years before the advent of Lord Baltimore, that Thomas Pearsall had procured from his father Edmond Pearsall, citizen and Grocer of London, the assignment of the tobacco business. At this time Sir John Peshall of Horsley had become more than ever deeply interested in the tobacco trade along with Thomas Pearsall, and this association was now to have a marked effect upon the tobacco trade of the Chesapeake country. Before this, that is circa 1622, Jane Peshall, the daughter of Sir John Peshall, had married Richard Calvert of Corkham, County Stafford, so that the Peshall-Pearsall combination was connected with the Calverts by close family ties. At the same time Margaret Peshall, another daughter of Sir John Peshall, married Richard Brent, who was said also to have been closely related to Lord Baltimore. But up to 1632 Thomas Pearsall does not appear to have personally had any association with Lord Baltimore, while from 1632 to 1636 they were on opposite sides in the civil warfare arising out of the contest for the tobacco trade of Kent Island. After 1638 Thomas Pearsall and the Calverts were associated with the Brents at Kent Island but all the while before and after the association of Peshall, Pearsall, Calvert and Brent came into being, Thomas Pearsall was also engaged along with the other Dutch-English traders in the effort to establish a new trading point beyond the reach of either the Virginia or the Maryland authorities.

As a result of the efforts of Sir John Peshall to recover this trading station, Giles Brent, brother-in-law to Margaret Peshall-Brent, the wife of his brother Richard Brent, (she being the daughter of Sir John Peshall) came to Maryland in 1637, and was followed the next year by his brother Foulke Brent and their sisters Margaret and Mary Brent. That they came expressly for the purpose of acquiring Kent Island trading station and rehabilitating it as a trading post is shown not only by their subsequent actions with reference to this Island, but they brought along with them Samuel Pearsall, the youngest son of Thomas Pearsall, whose wife Mary Brent was their cousin germain. It has always been a matter of wonderment as to why the Brents located their Maryland land holdings on Kent Island instead of in the more fashionable section of St. Mary's County. For as early as January 7, 1639, Leonard Calvert having secured possession of Kent Island, wrote as follows: I would have you lay out for Giles Brent, Gent., Treasurer of the Council of this Province, one thousand acres of land nearest together about Kent Fort, and one thousand acres more where he shall desire, and to certify Mr. Secretary what you do therein. To Robert Clarke, Deputy Surveyor. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 15, page 324.] In view of the

events that had happened subsequent to the granting of the charter for Maryland, it seems unfortunate that this happy arrangement was not made at the beginning of Lord Baltimore's ownership. But at that time Kent Island looked like too good a thing to let in any outsiders, and so like the Kilkenny cats, the proprietor and the traders fought until there 'wasn't any' Kent Island trading post enjoying a monopoly of the free tobacco trade. However, Sir John Peshall and Thomas Pearsall entered into some arrangement with the Brents and Calverts for the acquisition of Kent Island as a trading point to be used for their common advantage. [Maryland Historical Magazine, vol. 7, page 63.]

In a very short time, as the records of the land office disclose, Margaret Brent and her sister Mary and her brothers Giles and Fulk had acquired the most if not all of the Island of Kent. Moreover Captain Giles Brent was not only placed in the governing council but he was made acting governor of Maryland in the absence of Lord Baltimore, while his holdings on Kent Island were created into a manor so that he was practically beyond the colonial laws and regulations. (The story of the Brents has been told quite fully in the second section of this chapter.) [*Ibid.*, vols. 5 and 7. Maryland as a Proprietary Province, by Meren-ers, page 177.]

They came finally to Maryland on November 22, 1638. Of the family, Margaret Brent was easily the leader. She was later the executor of Governor Leonard Calvert, and represented Lord Baltimore in various important matters of state in all of which she displayed marked talent, courage and ability. She enjoys the distinction of having been the first woman in America who exercised the rights of an attorney at law. The records furnish repeated instances in which she appeared before the court in that capacity. She was also a strong and perhaps the earliest advocate of woman's suffrage, having demanded not only a seat in the general assembly of Maryland, but a vote there, both in her individual capacity, and as representative of the estate of Governor Leonard Calvert. Two votes to one woman, however, was more than even the gallantry of the sons of early Maryland could accord. [Chronicles of Early Maryland, by James Walter Thomas, page 44.]

But notwithstanding the advent of the vigorous family of Brent, it was too late so far as the complete rehabilitation of Kent Island was concerned. It is doubtful if Sir John Peshall, Thomas Pearsall and the Brents intended to make it any other than a trading point, primarily for their own advantage. Kent Island had ceased to be a place that commanded the entire tobacco trade, although for many years after their coming it continued to be a desirable business location enjoyed by Thomas Pearsall and his associates, the Brents and Calverts. The tobacco trade was now sought after by greater forces than could be controlled by any single combination of merchants, no matter how rich and powerful.

It was therefore natural that even after all this effort by the Pearsalls and Brents, the greater bulk of the trade should go to Long Island, but of this we shall tell the story in the third section of this chapter.

Thomas Pearsall, as we have seen, took an active part in all the warfare in and around Kent Island. The most remarkable fact in connection with this incident in Maryland history is the ability with which the real parties, namely the

Dutch-English traders, kept themselves in the background, yet at every step one can easily see their controlling hand and mind. Thomas Pearsall was located in Virginia in the Isle of Wight County, and when the Brents came and he acquired a new business footing in Kent Island, he claimed land for bringing himself as a settler into Maryland. This right he assigned to another who obtained the land. These rights were assigned and re-assigned, often many times, before they were filed with the land office. The land records of Maryland disclose the following assignment of this right: I Marks Pheypo doe hereby assign and sett. our all my tytle of land dew unto me unto Capt. Willm. Haweley viz. 100 due to me by assignement of Tho. Pearsall, from James Lindsey 100, from Willm. Mec Laughlin 100, from Owen Seymer 100, from Willm. Mac fflenin 100, by my owne right and 100 by assignment of the late Govr. Marks Pheypo. [Maryland Historical Magazine (1634-1655), vol. 8, page 257.]

James Lindsay appears to have been employed for a time by Thomas Pearsall in Maryland, and then he returned to Virginia, and sometime before 1647 he returned to Maryland, where he became servant to Governor Leonard Calvert Lord Baltimore, as is shown by the latter's will, wherein he says as follows:— I do give my wearing clothes to James Lindsay and Richard Willan, my servants; specifying his cloth suit to Richard Willan and his black suit to James Lindsay and his wearing linen to be divided between them. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 115, page 327.] And later we find that, according to the Maryland Land Records, James Lindsay asked for lands on his own account. The Land Records read: 1650, August 15. James Linsey demandeth 100 acres of land for transporting himself into this Province about three years since and fifty acres for his time of service pformed in this Province to Mr. Thomas Pearsall. [*Ibid.*, vol. 7, page 189.]

The records of the Land Office show that Thomas Pearsall, 12 February, 1641, demanded lands for his own coming into Maryland, although as a fact he never permanently gave up his Virginia residence.

Thomas Pearsall and the Brents having opened up the Kent Island trading post, they looked about for a suitable point on the Delaware front through which they could handle their foreign trade. To this end they began negotiations through their London and Middleborough connections with the Swedish government, which resulted in the Swedes determining to renew their settlement on the Delaware River. In 1638 they sent out an expedition which founded the first permanent Swedish settlement on the Delaware Peninsula. On the way to the Delaware they stopped at Virginia where they disclosed the object of their mission. Evidently thinking that they would receive the hearty cooperation of Virginia. They found there was a difference between the regulations of the English government and the sentiments and desires of the Virginia people. The story can best be told in the following letter from Jerome Hawley, Secretary of Virginia, to Mr. Secretary Windebanke giving an account of this visit of the Swedes.

Jamestown, in Virginia, May 8, 1638. Right Hon.—Upon the 20th of March last I took the boldness to present you with my letters, wherein I gave only a touch of the business of our Assembly, referring your honor to the general letters then sent by Mr. Kemp, from the governor and Council. Since which time have

arrived a Dutch ship, with commission from the young Queen of Sweden, and signed by eight of the chief lords of Sweden, the copy whereof I would have taken to send to your honor, but the captain would not permit me to take any copy thereof, except he might have free trade for to carry to Sweden, which being contrary to his majesty's instructions, the governor excused himself thereof. The ship remained here about 10 days, to refresh with wood and water, during which time the master of said ship make known that both himself and another ship of his company were bound for Delaware Bay, which is the confines of Virginia and New England, and there they pretended to make a plantation, and to plant tobacco, which the Dutch do so already in Hudson's River, which is the very next river northward from Delaware Bay. All which being his majesty's territories, I humbly offer the consideration thereof unto your honor, and if his majesty should be pleased to think upon any course, either for removing them or preventing others from settling upon his Majesty's territories, I humbly conceive it may be done by his majesty's subjects of these parts, making use only of some English ships that resort hither for trade yearly, and be no charge at all upon his Majesty. [Broadhead's London Documents, at Albany, vol. 1, page 57-58.]

The Swedish settlement on the Delaware handled a large tobacco trade. Samuel Pearsall, the youngest son of Thomas Pearsall, was in charge of the Kent Island post, and in Chapter 54 in speaking of him under section one, some account is made of the large tobacco tonnage handled. It was together with Kent Island the most successful private tobacco trading post on the American coast. And there was not a maritime nation in Europe but that eagerly sought a place in this trade.

The news of the efforts to rehabilitate Kent Island, and to establish an open tobacco market on the Delaware River, was quickly transmitted to New Netherlands and from there to Holland, and while on one hand every effort was made to delay and discourage the Swedish Settlement, on the other it no doubt spurred the Holland government in its slow way to arrange with the West Indies Company for a complete change in the political and business regulations of New Netherlands. As a result the Dutch authorities, in 1638, abolished the monopoly of the New Netherland trade which the West Indies Company had then enjoyed for fifteen or sixteen years, and the trade as well as the cultivation of the soil was thrown open to every person whether denizen or foreigner who chose to embark in it. It was now possible for a Virginia planter to take his tobacco in his own boat to an absolutely free market, particularly was this so when the factor or merchant had his own harbor on that part of Long Island which was tributary to New Netherland. [Broadhead's London Documents, at Albany, vol. 1, page 57-58.]

There was at this time such a removal of Dutch-Englishmen from Virginia to Long Island as to amount almost to an exodus, the story of which will be told in the third section of this chapter. Here again Thomas Pearsall had to divide his forces. He retained the Virginia home. His younger son Samuel took charge of the business in Kent Island, and the other sons of Thomas Pearsall, namely Thomas, Nicholas, Henry and George, removed to Long Island. Samuel Pearsall, on his father's death, removed to Virginia where he died. Thomas Pearsall, Sr. divided his time between Virginia, Kent Island and Long Island.

In New Amsterdam the Pearsall brothers were greatly aided by Tyman Jansen who had befriended them when they were prisoners of Governor Wouter Van Twiller, and by Jans Jorrisen the son of the Dutch governor of the Delaware Country who was long a friend of their family. Their fathers having been jointly engaged in the opening of the Delaware River as a tobacco trading point.

Long before 1641 Thomas Pearsall was recognized as the most successful trader in tobacco, so much so that he was looked upon as having a monopoly and he became the object of the satire of the wits of the day. Hence they recalled as a joke the time when his father was possessed of a patent for the sole privilege of collecting the impost and distributing the weed, and they treated his present prosperity as though he had succeeded to the old royal protection, instead of being so successful in buying the tobacco and evading the customs officers.

Mr. Ashton in his *Humor, Wit and Satire of the Seventeenth Century* has reproduced the complaints of Mr. Tender Hook the projector and Sir Thomas Dodger the Patentee, by John Tayler, the Water Poet. It was first published in 1641. The following barbarous lines taken from Sir Thomas Dodger's answers enumerate the several kinds of tobacco which had formed part of this great trade.

The Pagan weed was our hope,
In Leaf, Pride Role, Ball Pudding, Pipe or Rope,
Brasselle, Vanne Means, Trinidado,
Saint Christopher's Virgin or Boroado,
Bermuda, Prudentia, Shallowcongo,
And the most part of all the rest mundemgo.
The patent with a whiffle is spent and broke
And all our hopes (in furno) turned to smoke.

In locating his land in Maryland, Thomas Pearsall selected lands in St. Michael's Hundred where his name appears on the special tax lists of 1642, as is shown by the following transcript of the list of taxables. Proceedings of the Assembly, August 1642. John Langford and Thomas Stermas, Burgesses of St. Michael's Hundred demand to be allowed, p. Comm. charg of clerk, 190 lbs., drummer 10 lbs. per 13 days attendance at 40 lbs. per day for each is 1040 and the demand is allowed 1240 lbs. and the sum of 1344 lbs. tobacco was assessed upon the hundred for the payment of said account, and charges attendant upon collecting it, and it was assessed to be levied upon the persons after the rate following: Mr. Cockshutt 69 lbs., Mr. Throwgood 46, Nicholas Keyton 23, Peter Maerill 46, Thomas Franklin 23, Thomas White 23, John Hallows 69, John Hallows 23, Thomas Wilte 23, Auth. Rowlies 23, John aet an Rawlins 23, John Norton 23, Henry Brook 115, Robert Smith 23, Thomas Baldrige 23, Thos. Sterman 46, Stephen Thome 23, John Hiliera 23, Henry Janas 23, John Langford 23, John Prettiman 23, Thomas Orly 23, Wm. Thompson 23, William Edin 23, Marks Pheypo 23, Richard Duke 23, Thomas Alli 23, John Price 46, John Weyvill 23, Wm. Browne 23, John Thackarelar 23, Thos. Thome 23, James Cauther 23, John Warren 23, Wm. Durford 23, Walter Bradhert 46, Barth Lewis 23, Thomas Yonell 23, Francis Gray 23, Mr. Persalls 23, Robert Sedgman 23, James at Grays 23, John Hamton 23, John Malburgh 23, Isaac Edread. [Archives of Maryland, page 146.]

At this time St. Marys was the capital of Maryland and it was located in St. Michael's Hundred. Thus we see that Thomas Pearsall had located his lands so as to be near the center of population and at the place where business would most likely be done. At this time Thomas Pearsall had trading places located in Virginia in Isle of Wight, in Maryland at St. Marys and Kent Island and on Long Island in New Amsterdam. He certainly was well located to carry on the foreign tobacco trade.

Thomas Pearsall died 1642, and Mark Pheypo was made the administrator of his estate in Maryland. The story of his life could be closed with this statement, but inasmuch as there was some litigation by his administrator concerning two small claims the records of the same are presented at this time as they make very interesting reading and throw some additional light upon our ancestor.

1643. William Browne aged 20 years and upwards made oath that sometime about this time, 12th month to the best of his remembrance, at John Hillis's house he, this dept. heard John Hollis say unto James Cauther these words or to this purpose. James what shall we do about this beer of Pearsalls? To which the said James answered to this purpose, What will you do about it? Let Marks put you in the cott for it and John Hollis replied saying, I have paid you the beer have I not and the said James answered yet I have received it and he answered it for (saith he) Marks had nothing to do with it at that time. [Court and Testamentary Business, 1643, page 265; in original page 151, 173, 194 and 207.]

Earlier in the same year, namely January 17, 1642, in a suit at law Robt. Kedger demandeth of Thomas Pearsall 450 lbs tobacco due by bill assigned from Anthony Belcher; attachment to be made upon any tobacco as goods of deft. to answer pl. April next. The suit of Kedger against Thomas Pearsall was pending at the time of his death so that his administrator was substituted but not before judgment had been obtained against the decedent upon which the court April 5, 1643 issued a writ. Exequition (Execution) for 1474 lbs where 974.....cask and for 73 lbs for sheriff's fees and 40 lbs for fees of court. Marks Peypo administrator of Thomas Pearsall thereupon appeared to the action of Robert Kedge for 450 lbs tobacco and saith that the said bill demanded was for the price of a boat intended to be bought by Thomas Pearsall of Ellis Richardson who assigned the interest in the bargain into Anthony Belcher whereby it was made to him in his own name and that after the making of the said bill the said Tho. Pearsal returned unto Ellis Richardson the said boat in discharge of the bill and Ellis Richardson accepted the boat in that sense, and promised to deliver the bill and assumed to prove this alligate and had time until the first of June next.

