

***The History of the
Parshall Family***

***From the Conquest of England by
William of Normandy, A. D.
1066, to the close of the
19th century.***

***By
James Clark Parshall, Esq.,
Counselor at Law, Author of the
Barker Genealogy, James
Parshall and His De-
scendants, etc.***

***It is the greatest of blessings in life to have
had good ancestors.—BENJ. FRANKLIN.***

***Syracuse
1903.***



James Clark Parshall

TO MY FATHER

WILLIAM PARSHALL

WHOSE PRIDE IN HIS FAMILY AND WHOSE REMARKABLE KNOWLEDGE
OF HIS ANCESTRY FIRST SUGGESTED TO ME THE COMPILATION
OF THE PRESENT HISTORY AND

TO THE VENERABLE

ASA PARSHALL

OF CHEMUNG, N. Y.

TO WHOSE GENEROSITY THE FAMILY IS INDEBTED FOR ITS PUBLI-
CATION, THIS WORK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

THIS EDITION IS LIMITED

TO THREE HUNDRED COPIES, OF WHICH THIS

IS No. 52

James Green Farshell

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Preface.

The history herewith given to the family is the result of more than seven years' continuous labor, and has been carried on in the face of obstacles which have seemed at times nearly insurmountable.

A work of this character is necessarily more or less incomplete, but much valuable data regarding our family is herewith presented and may aid some subsequent historian in the preparation of a more complete work.

An opinion seems to have prevailed among some of the family that the work was intended as a source of personal profit to the author; this idea is wholly erroneous, it having been a constant expense since its commencement. The book has been from first to last a "labor of love" only.

The peculiar difficulties in the preparation of an American genealogy have been fully experienced in this work. The families are scattered from ocean to ocean, from lakes to gulf. Several are residents of foreign countries. They are often without records and still more often without sufficient interest in the work to give what aid they might. The "Family Bible" has too often been carried off by daughters and then lost to the family name.

The family is a small one and there is but one family bearing the name. The English branch appears to be wholly extinct. No member of the family has even been historically great, but the individual members of it have ever been characterized by industry, sobriety and scrupulous honesty. So far as the author's observa-

tion goes our name has never appeared in literature, with a single exception. In "The Deserter," by Harold Frederick, the hero is a boy, Job Parshall by name, though it may be stated that Job was *not* "the deserter."

Since the work was placed in the hands of the publishers, vexatious delays have occurred, which, however, were seemingly unavoidable. After the work had been fairly advanced, a serious illness of the author, which necessitated a still more serious operation, further delayed the work, but all obstacles have been successfully surmounted and the work is before you.

To the venerable Asa Parshall, of Chemung, N. Y., the family owes a debt of gratitude which it can never repay. Whatever credit may fall to the author for his work no less praise is due to "Uncle" Asa for his unflagging interest and finally to his generosity which has furnished a large part of the means necessary to the publication of the work. But for him my work would have gone for naught.

I have been greatly assisted in my work by a little volume, entitled *The Parshall and VanEtten Families*, by Mrs. Annie Parshall Davis, which treats of the descendants of Samuel⁵. This little work was prepared by Mrs. Davis while suffering from an illness, which ultimately proved fatal, and while it necessarily contained many errors it has proved of immense assistance to the author in tracing this branch of the family.

The author also begs to acknowledge his indebtedness to Horace Field Parshall, of London, Eng., for financial assistance rendered to the work.

A number of blank pages of suitable paper have been bound in the work for a family record, and it is earnestly desired that each family strive to keep this record accurately for the benefit of some future historian of our race.

Trusting that my efforts as the historian of our family may be rewarded by your approbation, and that you may prove kindly critics, I beg to subscribe myself,

SYRACUSE, 16 May, 1903.

Your affectionate cousin,

JAMES CLARK PARSHALL.

The Pershalls of England.



