

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

ROBERT PEARSALL

Genearch of the American family of Parshall

Section 1, Robert Pearsall—Section 2, Ancestry of Ann Whitaker—Section 3, Robert Pearsall—Section 4, William Pearsall—Section 5, Henry Pearsall—Section 6, James Pearsall als Parshall—Section 7, Israel Parshall—Section 8, David Parshall—Section 9, David Parshall—Section 10, Horace Field Parshall.

SECTION 1.

*1. ROBERT PEARSALL of London, son of Edmond Pearsall, Citizen and Grocer of London, Chapter 26, Section 1. Married September 11, 1612, at St. Marys White Chapel, London, Ann Whitaker, daughter of William Whitaker D.D. Master of St. Johns College, Cambridge and sister of the Rev. Alexander Whitaker, who is gratefully known as the Apostle of Virginia. Children:—

1. Robert Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 3.
2. William Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 4.

Robert Pearsall having served an apprenticeship of seven years was admitted to the Grocers Guild upon proving that he was the heir of his father Edmund Pearsall, the elder, who was a member of the company, and by the payment of the usual fee for registration.

When his father Edmond Pearsall, the elder, obtained the tobacco monopoly in 1609, then Robert Pearsall, the younger, and styled as grocer because of his membership in the Grocers Guild, sailed for Virginia the same year, where he organized the tobacco industry in that colony. He was styled Robert Pearsall the younger because of his uncle Robert Peshall of Bloor Pipe.

Foster's Inns of Court Register, (Vol. 2. p. 6.) says:— Robert Pearsall of Kent, son and heir of Edmund Pearsall, sailed from London in the 2nd Virginia Co. to Virginia—as a grocer year 1609.

Robert Pearsall had been admitted to his father's business as a merchant of the Grocers Guild and Citizen of London several years previous to his journey to Virginia. He returned to London before 1612 at which time he married Ann Whitaker as above stated. It does not appear that he ever returned to Virginia. It was the intention of his father and uncle Robert to make him a baronet the same as they had made of Sir John Peshall of Horsley. Robert Pearsall was therefore to have been among the earliest of the titled men of England who engaged in trade. His uncle Robert hoped that Robert Pearsall would forego the trading and settle down as an English country gentleman of rank and landed wealth. To this end Edmond Pearsall, his father, placed large estates in the name of his brother Robert Peshall with the thought that the latter would see to

the details of properly seating Robert Pearsall the younger when he received the honor and dignity of baronetcy which they intended to procure for him.

When Edmond Pearsall the elder retired from business in 1615 he placed his London business in the hands and ownership of his oldest son, Robert Pearsall, hence when Edmond Pearsall returned to active participation in business he rejoined his son Robert Pearsall in the old established business and they traded together. It was this unfortunate association which involved Robert Pearsall in the debts of his father, and to which the latter refers in his will and directs his executors, if possible, to arrange for the payment of his son's debts and his release from the burden under which Robert Pearsall was heavily weighed down at that time.

When Robert Pearsall became the successor of his father, and when, later, he became his father's associate in the London establishment of his father's business, he did not acquire any interest in the Virginia tobacco trade other than such as would naturally come to him as the factor of his brother, Thomas Pearsall, who was vested with his father's interest in the same, which he continued in association with Sir John Peshall and others. It is impossible to say how much of the tobacco business was handled by Robert Pearsall alone, and later in connection with his father, but the trend of events subsequent to the financial difficulties of Edmond Pearsall the elder, and possibly from the time of the latter's retirement from business in 1615, clearly shows that neither Robert Pearsall nor his father Edmond Pearsall had, or enjoyed, any great amount of the Virginia tobacco trade along with Thomas Pearsall, son and brother as aforesaid who operated in Virginia together with Sir John Peshall, their first cousin. As early as 1619 it is evident that Edmond Pearsall the elder, and his son Robert Pearsall, endeavored to organize another syndicate for the tobacco trade by which they would have direct connection as associates, and also as the London factors thereof. The effect of this was to divide the Dutch-English traders in Virginia into two sets of merchants and although at first these two sets of Dutch-English traders worked together in harmony, and with no more friction than was to be expected in such a trade, they finally divided themselves into two hostile camps of traders through the affiliation and amalgamation of one set with the New England traders. This made this cleavage extend to the inhabitants of the Chesapeake Bay country who became perforce associated respectively with one or the other of these two great groups of traders. And ultimately this cleavage extended to the whole English-American colonies which became divided into two violently opposed sets of sea-faring and trading merchants, each seeking to monopolize the inter-colonial and West Indian trade, specially in tobacco, which dominated American commerce.

Robert Pearsall, by his marriage, had become connected with the most ultra of the English Puritans; therefore it was no more than was to be expected, when the Puritans became imbued with the thought that America was to be for them the land of religious freedom and personal wealth, that as between the profitable fisheries of the New England Company, with its cold winters and disagreeable climate on the one hand, and the Virginia Company with its tobacco trade, which, like Aladdin's lamp, made all of those who touched it rightly immensely wealthy,

the choice should fall out to be for the Virginia location. Neill in his History of the Virginia Company sets this out in the clearest terms as follows, when he says:—As to the Mayflower Company there were three colonies bidding for them as colonists. The Virginia Company offered them a land where tobacco was the staple. The Dutch at Manhattan agreed to let them share in the peltry trade of that place together with farm lands, while the Gorgas company of New England promised them a share in the fisheries of the New Foundland banks.

The company accepted the grant approved by the Government, from Virginia and the expedition sailed for that place under a grant of rights which permitted them to practically set up an independent colony within the boundaries of that province. A storm drove them into Plymouth Bay where they remained, landing at Plymouth Rock, on December 11th O. S. 1620. Before they landed it was whispered by the discontented that when they came ashore they could use their own liberties; for none had the power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England, which belonged to another government with which ye Virginia Company had nothing to do. [Neill, History of the Virginia Company, page 133.]