At the appointed time Mark Peypo appeared to prove his allegation against Robt. Kedges and produced the oath of Nicholas Keyton (sup. file) by which it appears that the bill demanded was made for a boat which was returned and made oath himself that the bill demanded was made in Anthony Belchers name by the appointment of Ellis Richardson in place of the said deponent, Marks Peypo. Whereupon the judge dismissed the defdt. without delay and adjudged the plttf. to pay for damage 100 lbs. [War. to Cott., 1st Dec., page 286.]

The same year Samuel Pearsall, the youngest son of Thomas Pearsall, also died and the same Mark Peypo was also appointed administrator of his estate

in Maryland. It will be recalled that Thomas Pearsall had obtained land in Maryland for bringing one James Lindsay who was to work out the expense of bringing him to Maryland. The land bounty had been assigned to Mark Pheypo personally. Evidently Lindsay had not completed his service at the time of Thomas Pearsall's death for his son Samuel succeeded, or claimed to succeed to his service. Lindsay had been hired to one Francis Gray who now paid no attention to the claims of any one to Lindsay's service but appropriated the same to himself. Consequently on October 2, 1644, Marks Peypo, administrator of Sam. Pearsall demandeth of Francis Gray 2000' tobacco due for the share of Jas. Linsies work in the crops with the said Francis Gray, whereof the said Francis Gray had and took the sole use and hath not yet accounted for it to the estate of the said Sam. Pearsall whose servant then the said Jas. Linsie was.

Marks Pheypo administrator of Thomas Pearsall demandeth of John Hollis 2000' tobacco for non payment of 20' beer due by ac. then 2 years. [Court and Testamentary Business, page 206.]

Court and Testamentary business, 1643. Marks Pheypo administrator of Samuel Pearsall demandeth of John Hollis 20' beer due to estate of the deceased wan to Cott 1st Mch. next Pill Judge. 20ct. 1644, Waning to Cott 1st Dec. next upon pill judgt. [*Ibid.*, page 254.]

Mark Pheypo adm. of Thomas Pearsall p. Attor. Tho. Grene complaineth against James Linsie for refusing to serve the plttf. The said James Linsie demeth that the said Marks Pheypo had no right to demand same of him. The judge finds that the deft. is servant to the plttf. [*Ibid.*, page 208.]

1647-8. Marks Pheypo demandeth of Jno. Hallows 20' beaur due to the estate of Thos. Pearsall whose administrator he is upon the demand aboused. The deft. pleaded that the said demand was judged in a Provincial Court 2 March last by whose judgment he was dismissed and therefore required not to be forced to answer again to the said demand. The court finding upon record the deft. allegation to be true judged that of right he ought to be dismissed and accordingly dismissed him. [*Ibid.*, page 361.]

It appears that Hollis claimed that he had paid the debt by delivering the Bear to Thomas Pearsall. Mark Pheypo was not to be put off by any mere statement of the defendant so he produced the following additional testimony.—

1647. Nicholas Causi at the request of Marks Pheypo saith upon his oath that at his first coming into this province Thomas Pearsall desyred this dep. to speak to Jno. Hollis and James Cauther for some quantity of beaur (the just quantity he knoweth not), which the said p'ties owed unto said Pearsall further this deponent sayth that he demanded the beaure of both parties being both put together which they confessed to be due to the said Pearsall and desyred this dept. to call for it when he went next to Virginia. About a year after this dept. going to Virginia demanded the said beuer of James Cauther and the said Cauther replied that he had not the beuer thereat home for it was at John Hollis house and soe this dept. went to Virginia without any beuer for said Pearsall, and this deponent further sayeth that to his knowledge the said Pearsall did appoint Marks Pheypo his attorney to receipt the said debt, but whether the said Marks

received the said debt he knoweth not and further he sayeth not. [Courts and Testamentary Business, page 347.]

1647. John Hampton at the request of Markes Pheypo deposeth that he knows not of any beuer brought into James Caughters house by John Hollis tendered to Mr. Pearsalls use in March, 6 years ago but in April following there was beuer brought in and designed to be sent to Virginia for Mr. Pearsalls but could not be sent which beuer was James Cauthers owne and not James Hollis and further he deposeth not. [*Ibid.*, page 332.]

Mark Pheypo (at the request of Nicolas Cossin) made oath that to his knowledge Nicolas Cossin in Virginia left in charge of Thomas Pearsall one cask with tobacco in it to the quantity of half a hogshead or thereabouts and that he made the said Thomas Pearsall his attorney and more he knoweth not. Having spread this testimony upon the record, Marks Pheypo administrator of Thomas Pearsall demanded of John Hallowes administrator of Ja. Wanill 700' tobacco due by bill and 20' bear assignment together with damage of non-payment. [*Ibid.*, pages 99 and 158.]

March 2, 1649-50. May Fford deposed at the request of the attorney of Jo. Hallowes that the deponent being at James Cauthers house sometime about March about 6 years ago did see one Edward the servant of James Cauther bring down a parcel of bear to James Cauthers house which he said he had of Jo. Hollis for Thomas Pearsall. At last Marks Pheypo seems to have found the real debtor of his decedent Thomas Pearsall, so we find according to the court records that Marks Phippo demandeth of Francis Gray administrator of James Cauther 1000' tobacco for the price of 20' bear recovered by the said James for the use of Thomas Pearsall from John Hallowes attachment. Marks Pheypo administrator of Thomas Pearsall demandeth of John Hampton 700' tobacco casked, due by bill. Attachment returned 1648-50. [Courts and Testamentary Business, page 98.]

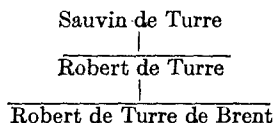
SECTION 2.

ANCESTRY OF MARY BRENT and the Brents of Maryland and Virginia related to the Pearsalls in America. Brent is an old middle English word, which is also found in the Danish, and signifies steep and precipitous, and being generally found in names along the sea coast, means a steep and precipitous cliff overlooking the waters. Hence as a family name it signifies one who lived in a place having such a name for example like Brent Knol in Somerset County, England. There are consequently several families in England who use the surname of Brent, obtained in this manner, as a place name, and hence they are not related to each other. The first authentic records relating to the ancestry of Mary Brent begin at Cossington in Somersetshire, where Robert de Brent was the first who assumed the name of Brent from having his manor at South Brent in Somersetshire, where he was possessed of considerable estates which continued in his family for many generations. His grandfather was called Sauvinus de Turre and he was, by Henry de Blois, Abbott of Gastonbury, constituted porter of that Abbey, that is he was the ostiary or doorkeeper of this abbey. This duty he performed by proxy, by delegating the actual performance to some of his de-

pendents. Therefore it would be more accurate to say that he undertook to provide a doorkeeper for the Abbey. There were certain lands, and other profits of victuals, clothing and money annexed to the office. These were granted to this Robert and to his heirs, to be held by them in as ample a manner as Robert the son of Sauvin his father, or Sauvin his grandfather, had ever held them, provisionally that they and their servants should take the same due care of strangers, sick people and others who come thither for God's sake. This gives the following pedigree:—

Note:—It will save lots of useless repetition of citation if the reader will accept the general reference to Virginia Historical Magazines as found in its index re Brent. Not but what we have many other references concerning this well-known family, but inasmuch as the American family of Brent have made the most of the searches which pro-

duced the information as presented in the Virginia Historical Magazine, it is likely that every possible detail may be found therein, except such items as are in the stemma of our branch of the Brent family which come from family records and are found on our note books and published in this connection.



It is evident from the above pedigree that Sauvin de Turre was born circa 1140, yet all the authorities agree that this family came into England at the conquest along with William the Conqueror. This is confirmed by William Tailleor, in his Chronicles of Normandy, where he names Amaury de Touars as having been among the lords and men who accompanied the conqueror into England. This means that the above Sauvin de Turre was of the third generation in England and represented a junior line of descent from the original Amaury de Touars.

*1. ROBERT DE BRENT, the genearch of this family of Brent, died before 46 Henry III (1262), leaving by Milcent his wife, who afterwards married Raymond Malet, a son named Robert de Brent.

*2. ROBERT DE BRENT, 5 Edward I, attended the king into Gascony as he did in most of his expeditions into Scotland. He was knighted 25 Edward I. (1297) of the shire of Somerset for the Parliament held that year at Westminster. He died circa 2 Edward II (1309). Isabella his wife, daughter of Simon Montacute, survived him. He was the first that used a seal of his arms viz: a Wivern. He was succeeded by his son

*3. ROBERT DE BRENT who was a knight and a benefactor of the Abbey of Glastonbury. He married Claricia Bawdrip, by whom he had the manor of Ford Bawdrip and other lands in Somersetshire, Wilts, Hants and Essex. He had a son Robert de Brent who succeeded him at Cossington, and another son John de Brent who settled at Charing in Kent, where he became the progenitor of a family which continued here for many generations and at the last, by some heir female, had their possessions transferred to the family of Deering. He also had two daughters, namely: Wawysia, the wife of Hugh de Popham, and Joan, the wife of Thomas Deneband. He was buried on the north side of the choir of the Abbey Church of Gastonbury.

*4. ROBERT DE BRENT, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Deneband, and died 25 Edward III (1353), being succeeded by his son;

*5. JOHN DE BRENT, married Joan, daughter and heir of John le Eyre, of Middlezoy, by whom he had a manor in that parish, held of the Lady Stury

by the service of half a knights fee; he held also other lands in this neighborhood. He was succeeded by his son;

*6. JOHN DE BRENT of Cossington, 1 Henry V (1413), who was twice married, his first wife being Ida, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp of Lillisdon, Knight, by whom he had a son Sir Robert Brent, who succeeded him at Cossington. He also had as a result of this marriage a daughter, Joan de Brent, who married Thomas Horsey of Horsey, Esq., and afterwards married Thomas Tretheke of Tretheke, in county Cornwall, Esq. John de Brent married for his second wife Joan, the daughter of Sir Robert Latimer, Knight, by whom he had a son named John de Brent, who succeeded his half brother Robert de Brent, who married Jane, daughter of John Harewell of Wotton, County Warwick, who held this manor for her dower, which was, after her death, together with the rest of the estate of Robert de Brent, deceased, entered upon by Joan his sister and heir of the whole blood, to the exclusion of John, son of John de Brent by his second marriage. At length an arbitration was made with John Hoby (afterwards chief Justice of the Kings Bench) and 10 Henry VI (1432) was adjudged to be the estate of John de Brent as the right heir of his father, although only half-brother, by virtue of certain entails thereof made in the time of Edward II and Richard II, the deeds whereof were produced at the arbitration. Soon after this the manor was again entailed by John de Brent to himself and the heirs of his body begotten in tail male.

*7. JOHN DE BRENT married ——— and had several children of whom Robert de Brent, the eldest son, succeeded to the estates in Coddington. The second son, John de Brent, became the genearch of the Brents of Stoke and Admington, in Gloucestershire, across the line of Warwickshire. This branch became intermarried with the same families as the Horsley and Ranton families of Pershall-Persall.

*8. JOHN BRENT married ———. He had two sons named respectively Robert Brent and John Brent. At the close of the war by which Henry VII became King of England at Bosworth Field this John Brent, having strongly supported the side of York, was compelled to hide from the spies of the new king who were determined to capture and send him to the Tower of London for trial and certain execution. John Brent accordingly fled into that part of Gloucestershire where the three counties of Gloucester, Worcester and Warwick come together. Here he was not only among friends but he was so located that it was possible to change from one county to the other so as to be in that which offered the best retreat according to the leniency of the sheriff and his bailiffs. Here near Larke Stoke, Ilmington, in Gloucestershire, he spent the remainder of his days under the assumed name of John Buston. Ilmington is, however, in Warwickshire. The Manor house of the Brents is said to be still in existence. It is described as a large stone house of massive construction dating from the time of James I or perhaps a little later. It is now used as a farm house. John Brent, the younger son, was the father of Richard Brent, who was the father of Roger Brent, and of Anker Brent, who was the father of *1. Marie Brent; *2. Elizabeth Brent; *3. Susannah Brent; *4. Ancar Brent; *5. a daughter who married Davis; *6. Elizabeth Brent, who married at Quinton, February 7, 1608, William Lev-

ing; *7. Margaret Brent of London, buried at St. Andrews in the Wardrobe, will dated May 13, 1609. She mentions the minister of St. Brides; *8. John Brent; *9. Ezechias Brent; *10. Ann Brent; *11. Richard Brent of London, Cloth worker; *12. Sir Nathaniel Brent, L.L.D., Knt.; and *13. William Brent of Wolford Parva, County Warwick, who died unmarried. It was after this Sir Nathaniel Brent that Henry Pearsall of Hempstead named his oldest son, Nathaniel Pearsall. This Nathaniel Brent was Warden of Merton College, Oxford. He was proctor of the university in 1607, and admitted bachelor of Law October 11, 1623. Elected warden of Merton College in 1622, he was afterwards appointed Commissary of the diocese of Canterbury and Vicar General to the archbishop, and later became judge of the Prerogative Court. In the Administration act book of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1631/3, Folio 154, under the date of March 2, 1632/3, a commission was issued to Sir Nathaniel Brent, Knight, and Doctor of Laws, and to Richard Brent, gentleman, brothers of William Brent late of Wolford Parva, in the County of Warwick, deceased, to administer etc. 1634-7 he made a tour of England south of Trent, reporting upon and correcting ecclesiastical abuses. In 1638 Archbishop Laud paid a visit to Merton College and it was his acts at this time which made one of the counts against him when he was tried, and at the trial Nathaniel Brent was a hostile witness to the archbishop. On the outbreak of the civil war Nathaniel Brent sided with the Parliament. In 1645 Charles I deposed him from office in the university, but upon Fairfax capturing Oxford town in 1646, Nathaniel Brent returned to the college where he resumed his post. In 1647 he was appointed president of the famous parliament commission for the due correction of offences, abuses and disorders in the university. The work of the commission was too mild, so in 1649 Fairfax and Cromwell paid a visit to the university, after which the correction of abuses proceeded with greater certainty of punishment being administered to the offending royalist. He was at heart a supporter of the kingdom and retired rather than sign the engagement which would have bound him to support a commonwealth without a king or a house of lords. He retired to his house in Little Britain, London, where he died November 6, 1652. His daughter Margaret married Dr. Edward Corbet, a presbyterian, who had been very much disliked by Archbishop Laud. His son Basil Brent married Elizabeth Bennet who was nearly related to Richard Bennet then reputed to be the richest man in America and living in the Chesapeake Bay country of Virginia and Maryland. His son Nathaniel Brent is named in his will as was Anne Brent the other daughter of Sir Nathaniel Brent. To return to John Brent als Buston he was succeeded by his oldest son.

*9. ROBERT BRENT, Lord of Stoke and Admington, who died 1531, and is buried in Ilmington Church. He married circa 1498, Margaret Colchester, daughter of George Colchester of Stoke and Admington, Esq. Children:—
 *1. William Brent, who married Elizabeth ——— and died 1595; will dated June 23, 1591; proved 1597; buried at Ilmington, April 5, 1595. Children:—1. Richard Brent, of whom later. —2. Elizabeth Brent, married John Hawthen. *2. Nicholas Brent, of whom later. *3. Thomas Brent, married ———. Children:—1. John Brent; 2. Elizabeth Brent; 3. Agnes Brent; 4. William Brent,

baptised July 28, 1586; married Margaret Randell February 3, 1622. *4. N.N. a daughter who married Croftes. *5. N.N. a daughter who married Chettle. *6. N.N. a daughter who married Hyett. *7. Helen Brent.