The name of "Pers hale" appears upon the Roll of Battel Abbey as one of the leaders of that conquering host which accompanied William of Normandy to England and took part in the Battle of Hastings, 14 Oct. 1066. To perpetuate the glorious event the Conqueror caused to be erected a magnificent abbey which he munificently endowed and in it was hung a roll containing the names of those nobles and leaders who had fought in the battle. The roll bore this inscription:*

*"Dicitur a bello, bellum locus hic, quia bello
Angligenae victi, sunt hic in morte relict:
Martyris in Christi festo cecidere Calixti;
Sexagenus erat sextus millessimus annus
Cum pereunt Angli, stella monstrante cometa."*

And is followed by the names of the individuals, among whom is that of the Pershale referred to. This roll has long since perished, but a number of more or less authentic copies exist and most of these bear the name of Pershale. Burke, the great authority on heraldry, gives the name in his list, and Duschesne in a smaller list, so that the participation of our ancestor in the battle is at least as well authenticated as that of any other claimants to descent from the followers of the conqueror. The Norman

* Burke's Roll of Battel Abbey 4-8.

origin of the family is probably beyond question. It has always been so believed in America and the English family from which the American has sprung, claimed descent paternally from the Norman Counts of Corbeil. This appears to have been a tradition in the family handed down from generation to generation, but the evidence of its truth—if truth it be—has long since succumbed to the corroding hand of Time. We may, therefore, without doing great violence to the probabilities, conjecture a half-savage ancestor among the followers of the Norwegian Rollo, in his invasion and conquest of Normandy; others might be found among the fierce warriors who in the ninth and tenth centuries of our era devastated Europe with fire and sword. It is not impossible that another may have been of the crew of that hardy adventurer, who, defying wind and waves, turned his carved prow toward the setting sun and discovered America, five hundred years before Columbus had seen the light of day. Fierce as the wolves themselves and scarcely less wild, they knew neither pity nor remorse; fearlessly they faced death and met it with a fortitude begotten of their faith in their pagan gods, and of the eternal feasts and combats of Valhalla.

No records of the family apparently exist, covering the interval from the Conquest to the reign of King Edward III., when the family is found seated in Staffordshire, where it had doubtless been for many generations. The family is traced to Sir Richard de Pershall and I introduce in this place the lineage as given by Burke:*

SIR RICHARD DE PERSHALL, son of Sir Richard Pershall, by Alice Swinnerton, his wife. He was a Knight and a person of great power in Staffordshire, having been high sheriff, an office in those days of great authority, 7 Edward III (1333) and from the 11th to the 15th (1337-1341) of the same King. He *m.* Margaret *dau.* and heiress of Hugh, Lord of Knighton, and thus added that manor to his possessions. He was succeeded by his son

SIR ADAM DE PERSHALL, who was sheriff 15 Edward III (1341), and who made a similar accession to his estate by marriage with two heiresses, the *dous.* of John Weston, Lord of Weston Lizard, in the County of Salop

* Burke's Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies 406; Visitation of Kent, 1619-1621, p. 179.

and John de Coverswall, of Bishop's Offley. By the former he had a son and heir

SIR ADAM DE PERSHALL, of Weston Lizard, whose grandson and heir another

SIR ADAM PERSHALL, left two *daus.* his co-heiresses, viz.:

MARGARET PERSHALL, who married Sir Richard Mytton and conveyed to him the estate of Weston Lizard.

JOHANNA PERSHALL, *m.* to W. de Birmingham.

By the latter he had a son

SIR RICHARD PERSHALL, who acquired a considerable fortune with his wife, Johanna, *dau.* and heiress of Reginald Chetwynde, of Chetwynde, and left a son and heir

SIR THOMAS PERSHALL, Knight, living 4 Richard II (1376), who, by his first wife, Philippa, had two sons

RICHARD) who *m. temp.* Henry IV (1399-1413), two sisters, the *daus.*

NICHOLAS } of Hugh Malpas, of Checkley, and thus brought great estates into the family. Richard, the elder son, left two *daus. m. temp.*

Henry VII (1485-1509), the elder Isabella, to Sir Thomas Grosvenor; and the younger, Jocosa, to W. Pigott, of Cheshire. Of Nicholas more presently.

Sir Thomas, by his second wife, Alice, *dau.* of Roger Knightley, of Knightley, in Staffordshire, left a son

HUMPHREY, of Over Tayne, father of

Richard, who *m.* Alice, *dau.* of Robert Knightley, Esq., of Goswell, and had a son

Humphrey, father of

HUGH PERSHALL, who by his wife Isabella, *dau.* and heiress of John Stanley, of Pipe, left three daughters, his co-heiresses, viz.:

CATHERINE, *m.* to Sir John Blount, Knt., of Kinlett, in Salop.

ISABELLA, *m.* to Richard Fane, of Tunbridge, in Kent.

JOCOSA, *m.* Humphrey Wolrych, of Dudmaston, in Salop.