Which was an entirely true assumption on the part of those who were disappointed that the expedition should have finally landed in New England, and who could not comprehend why the leaders should evidence an intention to stay there and settle a colony. Therefore as a means of saving themselves from the disorder and dangers which might be incident to the discontent among their own number, the leaders advised, and it was accepted, that the company draw up a compact or agreement, or personal combination among themselves, by which they all agreed to organize as a civil body politic for their government after they should land. [Essentials of American History, by Albert Bushnell Hart, page 51.] But even this document was not signed by all the male passengers of the Mayflower. [Students' History of the U. S., by Edward Channing, page 67.] Among the passengers of the Mayflower was Isaac Allerton who had married the daughter of William Brewster. He was a man of large wealth and certainly he had no other controlling object making him a member of this party than that of trade, and primarily the trade in tobacco. He was the associate of Robert Pearsall and his sons and grandsons in the Virginia trade. The sons and grandsons of Robert Pearsall, through this association, emigrated to America and located on the Chesapeake and on Long Island Sound. The history of this branch of the family, from this moment, becomes part of the personal and business history of this remarkable man.

The Mayflower did not return to England until May 6th, 1621, and on the first of the next month John Peirce, Citizen and cloth worker of London, and associates, took a patent from the Council of New England for the Plymouth Company. The Virginia patent was thereupon cancelled by the Virginia Company. [*Ibid.*, page 133. Essentials of American History, by Albert Bushnell Hart, page 49.] This made an entire change in the plans of those who hoped to gain profit by the opening of a new tobacco mart in Virginia, whereby they would enjoy a monopoly of the production and sale of tobacco from this projected Colony, which had now finally been located within the bounds of bleak New England.

This change of location by the Puritans from Virginia to New England was not unwelcome news to the government as King James had refused them a guarantee that they should not be molested in Virginia on account of their religion as it was suspected that part of their design was to make a free state there. They had finally gone in reliance on a hint from the crown that they would not be molested in Virginia provided they carried themselves peaceably. [Students' History of the United States, by Edward Channing, page 65.] The next move of these associators in reference to the Virginia tobacco trade after their Colony had been located at Plymouth, New England, was to have someone appointed in Virginia to official position where he would be in such close touch with the market as to make it certainly possible to thereby secure a portion of this coveted tobacco trade. How this was accomplished is shown by a letter written by the Virginia Company, dated July 25, 1621, and sent by the ship *George*, saying:—it is our express will that the tenants belonging to every office be fixed to his certain place upon the lands set out for it. For which Mr. Claiborne is chosen to be our surveyor who at the companies great expense is sett out as by his condition of agreement you may perceive. [Neill's *Virginia Carolorum*, page 24, 43.]

It was not long before his duties were made to comprehend the surveying of vessels which entered or cleared from Virginia. At this time he was rated as Secretary of the colony. This gave Isaac Allerton and his Puritan associates a foothold in the Virginia tobacco trade and ultimately started a trade-warfare which had the most far-reaching effect upon American colonial history. It will be helpful to an understanding of our family history, in which Claiborne appears either as associated with or opposed to the members of the Pearsall family, if we say that personally he did not possess any estate of either lands or money at the time he came to Virginia, and that in the early years of his residence in the Chesapeake country he acted as the factor or agent for others who were able to finance the several undertakings in which he engaged at this time. [William Claiborne, by John H. Claiborne, page 46.]

The change of location from Virginia to New England involved the Plymouth Colony in quite a large debt. In the fall of 1626 Isaac Allerton was sent to England to arrange if possible a composition with the adventurers who had advanced the funds for the colony. By adventurers is to be understood a syndicate or association of merchants formed for the purpose of promoting this colony within the bounds of the New England company. The settlement was effected, and at the same time the entire trade of the Plymouth Colony for a period of six years was bound to William Bradford, Edward Winslow, Isaac Allerton and several others. At this time Edmund Pearsall the elder, and his son Robert Pearsall, were both so heavily in debt that it was not possible that they had any part in this financing of the Plymouth Colony, although the same was accomplished by their business associate, Isaac Allerton.

In April, 1629, Edmund Pearsall the elder died and Robert Pearsall was free to go ahead on his own account to wipe out his personal debts and amass another fortune. How far he succeeded does not appear but it is certain that this same year of 1629 the Charter of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was confirmed by King Charles I, which conferred upon them powers so extensive as to amount to

making the colony self-governing. The company was to transfer the charter to those of its members who proposed to emigrate, whereby there was created on the American continent an almost independent state. The Massachusetts Bay Company had planted its first colony in 1628 at Salem and in 1629 the transfer was made. Mr. Increase Nowell, the cousin of Ann Whitaker, the wife of Robert Pearsall, was elected October 20, 1629, a member of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, which shows that the friends of Robert Pearsall were connected with the earliest organization of this colony. In 1630, the great emigration began, led by John Winthrop, a man of property and ability, when a fleet of fifteen vessels sailed across the Atlantic. More than one thousand colonists arrived during this year and founded the towns of Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, Watertown and Newtown, later called Cambridge. This emigration continued in a steady stream so that within ten years no less than twenty thousand emigrants landed on the shores of Massachusetts. No movement like this had taken place before in historic times. [Students' History of the United States, by Edward Channing, page 71.] So large an enterprise needed all the available capital that could be aggregated by the Puritan merchants of London and elsewhere in England. In this financing Robert Pearsall had but a very small portion at risk, along with his friends in London. In making up a syndicate to finance so large an undertaking, each member of the controlling body, following the custom which has been continued among bankers even to the present day, represented a group of subsidiary subscribers. Robert Pearsall was at this time not able financially to head such an ancillary group and was content to be a subordinate subscriber. It is certain, however, that his wife's people were heavily interested and that her cousin, Increase Nowell, was secretary of the colony.

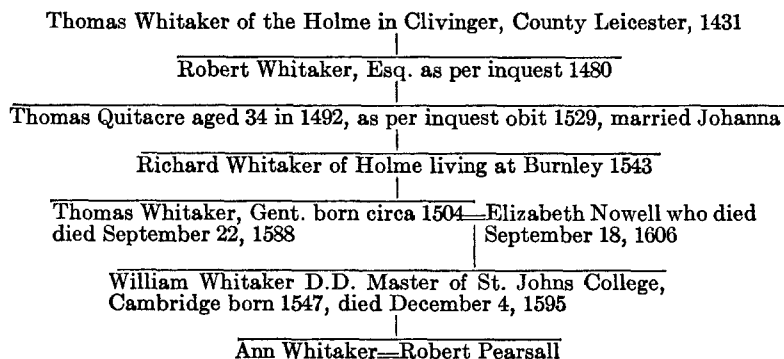
The founders of this colony were far-seeing and experienced merchants, who did not make the mistake of trying to make the success of their venture depend upon the farm production of the settlers, but they builded more firmly upon the commerce from the fisheries and a share of the Virginia tobacco trade. To this end, at least partly, Governor Harvey was in London in 1629, and he was accompanied by William Claiborne. Governor Harvey returned from England to Virginia in 1630, at which time William Claiborne was in England where he remained during the whole of that year. John Winthrop and his associates in this year entered Massachusetts Bay and settled Boston, and the next spring his friends in London contracted with Claiborne, still there, to bring to Boston from Virginia forty tons of Indian wheat. From this time on William Claiborne became more and more closely associated with the New England traders until at the close of his life he was living in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in a neighborhood that was essentially New England. [Neill, Virginia Carolorum, page 80.]