*10. NICHOLAS BRENT, of Stow upon the Wold, in the diocese of Gloucester, married Elizabeth ——— and had three sons, each named William Brent, and a daughter Elizabeth Brent. The will of Nicholas Brent is found among the records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and is dated October 22, 1582, proved February 11, 1582/3; an abstract reads as follows:—He gives to the poor people of Stowe. To the reparations of the Cathedral Church at Gloucester. Towards mending the common well of Stowe. Towards the reparations of the Church of Stowe. He also gives bequests to his God-children, to Thomas Daniel his old servant and to Robert his old sheppard at Slawter. To the children of Thomas Blowden and to William Brent his eldest son, if he lives to accomplish his age of twenty years, and to William Brent his second son, and to William Brent his third son, at their like ages. He names his wife Elizabeth as executrix, and names his brother William Brent his kinsman Anker Brent and William Crafts to be overseers of his will, which is witnessed by Anker Brent, who drew the will, and William Craftes. His brother William Brent who is named above, in his will dated 1591, makes bequests to William Brent, William Brent and William Brent, my late brother Nicholas Brent's sons. Thus we see that this Nicholas Brent was a devout member of the established church and a wool grower.

*11. WILLIAM BRENT, married ———. Child:—

1. MARY BRENT, who married Thomas Pearsall of London, England, and Virginia.

Some of the members of this branch of the Brent family came to America along with Thomas Pearsall, but the records are not entirely complete. The records of New Netherlands disclose:—January 1645, George Grace of Virginia appointed as attorney of the Directors and Council to take possession of the effects of Jacob Grenitson Brent. October 3, 1642, Bond of Thomas Backster as security for cattle due by John Brent. Sept. 6, 1642, Testimony of Robert Cock of Middlesex, England, Richard Brudnell of Bedford, John Smith of Oxford, and Rebecca Raetsi respecting the whereabouts of one John Brant, husband of Rebecca; John appears to have turned up all right as Jan. 22, 1643, he appeared in Court in a case he had against Mr. Heyl. The Court appointed Mr. Allerton and Thomas Baxter referees. There was also a Henry Peterson Brent. It is quite evident from the Court proceedings that they were part of the Maspeth, Middleborough, Long Island colony of Englishmen. [Virginia Historical Magazine re Brent Genealogy. Calendar of Dutch Manuscripts, pages 20, 24, 27, 82, 83 and 93.]

It will be found very helpful to a perfect understanding of events in our family history, which occurred in the Chesapeake Country of Virginia and Maryland, if we continue down the older line of Brent from where we departed from the same, in the children of Robert Brent and Margeret Colchester, and give the line of descent from William the oldest son of said Robert and Margaret Brent. He married as we have seen Elizabeth ——— and their oldest son was Richard

Brent. He married Mary Huggeford. Children:—1. Richard Brent, of whom later. 2. Margaret Brent, who married John Fowke. 3. Catherine Brent. 4. Eleanor Brent. 5. A daughter who married Colbourne. 6. A daughter who married Chadwell. 7. Anne Brent, born February 10, 1612. 8. A son who married and left a son Robert Brent. 9. A daughter who married August 8, 1598, — Hopper. 10. Probably Mary Brent who married Richard Catesby. This Richard Brent was Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1614, and was a subscriber to the building of a bridge at Stratford upon Avon in 1618.

RICHARD BRENT the son of William Brent above named, (see No. 9) buried at Ilmington, May 1, 1652, married Elizabeth Reed, the daughter of Richard Reed. Some say Edward Reed, Lord of Tusburnie and Witten in Gloucestershire. Children:—

1. FULKE BRENT, emigrated to Maryland, where he arrived November 22, 1638. He was a member of the Maryland Assembly of 1639 and returned to England the following March. The New York Records disclose: October 12, 1643, Declaration by George Grace that William Wyman had stated that there was a promissory note of Captain Foulke Brent in favor of Deivth Corsen among the papers of Thomas Oldens of Virginia. He married Cecelia — and died without issue November 7, 1656.
2. RICHARD BRENT, married Margaret, the daughter of Sir John Peshall of Horsley. See Chapter 26, Section 3, Division B.
3. GILES BRENT emigrated to Maryland 1637; he returned to England and arrived in Maryland the second time on November 22, 1638; married Mary —, and died in Virginia 1671.

The will of Giles Brent of the retirement in Stafford County in Virginia, Esquire, names his daughter Mary Fitzherbert, and his son and heir, Giles Brent, to whom he gives all his lands in either England, Virginia or Maryland. He speaks of his father Richard Brent, Esquire, deceased, anciently Lord of the manors of Admington and Lark Stoke in the county of Gloucester, in England. He makes bequests to pious uses and names Edward Sanders, John Howard to receive special bequests. He appoints his son Giles Brent executor, along with his, testators, brothers Richard Brent and William Brent, both of whom are in England. And makes the said Edward Sanders and John Howard special attorneys until his brothers can be communicated with, and until his son Giles Brent arrived at the age of twenty-one years.

Giles Brent first came to Virginia shortly before 1625, as is shown by the minutes of the Council and General Court of Virginia which disclose that he was a witness June 1, 1625, and, after being sworn, affirmed that a certain book of account produced in Court by Mr. James Carter was the true book of account of Mr. Robert Bennett and fecked by his own hands. This Robert Bennett was the brother of Edward Bennett of London, merchant, and brother of Richard Bennett of Virginia, and they were nephews of Richard Bennett, a wealthy London merchant who resided for a time at Delft, Holland, as Deputy Governor of the English merchants there, and was largely engaged in the Virginia tobacco trade. These were all Virginia

Dutch-English traders. The Brents either then, or later in England, intermarried with the Bennetts. Richard Bennett of Virginia married Mary Ann Utie, and his oldest son Richard Bennett married Henrietta Maria Neale, daughter of Captain James Neale of Maryland. Her brother Anthony Neale and John Pearsall, the son of Samuel Pearsall, were the last owners of the Kent Island trading station who engaged in the tobacco trade. They having the station on the Wye River in Talbot County, Maryland. Giles Brent became the Lord of the manor of Kent Island when Lord Baltimore created the same in 1636. Giles Brent, at the time he gave the above testimony in Court, was circa twenty-one years of age, and his brother Richard Brent had been married three years to Margaret Peshall, daughter of Sir John Peshall of Horsley, in Staffordshire, England. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 3, page 53; and vol. 23, page 132.]

Giles Brent emigrated to Maryland in 1637 where he received a grant of the manor of Kent Island which was specially created for him. About the same time Giles Brent received a tract of sixty acres of town land, in St. Marys County, called the "White House," which adjoined his Sisters Freehold, lying between it and St. Mary's City. It is assumed by his historians that he came from England and that he was resident there at the time of this emigration. 7 Jan. 1639, Lord Baltimore wrote, I would have you lay out for Giles Brent, Gent. Treasurer of the Council of this Province, 1000 acres of land lying nearest together about Kent Fort and 1000 acres where he shall desire it. He was a member of the Assembly of Maryland, 1639. He was appointed Chief Judge and commander of Kent Island, February 3, 1639/40.

In 1642 Giles Brent appointed proxy by 73 of the inhabitants of the Isle of Kent to the assembly. He was a member of the Council and on April 15, 1643, he was appointed Governor, Lieutenant General and Admiral of Maryland. About 1645 he removed to Virginia and was a strong royalist during the civil war in England and was called to account by Parliament for seizing a ship in Chesapeake Bay and attempting to persuade the crew to carry him to Bristol to aid the King's forces, then in possession of that city. He patented large tracts of land in Virginia.

The Pearsall family were active supporters of King Charles. The incident referred to above was only one of the many events in this war in which the Pearsalls and Brents were actually interested for their king as against the followers of Cromwell. The American family hazarded their great fleet of merchantmen, and its loss, carrying with it the loss of the tobacco trade, was very disastrous to the family fortunes both in England and America. As far as the affair with Ingle was concerned the matter when it reached England was referred to Sir Nathaniel Brent as a commission to consider the matter. The losses in the shipping affected both branches of the Brent family in America and so the subject was speedily dropped so far as the Chesapeake Pearsalls and Brents were concerned.

Ingle afterwards seized a boat belonging to one of the Dutch-English traders which happened to be in Maryland, and upon which he found Giles

Brent and others connected with the royalist party in Maryland. He carried them as prisoners to London. He would have thrown Giles Brent overboard during the voyage had it not been for the intervention of one of his mates. They went free shortly after their arrival at London as any one could have foretold who knew of the influences they had with the Parliamentary government. Giles Brent married twice but had children only by his first wife, Mary, of whom only Giles and Mary survived.

4. WILLIAM BRENT married Barbara —; died without issue. He was constantly in trouble because of his recusancy and for a while lived privately at Foxcote, in Warwickshire, and his last days in London, where he died near Little Turnstile, in Holborn, in the Parish of St. Giles in the Fields near London, May 21, 1691, aged 80 years or more.
5. EDWARD BRENT, who died unmarried, was in Virginia before 1625, as on June 1, 1625, he appeared before the Council and General Court of that Colony and testified that John Bates who came in the ship Adam, and who was in the employ of Edward Bennett at Wariscozack, appeared before the Council and General Court of Virginia where he testified that twelve months before the seventh of the preceding November, Sir George Yardley paid to John Chew, Edward Brent and Nicholas Skinner ten butts of tobacco for the use of Edward Bennett of London, Merchant. The which tobacco when it came down to Jamestown, Mr. Weller the master of the ship Adams desired Mr. Chew and him the said John Bates to go aboard and to view the tobacco (the reason for it was Mr. Chew was not at the receiving of all the tobacco himself, whereupon they went and viewed it). Mr. Brent and Lawrence Rogers being there likewise. The tobacco was disliked whereupon Brent who was of them said that if the ship might have a quick passage it would be all right. Mr. Chew said that if it were not found merchantable by indifferent men Sir George willed them to bring it ashore. He said if it were not merchantable by indifferent men it should be burnt and others paid in the roome. Thereupon it was packed up again into the butts and stowed in the hold to be sent to England. This Edward Bennett was an active member of the Virginia Company and a merchant of London. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 23, page 132.]
6. GEORGE BRENT married Marianna Peyton, daughter of Sir John Peyton of Doddington. He was twice married after this. By his first wife he had *1. George Brent who came to Virginia and settled at Woodstock in Stafford County. He married the daughter of Captain William Green and niece of Sir William Layton for his first wife. He married second, the second daughter of Lady Baltimore by her first husband, Henry Sewell, who was widow to Colonel William Chandler. There were several children by these marriages which it is not necessary to detail at this time and place. *2. Richard Brent, died young. *3. Henry Brent, married the daughter of Leonard Calvert, Governor of Maryland. His children all died sine proles. *4. William Brent, died young. *5. Edward Brent, died young at the college of Douay in Flanders. *6. Robert Brent married Anne, daughter of Edmond Baugh of Penfon, Worcestershire, and settled in

Stafford County, Virginia, where they had a large family. *7. Jane Brent, married Thomas Cassie, Esq. of Widdifield, County Gloucester. In reference to the second marriage Lord Baltimore October 20, 1687, wrote George Brent from London;—I do verily and heartily wish you much joy and happiness with my wife's daughter whom I understand you have lately married. I assure you I should esteem it an advantage to me and a great credit to Maryland would your affairs in Virginia dispense with your settling in that Province where you should command all the favor and kindness I were able to show you.

7. MARGARET BRENT emigrated to Maryland 1638, died after 1661, and of whom more shall be said hereafter in this account of the Brent family.
8. MARY BRENT emigrated to Maryland 1638, died about 1657.

October 17, 1652, Mary Brent received a Virginia grant of 1640 acres of land in Northumberland County on the Potomac River and on Aquia Creek, adjoining her brother Giles Brent. Among the head rights for which she obtained this grant was that of Mr. William Ayres. It will be recalled that Christopher Ayres was one of the executors of the will of Edmond Pearsall Citizen and Grocer of London in 1629, along with Thomas Pearsall, son of said Edmond, who married Mary Brent.

On October 4, 1639, almost a year after their arrival, Margaret and Mary Brent were granted seventy and one-half acres of town land in Saint Mary's which they called the Sisters Freehold. By the letters from Leonard Calvert to the surveyor it is evident that the houses both in St. Mary's and on Kent Island, which Giles Brent obtained, were built before the survey was made, for he said in both instances, I would have you set forth the land lying nearest together about the house where they now dwell. The Sisters Freehold was about half a mile from Saint Mary's City, and was formerly known as St. Thomas. The house was located a quarter of a mile from St. Mary's River, on an elevation about sixty feet above sea level, and commanded a beautiful view of the river and country. It was said to have been surrounded by a large grove of handsome oaks, and for the times was of great elegance.

9. CATHERINE BRENT, baptized August 15, 1630; died November 1, 1640.
10. ELIZABETH BRENT.
11. ELEANOR BRENT.
12. JANE BRENT.
13. ANN BRENT, baptized at Illmington, August 7, 1637.

This branch of the family were Catholics and were in constant trouble with the authorities on account of their failure to attend upon the services of the Established Church of England. The family of Brent divided at this time in their religious adherence the same as the Horsley-London branches of the Horsley family of Pershall.

In the Royalist composition papers [State Papers, Domestic, G 72, pages 231, 276 and 285] appears the following:—January 25, 1654/5. Order for search to be made in the old books as to the sequestration of the manor of Larkstoke, Co. Gloucester, for the recusancy of Richard Brent the elder, deceased, or of

Foulke Brent, Richard Brent the younger, Edward Brent, George Brent, Anne Brent and Jane Brent, children of said Richard Brent the elder.

Farther along in the same records there appears the petition of George Brent, Anne Brent and Jane Brent, which recites that in 1640 the petitioners' late father, Richard Brent, Esq. demised certain parcels of land in Hitcott, Bertram, co. Gloucester, to the petitioners for 30 years at a peppercorn rent. Two-thirds have been sequestrated for their father's recusancy, he is since dead, they pray the recusancy may be discharged. When the children were summoned to take the oath there appeared only Mrs. Anne Brent and she refused to take it. The estate was therefore continued under sequestration, all of them being known papists. Dated at Gloucester May 10, 1653. It was an important fact in our family history that this branch of the Brent family were Roman Catholics and the friends of the Calverts, the Lords Baltimore.

Margaret Brent contributed a large part to the early history of Maryland, and she was so intimately associated with our ancestor that her story becomes a part of our family history. We shall therefore briefly relate the principal events of her American experiences.

In August, 1638, Margaret Brent, with her two brothers, Giles and Fulk, her sister Mary and their servants, set sail in the good ship chartered to bring them over the sea, and after months of delay and much hardship reached St. Mary's City on November 22, 1638. [Chronicles of Mistress Margaret Brent, by Mary E. W. Ramey.] Before leaving England Margaret Brent obtained from Lord Baltimore two letters to his brother, Leonard Calvert, in which he says: London, Aug. 2, 1638. I would have you pass to Margaret Brent and her sister Mary and their heirs and assigns for and in respect of four maid servants, besides themselves, which they transport this year to plant in the Province of Maryland, a grant of as much land in and about the Town of Saint Maries and elsewhere in the Province, in as ample a manner and with as large privileges as any of the first adventurers had.

From the first Mistress Brent was spoken of as a commanding figure in the Colony; and as the sister-in-law of Governor Leonard Calvert, and a relative of the Lord Proprietor, she occupied a position which demanded the respect and attention of all in the Province. Thirty-seven years of her life had passed when her foot first pressed the soil of her home, years which in their passing had modeled and moulded a nature of rare sweetness and courage and a mind of wonderful brilliancy and power. Leonard Calvert, seven years her junior, turned often to her for advice and encouragement, and it was not surprising that she was ever his warm friend and counsellor.