The second son of the first wife

NICHOLAS PERSHALL, by Helen, his wife, *dau.* and co-heiress of Hugh Malpas, left a son and heir

HUGH PERSHALL, Esq., the first of the family, who resided at Horseley, in the County of Stafford. He was sheriff 4 Henry VII (1489)^a and by Julia, his wife, *dau.* of Sir Robert Corbet, of Moreton Corbet, had a son and heir.

^a. Some years ago I read an extremely interesting anecdote of this same Sir Hugh Pershall, which, as I am unable to find it again to quote the book, I relate, with tolerable accuracy, from memory:

At the time of the invasion of the Duke of Richmond, so soon to become King Henry VII., Sir Hugh was in command of a town or city for the reigning King, Richard III., to whom our ancestor was loyal. Being summoned by the Duke to surrender, Sir Hugh gallantly swore that the Duke would have to pass over his body before he won an entrance to the town.

Perceiving, however, in a short time, that the cause of Richard was desperate, and the futility of resistance, he was fain to surrender and make

THE PARSHALL FAMILY

HUMPHREY PERSHALL, Esq., of Horseley, who *m.* Helen, *dau.* of Humphrey Swinnerton, Esq., of Swinnerton Castle, and widow of Henry Delves, Esq., and had issue

JOHN, of Checkley.

RICHARD, whose son

HENRY, *d. s. p.*

William from whom descended

John Pershall, of Naples.

The eldest son and continuator of the family

JOHN PERSHALL, Esq., of Checkley, *m.* Helena, *dau.* of John Harcourt, Esq., of Ranton, in the County of Stafford, and left a son and heir

RICHARD PERSHALL, Esq., who *m.* Isabella, *dau.* and heiress of Thomas Rolleston, Esq., of Derbyshire, and had seven sons and two *daus.* The eldest son

THOMAS PERSHALL, Esq., succeeded to the family estates, resided at Horseley. He *m.* Joanna, *dau.* of Sir Edmund Fettiplace, of Berkshire, and was succeeded by his son

JOHN PERSHALL, Esq., of Horseley, in Staffordshire, who was among the first Barons created by King James I, 25 Nov., 1612, and in four years afterwards was sheriff of the county. He *m.* Anne, *dau.* of Ralph Sheldon, Esq., of Beoly, in the County of Worcester, and had issue

THOMAS, his heir, born in 1596, who *m.* Bridget, *dau.* of Sir William Stafford Knt., of Blatherwick, and dying in the lifetime of his father

left

JOHN, successor to his grandfather.

Bridget, *m.* to George, son of William Massey, Esq.

Anne, *m.* to Christopher Hawley, Esq.

Elizabeth, *m.* to Sir Robert Bosville, of Bianno.

Letlice, *m.* to John Barber, gent. of Flashbrook.

Humphrey, ancestor of the Pershalls of Halne, to whose representatives the Baronetcy of Horseley is said to have passed at the decease of Sir Thomas Pershall, in 1712.

Ralph.

William (Sir), *m.* (1) Mary *dau.* of Richard Thimelby, Esq., and (2)

Frances, *dau.* of Walter, Lord Aston.

John, *m.* Bridget, *dau.* of Robert Knightley, Esq., of Warwickshire.

Anne, *m.* to Sir Richard Fleetwood, Bath.

Elizabeth, *m.* to William Scot, Esq., of Sussex.

Dorothy, *m.* to William Stanford, Esq., of Perryhall.

his peace with Richmond. His oath, however, was not to be lightly violated, so he was obliged to resort to a singular expedient to avoid perjuring himself. Notifying Richmond that he was ready to surrender, and of the difficulties of the case, he opened the gate of the town, lay down on the ground and the Duke stepping carefully over him entered it with his followers. Whether he took part in the battle of Bosworth Field or not, I am unable to say, but that he subsequently rose in favor with the King is certain, for a few years later we find him Sheriff of Staffordshire, an office in those days of very great honor and authority.

Jane, *m.* to Richard Colvert, Esq., of Cockerem.

Katherine, *m.* to James Pool, Esq., of Wishall.

Margaret, *m.* to Richard Brent, Esq.

Frances, *m.* to John Stanford, Esq., of Sayford.