It is assumed that the reader has read Chapters 26, 27 and 54, so that it is not necessary at this time to do more than set forth the above additional and collateral facts which will enable the reader to understand the story of the life-work of Robert Pearsall in connection with the Virginia tobacco trade, of which his father Edmond Pearsall was the originator and he, Robert Pearsall, the organizer.

Robert Pearsall died circa 1637, at which time he was a solvent merchant and a member of the Grocers Guild of London.

SECTION 2.

ANCESTRY OF ANN WHITAKER.



Elizabeth Nowell was the daughter of John Nowell of Read, Esq., and his wife Elizabeth Kay. She was also sister to Robert Nowell, Attorney of the Court of Wards. By his will he names his nephew William Whitaker, then A.B. and scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge. This will was attested by William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh.

Alexander Whitaker, called the Apostle of Virginia, was born at Cambridge in 1585; was M.A. of the University about 1604 and had a good living in a Parish in the North of England when he became a missionary to Virginia. Without any persuasion but God's and his own heart he did voluntarily leave his warm nest and to the wonder of his kindred and the amazement of them that knew him undertook this hard but heroical resolution to go to Virginia, and to help to bear the news unto the Gentile, says Crashaw, in his introduction to Whitaker's work called Good News from Virginia. He came to the colony with Dale in 1611, was preacher at Henrico in 1612 and later, living in 1614 at his parsonage, Rock Hall, on the south side of James river, in what is now the county of Chesterfield; was minister of Bermuda Nether Hundred in 1616, and was drowned before June, 1617. He is commonly stated to have baptized and married Pocahontas; but Mr. Brown thinks the Rev. Mr. Bucke performed the latter ceremony. Whitaker, however, appears to have been a friend of John Rolfe, and there is really no positive evidence as to who was the minister on the two occasions referred to. Alexander Whitaker was the leading minister of Virginia and it is worthy of note that he belonged to the early Puritan section of the Church of England. Mr. Whitaker was son of Rev. William Whitaker, D.D. (1548-1595), the eminent Puritan divine and master of St. John's College, Cambridge. All of the connections of the family were strongly Puritan in belief. The first wife of Dr. William Whitaker, and the mother of Alexander Whitaker, was a daughter of Nicholas Culverwell, merchant, of London. Her brothers, Ezekiel and Samuel Culverwell, were noted Puritan preachers. Her sisters were Cecilia, who married Lawrence Chaderton, Master of Emanuel College, Cambridge, also a noted

Puritan, and ———, who married Thomas Gouge, and was mother of Rev. William Gouge, D.D., likewise a distinguished Puritan divine.

Herein we have the key to the life of Robert Pearsall and his descendants. By this marriage with Ann Whitaker he became associated, both in family and business affairs, with the Puritans who settled New England. They were the business rivals of the Dutch-English traders with whom his brother Thomas Pearsall as the successor in the tobacco trade of their father Edmond Pearsall the elder, was at this time associated in the Chesapeake Bay country, and later in New Netherlands and Maryland as well. In those days business competition frequently meant actual warfare. Hence we find that from this time on the families of Robert Pearsall and his brother Thomas Pearsall were business rivals in America, to which continent both families had removed, the sons of Robert Pearsall coming over in connection with their business association with Isaac Allerton.

Captain Jabez Whitaker, another brother of Ann Whitaker, resided in what is now New Hampton Creek in Elizabeth City, Virginia. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1623 and of the Council in 1626. He married Mary the daughter of Sir John Bouchier, an uncle of the regicide. The records of the Council of Virginia contain the testimony of this Mary Whitaker concerning one Captain Martin, who complained about the loss of his crop. It was also alleged by Martin that an order due the treasurer of Virginia by Captain Jabez Whitaker should not be collected. In 1621 this entry appears upon the records of the Virginia Company [vol. 1, page 508]. For as much as it appeared that Mr. Whitakers had obeyed the companies orders in building a guest house for entertainment of sick persons and for ye relief and comfort of such as came weak from sea and had also begun to plant vines, corne and such good commodities and railed in 100 acres of ground, it was moved the court would be pleased to bestow some reward upon him for his better encouragement in so good a course. Captain Jabez Whitaker was also a member of the Council, 1659, and Burgess for James City, 1649-1659. Richard Whitaker, another brother, was a noted printer and bookseller of London. [Virginia Magazine, vol. 21, pages 40 and 381; also The Whitaker Genealogy, London, 1907; Anthanae Cantabriensis, by Charles H. Cooper and Thompson Cooper, Cambridge, 1861; and Virginia Magazine, vol. 11, page 146.]

William Whitaker was a mild puritan in his leanings, but his children and relatives of the next generation rapidly advanced to being leaders among the most radical of the puritan fathers connected with the settlement of New England. Edward Channing [Students' History of the United States, page 63] says that the English reformation resulted in the separation of the Church in England from the existing Catholic Church. This was as far as the English monarchs and the mass of the English people wished to go, but there were many earnest persons who desired to proceed much farther and to purge the English Church of what they deemed to be abuses. These reformers were called puritans, and were themselves divided into two groups which shaded one into the other. The more conservative of them were the nonconformists who desired to reform the Church of England while remaining members of it. The more radical ones were willing

to separate from the Church provided they could worship God in their own way; these were called separatists. William Whitaker would rather be styled as a father of puritans than a follower of the schism in the Church of England.

SECTION 3.

ROBERT PEARSALL, born circa 1612, son of Robert Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 1, resided at Block Island, and Isle of Wight, later called Gardiners Island, in Long Island Sound. Children:—

1. Henry Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 5.
2. James Pearsall, who changed his name to James Parshall, Chapter 28, Section 6.