On October 10, 1642, Giles Brent made a mortgage in the form of an absolute deed of conveyance to his sister Margaret Brent of all his estates, including goods, lands, debts, cattle, chattels and servants, in the Province of Maryland, as security for the payment of certain debts to her and to his uncle Richard Reed and others. Margaret Brent in pursuance of this and her many other trusts was constantly before the Courts of Maryland and in some of the records she is mentioned as Margaret Brent, Gent.

In April, 1643, on account of the civil war in England, Leonard Calvert was called home. Richard Ingle, taking advantage of his absence, appeared at St. Mary's, stirred up sedition and disloyalty among the Colonists, was arrested for treason, but escaped and went to England. Governor Calvert returned to Maryland in September, 1644, and found much unrest in the Province on account of the long struggle between the King and Parliament, which had divided the sympathy of the Colonists, and when, on the 15th of February, 1645, Ingle returned in command of an armed ship with Parliamentary Letters of Marque, he met with little resistance, landed his men, took possession of the town and drove Governor Calvert to Virginia.

While Ingle's attention was centered on conquest, Mistress Brent was not idle. She slowly gathered together the distracted inhabitants, and with their aid, when Governor Calvert returned to St. Mary's in August, 1646, at the head of an armed force which he had hired in Virginia, the Province was easily recaptured. Ingle was driven from St. Mary's, and Claibourne from Kent, which he had regained temporarily, while their followers living on Kent Island returned to the allegiance of Lord Baltimore.

Giles Brent was in some way hard pressed for funds, hence it was easy for Claiborne and his associates, when they had possession of Kent Island, to make terms with him for the continuance of the trading fort by them in connection with Giles Brent. It was consequently at this time that the remarkable change of front in his business associations took place, and Giles Brent was thereafter known as a trader, affiliated with those who were the business rivals of the sons of Thomas Pearsall and their associates, the old Dutch-English traders, which also made him an enemy of the proprietor, Leonard Calvert, Lord Baltimore, and of his friends. Hence, upon Governor Leonard Calvert's obtaining repossession of Kent Island, he sent Mark Pheypo, who was the administrator of the estate of Thomas Pearsall, deceased, and John Genalles with a note to Giles Brent, who was on Kent Island, where he had been trading with the Claiborne outfit, but they had been dispossessed and Pheypo and Genalles were instructed to bring an answer if they may. The answer was the lease of Kent Fort trading station by Giles Brent to his sister Margaret Brent, with whom the possession of this trading point remained until her death, when it was returned to Giles Brent or to his son. From this time Giles Brent ceased to have connection with Kent Island in an administrative way, either as Lord of the manor or as a trader. This change in his business associations was all the more remarkable as Giles Brent was a Royalist who lost heavily by reason of his adherence to the cause of his king, whereas Claiborne and his associate were supporters of the Commonwealth of England. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 15, page 326.]

It was shortly after this that Samuel Pearsall, the younger son of Thomas Pearsall, removed from the Kent Island trading station to the Wye River on the eastern shore of Maryland on the Delaware Peninsula, where he engaged in the tobacco trade along with Anthony Neale, the oldest son of Captain James Neale, the strong adherent of the Calverts in Maryland. This marked a general breaking up of the sharp lines of opposition between the old Dutch-English and New England traders in the Chesapeake country. A new generation had come

into the trade and the old lines had been broken up by marriages between the children of the rival traders.

The lease of the manor of Kent Fort remained in the Brent family for several generations, the business being finally removed to the mainland of the eastern shore of Maryland where one of the descendants of the Brents is later found in partnership in the tobacco trade with the son of Samuel Pearsall, the youngest son of Thomas Pearsall and his wife Mary Brent. The title to the land always remained in Giles Brent as is shown by the account of an action between the lessee of the heir of Giles Brent and an assignee of the leasehold above. It may therefore be that the uncertainty about the tenure of the tobacco traders in the trading place had something to do with the removal of the traders and the establishment by them of a trading post on the Wye River, in Talbot County, Maryland.

SECTION 3.

History of the Settlement made by the Pearsalls and other Dutch-English Traders in New Amsterdam.

We have now reached a point in this family history where we must notice the beginning of the branches which severally come from the first American Ancestor: namely, Thomas Pearsall, the elder, of England, Virginia, Maryland and New Amsterdam. This setting up of independent homes, and establishing separate families, began with the removal of all his sons except one from the Chesapeake Bay country to New Amsterdam, where they settled on Long Island within what is now the State of New York. After much study of the matter the writer has concluded that it will serve to clearness and brevity if the story of their beginnings in their new home is told as an entirety at this time, instead of being related piecemeal as each son is taken up for consideration. This conclusion is also supported by the fact that it happens that at this time the sons of Robert Pearsall, the elder brother of Thomas Pearsall, came to America and, strange to relate, they became associated with the business rivals of the sons of Thomas Pearsall, both in the Chesapeake Bay country and in New Amsterdam, or more accurately in the western section of Long Island and New England. To tell the story of the sons of Thomas Pearsall as a complete whole will therefore greatly assist the reader to understand the very interesting family history related in reference to the sons of Robert Pearsall, which the reader will find in the next or Twenty-eighth Chapter, to which the reader's attention is specially directed.

It was evident when the Dutch-English traders left the trading posts that were located in Virginia, on the Delaware Peninsula, and on Kent Island, Maryland, and removed to New Amsterdam, that the trade of all the English-speaking American colonies would necessarily center at this new trading point; not only because the tobacco trade was then the controlling factor in world-wide exchange, but also because the English thereby were admitted as partakers of the natural advantages of this port, namely, its tributary waterways reaching by easy access and short portages into the interior of the Continent, and its central position between the group of English colonies on the south and New England on the north. The successful trader would be compelled to at once establish himself

at this point. The pioneers in the movement to establish the new mart would reap exceedingly great advantages. In this movement the Pearsalls were foremost. We have therefore reached a time in our family history when it became absolutely necessary for the sons of Thomas Pearsall, with one exception, to remove from Virginia to Long Island in New Netherland; to leave an English Province and to become domiciled in a Dutch Colony. In this movement they accompanied a number of Dutch-English merchants, some of whom were their friends and associates, while others were their business rivals, who thereafter made New Amsterdam their trading point for handling American products, particularly tobacco.

In reciting the story of their settlement on Long Island we shall turn our attention more particularly to the towns and trading posts they established. The conclusion of the story of Kent Island, so far as our family history is concerned, inasmuch as it thereafter concerned only one of the sons of Thomas Pearsall, will be found in Chapter 54, which is devoted to the genealogy of the family group descending from Samuel Pearsall; to which chapter the reader is specially referred as it supplements and completes the family history as related in this and the next chapter.

The reader will kindly understand that the story related in this chapter, while necessarily speaking of the whole group of Dutch-English traders, refers more particularly to all those sons of Thomas Pearsall, the elder, who came to New Amsterdam, now New York, namely Thomas Pearsall the younger, Nicholas Pearsall, Henry Pearsall and George Pearsall.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that this important period of New York's history has not been adequately noticed by her historians; in fact a careful examination of all the many histories, both local and general, that pretend to cover this period of time and to speak of these places, almost entirely ignore the tide of emigration and the reasons for the same, which brought to New Amsterdam these wonderfully acute and very wealthy traders. All that is noticed is that the advent of the Englishmen completely changed the living conditions in the country. The farms that had been neglected began to be fruitful, and the colony from being a mere Indian trading point, became the seat of a world-wide commerce. But even these facts are stated only in the most general terms. Perhaps the writers are still afflicted with that insular Dutch prejudice which disliked to give credit to another people as accomplishing greater things than they had themselves been able, or rather than they had been inclined to do. It will therefore not be possible to understand our family history without making a more general study of the subject than would otherwise have been required.

The resolution of the Holland government to encourage free settlement, and to permit open trade, was in the light of subsequent events one of the most memorable incidents in American History, not alone because it served to bring into this Dutch Colony a number of the richest and most enterprising English traders, but also that thereby the whole face of the land, from Maine to Georgia, obtained a common impulse in trade and ultimately the politics of the several colonies was concentrated toward the accomplishment of the same purposes. That the Holland government was moved solely and selfishly by a desire to

absorb the large and growing tobacco trade makes no difference as to the merit and value of its action. It is enough to know that it was earnestly eager in its purpose as well as entirely truthful in its statements, and that its promises were made by its agents without mental reservation or secret intention to evade. The government therefore deserved the success of its new purpose and had the right to enjoy the wealth the colony thereby acquired. Moreover the conditions exacted by the Holland government read like the most advanced declaration of American freedom. The principal points in the proclamation of the Directors of the Privileged West India Company were as follows,—Whereas it is the intention of the Company to people its lands in America more and more and bring them into a proper state of cultivation, the Directors and Council there shall be instructed to accommodate every one according to his conditions and means with as much land as he by him and his family can properly cultivate, which lands thus conceded to any person in the name of the Company shall remain the property of the same, his heirs, and assigns, provided he shall pay to the Company after it shall have been four years [afterwards altered to ten years] pastured or cultivated, the lawful tenths of all fruits, grains, seed, tobacco, cotton and such like; also the produce of all sorts of cattle, of which property a proper deed shall be granted to them, provided they undertake, in fact, the cultivation and pasture thereof, and failing therein, shall incur over and above the loss of such lands, such penalty and fine as shall be mutually agreed upon at the time, for which penalties and fines their successors, heirs, or assigns, shall be conjointly holden. All those who proceed there, whether to settle the country or for purposes of trade, shall one by one declare under their signature, that they will voluntarily submit to these regulations, and to the commands of the Company and allow all questions and differences there arising to be decided by the ordinary course of Justice, established in that country, and fully suffer the executions of the sentences and verdicts without any further provocation. [History of New Netherlands, by O'Callaghan, page 200-203.]

All that the local historians can find to say concerning this is that it gave a decided impulse to the settlement of New Netherlands and to the increase of its population. This, strange to say, is a fair sample of all the attention that the writers and students have heretofore given to this most remarkable transition of an American Colony. Great wealth came in such abundance that it seemed like a fairy story, so sudden and magical was the transformation. In fact it is doubtful, if with the coming of these Dutch-English traders, and their vast fleets of merchantmen, there was a large mercantile and shipping port in the western continent of Europe but what practically at once began to trade with the colony of New Amsterdam. As to America, the history of every colony without regard to nationality, discloses that New Amsterdam became at the time the clearing house for the marketing and exchange of all their products.

The number of English residents now under Dutch jurisdiction became sufficiently large to direct the attention of the government to obtaining from them some guarantee of their allegiance. They were therefore called upon to take and subscribe an oath of fidelity to their High Mightinesses, the Lord States General, His Highness the Prince of Orange and the Noble Directors and Council of New

Netherlands, to follow the Director and any of his Council wherever they shall lead, faithfully to give instant warning of any treason or other detriment to this country that shall come to their knowledge, to assist to the utmost of their power in defending and protecting with their body and treasure the inhabitants thereof against all enemies. [History of New Netherlands, by O'Callaghan, page 207.]

This requirement was, at first, met by the Dutch-Englishmen in the same way it was evaded in Maryland, that is by having some one take the oath, secure a patent for lands, and subsequently subdivide this among the rest of the party. From the Dutch records it appears that Richard Brudenell took the required oath in August 1639, along with George Holmes, Abraham Lewmay, Francis Lastly, Edward Wilson, William Williamson, John Hobson, and John Hathaway.

The strongest kind of emphasis should be made that each of these names represents groups of Dutch-English merchants. It was a new practise for New Netherlands and one which soon disappeared under the system of patenting towns with the right to confer citizenship, unaccompanied by individual naturalization and expatriation. A complete list of those who subscribed to this oath does not appear upon any public record. It is certain that there were also Abram Page, Thomas Beecher, with whom we shall have to deal more particularly in this genealogy, Peter Bugley, from Newhurst in Somersetshire, England, and Richard Pitler.

It is generally understood that the oath of Richard Brudenell represented many of the associates of the Pearsalls at Kent Island and elsewhere in the Chesapeake Bay country. George Holmes and others stood for their competitors. Richard Brudenell was of an old and highly honorable English family, one of the name in 1720 being a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations. They were, as a family, also connected with the second Virginia Company, the record of which discloses that Edmund Brudnell of Sloakemandauill in ye county of Breek, Esquire, by his assignment under his hand and seal bearing date the 28th day of April in this 12th year of the Kings Raegne of England, Cr. (1622), passed over to Francis Brudnell his son two shares of land in Virginia due from the adventure of 25 pounds paid from Thomas Smith then Treasurer for Virginia, as by his Bill of Adventure under the Companies seal, dated the 28th of March may appear, whose name notwithstanding as left into ye printed book, which assignment being allowed by the auditors this present court did ratify and confirm. [Records of Virginia Company, vol. 1, page 621.]

Richard Brutnell also acquired land in the unincorporated town of Hempstead and later became one of the proprietors of the incorporated town of Hempstead. Richard Brutnell came from Virginia to New Netherlands, where he was closely associated in a business way with the Brents and Pearsalls, and located on Hellgate Neck outside of the bounds of what later became Newtown.

The Pearsalls came with Richard Brudenell who arrived in 1639, but they did not locate under his patent, having secured a location farther northwest on Hellgate Neck; here they called their settlement Pearsall, which was then located near the Brutnell patent upon Hellgate Neck. The patent for Brutnell's land was not, however, issued to him until July 28, 1643, although his holdings are

recited in the older patents. The Pearsalls leased or bought lands which were located by and patented to Dutchmen. For example, in this same year, 1639, Tymen Jansen acquired land, part at least of which was acquired by the Pearsall family. This land is described as in the Valley on the East side of Mespatches Kill, of the East River behind Dominies Hook, bounded by Burger Jorissen, Richard Brudenell, Peter Alburtus and Jan Jansen from Ditmarsh. There were two patents issued for this property, one in 1642, and the other on July 13, 1643. The land had, however, been occupied by the Pearsalls since 1639.

Riker gives quite a clear description of the parties who located in this vicinity. He says that at this time, at the head of the Kill of Mespath, or Newtown Creek, in a section called by the Dutch Kreupel Berch, now corrupted to Cripple Bush, Hans Hansen had a plantation; descending the stream, Richard Brudenell, a native of Bradford, England, was seated on the Hook or point, at the entrance and east side of Canapaukal Creek, now the Dutch Kills. On the opposite side of the Creek, Tymen Jansen who had been a ship carpenter in the employ of the Company, next to whom northwards lay the land of Burger Jorssen; upon the northern border of Mespath at Fishs point, Heindrick Harmensen, otherwise called Henry the Farmer had a Bowery. [Annals of Newtown, page 16.]

This was the condition of the Dutch-English settlement in 1642, when Reverend Francis Doughty, a dissenting clergyman, resolved with certain friends then residing at Taunton, Massachusetts, and other places to remove to the Dutch Territory. Mr. Doughty being empowered to act on behalf of his associates, asked for and was granted a patent for over thirteen thousand acres at Mespat, which embraced all of the present town of Newtown, except what is included in the above prior locations, the patents for which were, however, all issued subsequent to Mr. Doughty's. The land included in this patent is described as extending from the East angle of Hans Hansen's meadow dividing according to the creek the marsh into two unequal parts, with the plantations of Richard Brudenell and thence proceeding towards the north east, passing through the middle of the fresh marsh, to the rivulet surrounding the lands of Henry the Farmer, and following the same even to its mouth; then it describes the other line without giving the boundaries, but making it terminate at the above mentioned eastern angle of Hans Hansen's meadow. This grant was dated March 28, 1642, the granting whereof appears to have been the reason for the issuance of patents to the bounding proprietors.