Sir John died 13 Jany., 1648, and was succeeded by his grandson

Sir JOHN, who *m.* in 1660, Frances, *dau.* of Col. Thomas Legh, of Adlington, in Cheshire, and dying in 1701, was succeeded by his son

Sir THOMAS PERSHALL, *m.* Miss Medcalf and had a son

John, who *m.* Charlotte, *dau.* of Thomas, Lord Colepeper, and died before his father in 1706, leaving two *dau.*, his co-heiresses, viz.:

Frances, *m.* to Thomas Ireland, Esq., of the County of Salop, and had a son.

Arabella, baptized in 1702, *m.* to John, third Earl Breadalbane.

Sir Thomas died in Feby., 1712, and since that time the Baronetcy has lain dormant.

In this place it seems to me pertinent to introduce an account of the efforts of a certain Rev. John Pearsall to show a connection existing between that family and the more aristocratic Pershalls.*

"In the year 1612, John Pershall, of Horseley, County Stafford, the descendant and representative of an ancient family, which is said to be paternally descended from the Norman Counts of Corbeil, was created a Baronet by James I. He *m.* Anne, *dau.* of Ralph Sheldon, of Beoly, in Worcestershire, and dying in 1646, was succeeded by his grandson, John Pershall, the only son of his son Thomas, who had died *v. p.* Sir John died in 1701, and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas, on whose death without surviving male issue in 1712, the dignity is presumed to have become extinct.

"But about the year 1771, the Rev. John Pearsall, of Oxford, (formerly a schoolmaster at Highgate and afterwards at Guilford) the descendant of a respectable yeoman family, seated for many generations at Hawne and Witley, in the parish of Halesowen, changed the name which he and his ancestors had hitherto used, and adopted the style and designation of Sir John Pershall, Bart., alleging that the title had on the death of the above-named Sir Thomas Pershall, in 1712, passed to his (the Reverend gentleman's) grandfather, Thomas, the grandson of Humphrey Pearsall, who, he asserted, was the second son of the first Baronet of Horslev.

"To support these pretensions the surname of the grandfather, which had been originally engraved *Pearsall*, was altered on his tombstone at Halesowen to *Pershall*; and a tablet recording the births, marriages and deaths of sundry Pershalls of Hawne, (including Humphrey 'fil D'ni Joh'is de Horseley Hall in agro Staff. B'ti, who died in 1650, *æt* 51) was placed in Halesowen church.

"The Reverend Baronet had issue three surviving sons: 'Sir' John, who succeeded him, and died at his apartments in Chelsea Hospital, 21 Nov., 1820,

* VII. Herald and Gen. 270 etc.

in his 62d year. Sparry Pershall, born in 1760, who *m.* Anna Maria, *dau.* of Thomas Homer (by Patience, *dau.* of Richard Keelinge) and *d. s. p.*, 24 Dec., 1803; and Samuel, born 1761. The daughters were Anna Maria, born 1764, died 1765; and Elizabeth Maria, who was married to Sir Busie Harwood, Knt., M. D., and died in 1836, *aet.* 73.

"From Humphrey, third son of Humphrey, third, of Hawne (the alleged second son of the Horseley Baronet) Robert Lucas de Pearsall of Willsbridge, Co. Gloucester, is descended, and in Burke's *Landed Gentry* and *Royal Descents* the pedigree is traced from the Pershalls of Horseley.

"It is stated in these works that Humphrey Pershall of Horseley succeeded to the estate of the Halne or Hawn in the parish of Halesowen on the death (without issue in 1616) of his cousin John Pearsall;" but the exact connection of John of Hawne with the Humphrey of Horseley is not shown, and I am inclined to think that the so-called second son of Sir John was really descended from Humphrey Peyrsall, husbandman, who in 1562, obtained a lease of lands in Hawne for 1,000 years from Messrs. Blount and Tuckey, to whom the estate had been granted by John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.

"Lawrence Pearsall, yeoman, dealt with the Witley estate in 1580, and Humphrey Pearsall of Hawne, yeoman, in 1616. The next of the family that I meet with is John Pearsall of Witley Barn, yeoman. His will is dated 1659; in it he mentions his *cousin* John Pearsall of Hawne, his wife Joan, his brother-in-law Thomas Carpenter, his son John and his three daughters Joan, Joice and Elizabeth.