It is difficult to trace those who follow the sea, and who acquire their residence in places where the records have been destroyed, or in places where the system of Manor leases prevailed, and hence are without public records showing the names of the occupiers of the manor lands. But even on such as these the curtain lifts once in a while and gives one such a glimpse into their lives as enables one to accurately tell the story of their generation. Such a person was Robert Pearsall, trader and experienced mariner, who engaged in the tobacco trade, sailed into the Virginia ports and from there to New England and New Amsterdam, and from thence to all parts of the world. Such a man was of great value to his partners and it was therefore to be expected that they would make every effort to hold on to the old association when he evidenced a desire to cut away from them. This is what occurred in connection with Robert Pearsall and Isaac Allerton and his other partners, as is shown by the records of the court minutes of New Amsterdam, 1653-1675 [Book 2, page 381], which disclose the following entry relating to Robert Pearsall:—

Monday, May 6, 1658. Robert Pessale, plaintiff, against Skipper Igester, defendant, demands payment of eight months wages @ 18 Fflorens per month, earned from defendant as seaman. Defendant requests Mr. Allerton as interpreter, who appears in Court answering for the defendant, that the plaintiff engaged with him to the 14th of May, which being demanded of plaintiff, he answers No, but for the voyage and that he had been on one or two voyages with him and that the defendant wants him to make a third. Defendant requests that the plaintiff be asked if he has not promised to go also on a third voyage with him, which is asked him; he answers No. Mr. Allerton says the matter is so grave that if he has not another man he has to lose 200 fflorens. Parties are asked if they will declare on oath what they say? answer yes. The court having heard parties and considering every thing, Condemns the defendant to pay the plaintiff.

This is the printed translation in the official publication and is intended to be very literal; it also retains the old phonetic spelling. It would read more intelligibly if the name of the defendant was rendered the same way as he spelled his surname, to wit, Captain John Chichester, and if the word seaman was translated as mariner, which was the equivalent in the English of the word seaman in the Dutch, the men before the mast being styled as sailors, and if the Dutch idiom that if he cannot get another man was rendered if he cannot get another.

While of course the name of the plaintiff if it was spelled in the same manner as used by him in designating his surname, would read as Pearsall.

Captain John Chichester was one of the proprietors of Huntington on Long Island, which place was settled in 1646 by a party from Sandwich, Massachusetts. It was one of the many efforts to get such a foothold in Long Island as would command part of the Virginia tobacco trade. Captain John Chichester was a man of means and prominent in the affairs of the town where he was a magistrate under the Dutch in 1674. His business was almost exclusively with shipping and, as we see from this court record, he was a business associate of Isaac Allerton.

The promised wages involved in this law suit were small compared with the loss to be incurred by all the parties to the suit through the failure of Robert Pearsall in not visiting the back door of Virginia for a cargo of tobacco. There were very few who could trade in that back way and Robert Pearsall was one of them. Hence the anxiety of the defendants that the voyage should be undertaken and completed. This brings the reader of this family history to wonder why Isaac Allerton should have stated that he should have personally been likely to lose so large a sum of money by the failure of one man to visit the Virginia country for trade. This law suit was heard in the Dutch court about a year before the death of Isaac Allerton, at which time he was in hard financial straits. Nearly all of his old partners had deserted him and practically all who were standing by him at this time were Captain John Chichester and Robert Pearsall. The loss of the association with Robert Pearsall meant the final closing to Isaac Allerton of the old Kent Island, Maryland, trade. The rest of the Chesapeake Bay trade was the possession of his son Isaac Allerton, Jr. who was now living in Virginia as a planter and trader.

It had been thirty years since Isaac Allerton came to America as one of the passengers on the Mayflower, and from that moment he became the foremost trader in America outside of Virginia, and even here he was an active and formidable rival to the Dutch-English traders who controlled this market. He was, with his friends and fellow New Englanders, the backer and supporter of William Claiborne, and they hoped for their large personal profit to bring the trade of the Virginia country to Massachusetts, specially Boston. How well they succeeded is shown by the number of vessels which, during the early colonial period cleared for Virginia by way of Boston. With the coming of Lord Baltimore to the Chesapeake Bay country, trade conditions had experienced a change that made the services and association with William Claiborne no longer sufficient to divert a large portion of this trade to New England. The only place that was open was by way of the South or Delaware River, and this was controlled by the Dutch of New Amsterdam. It was at this time that Isaac Allerton brought the sons of Robert Pearsall to America and became associated with them in circumventing the obstacles to trade with the old Kent Island, Maryland, trading station. Robert Pearsall, 3d, was early entrusted with the sailing of the Allerton vessels in and out of the South River, where connection was made overland with Claiborne's Island, located near to Kent Island, and commanding quite a large independent trade with the Chesapeake Bay country. Isaac Allerton also removed from New England and took up his residence in New Amsterdam, which gave

him a port from which he could trade to the South River, and from which he could reship to Holland and other European ports in competition with the Dutch-English traders, operating out of Virginia, to Middleburg and Flushing in Holland.

When the Dutch-English traders left Virginia and Maryland for New Amsterdam they found Isaac Allerton already established in that port. After the Exchange was opened by the Dutch-English traders in New Amsterdam back of the City Hall, Isaac Allerton erected a warehouse on the East River somewhere near where the foot of Maiden Lane now is. The records show that he was resident in this City until 1646 and during all of this time his vessels made many voyages to the Chesapeake Bay country and even to the West Indies. During all of this period Robert Pearsall was either harbor master for the Allerton traders or engaged from time to time in sailing a vessel into the Chesapeake Bay country where the name of Pearsall was a most potent factor in the tobacco trade. Isaac Allerton occupied an important and prominent place in the City of New Amsterdam, so much so, that when in 1643, a Council of Eight was chosen from among the citizens, nominally to assist Governor Kieft, but really to manage him, Isaac Allerton was among the number, along with Captain John Underhill, who represented the same interests as Allerton, together with George Baxter, Francis Doughty and Richard Smith, who represented their rivals, the Dutch-English traders, who had come from Virginia.

Long before this the colonists on the Connecticut River had received from the Indians the seed of the valuable variety known in the trade as Connecticut seed leaf tobacco—which will grow only in the Connecticut valley in a district about eight miles circular, located about fifty miles from Long Island Sound, in a territory which included the towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. The incorporation of the town of Hempstead, in 1644, whereby there came into that town a number of those who had association with the seed tobacco trade of Connecticut, had brought into the Dutch-English traders an element which, working now with the latter, was bound to bring to Henry Pearsall and the other Dutch-English traders a share in this seed tobacco business. At first Connecticut had adopted laws requiring that this tobacco and no other should be consumed within the colony. This made it difficult to secure a supply for colonial and foreign commerce. But, like in Virginia, there were backdoor methods for procuring the special grade of tobacco, which methods were largely controlled by Isaac Allerton. In 1646, Connecticut repealed this prohibition and the seed tobacco became at once a staple in the American tobacco export trade. This was a blow to Isaac Allerton who had controlled the distribution of this commodity in Connecticut because he had found means to get a reasonable supply to the outside public. So in 1647 he removed to New Haven where he lived for the remainder of his life. This enabled him to be convenient both to the Connecticut tobacco market and to the exchange of the Dutch-English traders in New Amsterdam.