Mr. Doughty was a religious enthusiast from Lincolnshire, England, who had come to America to enjoy freedom of speech and uncontrolled ecclesiastical action. He settled in Taunton, Massachusetts. Here he was soon in trouble with the church authorities who while they had come to America for the same reason that induced Mr. Doughty to emigrate, yet were very insistent that this freedom of speech and uncontrolled action, which they so devoutly sought, should be had according to their own daily conversation and rules of conduct and not at all as Mr. Doughty desired it. Doughty went from there to Rhode Island. Here he organized a colony to settle in the Dutch territory of Long Island. He was a man of family, but of very little estate. The patent to him for this land contained the proviso that it included the power to establish in the aforesaid tract a town

or towns, to erect a church or churches, to exercise the Reformed Christian religion and Church discipline which they profess; also to administer of right, high, low and middle jurisdiction, to decide civil suits, not exceeding fifty Dutch florins; to impose definitively, and without appeal, in criminal matters, fines to an equal amount, and to execute the same, subject, however, to such execution being deferred, should an appeal be made to the supreme court of New Netherlands; finally, to exercise all rights belonging to the aforesaid jurisdiction, with power moreover, to nominate some of their number and to present them to the Director of New Netherland, that a sufficient number may be chosen from them for political and juridical government; together with the right of hunting, fowling, fishing and of trading, according to the immunities granted, and to be granted, to the colonists of this province, without any exception. Wherefore the aforesaid Rev. Francis Doughty and his associates, their heirs, and assigns were obligated, so long as they are in possession of the above mentioned lands, to acknowledge the aforesaid Lord States General, of the United Netherland province, the Prince of Orange as well as the most noble Lords the Lord Directors of the general privileges West India Company for their sovereign Lords, and Patroons.

Finally they were to use no other standard, that is to say military flag than that of Holland. It is evident that this charter for a large tract of land became the basis of a land promotion, which carried with it no special duty of fealty to the Netherland government on the part of the purchasers of lots. This was so much better than the Maryland plan for evading the requirement for a personal oath of fealty, and carried so many more privileges, that the neighboring and earlier settlements rapidly came to do their business under the Doughty patent. While on the surface Doughty was a stranger to the Dutch-English Merchants, nevertheless, the entire scheme was hatched in the fertile brains of the Dutch-English traders and financed with their funds. In this they were ably assisted by Doughty who was a man of wonderful mental ability and, moreover, he was possessed of a number of young and attractive daughters who in due time married young men of the locality, so that in a very few years, he was so closely related to the Dutch-Englishmen that he was as though he had always been of the company of merchants.

A brief review of the history of the early patentees on Long Island adjacent to the little settlement of Pearsall on Hellgate Neck, will prove interesting. The Vigenboome Map, although dated 1639, nevertheless discloses conditions as they were immediately prior to the coming of these Dutch-Englishmen in 1638. It shows that this particular locality on Long Island was called Maspeth, a name which the Dutch persistently applied to the locality many years after the coming of the English settlers. Thus showing clearly that the names which finally became the locality designations were those given by the Englishmen and in no way to be attributed to the Dutch, although the names were those of towns and places in Holland, for, and it will bear repeating, these new names which now began to appear on the map of Long Island were of English towns although located in Holland, and they had been English for nearly a century.

The Dutch-Englishmen immediately gave the name of Middleburg to the Doughty settlement, a name which it subsequently adopted and continued until

the name was changed to Newtown. It is a remarkable fact that every New York historian has looked upon the names Middleburg and Flushing as instances of transplanting the names of Dutch communities in Holland to Dutch settlements in New Netherlands in America, whereas the places called Middleburg and Flushing in Zealand owed their prominence at this time to the fact that they were essentially English communities, located in Holland. The names were therefore appropriate to a settlement of Dutch Englishmen, not only as depicting their situation in this Dutch Colony, but as a remembrance of their old business home in Zealand. Moreover the duplication of names gave opportunity to use the brands and trademarks of the old Dutch tobacco market without shipping thereto and transshipment to the point of actual distribution of the tobacco.

The Pearsall settlement on Hellgate Neck, however, retained its name for at least ten years before it was absorbed in the general designation of Middleburg, and before the locality came to be called Hellgate Neck.

Tymen Jansen, another of the patentees and upon whose patent the town of Pearsall was located, in an affidavit made March 22, 1639, describes himself as a ship carpenter, then about thirty-six years old and he says that he had been in New Amsterdam since before 1633. He may have been related to the Pearsalls in some way. Certainly he was closely associated with them in business to the great profit of Tymen. It is certain also that at least his daughter married into the Valentine family, who was also Dutch-English, as well as closely related to the Pearsalls, and who were part of this little colony, for at a baptism of the child of Ulrick Brower, in the village of Bergen, New Jersey, March 30, 1700, Tymen Jansen Valentine and Sussanah his frau appear as sponsors, this Sussanah being the grand daughter of old Tymen Jansen. [The Valentines in America, 1874, page 58.]

The association of Tymen Jansen with the Pearsalls had begun some time before this. It had its beginning when the Pearsalls were prisoners, taken on the South River and brought to New York, at the time when the Dutch-English traders were trying to open a trading point on the waters of the Delaware River, and upon their arrival at New Amsterdam, Tyman Jansen was given charge of them as their jailor. The new association was greatly to Tymen Jansen's personal profit, as he had ceased to be a mechanic working in the shipyards, to be suddenly transformed into a man of wealth.

The public records show that after this he made it a business to lend his name in the colony for the benefit of others, for example, April 3, 1642, there was registered a Power of Attorney from Tymen Jansen to Dirck Corssen to receive procuration from Dr. Thomas Ses. There was difficulty about taking cattle out of Virginia, so March 31, 1642, he agreed to take any cattle recovered by Thomas Ses in Virginia on his account at a certain price, and this no doubt is a record of the transaction which brought such notable flocks of cattle to Hempstead plains for the Dutch-Englishmen and which is noted as being part of that town's property in this year.

The name of Burger Jorissen or Georgesen, another of the patentees adjacent to Pearsall, who is described in the old records as one of the oldest inhabitants here, appears on the map of John Vingboom, dated 1639. This map certainly

gives conditions as they existed some time prior thereto, as he is credited with occupying properties at locations 37, 38, 39 which it is believed he rented from Jan Jansen de Rapelya. These places were considerably west of where in the same year he located the holdings which he then owned on Long Island, as already noted.

The Jorissen family was one of the oldest in New Netherlands, Governor Arien Jorissen having come to the South River in 1623 or 1624, where he had business dealings with Thomas Pearsall in the tobacco trade. The Jorissen family were residents of the Delaware Country during the period that the free trade in Virginia tobacco across the Delaawre peninsula was at its height, and he had a strong hand in that trade. In fact this trade would have been impossible without the help or connivance of Arien Jorissen who was then the Dutch Governor. Sarah Jorissen was the first born Christian daughter in New Netherlands. She married Hans Hansen, a Dutchman, whose bowery lay near Cripple Bush. It comprised four hundred acres on which is now built the section known as Bushwick Cross Roads. In 1656 Sarah, his widow, was granted the use of a small piece of meadow adjoining her land. [New York Historical Records, vol. xiv, page 346; History of Chester Co., Pa., page 10.]

In 1664, George Pearsall, by a deed recorded on the Town Records of Newtown, conveys land bounded by Jorissen, lying against Mespeth Kills. It is not likely that Jorissen ever occupied this property. In fact it is probable that his name was used by the Dutch-English merchants with which to acquire land without becoming liable for military service to New Netherlands. This view is further fortified by the fact that on September 7, 1639, Jorissen rented the company's blacksmith shop on Manhattan Island, for four years, and for the next ten years he appears to have been located there, employed in all sorts of enterprises, including politics, which brought his name on the public records. He evidently was a bitter partisan as, on June 7, 1646, he was tried for slander and threatening to have a piece of the Fiscals body before he quit the country, for which offence he was fined sixty Guilders and to remain in prison until it was paid. After judgment was pronounced he used threatening language towards the bench, whereupon he was further sentenced to be imprisoned in irons for twenty-four hours after the above fine was paid. Probably as a result of this trial he made a voyage to Holland, in 1646, and returned before 1648. About 1650, he appears to have built a mill on Mespeth Kill, near the land of Adner Hugbertson, Robert Willet, and George Jurel. His holdings appear to have extended into the East River as, January 3, 1655, the deacons of the Dutch Church petitioned the Government for the Island, Hewelican, or Burger Jorissen's Island, and they were informed that it had been disposed of long before. The records do not disclose that he ever had any other dealings with the Pearsall family, or that his children united in marriage with theirs, which confirms the view that he and his were not neighbors to the Pearsalls and that the Pearsalls occupied his bowery. He sold his plantation at Mespeth Kill in 1693, to Burger Broucard, the ancestor of the Bragaw family in this country. The children of Bragaw married Pearsalls, as we shall presently see. Riker, in his history of Newtown, says Burger Joris had, in 1642, rented his bowery and stock consisting of goats &c. to Robert Evans and

James Smith, but he subsequently resumed his farm and erected there a tide mill prior to 1654, and the creek was then denominated Burgers Kill. James Smith removed to Hempstead. In the property book of that town, it appears that there was laid out to Jeremiah Smith twenty-two acres of land lying westward of Herricks, ye west side of ye road that leads by ye west side of James Smith's house and ye north side of ye road that leads by ye north side of Uriah Plats house, a description which would make him live in or near the Pearsall settlement in Hempstead. He was also one of the patentees of Middleborough 1656. It would be beyond the capacity of this work to present the record of all the Smiths who were connected with the Virginia Company. There is, however, no doubt about this James Smith being a Dutch-Englishman as the records show that he was associated in business ventures with Isaac Allerton and Sara Willet. He was also closely related by marriage to Robert Brudenell.

As to Robert Evans, he removed to Pennsylvania with George Pearsall, and his grandchildren went with George Pearsall's grandson, Edward Pearsall, to New Hanover County, North Carolina, and settled on the North East branch of the Cape Fear River. The records of the Virginia Company show that Hugh Evans passed two of his five shares to Thomas Newton in 1622. There can be no doubt therefore but that Evans was a Dutch-English trader from Virginia.

Heinrek Harmensen or Henry the Farmer, as he is called in the old patent, seems to have been an associate of Thomas Hall, who will be recalled as the emissary of the Dutch-English merchants when they tried to secure possession of old Fort Nassau on the Delaware. His location may therefore be said to be for the benefit of the business competitors of the Pearsalls. He, like Jorissen, was not tenanted on his farm. He moved over on to Manhattan Island either next to or on the same place with Hall, where he lived until his death, in 1645. His widow married Jurgan Fridel who obtained a patent for land formerly belonging to Henrick Hermansen, located at Mespeth Kill, and a small island east of Hellgate opposite the island called Three Brothers. George Stevenson married in 1652, his daughter Geesie. There were two George Stevensons in New Netherlands at that time. So this George Stevenson distinguished himself by saying that he was Van Alst, meaning that after he left England he had done business at Alst in Holland before he came to America. His family adopted this as their patronymic. His grandchildren married into the Pearsall family.

Another Dutch patentee was Jan Jansen, from Ditmarsen in Holstein, Holland. He did not get his patent until 1647, although his property was occupied from the time the Dutch-English traders first came to Long Island. He is the progenitor of the Ditmars family in this country. The old Dutch scriveners designated a man's former place of residence by Van or from, whereas they indicated his present place of abode by prefixing an of. In the Register of the Provincial Secretary of New Netherlands under date of September 16, 1648, appears a power of attorney by Jan Jansen of Piersel to William Turck, to receive money due him by the West India Company at Amsterdam, and same day a bond by Burger Joris as security to William Turck for the repayment of certain moneys advanced to Hans Jansen of Piersel, with note of said Jansen in favor of Joris for said amount. This quite definitely fixes the location of the settlement of Pear-

sall, as on Hellgate Neck, which is the northern neck of the territory now included in Newtown.

As we have seen the Doughty settlement was called Middleburgh, while the creek which bounded it was called Flushing before Doughty obtained his patent. All of which is very interesting, as here was an English town in the midst of a Dutch colony, at a place which the Dutch designated by the Indian name of Mespath, and which the Englishmen changed to their own name, Pearsall, and it adjoins the place of the same name as the city of Middleburg, where they had done business in Holland. Jan Jansen, of Pearsall, sold his plantation before 1651, as July 11, 1651, it was deeded to Guystert Avertsen and to George Stevenson, who called himself Van Alst; October 12, 1655, Jan Jansen obtained a lease for a farm from Derck Smith and his wife Annelny Maederts located at Maspachtes Kill between Sergeant Jacob Luby and John Swaine, who was also a Dutch-Englishman from Virginia. In 1622 Mr. Thomas Swaine, master of the ship Hart, was made a freeman in Virginia and became vested with three shares in the company. [New York Colonial Records, vol. 14, page 335.]

While these patents were all ultimately included in the Town of Newtown, which retained the nickname of Middleburg, yet prior to 1703, they were separate but allied communities. Those who lived in the surrounding settlements seem to have used the Doughty patent whenever it suited some special purpose which could be better accomplished under the positive grant of political rights to the patented town, as say a complaint that they were not being permitted to exercise all the rights of freemen. This enabled them to transact their business upon the high seas as Englishmen, they being merely British subjects sojourning in a foreign land. But when their rights in New Netherlands were in any way abridged they, acting through the incorporated towns, became highly indignant New Netherlanders.

Thus in the Petition of the Deputies of the English Villages in 1653, it is stated,—Fifthly on the promise of Deeds and a general patent of Freedom and privileges, various plantations have been made at great expense and trouble to the inhabitants through building of houses, erecting fence, &c. tilling and cultivating the soil; for example that of Middleburg and Midtwout, with their dependencies besides several other places and individual boweries which have applied for general and particular deeds, but to their serious expense, having made various journeys from time to time, and been put off, which excites suspicion of innovations or that other conditions will be introduced different from former stipulations. At other times they stood upon their own rights as individuals and ignored the Middleburg town government. As a result they were considered, even by themselves, as more or less dependencies of the Middleburg Town. [New York Colonial Manuscripts, Holland Documents, vol. vii, page 552.]

All this happened so long ago that it has long since been forgotten and many today may be inclined to question the historical accuracy of this statement. But fortunately the English government later saw this difficulty in governing these independent, yet inter-related, communities, so its governor insisted upon all the territory being incorporated in one town, which made trouble between those who owned land within and those who owned land outside of the incor-

porated limits of Middleburg. This resulted in litigation during which the following affidavits were made which appear upon the Town Records of Newtown, but which affidavits when presented to the Governor did not however stop the issuance of a patent which settled the difficulties of the government by including the whole territory under one local charter.

January ye 25th 1703,-4. William Hallett senior of Newtown, aged eighty-seven or thereabouts, made oath that he never did pay any money to procure Newtown purchase, neither did he ever know that any of the neighbors did pay any money, neither he nor they was interested in land that they purchased nor did they ever lay any claim or make any pretences in or purchase in of said town of Newtown before granting of Coll. Nichols patent, but that they was and looked at themselves to be different from Newtown which was then stiled Middleburg, and further deponent saith that he made purchase and that distinct from ye town of Newtown of ye land he now is possessed and that of several of ye petitioners lands which it and that ye town of Newtown had magistrates in the town of Newtown, that was ordered to administer Justice to the inhabitants and further ye deponent saith not. William Hallet was born in Dorsetshire, England, in 1616. He first emigrated to Greenwich, Connecticut, from which place he came, in 1652, to the neighborhood of Middleburg, acquiring a large plantation on Hellgate Neck. He subsequently removed to Flushing from which he later returned to the old neighborhood. This William Hallet, senior, calls himself of Hellgate, i.e. Pearsalls, in a deed dated May 11, 1678. [Jamaica Records, page 44.]

9th of June, 1703, Capt. Richard Betts of Newtown, aged ninety-four years or thereabouts, made oath that he went down to New York to Coll. Richard Nicolls, who was then Governor of this Province to procure a license in behalf of ye purchasers of ye said town of Newtown to perfect their purchases from the Indians of ye said land within that township, and did obtain it when the said license was obtained that ye Indians executed a deed for ye said land in which none of ye inhabitants of ye out plantations of ye land then purchased were interested, neither did they belong to ye said town of Newtown at that time and further deponent saith not. Captain Richard Betts came from England, in 1648, to Ipswich in New England, whence he removed to the vicinity of Newtown.