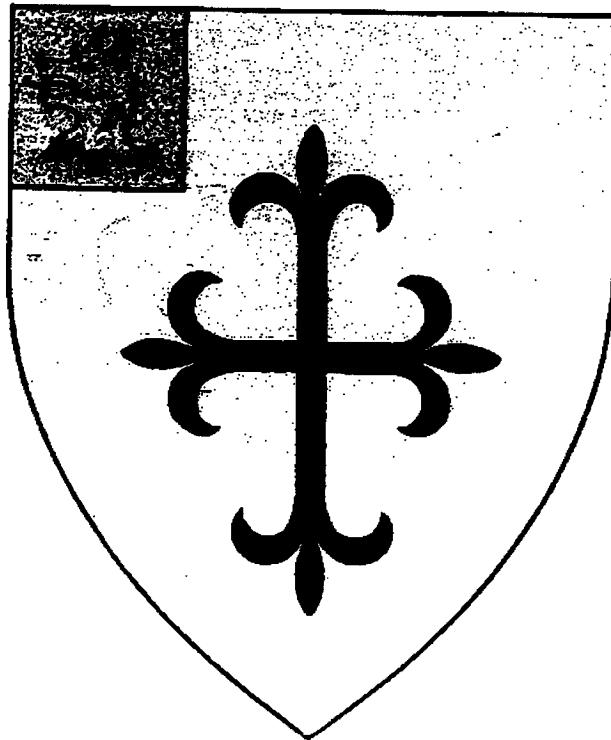
"In 1671, the son of John was 'of Witley Barn, yeoman' the daughter Joan was then unmarried; Joice was the wife of Thomas Pennell, of Elmley Lovett, Co. Worcester, 'agricola;' Elizabeth, of Zachariah Birch, of Harbourne, Co. Stafford *navitor*.

"The name of Pershall no longer occurs in the roll of Baronets, but as the title is pronounced by Burke to be *dormant*, it is not improbable that it may at no distant day re-appear in the Baronetage.

"I do not mean to positively assert that the alleged descent of the Hawne family from the Pershalls of Horseley cannot be satisfactorily established, but I certainly do consider it sufficiently doubtful to merit a place in your list of doubtful pedigrees and Baronetcies.

"Certainly the social position of the Halesowen family was very different to that enjoyed by the Pershalls of Horseley, who matched with Sheldons, Staffords, Knightleys, Fleetwoods, &c., but what makes the matter still more suspicious is the tampering with tombstones, an act which cannot be too highly reprehended. I should be very glad, however, if this letter should elicit some information which would tend to establish what I cannot but consider a very doubtful claim."

Late in the reign of Elizabeth, and in the following reign of James I., an Edmond Pershall of London, a member of the Grocers' guild or corporation, acquired prominence, and I introduce in this place a brief sketch of him, which is compiled, I believe, from records of the Grocers' Company:



Pershall

ARMS: Argent a cross purce flory, on a canton gules a wolf's head erased of the field.

CREST: A wolf's head sable, holding in its mouth a martlet per

Pashall--Pearshall--Piershall--Pershall--Peshall, etc., Edmond, grocer, 2. Sub.—; pd. £25. Admitted to Livery, May 24, 1596; paid £15 as his share of the levy of 1598; warden, 1609, when he had to pay the default of his brother warden, Timothy Bathurst, to the amount of £368; was senior warden in 1616. Westminster, March 29, 1615. Grant to Edmond Peshall and Edw. White of London, of the late imposition of 2s. per lb on tobacco imported for ten years paying to the King £3,500 the first year and £7,000 per ann. afterwards, with sole power to import tobacco and to name persons for selling the same, with a proviso of determination at six months' notice, if found prejudicial to the State.*

This Edmond Pershall was one of the sons in all probability of Richard who *m.* Isabella, *dau.* of Thomas Rolleston and had seven sons and two daughters, mention of whom is made on a preceding page. I find the following description of Edmond, son of Richard, which seems to render it probable that he was identical with the Edmond of London.

Edmundus Pershall iam sup'tstes apud Bromley in co Cautij. *m.* Maria filia Lauceloti Bathurst nuper aldermanus Lond. *Issue:* Robertus Pershall de Lincolne Inne fil p'mogenitus aet 20 An et Amplius; Edmundus fil. 2 aet 18 An et Amplius; Thomas fil. 3 aet 15 An; Maria aet 8 Annos.†

The inference from this is clear as to *why* he paid "the default of his brother warden, Timothy Bathurst, to the amount of £368."

I think it extremely probable that James the Emigrant was a grandson of this Edmond, or of one of his brothers.

* Genesis of the U. S., 562.

† Visitation of Kent, 1619-1621, p. 173.