With all this enterprise Isaac Allerton was not eminently successful, on the contrary he was known as Isaac the Unlucky—and as a matter of course his misfortunes were shared by his associates. It is more than probable that his ill luck could have been traced to his business competitors. It was an unequal con-

test for one man to be in perpetual contest with these Dutch-English traders as one will appreciate who has read the story of their wars as told in Chapter 27, for during most of the time Isaac Allerton was the only money power behind the opposition to the Dutch-English traders. Isaac Allerton died in 1659 and his will is little else than a memorandum of debts due him which he desired his executors to collect and pay to his creditors as far as the moneys thus received would satisfy their claims against him. The list includes nearly every person in New Amsterdam who was in opposition to the Dutch-English traders. While the location of the debtors extended from the Hudson River to the Delaware River, and also to Virginia, Maryland and the Barbadoes. But the name of Robert Pearsall does not appear as either debtor or creditor, thus disclosing that this account had been finally closed. Recurring to the date of the Court order, to wit, May 6, 1658, this marks what was probably the last occasion when Isaac Allerton appeared in New Netherlands. It also fixes plainly the time when Robert Pearsall closed his business relations with Isaac Allerton and became associated with the Motts of Block Island, the Gardiners of Isle of Wight, later called Gardiners Island, and the Youngs of Southampton, Long Island, in separate ventures in the Virginia tobacco trade. These were all of them old associates of Isaac Allerton in the same trade, so that it was like the usual happening of junior partners setting up an independent concern. Hence Robert Pearsall and the new combination became the strong competitors of Isaac Allerton. The new associators were influential in Connecticut and it was largely through them that this colony, in 1662, at Hartford, enacted that when tobacco is landed in this colony there shall be paid by the master of the vessel or merchant importer unto the custom master of the port for every hogshead twenty-five shillings, or two pence per pound. This entirely killed the direct Connecticut foreign tobacco import trade. As in 1680 the governor reported to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council that we have no need of Virginia trade, most people planting so much tobacco as they spend, the tobacco trade to and from Connecticut during this period was nevertheless quite large, but it was handled through the ports of the towns and islands of the eastern end of Long Island. Incidentally this added much to the wealth of Robert Pearsall, and accounts for the financial standing of his son James, which enabled him to be of the same social standing as his wife, the daughter of David Gardiner.

The New England traders, specially those located on Long Island, handled large quantities of Virginia tobacco. Even those who were located as far down east as Maine had a share in this trade. Josselyn in his *Two Voyages to America* made interesting comment upon this trade, thus showing that his family and friends were deeply interested in this profitable trade.

SECTION 4.

WILLIAM PEARSALL, son of Robert Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 1, resided in Henrico County, Virginia, and Somerset County, Maryland. He died without issue and so far as can be learned from our search, never married.

The land records of Virginia disclose, Book I, page 326, a grant to Christopher Branch, by virtue of letters patent, dated, July 26, 1634, of a parcel of land

in Henrico County at Kingsland against Arrowhattocks, and bounded on the east by the James River and bounded by Serrod Crooks, by other land of Christopher Branch formerly of John Griffin, and by Thomas Sheffield. The rights were Christopher Branch, John Gibson and John Mathonn. There seems to have been some difficulty as to the sufficiency of the rights, hence there was a new patent dated May 8, 1638, wherein also appears the rights of William Butler and William Possell. This deed marked a peculiar change in the fortunes of Christopher Branch for which there can be only one explanation, namely that with the young William Pearsall as a member of his household they became the Virginia agents of Isaac Allerton, in the Virginia tobacco trade. In this connection their opportunities for making money were practically unbounded as the name of Pearsall at that time meant easy money in the tobacco trade of Virginia.

In the early days of his trading to the Chesapeake Bay country, Isaac Allerton appears so far as our searching has revealed the same, to have been satisfied with his dealings through William Claiborne and his associates in the north, and William Pearsall and Christopher Branch in the south of the Chesapeake Bay Country, as his factors, but the changes that came in the Chesapeake Bay country after the advent of Lord Baltimore caused Isaac Allerton to open a trading station of his own on the Virginia side of the Potomac River in what is known as the northern neck of Virginia.

Isaac Allerton, Senior, established this trading point in what is now Westmoreland County, Virginia, as is shown by an order recorded in the county court of Northumberland County, which then included Westmoreland County, and dated February 6, 1650, in which it is stated that according to an order of the Governor and Council inquiry had been made concerning the complaint made by the Machoatick Indians about Mr. Allertons intending a plantation among them, and the court being directed, if the Indians were not content with his being there, to remove them; but due inquisition being made the said Indians and the Werowance Peckotoan (also the name of a well-known plantation in Westmoreland) declared they were well content with Mr. Allerton staying there so long as the land (whereof hee hath already cleared) be useful, provided that no more houseing be there built than is now upon it and to keep his cattle and hogs on the other side of Machoatick River. It is therefore evident that he had been there a long time before this inquiry was made by the Court of Northumberland County.

This trading place was at first in charge of Captain Peter Lefebber as is shown by the deposition of William Nutt made in Northumberland County Court and recorded in 1657, that about February preceding the year 1650, he and the other commissioners of Northumberland County being appointed by the Governor and council to inquire concerning the seating of Mr. Allertons land at Machoatic, Mr. Wm. Cooke being requested to be interpreter, the deponent heard Captain Peter Lefebber promise to pay on the said Allerton's behalf to the Indians through the said Cooke 1,000 lbs. of tobacco in case Allerton seated farther. It appears at this time Isaac Allerton was enlarging his station and encroaching on the Indian Lands. Peter Le Febeer returned to New Amsterdam before 1653 as is shown by the minutes of the Council of that place under date of November 24,

1653, when the council made an order permitting him to sell liquors or waters of a peculiar virtue in large or small bottles at his own house. [Calendar of New York Manuscripts, Dutch, page 132.]