January 10, 1703/4. Major Daniel Whitehead of Jamaica, aged 58 years or thereabouts, made oath that at ye time of ye coming of Col. Nichols, then governor of ye province of New York his father and his son then living at Maspeth Kills, then not belonging to Newtown, they then being distinct from ye town of Newtown, chose deputies to send to ye general meeting at Hempstead as other towns did, and that he never knew that his father or any other of ye neighbors nor any that is on the north side of Newtown purchase laid claim to any right in ye purchase of ye said town before ye granting of ye patent from Coll. Nichols, nor did he ever hear his father or any other neighbors say that they paid any money towards the purchase of said town of Newtown and further deponent saith not. Daniel Whitehead was among the purchasers of Southhold, Long Island, in 1650. A few years later he located in the territory adjacent to Middleburg. He raised a large family of whom was Major Daniel Whitehead who married the daughter of Thomas Stevenson.

The point of difference between the parties will strike the student as being peculiar, and one as to which there should have been no doubt or discord. There was a well defined boundary line between the lands included within the Middleburg grant and those of the adjoining patents. Notwithstanding this there had been from the beginning a well understood and admitted right, vested in the inhabitants of these adjoining patents, in civil matters, to claim and be allowed the special privileges enumerated in the Doughty Patent. It was an example of the shrewdness of these Dutch-English merchants that they had arranged matters in such a way that they could either be in or out of citizenship in this Dutch colony, according as the exigencies of their business might require, or their personal liberty demand. As a fact they were the real owners of the Doughty patent, as they had furnished all the money necessary to carry it through and they had taken the precautions required, so that they could control it for their own peculiar purposes, and particular ends. As to this there can be no question. In the remonstrance of New Netherlands and the occurrences there by the people of New Netherland, July 28, 1649, it appears as follows: Long Island, which is a crown of the Province by reason of its great advantage of excellent bays and harbors, as well as convenient and fertile lands. They have also entirely usurped except Breukelen and Arnersfoort, two Dutch villages of little moment in the West end and Francis Doughty,—Adrien Onderdonk's father-in-law and an English minister was granted a Colony at Mespath but not for himself alone as Patroon, but for him and his associates whose agent he was, for said minister had scarcely any means of himself to build a hut, let alone to plant a colony at his own expense. [Book 1, page 427, Secretary Van Tienhoven's Answer to the Remonstrance from New Netherlands.]

At that time the Dutch-English traders had all the land they needed within the bounds of their own individual holdings. Their business was on the ocean, they had no time for the slow accumulation of wealth by clearing the timber and farming their own holdings, let alone acquiring more, so they encouraged others to buy within the bounds of the Doughty Patent, being perfectly contented to rest within the protection of its ample political provisions. Thus they precluded themselves from participation in the profits of their own venture. It was difficult for these old Dutch-English traders or their descendants to understand that they had really lost their property rights in Middleburg Patent. There seems to have been some sort of a compromise.

Today all these lands are lost in the great city of Brooklyn, New York, laid out in city blocks fronting on paved streets, and while the names are locally maintained, it is difficult for the stranger to obtain any adequate conception of this locality as it existed at the time our ancestors settled there and began the first of the English settlements upon the Dutch end of Long Island. Innes, who knew the locality as it was changing from suburban to urban, in his Serial Account of Newtown, says,—The Westerly line of Middleburg Patent (Newtown) extending north from Brudenell's farm (afterwards that of the Alsops) at the Present Blissville, and Calvary Cemetery and following for some distance the general line of the road passing the Sussdorf residence at Woodside, crossed the

Hallets Cove Road, not far from the school house at Woodside and ran on through the middle of Trams meadow towards the Bowery Bay. [Innes, IX.]

At the lower end of the Dutch Kills road it reached the plantation of Richard Brutenell, which occupied the angle between the Newtown Creek, and the Canapaukan or Burgers Kill, and embraces all of the present Blissville, and one half of the old Calvary Cemetery. This territory, though it does not appeal very strongly to the sympathy either of the eye or nose at present, is of much historical interest for it is quite probable that this farm of Brutenell was the first attempt at settlement in the Country of Newtown. While he only obtained a patent for the land in 1643, he had already been located for several years at this spot, as a portion of it had been cleared and was under cultivation in the beginning of 1642, as recited in the Doughty patent. The site of the first house in Newtown would be a place of much interest and importance, but that of Brutnall's house is unknown. It used to be assumed that it was where the venerable Alsop house stood on the edge of the Newtown Creek near the Penny Bridge, but that is a mistake, as this land was acquired afterwards by Brutenall's successor, Thomas Wandall. The eastern portion of his land of about 50 acres was traded by Brutnall to Thomas Wandall, who had married the widow of William Herrick. [Innes, No. XII. Mss., Long Island Historical Society.]

On the East of Brutenall, Richard Colefax one of the Middleburg partners acquired 50 acres of land about the year 1652, and the road turned in an easterly direction at the Brutnall farm, passed the farms of the eccentric Cases and of the Alburteses which extended a mile or more back of Newtown Creek.

The landscape at the beginning of the town was altogether different—A broad belt of dense woods occupied the swamp, from Burger Jorisens ancient mill and pond at Dutch Kills, almost to the roadside at the Narrow Passage. Through these woods flowed the slow current of the small artificial stream, known as Burgers Sluice, its bank lined with alders and over arched by Swamp maples, and whitewoods, with their swinging vines of the wild grapes. On the east side of the road the swamp woods again closed in and extended down into the long Tram meadows. These swamps and the expanse of Tram meadows were quite impassable for horsemen, or, indeed, for foot travelers, in any but the driest seasons, consequently the narrow passage was a strategic position of great importance in protecting the settlers against the inroads of the Indians, and later it was the key to all the movements of troops on Long Island in the war of the Revolution. As the salt meadows between Burgers Mill were also impassable, the road at the mill and the narrow passage itself formed the only approach to the East River from the North of Long Island, with the exception of the road along the beach at Bowery Bay. Thus we see quite clearly the wisdom exercised in the selection of the sites for these Dutch-English towns of Pearsall and Middleburg. It was not possible for overland travel to interfere with their handling of their cargoes, as all the traffic had to pass by the only road which ran through their towns to go either east or west, and thereby the eastern end of the Island, particularly that part including the nearby harbors, was entirely and completely at the command of these Dutch-English merchants. Then again, it was only across the river to the main town, with its trading place behind the city hall. It was not a good spot

for the homesteader as the far greater part of the country was covered with its native forests. The work of clearing a Long Island forest did not proceed very rapidly and it was the labor of years to get under cultivation a few acres for the necessary wheat, barley, maize, oats, and peas for the support of the family. The settler whose allotment chanced to embrace portions of the easily tillable flats where the Indians had already cleared away small tracts for their maize land, usually devoted his superfluity of land to the cultivation of tobacco. The cattle at first were turned loose to find their own living in the woods and swamps in the summer, and in the winter found a precarious sustenance on straw, salt hay from the marshes or coarse native hay from the fresh meadows. [Innes, XII.]

As to our family, George Pearsall and his brother Thomas Pearsall lived near the northern part of this territory near Hellgate, in a section called Pearsalls and later called Hellgate Neck. Nicholas lived there until he moved to Flushing, and Henry lived there only a few months until he moved to Hempstead. George Pearsall later moved to Pennsylvania, stopping in New Jersey on the way, thus leaving Thomas Pearsall as the only one whose children remained at this locality.

As we have seen, behind this settlement lay the great impassable swamp extending southward to the ocean's strand, with its one narrow passage passing through the lands of these traders. In front of them lay the mysterious and greatly feared Hellgate.

The Rev. Charles Wooley in his Journal, April 1678, says, Hellgate is as dangerous and as unaccountable as the Norway Whirlpool or maelstrom; in this Hellgate, which is a narrow passage, runneth a rapid violent stream, both upon flood and ebb and in the middle lieth some islands of rocks upon which the current sets so violently that it threatens present shipwreck and upon the flood is a large whirlpool which sends forth a continued hideous roaring.

Denton, in his New York, says:—In about 10 miles from New York in a place called Hellgate, which being a narrow passage, there runneth a violent stream both upon flood and ebb and in the middle lieth some islands of rocks which the current sets so violently that it threatens present shipwreck and upon the flood is a large whirlpool which is continually sending forth a hideous roaring, enough to affright any stranger from passing further and to await for some charm to conduct him through, yet to those that are well acquainted there is little or no danger. [Denton's New York, 1670.]

In the kills and coves nearby there was ample shelter in deep water for the ships of the traders. And the forest fringing the water made perfect hiding places where the coveted free trade could be carried on with perfect freedom from prying eyes. The conditions were ideal, and the inhabitants waxed rich and powerful.

About 1644, a party of English who had come from Holland and who had been more or less associated with the earlier settlements of Dutch-Englishmen in Virginia and at Middleburg, Long Island, moved westward and organized the town of Flushing. It is bounded by Long Island Sound and the towns of Hempstead and Jamaica, and Flushing Bay and creek, which separate it from Newtown. Among the original settlers was Nicholas Pearsall, also John and William Lawrence. While the Lawrences had come from Virginia to New York by way of New England, they were nevertheless business connections of the old Dutch-

Englishmen. John Lawrence, in 1620, became a stockholder in the Second Virginia Company, and they were in Virginia before they came to New England. The Lawrences came to the settlement of Pearsalls, at the earliest time of its history, as we find them heavily interested in all the town patents which emanated from this community, particularly in Hempstead and Flushing. [Colonial Records of New York, vol. VIX, page 562.]

Rev. Henry D. Waller, in his most excellent history of Flushing, page 15, says: Among the many other English colonists who sought the protection of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland were the incorporators of the town of Vlissingen, i.e. Flushing. There appears to be no authority for the tradition that the incorporators chose the name because they had at one time found refuge in the Holland town of the same name. The creek was called Flushing Creek before the arrival of the English settlers for the charter designates the boundary in these words.—To begin at ye westward part thereof at a mouth of a creek upon the East River now commonly called and known by the name of Flushing Creek. Thus we see how little even the most eminent local historians knew concerning the prior history of the Dutch-English traders who organized and incorporated this town. These merchants knew the value of a trade name and they had seen to it that every possible place name of the old Zealand country was duplicated in their Long Island settlements. Hence they saw at once the value of calling the place Flushing after the port of entry to the trading city of Middleburg in Holland, where the tobacco trade had long been centered. When one reads the records and history of the Virginia Company, it is at times difficult to appreciate that it is only the year of the minutes of the proceeding, and the fact that one is reading the records of the Virginia Company, that most definitely fixes the Middleburg and Flushing mentioned as being the Holland localities, instead of the New Netherland places, so intimately did the latter become associated with this world-wide tobacco trade. New England was at once greatly alarmed at the possible destruction of the maritime trade, while Connecticut became anxious about the losses incurred by the Seed Tobacco farmers who had built up several large and prosperous agricultural and mercantile communities in the Valley of the Connecticut River. So she ordered, that what person or persons within this jurisdiction shall after September, 1641, drink any other tobacco but such as is or shall be planted within their liberties, shall forfeit for every pound so spent five shillings, except they have license from Court. [Colonial Records, Connecticut, vol. 1, page 53, June 11, 1640.]

By 1642, as a result of this influx of Dutch-Englishmen, the commerce of New Netherland had greatly increased. DeVries in his diary page 212 says,—1642, As I was daily with Governor Keift he told me that he had now a free inn built of stone in order to accommodate the English who daily passed with their vessels from New England to Virginia, from whom he suffered great annoyance, by their asking the Governor to entertain them at the executive mansion, and who might now lodge in the tavern. I replied that it happened well for the travellers, but there was a great want of a church and that it was a scandal for us when the English passed there and saw only a mean barn in which we preached, that the first thing the English in New England built after their dwellings was a fine church.

The Dutch-English merchants had at their first coming established a market place, or exchange, in the city and it was not long before some of them acquired a piece of land nearby where they had their homes and private places of business. These were mostly the bankers, brokers and jobbers. The active men of this commerce preferred the solitude and safety of their settlements upon Hellgate Neck. It was not until the year 1690 that a member of the Pearsall family resided in the city of New York. It was the location of this exchange and the situation of the homes of those who daily took part therein, which determined the site of the city tavern. It was not that the Governor disliked the company of visiting merchants, but the new trade brought to New Amsterdam by the Dutch-English traders made the visits of important merchants so frequent that the Governor could no longer undertake to extend to them the free hospitality of his mansion. [The Empire State in Three Centuries, by Genl. Dwight H. Brull, page 48.]

The fine stone tavern was erected fronting the East River. This building which was among the first constructed east of the present Broad Street, was located on the present northwest corner of Pearl Street and Coventry Alley. After the organization of a city magistracy in 1653, it was ceded to the city to be used for the purpose of a Stadt huys or city hall, and was thus occupied until the year 1700. [History of New York City, by David T. Valentine, page 30.]

John H. Innes says, The present block of ground lying between Stone and Pearl streets, Coenties Alley and Hanover Square, which constituted, in the seventeenth century, the small tract situated east of the Stadt Huys and between Hoogh Straet and the rivershore, became, at an early day, a sort of English quarter in the town. Here, in 1645, Thomas Willet received a grant of the land lying next to the Great Tavern, a parcel of irregular shape, averaging about one hundred and seventy-five feet in width, and extending from the road, or Hoogh Straet, to the river,—a distance of something over one hundred feet. This parcel seems to have formed a hill, or bluff of moderate height, which was levelled—in part, at any rate,—about the year 1656, for the purpose of filling out and grading the open space along the shore which formed what is now Pearl Street in this vicinity. [New Amsterdam and its People, New York, 1902, page 192.]

This Thomas Willet was an Englishman born in Bristol, England, who came from Virginia to New Amsterdam. His family in Virginia were among the richest and greatest landed proprietors. They were heavily interested in the tobacco trade. Thomas Willet married Sarah Cornell, the daughter of Thomas Cornell. He was partner with Jorien Blanck and Joclen Keirsted, but their business dealings were not without considerable friction and finally their disagreement brought them into court. Thomas Willet died before 1647, when his widow married Charles Bridges of Canterbury, England, who was also a Dutch-English merchant. In 1653, he was made Provincial Secretary. He died in August, 1682, and she married John Lawrence, Jr., of Flushing, Long Island, who was a Dutch-English trader of the highest rank. This little bit of genealogy discloses how intimately these Dutch-English traders had become associated with the business life of the New Netherland colony.

The conveyance to Thomas Willets in 1645 was really a quitclaim of the government's rights to the land as he had occupied the same, certainly from the

year 1640. It was not until 1642 that any deeds or grants were made of town lots and it was long after this before those who held lands by prior oral transfer, felt called upon to get a deed for their lands. Probably no record title for lots in New York City below Wall Street will go farther back through deeds to individual proprietors than that date. Previously the settlers had been permitted to occupy building locations by unwritten sanction and these had been established with little respect to uniformity, except such as the natural geography of the island at its southern extremity suggested. Circumstances, however, led to the adoption of certain lines of thoroughfares, which afterwards, upon surveys and regulations of the town, became adopted as permanent streets and have since remained so. [History of New York City, by David T. Valentine, page 30.]

A regular boom was now started in New Netherlands, which the government encouraged in every way. DeVries says,—When any one came to settle in the country they lend him horses, cows, and give him provisions, all of which he returns as soon as he is at ease and as to the land, after 10 years, he pays to the West India Company the tenth of the produce which he reaps.—All of which marked greatly changed conditions from those which prevailed in America before 1639. It can be said that the emigration of English merchants to New York was one of the most momentous incidents in Colonial history. This is to be attributed entirely to the original inhabitants of the Pearsal, Middleborough, Hempstead and Flushing settlements, for it was through them that all this came about. In saying this, one does not detract from the credit due to other settlements, or to other individuals who later came into this colony, nor decry the work of those who later settled on Long Island west of the line of Dutch control. [*Ibid.*, page 260.]