The reason for the removal of Captain Peter Lefever to New Amsterdam in 1653/4 was that Isaac Allerton at this time deeded the station on the Potomac, in the Northern Neck of Virginia, to his son Isaac Allerton, Junior, who removed there in 1654, as clearly appears by the records. For example:—Neill, in his *Virginia Carolorum*, says Isaac Allerton, Jr., who settled near Wicomico, after 1654, was a graduate of Harvard of 1650, and his mother was Faith Brewster the daughter of William Brewster the celebrated leader of the Puritans who landed from the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts.

John Davenport, minister of New Haven, on the 27th of 7th month, 1654, in a letter to John Winthrop, Jr., Dept. Governor of Connecticut, referring to Dr. Choyse, writes, He is now upon a voyage for Virginia with Mr. Isaac Allerton, Jr. [*Ibid.*, page 255.]

Isaac Allerton, Junior, continued this trading station during the whole period of his lifetime. He evidenced in his history the remarkable mixture of a gentleman planter of Virginia and the hardy, venturesome and law-breaking tobacco trader. The Delaware records of New Netherlands, in a letter dated March 18, 1658, written by Jacob Alrichs, then in South or Delaware River, speaks of Isaac Allerton, Junior, as being then in that country as a fugitive from Virginia. [Calendar of Dutch Mss., page 337.] Which at once indicates the high-handed manner in which Isaac Allerton, Junior, was at this time conducting his trading station on the Potomac in Northumberland County, Virginia. All of which also evidences that the Virginia tobacco trader found means to get around the impost laws even where he was so situated as to be well located within the settled sections of the colony, and even when it involved the likelihood of penal punishment. Those traders who were located on the Delaware Peninsula were in a wilderness and a no man's land, hence they were not only beyond reach of the impost laws, but by going only a short distance they were within the bounds of the Dutch territory and free from the pursuit of the Virginia or Maryland officials. This place Isaac Allerton, Junior, found to be a safe retreat at this time, and here he could wait in safety until his friends had arranged for his return to Virginia. The will of Isaac Allerton, Junior, is dated October 25, 1702, and was proven the following December. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 1, page 1990.] This closes the history of the Allertons with the tobacco trade of Virginia and the other American colonies. It is evident from the records that Isaac Allerton, Junior, had his station as his own independent business, and that William Pearsall was in no way connected or associated with him, except in so far as in the beginning of Isaac Allerton, Junior's, residence in Virginia, they were both more or less closely associated with Isaac Allerton, Senior. It was not long before they became business rivals, which condition was not fair to William Pearsall who had so materially contributed to the success of Isaac Allerton, Senior, in the tobacco trade of the Chesapeake country.

We have given this brief history of the ending of the connections of the Allertons with this trade because it is necessary to an understanding of the reasons

which brought about at this time the new association between some of the old partners of Isaac Allerton, and to explain why, among the rest, Robert Pearsall of Block Island broke away just as soon as he saw that the elder Allerton was going to so arrange his affairs that the son, who was no real trader according to the views of the older captains, would succeed to the business of his father. This was clearly a time, he thought, when the real active men should go for themselves. It was this reaching out for the social standing of the first families of Virginia for his posterity and the estranging of his old captains, that proved to be the undoing of this old fighter and trader, Isaac Allerton, Senior. William Pearsall continued with Isaac Allerton, Senior, until the time of his death at New Haven, Connecticut, in 1659, when William Pearsall joined his brother Robert Pearsall and his associates, whereby William Pearsall became their factor resident in the Chesapeake Bay country. The better to accomplish this trading, William Pearsall removed over into Somerset County, Maryland, in 1660, locating on the Pocomoke River, just across the border from the Accomac country of Virginia. Like his brother Robert he was closely associated with the Motts, and having no need for lands, he permitted them to use his land rights to acquire a patent of land from the proprietors of Maryland. The land records of Maryland reading with reference to this transaction as follows:—April 20, 1666, John Mott assigned over unto William Stevens the right to lands belonging to Daniel Clarke, William Pissell, Sesar Hopewell, Alexander Speed and Grace Parker. This record gives the names of those who were associated with William Pearsall in this trading station. The list of Early Settlers of Maryland, Book 9, page 297, discloses that William Pearsall had removed to St. Mary's County shortly before 1666 with two men and three women in his family which, being a single man, means the above persons with their wives. It must be remembered that some of the members of the trading station would be away on their boats at the time the census was made, which will account for the difference in numbers.

The name of Alexander Speed, in the above list of those who were associated with William Pearsall, serves to recall that Christopher Branch of Henrico County, Virginia, the first partner of William Pearsall, had a cousin Peter Branch who embarked in 1638 for New England, but died on ship board during the voyage over. His son John Branch, born in Kent, in 1623, came to Virginia in 1635, aged 13, on board the ship *Abraham*, John Barker, master, bound for Virginia. He married Mary Speed and they subsequently removed to Marshfield, Massachusetts, where he died May 17, 1711. [Branch Family, by A. E. Pauson.]

While as to John Mott, the Virginia land records show that John Mott and John Mott, Junior, had transferred their land rights in Virginia before 1624 to John Burnham of Kiquotan, in Elizabeth City, who was next neighbor to William Claiborne. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 1, page 90.]

The land records of Block Island, in Long Island Sound, which was the trading station of Robert Pearsall, brother of William Pearsall, shortly after this disclose that Nathaniel Mott and John Mott were made freemen in 1678, at which time Nathaniel Mott was town recorder, and he was clerk in 1695 which latter office he held for many years. [See also Chapter 31, Section 1.]