Governor Keift bears testimony that in place of the old neglect of agriculture, this emigration of Virginians changed things so that in place of seven farms and two or three plantations, one saw thirty farms as well cultivated and stocked with cattle as in Europe, and there are five English colonies, which by contract have among us equal terms with the Dutch, each of these settlements was in appearance not less than a hundred families strong. [New York, the Planting and Growth of the Empire, by Ellis H. Roberts, Boston, 1887.]

On the other hand, prior to this, the Dutch colony was languishing away, for while the early settlers in New Netherlands tried to support themselves, in part at least, from the soil, they did not attempt in any large degree to raise agricultural products for export. It is true that they made experiments with tobacco and gradually extended their crops of grain, so that after the coming of the Virginians, wheat was shipped to Boston and in due time became a factor in trade with the Old World. Yet at the outset of the colony the source of profit was in furs and its general policy was determined by this fact. At the beginning all the colonies in America were specialists, therefore the devotion of New England to fisheries and of Virginia to raising tobacco, gave to the Dutch colony the control, if not the monopoly, of the fur traffic, and altogether it made conditions ripe for a common trading point, where the commodities in which each colony excelled could be traded for the productions of the other colonies, or for the products of other countries. It must have made living conditions much better in

every English colony and greatly added to their wealth. [New York, the Planting and Growth of the Empire, by Ellis H. Roberts, Boston, 1887.]

It is true that the necessities of the government compelled taxation upon this trade, but this did not close this market. It is an open secret that the free trade or smuggling, as the authorities called it, through the harbors on the north side of Long Island began with the advent of the Dutch-Englishmen. The old Dutch records contain numerous instances where the parties were caught and fined, as well as the duty exacted. Captain John Underhill was sent to Long Island, and settled at Matinecock as Deputy Sheriff and Surveyor of Customs in an endeavor to break up this trade. It continued, however, until nearly, if not quite, the end of the colonial period. The harbors of northern Long Island enjoyed until a very much later time a high degree of prosperity, far beyond the ability of the island to support from its own produce. [Old Matinecock, by George William Cocks, page 10.]

There was a marked difference in the prosperity of the towns on Long Island between those tributary to the Dutch and those governed by New England. The Dutch-English traders were located in the New Netherland towns, and through the exchange in New Amsterdam behind the Stadt House, they directed a commerce which was not only world-wide, but it brought riches upon riches to them and to the community. Their harbors on the north of Long Island were employed to dock their vessels and to handle their cargoes. In fact this district, where the tobacco trade flourished, never seems to have extended west of the present division line between Queens and Nassau counties. The towns located to the east of this line were intensely jealous of the easy wealth that seemingly without end or limit came to their western neighbors. It is probable that this feeling was intensified by the knowledge of the free trade that these Dutch-English traders cultivated in defiance of the Dutch impost laws. Of course the eastern towns protested, but the New England authorities were without jurisdiction as to the western towns. Their protests proving fruitless, the eastern towns assumed a law-abiding attitude which it is doubtful that they really deserved, as not having the means to do wrong under the law, it is impossible to say what they would have done under circumstances like those enjoyed by the western Long Island towns. Nevertheless they claimed to be law-abiding and pointed to the violations of others. Some of these eastern towns, notably Oyster Bay, in 1657, offered to accept a Dutch patent but the offer was never accepted by the Government of New Netherlands. So after five years of futile effort, the town of Oyster Bay became very much concerned over the continuance of the practice of smuggling tobacco through the harbor of the Dutch-English towns on Long Island, to avoid the customs of New Amsterdam and the English export duties. As a result, the records of the town of Oyster Bay disclose the following action by that town relating to the illicit tobacco trade.

Oyster Bay the 24th of ye first mo 1661. These presents declareth to all people and nations whom it may consarne yt ye Towne of Oyster Bay in Long Iland in New England on considerations of barks and other Vessels yt coms into our harbor lest any should bring to-backo heather to deprive ye king of his custom ether derectly or inderectly by a pretence of landing it heere and then sele it to ye Duch And lest it should be reported or Understood that wee doe counti-

nance or connive at such prosedings wee doe manifest our dislike and doe alsoe declare against all such prosceedings and doe heerbie exhibbit any of ye Towne from giving any incorridgmentt to any that way: for wee are in minoritie and have not order to custom Tobaca neither doe wee know what it is And Therfor wee desire all to forbear coming heather on any such account as wee have declared against as above said. This resolution was signed by Henry Townsend: Sr. Which discloses also how readily the offspring of the Dutch-English free trade became the law-abiding religious man of the succeeding generation, as the records disclose that John Townsend and others of Flushing, as early as 1648, had to be cited for refusing to support a minister and for opposing the nomination of a sheriff who would of course be required to compel them to obey the laws of their town as well as to comply with the commands of the governor and council of the colony. [Town Records of Oyster Bay, vol. 1, page 8. Printed in Journal, vol. 1, page 8.]

All this prosperity in the Dutch colony was too great a trial for the forbearance of the New Englanders, particularly as it was brought about by the advent into the Dutch colony of English traders. As a consequence there came into Connecticut and New England a feeling that if a trading post were established by them on the Delaware it would be beyond the power of the local authorities to compel obedience to the excise laws, and the Yankee skipper could consequently enjoy a portion of this free trade. Evidently they did not comprehend that the Dutch-English traders, specially Thomas Pearsall, together with the Calverts and Brents, controlled the output that came through the Delaware country. There really was no reason why the New Englanders should not have been satisfied with their monopoly of the fisheries trade, but the propaganda of unrest and dissatisfaction was secretly fomented and kept constantly alive by those who were in sympathy with Isaac Allerton and his associates, who desired a larger share of the tobacco trade than they were permitted to enjoy because they were in opposition to the Dutch-English traders. It is difficult however to get at the real principals as they worked under cover of someone whom they could trust to do anything whatsoever that would appear to be necessary toward the planting of such a colony, and whom these opposition traders would be willing to finance. Isaac Allerton had worked himself out of New England principally because he would not conform to the local religious regulations. He transferred his headquarters to New Amsterdam and became more than ever the leading spirit among those who were in opposition to the Dutch-English traders. It was easy for him to promote in New England some wild scheme of aggrandisement which promised easy money, or rich personal property or lands, to those who participated therein, as he continued to maintain houses for trade within the leading New England ports. [History of the State of Delaware, by Francis Vincent, page 165-166.]

It was about this time, namely 1641, that we have the first authentic information of the attempt of the New England English to settle on the Delaware. The different records do not exactly agree, but enough can be extracted from them to render it certain that Captain Turner, as the agent of several citizens of New Haven, embarked from there for the Delaware, and when he arrived, pur-

chased several tracts on both sides of the river, for the purpose of settling it with English families from that place.

Early in the year 1641, the English made their attempt to settle on the lands purchased by Turner on the Delaware. A bark or catch was fitted out at New Haven, by Mr. Lamberton, under the command of Robert Cogswell. They stopped at Fort Anderson, when Director Kieft hearing of their intention protested strongly. [Hazard's Historical Collections, vol. 2, page 162, 210.]

The English, however, assured the Governor that it was not their intention to interfere with any settlement already made, and if none could be found free from claims they would return. They accordingly proceeded to South River, and commenced erecting trading houses or Varkens on Farkenskill near the present town of Salem, New Jersey, and it is supposed also on the Schuylkill. This settlement consisted of sixty persons. This was more than the Dutch-English traders would stand for so they forcibly represented to the Dutch authorities the losses they would sustain were this invasion of their territory permitted. [Vincent's History of the State of Delaware, and Instructions to Swedish Governor, Reg. Penn., vol. 4, page 219.]

The Dutch at New Amsterdam therefore determined to expel the English from the Schuylkill. The settlement at Varken's kill, or Salem in New Jersey, they appear at this time not to have interfered with. The Director General and Council at their meeting passed a resolution which says, having received unquestionable information that some English had the audacity to land at South River, opposite to our Fort Nassau, where they made a beginning of settling on the Schuylkill, without any commission of a potentate, which is an affair of ominous consequence, disrespectful to their High Mightinesses, and injurious to the interests of the West India Company, as by it their commerce on the South River might be eventually ruined: Resolved, that it is our duty to drive these English from thence, in the best manner possible. Accordingly on the 22d of April, they issued instructions to their commissary or governor on the South River, Jan Jansen Van Ilpendam, that so soon as the yachts Real and St. Martin should arrive at the South River, he was to embark in either of the two yachts, or, if he thought best, in both of them, with such a body of men as he could collect together, and proceed towards the Schuylkill, disembark there directly, and require from the English to show him by what authority they acted, and how they dared to make such an encroachment upon the Dutch rights and privileges, territories and commerce. If they could show no authority, or royal commission to settle within the Dutch limit, or an authentic copy of such a commission, then they were to be compelled to depart in peace, to prevent effusion of blood. If they would not listen or submit, then their persons were to be secured and brought to New Amsterdam. He was instructed to be on his guard, to remain master, not to be surprised and to maintain the reputation of the High Mightinesses and the noble Directors of the West India Company. If the English left the spot, or made their escape, then he was to destroy their improvements, and level them on the spot. Whilst he was to take care that the English were not injured in personal property, but that in their presence an accurate inventory should be made of the whole. Jan Jansen appears to have carried out his instructions, and have

expelled the English from the Schuylkill. [Vincent's History of the State of Delaware, vol. 1, and Albany Records, vol. 2, page 162, 164, 165; also Winthrop, vol. 2, page 237.]

The English at Boston, undeterred by the ill success of the first expedition, again fitted out an expedition to the Delaware, which ended still more disastrously. They had procured a good supply of beaver, when some Indians who were trading with them suddenly drew out hachets from under their coats, and killed the master and three others, and took away a man and a boy. The man saved was a red man and he understood their language. The Indians gave him a large portion of the goods. He lived amongst them for five or six weeks, after which he reached Boston where he was tried for betraying his companions but acquitted.

While these expeditions consumed several years it did not take the farseeing and shrewd Yankee so long as this to see that the New England Colonies were not to be permitted to secure a foothold on the Delaware River, neither were the New England communities to be permitted to share the prosperity coming to the New Netherland Colony, and incidentally, to the Dutch-Englishmen who had settled there to engage in trade. The result was that the New Englanders began emigrating to the Dutch or west end of Long Island. They came in great colonies and founded towns, beginning at first to locate in Middleburg and Hempstead, in which they joined with the Dutch-Englishmen. Later the new towns were openly New England ventures. It was not long until they had completely outnumbered the original Dutch-English settlers. It was this which caused that interesting progression of towns which within a very few years so completely absorbed the upland of that section of Long Island governed by the Dutch.

The Dutch-English traders at first had preempted the harbors and navigable streams on the north side of this section of Long Island and had organized the town of Middleburg which comprehended all the outlying settlements of Pearsalls, Hellgate Neck, Brutnells, and so on, which later were comprised within the bounds of Newtown, and thereby they had effectually blocked the only possible means of travel between the east and west of Long Island, and secured to themselves a safety which they had not heretofore enjoyed in America.

But before they organized Middleburg, and when they were only fairly well established upon their harbors adjacent to Pearsalls and the adjoining locations on Hellgate Neck, the Dutch-English traders cast longing eyes toward the fertile bottom land of Long Island, which section is now known as the Hempstead Plains. Here was a pasture-land such as they had not seen in all their journeys in America. They therefore bought cattle in New Amsterdam and they imported still more, specially from Virginia, and they placed these cattle upon these rich pastures. This called for a community to be located there. So Henry Pearsall and others joined in a party who, in 1640, moved over from the Hellgate Neck communities, onto the plains of Long Island. Primarily their purpose was to pasture their cattle, but they nevertheless formed a community which they called Hempstead. Their intention was not to form a compact village, but a farming community, hence Hempstead is unique among Long Island towns in having had no distribution of town lots.

This was the first dependent settlement formed from the original settlement at Pearsall. It preceded the Doughty settlement by more than two years. It was not, however, a patented town until 1644. There have been many guesses as to the reason for the name of this town. There are several places in England called Hempstead, any one of which may have been the reason for the name in America. It is probable that it never will be satisfactorily determined why the name was selected. Suggestions will therefore always be interesting, so we offer the following for the reader's consideration. There is a town by the name of Hempstead, in County Stafford, England, which town is the seat of the family named Wryley. There was a Peter Wherley at Middleburg, Long Island, who had three handsome daughters but no son. Could it possibly be that Hempstead was a gallant tribute to these young ladies. The Wirleys were also of Eccleshall in Staffordshire, hence they were near neighbors to the Pershalls. In Harl. III., G. 32, appears the following: Pershall in Eccleshall, co. Staff. Know by these presents and in the future that I Thomas Gervais de Chatenlue give, concede and by this my present confirm to John Hajeant Armiger Godfrid Bromley, Thomas Wirley Capellane and Thomas Shelton for Elizabeth ex mea in Peshale in feode de Hawketon. These testify: John Gervais de Chatenlue, Richard Shropshire de eodem, Stephen Vesteton de Eccleshall, Thomas Barker de eodem, Thomas Alot de Sogenhill and many other. Given near Chatenlue, 6th January anno regni King Henry six tresentisimus. (A.D. 1458.)

There were quite a few Staffordshire families, including the Pearsalls, among the earliest settlers, and some of these may have lived in the town of Hempstead. The name Hempstead appears to have been used in naming the surroundings on Hellgate, possibly contemporary with the settlement at Hempstead, as the records of Newtown, August 24, 1690, record the grant of a piece of land on Hellgate Neck at a place called Hempstead Swamp, so that the name of the town had its origin among the people of Hellgate Neck in speaking of their cattle ranches on the plains.

In the Carman Genealogy it is stated that the family of Carman was settled in the County of Suffolk, England, as far back as 1402, and they held lands in Hemmel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. There can be no doubt that John Fordham and John Carman promoted the patented town of Hempstead, so Carman must have felt a strong attachment for the name. But the town was named Hempstead before Carman came there. All this may sound strange to the student who has read Long Island history, as all the authorities give Dr. Denton the credit of originating the town of Hempstead in 1644, which is not only a manifest error but it entirely overlooks the Dutch-English Virginians who were located on Hellgate Neck as early as 1639, and who, in 1640, started the settlement called Hempstead, and to which Dr. Denton came, in 1644, at the request of Dr. Fordham who for nearly three years before that had conducted religious services there. It seems remarkable when one comes to investigate the subject, to see how little Dr. Denton had to do with the founding even of the patented town of Hempstead. The incorporation of Hempstead was primarily brought about by the desire of the Dutch-English traders to secure a foothold in the seed-leaf tobacco trade of Connecticut and to settle the long standing dispute between them and the New

England traders. The folks at Stamford were so closely associated with their previous home in Wethersfield that they commanded part of the production of seed-leaf tobacco in the special territory of the Connecticut Valley, which alone produced this very merchantable grade of tobacco. From a worldly standpoint this was the principal asset of this little Connecticut town. It was inevitable that they would be absorbed by either one or the other of the two main groups of traders. The Dutch-English made the better bid and won. The New Englanders were however good enough bargainers to secure from their rivals such concessions at this time as gave them a firm foothold in the Virginia tobacco trade and in the privileges of the exchange at New Amsterdam.