This would seem to be a good place to say a final word about William Claiborne, who became so prominent in the history of Virginia after his removal to the colony, and after he ceased to dabble with the old tobacco trade, in which it does not appear that he was ever more than a factor for others, more particularly the New Englanders and the Virginia Puritans who were affiliated with them. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 1, page 315.] Even the effort made by him to recover Kent Island under the Commonwealth of England was more commercial than political, and had in view the advantages to be gained from controlling the trade of this well established trading place. For at this time and in this venture he was acting in partnership with James Fisher of Eltham, County Kent, England, and his brother George Fisher, Merchant, of London. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 4, page 407.] Before the close of the Commonwealth in England, William Claiborne removed to Northumberland County, Virginia, where he openly associated with the members of the New England colony which was established at this time in that locality. [Virginia Historical Magazine, vol. 1, page 316.] It is true that he owned ships from the beginning of his career in the Chesapeake Bay Country but they do not appear in his personal accounts as having been engaged on his personal ventures so much as for the service of others. Among the many efforts he made for his principals to secure for them a trading station on or near Kent Island, after the efforts to revive this station were proven to be of no avail, was to acquire title to an Island afterwards known as Claiborne's Island and which was subsequently named Sharpe's Island, which is located at the mouth of the Choptank River. Not far from this was the river called Hudsons River and the Harbor of Great Wighcomoco. All these places were adjacent to Kent's Island. [Neill, Virginia Carolorum, page 121.] The effort was however without result and the island soon became the property of an old Quaker physician named Peter Sharp, who in his will, made in Calvert County, March 23, 1671/2, proved March 28, 1671/2, devised the same as Claiborne's Island to his son William Sharp, along with Tuckahoe Mill, which was located not far from the new trading station on the Wye River in Talbot County, Maryland. [Maryland Calendar of Wills, vol. 1, page 68.] With the breaking up of the old warfare between the rival associations of New England and Dutch-English traders William Claiborne ceased to find profitable employment in the service of the New Englanders, and thus his connection with our family history came to an end. Later he became one of the leading gentlemen of the Dominion of Virginia. It was at this time that Virginia entered into that glorious period of her history when her planters were baronets with vast landed possessions, and no longer looked to the sea as the source of their wealth. It was also at this time that her first families became seated and identified with their beautiful mansions and park-like estates. It is remarkable that this change should have brought into the Northern Neck of Virginia and in association with William Claiborne, a group of families which after several generations should have such a marked influence upon one of the members of our family who later settled in the same Northern Neck near the headwaters of the Potomac River.

SECTION 5.

HENRY PEARSALL, resided at East Hampton, Long Island, New York; son of Robert Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 3; died unmarried.

The Calendar of State Papers, America and West Indies, November 11, 1686, which is the same year as the census of Southampton, reads as follows: Mr. Henry Pearsall appeared on behalf of the inhabitants of East Hampton respecting lands purchased from Indians, ordered that the deed be proved or in default that the land be bought from the Indians for the King.

SECTION 6.

JAMES PARSHALL, alias James Pearsall, son of Robert Pearsall, Chapter 28, Section 3; born circa 1649, died September 15, 1701; resided on Isle of Wight, later called Gardiners Island, and Southold, Long Island, New York; married first ———; married second, Elizabeth Gardiner, who according to the published Gardiner genealogies, was born in 1667. She died circa 1693. She was the youngest of the four surviving children of David Gardiner who married Mary Lerringham, June 4, 1657, at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, London, England. He married third, Margaret Youngs, daughter of Christopher Youngs. Children of first marriage:—

1. A son (James) born circa 1677, who died before 1692.
2. Mary Parshall, born circa 1679.
3. Israel Parshall, born March, 1680. Chapter 28, Section 7.

Children of second marriage:—

4. David Parshall, born 1683. Chapter 28, Section 8.
5. Daughter, born after 1686; ho died wbefore 1698.

Children of third marriage:—

6. Benjamin Parshall, died an infant.
7. Margaret Parshall, married 1710, Caleb Howell.

We have followed the Gardiner Genealogy. Should it prove to be faulty, so that Elizabeth was the oldest child of David Gardiner, she would have been old enough to have been also the mother of James, Mary and Israel, and hence the first wife of James Parshall.

Note:—The setting of the type for this book had reached this point when Mr. Clarence E. Pearsall died suddenly on October 3, 1928, after a short illness following a surgical operation. The publication of the book was suspended for several months after which the remaining material in Mr. Pearsall's manuscript was condensed so that the entire book would be comprehended in three volumes of about eighteen hundred pages including the index. This was, however, done in such a way as to preserve the manuscript intact. The completeness of the book was retained by filing the undeleted manuscript with the Genealogical Society of California, San Francisco, California, of whom permission to examine it may be had, or to whom communications may be addressed concerning it (kindly

enclose return postage). Any proof that may seem lacking of statements in the following pages of this book will be found in the unpublished manuscript.

The deleted material is so thoroughly keyed to the pedigree in the printed book that the reader, even without the manuscript, should have no difficulty in following the early line of Pearsall ancestry to which he or she may be related. Any reference in the printed book to a section or division of the text or to an insertion in the original text, indicated by #, which does not find its answer in the printed book will, of course, be understood as relating to information which may be obtained from the manuscript.

When Lion Gardiner acquired his Island of Wight he became interested in the tobacco trade, along with Isaac Allerton and his associates of the Eastern end of Long Island, and for whom Robert Pearsall, Grocer, of London was the English agent. It does not appear that Lion Gardiner was himself any more than a factor handling the goods of others, but his trading station on his Island became the center of a very large trade to and from New England, New Netherlands and Virginia, and thence by reshipment to England and Holland ports. This made Lion Gardiner a rich man, much more so than he could have possibly been through the mere farming of his lands. In this trade the Motts were not only intimately associated with, but they were related by marriage to the Gardiners. A John Mott appears in the visitation of Essex for 1634 as having married the sister and heir of Sir Robert Gardiner. [Visitation of Essex, page 458, Harl. Mss.]

David Gardiner when he succeeded to the Island as his father's heir, was able to add to this station the trade coming through the Block Island traders, including specially Robert Pearsall and John Youngs. James Pearsall, als Parshall, succeeded to his father's business as a Trader in and out of the Isle of Wight; hence while David Gardiner was the sole owner and possessor of this Island, nevertheless James Parshall was of equal financial rating and lived on the same Island, as is shown by the deeds these two men made as aforesaid. With James Parshall ended the trading in Virginia tobacco by members of our family, resident on the waters of Long Island Sound. He happened to be the survivor in this trade because the Commonwealth in England prolonged the New England trade until after the boats of those who supported the king had been all or nearly all destroyed. And even he abandoned this trade when he removed to the Eastern end of Long Island where he spent the remainder of his days.