The movement from Stamford to Hempstead has been stated to have been a land promotion scheme, which it undoubtedly was, but these rich and powerful Dutch-English traders did not need the cooperation of the little settlement at Stamford for any such purpose. By others the incorporation of Hempstead has been heralded as a migration of those who were looking for religious freedom. It is true that the subsequent history of these new-comers developed that they had strong religious prejudices, specially as to the form of church government. The Stamford contingent always standing out for the Congregational form of church government, with the church the center of the political life of the town; whereas the old Dutch-English traders were equally insistent upon the Presbyterian form of church government and freedom of the political part of their organization from churchly domination. The two parties never did overcome their prejudices and the Church would have gone out of existence had it not been held to the Presbyterian form of government. As to the fundamentals, there do not seem to have been in Connecticut any such differences as to have made these long-headed men of Connecticut to have twice removed before they came to Hempstead where there was a very marked difference of opinion as to the form of Church government between the new-comers and the old townsmen of the unincorporated town. The primary cause for their removal to Hempstead was the desire to improve their worldly estate by grasping the opportunities which had presented to join in the tobacco trade, along with the Dutch-English traders, and thus add greatly to their wealth, for they were already well to do people.

As to the existence of Hempstead before it was patented and before Dr. Denton came, there can be no question, the authorities cannot be gainsaid. For example, there are several accounts of the Indian War of 1642, and they all agree that Hempstead was then in existence. In Holland Documents, New York Colonial Mss. we read,—Terror increasing all over the land, the eight men assembled, drew up a proposal in writing wherein they demanded that delegates should be sent to our English neighbors at the north, to request an auxiliary force of 150 men. This was not agreed to. It was then resolved to send out a troop, the Burgers, in their company, the English under John Underhill, who a few days previously had offered his services and was accepted. The old soldiers under Peter Cock, all commanded by Mr. Montagne, to proceed thence in their yachts, land in Scouts Bay on Long Island, march toward Hemstede, where there is an English Colony dependent upon us. Another account of the same war reads,—It was therefore resolved, September 13, 1642, to send thither a troop of one

hundred and twenty men. The Burghers under their company, the English under Sergeant Major John Underhill, who within a few days had offered his services and had been accepted. The Veteran Soldiers under Pieter Cock all under the command of Mr. LaMontagne, proceeded thither in 3 yachts, landed in Scouts Bay, on Long Island, now called Manhasset Bay, and march toward Heemstede, where there is an English Colony dependent upon us, one force was divided into two small divisions. Underhill with 14 English towards the smaller, that is to say Hempstead, and eighty men towards the largest village named Mespath, i.e. Pearsall, both of which were successful. [Book 1, page 187.]

There is nothing to sustain the long accepted view that Richard Denton founded Hempstead, in 1644, as in fact the town was there during the four years before this date. Not only was this so, but there was a Calvinistic Church in existence under the charge of Rev. Dr. Fordham and it was through his negotiations, and those of John Carman his brother-in-law, that the New Englanders joined the Dutch-Englishmen from Virginia after the patent was obtained by Fordham, Carman, and others for the land. As a fact the church was there before it had a settled minister as is testified to by Dr. Jenny.

It is of course impossible, without further investigation, to name all who were associated with the beginning of the town, or even to name all of the early proprietors who assisted Mr. Fordham in his negotiations with the Stamford people, but these names can be most positively stated as having been among this number, namely;—Richard Brudenell, William Herrick, Henry Pearsall, Moyles Williams, Nicholas Tanner and Richard Valentine, all of whom were related or associated with Henry Pearsall. Moyles Williams died and Henry Pearsall married his widow. Not much is known concerning Nicholas Tanner, except that in his will he made a bequest to Henry Pearsall's children, and during his life he and a man named John Haas, had quarreled until they violated the law by calling each other hard names.

The records in Virginia show that the Valentines and Williams were cousins, whereas the English records show that the Pearsalls and Williams were cousins and that the families frequently intermarried. The most satisfactory solution of this grouping is that Moyles Williams married Ann Valentine, and that Ann Valentine as the widow of Williams, married Henry Pearsall. In the meantime, to wit in 1642, the town of Middleburg had been patented, with its very desirable political privileges, and it must have been evident at an early date to the Hempstead folks that they were handicapped without a patent for a Dutch town with all its privileges of self government and freedom from annoying personal conditions. So they began negotiations with the people of Stamford, Connecticut, to join them. There can be no doubt but that Rev. Robert Fordham and John Carman represented the Hempstead parties to this agreement to pool their interests and that preliminary to asking for a patent, a deed was obtained by them from the Indians, which reads as follows:—November 13, 1643.

Unto men by these Presents that we of Masepeage, Merriack or Rockaway, we whose names are hereunder written have set over and sold unto Robert Fordham, and John Carman on Long Island, Englishmen, the half moiety, or equal part of the great plain lying towards the south side of Long Island, to be divided

or measured by a straight line and from our present town to be northward and from the North End of the line to run with a due east and west to the uttermost limits of it, and from both ends to run down with a straight square line to the Southside from all the woods, lands, meadows, marshes, pasture appurtenances, hereunto belonging containing within the compass of the said lines to have and to hold to them and to their heirs and assigns forever, in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands day and yeare above written, the mark of the Sagamore of Masepeage, Aarane, Pamaman, Remoj, Waines, Whanage, Yarafus, Signed and delivered in the presence of John Rockwell, Francis Conor, and Steuen Son. This last signature evidently means George Stevenson, who later called himself Van Alst. All the witnesses resided in Hempstead and were interested in the settlement on Hellgate Neck called Middleburg.

While the description is vague, it is clear that the Englishmen named as grantees are both described as of Long Island, which could only mean Hempstead, and our present town means the English settlement and not an Indian town. The Rockaway Indians occupied the territory about Rockaway and extended across the Island, including parts of what is now included in Jamaica and Newtown. The Merrick and Masepeage tribes were situate on the South Side extending from the Rockaways into the County of Suffolk. They were separate tribes and did not have a common town. It was a white man's deed with Indian signatures.

John Carman was born in England, he was brother-in-law of Reverend Robert Fordham, having married his sister, Florence Fordham, their eldest child, John Carman, Jr., having been born July 8, 1633. There can be no doubt about the Carmans being Virginia folks, as February 16, 1623, Henry Carman is mentioned in Hotten's list as being in West Hundred, Virginia, and January 2, 1624, Henry Carman is named in the Muster Roll of Pierage Hundred, Virginia, as sergeant aged 23. And this is true notwithstanding that John Carman did not come direct from Virginia to New Amsterdam, but came with the Rev. John Elliot in the Ship Lion and arrived at Roxbury, Mass., November 3, 1631. [Hotten, pages 171 and 215. Carman MSS. N. Y. Public Library.]

A patent was obtained from the Dutch Governor, November 16, 1644, which practically contained an exact copy of the privileges granted under Dr. Doughty's patent. It was issued to John Stickland, Robert Fordham, John Ogden, John Carman, John Lawrence, and James Wood who were agents for the Proprietors who numbered fifty. In the old Town Record Book are recorded the names of these proprietors, but three of them, says the record book, were eaten out by mice, and thus lost. The addition of the names ‡Francis Yates, James Wood and ‡Rev. Richard Denton would no doubt complete the list. The list is as follows:—
1. Thomas Armitage‡, 2. Samuel Clark†, 3. John Cornis, 4. Mr. Coe‡, 5. Mr. Carman‡, 6. Robert Dean, 7. Christopher Foster, 8. Thomas Foster, 9. John Fooks, 10. Mr. Robert Fordham, 11. Richard Gildersleeve‡, 12. John Hewes, 13. Stephen Hudson, 14. Thomas Ireland, 15. Robert Jackson‡, 16. John Lawrence, 17. John Lum†, 18. Mr. John Ogden‡, 19. Richard Ogden, 20. Henry Pearsall, 21. William Rogers, 22. John Roads, 23. Mr. Rainer‡, 24. John Smith, Rock†, 25. John Smith, Blew†, 26. John Seaman†, 27. Simon Searing‡, 28. Joseph Schott, 29. Thomas Shearman‡, 30. Mr. Stickling, 31. Nicholas Tanner, 32. Mr. Tappin, 33. William

Thickston, 34. William Thorn, 35. Richard Valentine, 36. Henry Whitson, 37. Daniel Whitehead, 38. Moyles Williams, 39. Robert Williams, 40. Jeremy Wood‡, 41. Richard Willits, 42. William Washburn, 43. Edmund Wood‡, 44. Jonas Wood (Halifax)‡, 45. Jonas Wood (Orum)†, 46. Timothy Wood, 47. Thomas Wicks‡. [Hempstead Town Records.]

The names marked † are those found at Stamford, Connecticut, in 1642, and who had come over to Hempstead before Dr. Denton's party arrived. Those marked ‡ are those who came with Mr. Denton from Stamford, in 1644.

No doubt there were some of these proprietors who came from other points in Connecticut and New England, but a very little study would soon determine those who came from Hellgate Neck, and settled the town of Hempstead in 1640 and undoubtedly quite a number of the proprietors of Middleburg released or conveyed their rights to the new comers as they did not desire to change their residence to the newly incorporated town of Hempstead.

This patent carried with it valuable rights and privileges, as well as a large block of land, all earnestly sought for by those who joined in the venture, particularly the Stamford folks. There were some, however, who were not satisfied with this very fair arrangement. Even Denton's son, who enjoyed unusual advantages under the Dutch, his father and he having been partners to at least three great town land schemes, had to have a kick at the Dutch Government. In his account of New York, published in England, in 1670, he says:—While it was under the Dutch Government, there was little encouragement for any English, both in respect to their safety from the Indians, the Dutch being almost always in danger of them, and their beaver trade not admitting of war which would have been destructive to their trade which was the main thing prosecuted by the Dutch, and secondly the Dutch gave such bad titles to land together with exacting of the tenths of all which men produced off their lands, that did much to hinder the populating of it together with the general dislike the English have of living under any other government.—Whereas the facts disclose that there had not been in America, up to this time, such a boom in men and wealth as was enjoyed by these Dutch-English towns.

We can now state accurately the progression of towns in which the Pearsall brothers were located.—1639, the settlement at Pearsall, later called Hellgate Neck. 1640, the settlement on the Hempstead plains. 1642, the Patent for Middleburg was obtained. 1644, the town of Hempstead patented. 1645, Some of the Dutch-Englishmen at Hellgate Neck moved eastward across Flushing Creek and founded the town of Flushing, for which they obtained a patent.

By this time the Pearsalls in New Amsterdam were located as follows: Thomas Pearsall and his brother George Pearsall were at the old town of Pearsall which later came to be called Hellgate Neck. Nicholas Pearsall was at Flushing. Henry Pearsall had from 1640 been located at Hempstead.

Samuel Pearsall, the younger brother, had remained in Maryland, in Talbot County, which included Kent Island, along with Thomas Pearsall the elder who died in 1643. The business in Maryland was then managed by his administrator Mark Pheypo and the surviving partners. These places on Long Island are all Dutch-English towns situated within a territory whose extreme eastern and

western boundaries were not separated by more than twenty-five miles. By this time Connecticut appreciated that not only was her own commerce greatly benefited by the advent of these Dutch-English traders—but that the seed tobacco was increased in value by reason of the large market for the same developed by these new traders. Hence, on January 28, 1646, the General Court passed a law which said: That the order concerning tobacco not growing within this jurisdiction is repealed. This release, by permitting the blending of tobaccos, evidently quickened the home consumption, for we find the General Court on May 26, 1647, promising in the following quaint language:—Forasmuch as it is observed that many abuses are committed by frequent taking tobacco, an act ordering that no person under the age of 20 years nor any other that hath not already accustomed himself to the use thereof, should take any tobacco until he procured a certificate from some one approved in “phisicke” that it is useful for him. A license from the court was also a necessary qualification. It was at this time that Isaac Allerton, the principal New England trader, found it necessary to remove his home from New Amsterdam to New Haven, Connecticut, so as to better meet the competition of the Dutch-English traders in the purchase of Connecticut seed-leaf tobacco, in which trade they were rapidly acquiring a large interest. [Thompson’s History of Long Island, vol. 2, page 29 of appendix. A Corner Stone of Colonial Commerce, by John A. Stoughton. Page 8-9.]

The patents for Dutch-English towns while at first sought for the purpose of unhampered trade, rapidly developed into gigantic land development schemes, in the exploitation of which Dr. Denton was the equal of any who engaged therein. His prospectus, issued in 1670, in England, for the purpose of selling Long Island town lots, stands unsurpassed in land promotion literature. His description of the country is well worth reading. [Denton’s New York, 1670.]

It is a pity that we cannot end the story of our ancestors coming to Long Island with Denton’s description of a beautiful day in the Hempstead plains, but alas there came a storm, a dreadful storm, and when it had passed much damage had been done to our ancestors, the Pearsalls of Long Island. What more devastating storm can there be than that of civil warfare. The days of the Commonwealth were impending in England; actual hostilities had commenced in 1642, and as a matter of course it reached all the English colonies; in 1645 the king was made a prisoner, and in 1649 it reached its height in the death of King Charles I. It was ten years later before his son came to the throne. As a consequence the friends of the house of Stuart were plunged into war for seventeen long wretched years. It was bitter strife as all civil warfare is. The victors were unrelenting in their punishment of their adversaries, and in the spoliation of their wealth. We have already related how in England the great family fortune was wiped out at this time, and our kinsman, the second Sir John Pershall, after having been imprisoned in the Tower of London, barely escaped with his life.

In America the Pearsalls were largely protected by their residence in a Dutch Colony, but nevertheless they fought strongly for their king. All their fortunes and their great fleet of vessels were placed at the command of the king. Their ships were practically turned into privateers which they were careful to sail from their Maryland bases. Giles Brent was Governor of Maryland and he tried to

organize a military force to go to England. It was all of no use. The effort and sacrifice proved to be unavailing, as the Commonwealth prevailed and the fortunes of the American Pearsalls were very much reduced. When it was all over and the monarchy restored, with both the English and American fortunes dissipated, it was difficult for the Pearsalls to come back into the shipping trade. It is true that our ancestors were not impoverished, neither after the close of the Commonwealth were they so rich as before. They were put to it to earn their living from the land instead of from the trade of the ocean, as they had ceased to be rich and powerful world conquering merchants, able to deal directly with the governments of Continental Europe. The story of how well they succeeded will be the primary purpose of the remaining chapters of this family history, which will therefore after we shall have told the story of the line descended from Robert Pearsall, the oldest brother of Thomas Pearsall, deal with the genealogy and history of the American branches of our family. From a worldly standpoint this turn of fortune may appear sad, but loyalty is always worth its cost, and, as we have seen, this was not the first time in the history of the family that it had been called upon to meet the losses incident to the maintenance of its loyalty, its honor, its unselfish interest and its entire trustworthiness.

The King we served was not so true to our allegiance. For more than four centuries the house of Peshall had been related to and allied with the house of FitzAlan. Their days of prosperity were ours. Their days of adversity we shared. At all times, in all seasons, in every generation, our family had served under the banner of the House of Arundel. It was through our family and that of Arundel, at least in part, that the house of Stuart had come to the English throne.

It was greater than the misfortunes of war. It was the triumph of their manhood, that our ancestors won from the loss of their fortune. Looking behind all the intervening time we can see that the blood of our Norman ancestors ran blue in the veins of these Pearsalls, and that the spirit and manhood of our maternal ancestors, those old Bernician Kings, were still manifested in their descendants, our ancestors. No doubt all this affected greatly the fortunes of their descendants, but for all time, it left its stamp of true nobility upon them. We should therefore be proud beyond measure that they left us this rich heritage of true manhood and loyalty, which after all is better, greater and more enduring than worldly wealth.

It is hoped that this brief statement of the history of the settlement of the Dutch-Englishmen on Long Island, New York, will enable the reader to more easily comprehend the special historical and genealogical facts that will be hereinafter presented as relating specifically to each of the sons of Thomas Pearsall of Virginia, and their respective descendants in America.

The following chart will enable the reader to more readily find the special line in which he may be interested,—

Thomas Pearsall, born in England, died in Virginia.

Thomas Pearsall See Chapter 29	Nicholas Pearsall See Chapter 53	Henry Pearsall See Chapter 30	George Pearsall See Chapter 45	Samuel Pearsall See Chapter 54
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