In 1649, Lion Gardiner became one of the original purchasers of about 30,000 acres of land in the settlement of East Hampton. It appears that this patent to Lyon Gardiner included practically all of what is now Suffolk County, New York. The description of the land thereby conveyed reading as follows:—Now that it may be known how and where the land lyeth on Long Island we say that it lyeth between Huntington and Setauket the West Bounds being Cow Harbor. Easterly to Acatomunk and Southerly across the Island to the end of the Great Hollow or Valley (about the middle of the Island). It was after a residence of fourteen years on his island, during which time he devoted himself to agriculture and to the improvement of his estate, that Lion Gardiner, with his wife and daughters, removed to East Hampton, or Maidstone, as it was originally called, from the town of that name in the county of Kent, England, from whence came the first settlers. David, his son, remained on the island until 1657 when he left for England and spent some years in London. It is an interesting genealogical fact, which has been proven again and again, that the original inhabitants of East Hampton and of the Isle of Wight, or Gardiners Island, came originally either from the county of Kent of England, or from Zealand in Holland. They were Dutch-Englishmen, although they settled in the eastern end of Long Island. But for some reason or other Lion Gardiner, David Gardiner, Robert Pearsall, Henry

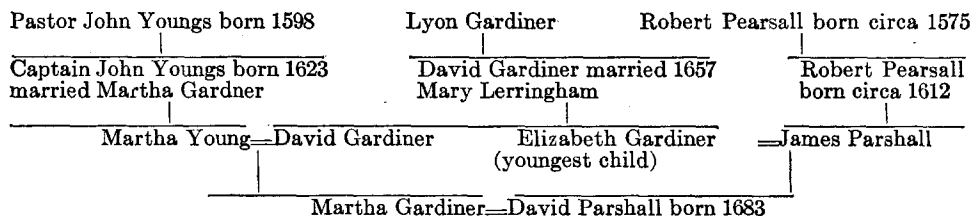
Pearsall, James Pearsall als Parshall and Captain John Youngs were all allied with Isaac Allerton, Senior, and the New England traders, in bitter opposition to the Dutch-English traders who were settled on the western end of Long Island in the Dutch towns.

Southold Town Records, vol. 1, page 381. John Youngs had also obtained a deed for Joseph Horton for land in Acquabank; upon this deed he makes the following endorsement. I under writ do by these presents deliver this deed to James Parshall as his own proper right. Witness my hand this 22d of March 78:80. Witness. David Gardiner, Thomas Osman.

The grantor named in this deed was captain John Youngs, the oldest son of Pastor John Youngs of Southold, Long Island, New York. He was called Captain because he had been a trader for years associated with Isaac Allerton and having a large share in the Tobacco trade. He was a man of the highest rank, an intelligent active man who was deeply interested in the prosperity of Southold and by the inhabitants of this town he is credited, for more than half a century, with spending more time in its behalf, and accomplishing more for its prosperity and reputation, and the high status it attained, than any other man then or now living within its boundaries. (Southold Town Records, page 32.)

The warfare between the Dutch-English and the New England traders in New Netherlands reminds one very much of the warfare in Staffordshire between the followers of the Red and White rose. And, as there, whichever side happened to have the greatest influence with the government used its power to harass its opponents. The records of New Netherlands disclose a time when Captain John Youngs having been caught violating some law of the colony, which would have passed unnoticed had his friend been in power, was arrested and after giving bail fled the country. The circumstance, whatever it may have been, which brought this about, has been lost in the lapse of time but the court records give quite a clear account as to who were associated with Captain John Youngs in this escapade, and who felt called upon to get him out of this difficulty. Minute of the Council of New Amsterdam April 13, 1654. Guaranteeing the cancellation of the bonds given by Isaac Allerton Senr. Edward More, Robert Coe and John Lawrence as sureties for John Young, a fugitive from justice. March 30, 1654, order of Council of New Amsterdam to confine John Young on board of the Ship King Solomon. March 31, 1654, To deliver a boat and sail to the skipper of the King Solomon and appointing Messrs La Montaigne, Cregier, Edward Moor and Isaac Allerton to take an inventory of the cargo. October 28, 1658, Petition of Isaac Allerton, Junior, on behalf of his father and of John Laurensz praying the cancellation of a certain bond which they gave as security for John Young was granted by the Council of New Amsterdam. [Calendar of Dutch Manuscripts of New York, page 137, 202.]

Captain John Youngs, circa 1653, married Mary Gardner a daughter of the Rhode Island Gardners. The above gives an opportunity to present a collateral chart of the Gardiner, Youngs and Pearsall-Parshall families of this period as follows:—



The following extracts from correspondence with Dr. Horace Field Parshall will explain how it came about that this chapter is to be understood as supplementing the several books that have heretofore been issued by the Parshall family.

Baltimore, The Preston, April 24th, 1919. Harry L. Neall, Esq., 923 Fifth Street, Eureka, Cal., My dear Sir, Your name was given me by Mr. Clayton Torrence and I am taking the liberty of enclosing a very worn out copy of a letter written to my brother-in-law, Lord Fairfax, in London. Can you make any suggestions? All of our genealogists here are dead—Wilson Cary, Christopher Johnston and George Aubury Mackenzie. Please excuse this informal letter. I do not want to put Dr. Parshall to a large expense unless there is some hope. Yours very truly, Tunstall Smith.

The letter referred to in the above communication was addressed to The Right Honble Lord Fairfax, 16 George Street, Mansion House, E. C. and says Dear Fairfax. You kindly suggested at lunch today that you had a friend in America who was in a position to have a search made in Virginia as regards the possibility of finding records of certain early members of my family. (Then follow details of genealogy to enable the searcher to definitely determine the names of the parties whose records are desired.) Thanking you for any trouble you may take in the matter, I am Yours sincerely H. F. Parshall. The letter and its enclosure was duly received by the writer and an answer sent to Mr. Tunstall Smith who replied as follows:—The Preston, Baltimore, Maryland, May 7, 1919:—I have your kind letter of May 1st concerning Dr. Parshall's letter of inquiry about his ancestors whom he suspected of emigrating to America. You seem to be so familiar with the subject that I am sure that he will be glad to get your letter which I am sending off today to Lord Fairfax, for I do not know Dr. Parshall, and Fairfax will be in London again before this letter and will see Dr. Parshall views the letter at once, in case he is away from home. I am very much obliged to you for your courtesy in replying so fully to my letter. Believe me Yours sincerely: Tunstall Smith.

As a result of this correspondence a special search was made for the connecting links in the ancestry of Dr. Parshall the results of which carry the line of James Parshall to Edmond Pearsall, Citizen and Grocer of London, and his wife Maria Bathurst, as already related in this family history. Recently Dr. Parshall was again communicated with in reference to this subject and under date of June 6, 1921, he kindly wrote that you, meaning the writer, have my permission to make whatever use of the work you have done for me that you desire. Hence it is set out in this chapter to the end that the Parshall genealogy may be completed by supplementing the excellent genealogies this family have heretofore issued.