

CHAPTER IV

SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE AND THE PESHALES OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

RICHARD, the eldest son of Sir John de Swynnerton by Eleanor de Peshale, his first wife, and the first of the later Peshale family, settled at Peshale about 1250, as is related in the previous Chapter. As stated above, he took as his arms the Swynnerton Cross (fleury, sable) surmounted by an escutcheon of the arms of the old Corbeil family, viz., Gules, a lion salient, argent. He very probably took part in the war between the Barons and Henry III. in 1264, and, as the Barons and their Knights were always summoned to assist in any military expeditions, he must have served under Edward I. in the subjugation of Wales in 1277 and 1282. He was knighted in 1298, and, as in those days knighthood was generally conferred as a reward for conspicuous valour in the field of battle, it is more than probable that Sir Richard was knighted after the great battle of Falkirk, July 22nd 1298, in which Edward finally defeated Wallace, the claimant to the Scottish throne.

Sir Richard owned a Manor House at Peshale, and in the Stafford Assize Roll of 56 Henry III. (1272) we read that 'John de Chelesle stopped William, son of Robert de Thene, and Adam, son of Alote, upon the heath of Norton, and charged them with breaking into his Lord's Grange of Peshale. He bound them and then beheaded them, and he

was afterwards arrested and taken to the Bishop's prison at Eccleshall, and from that prison he escaped about the first hour, and towards evening he was recaptured and beheaded.¹

Sir Richard died about 1300, leaving two sons, Adam and Richard. These appear in the Plea Rolls, and other contemporary records, under the names of 'de Peshale' and 'de Whethale' indiscriminately, and there is every reason to believe that they assumed, or were given the latter name locally, to distinguish them from the remaining 'de Peshales' of the earlier Peshale family, who were still living in this generation.

Adam had a wife, Anna, and in the Plea Rolls of 9 Ed. II. (1316), we find that 'Anna, formerly wife of Adam de Whethale (*alias* de Peshale), by Richard de Whethale her attorney sues, etc.,' and in the same suit repeated at a later assize, Anna's attorney is called Richard de Peshale. There are other evidences that the 'de Whethales' and 'de Peshales' were identical, and Canon Bridgeman and other authorities, writing in the *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, express the same opinion. This Adam de Peshale, son of Sir Richard, was probably the Adam de Whethales to whom 'William de Pesall and Dorea his wife gave by deed without date (*circ.* 1285) certain property in "Pesale," which he had held of Lucy, who had been the wife of Thomas de Pesale, for the term of her life, except nine acres of land which the said Adam released to the said William and Dorea to hold to him and his heirs for ever.' The William de Pesall and Thomas de Pesale referred to were doubtless members of the earlier Peshale family. Adam de Whethale (*alias* de Peshale) is also witness to a deed of John de Swynnerton of Isewall in 1314.² We find that Anna, the wife of Adam, was a widow in 1315, and that her sons Richard, John, and Adam, were living in 1319.³

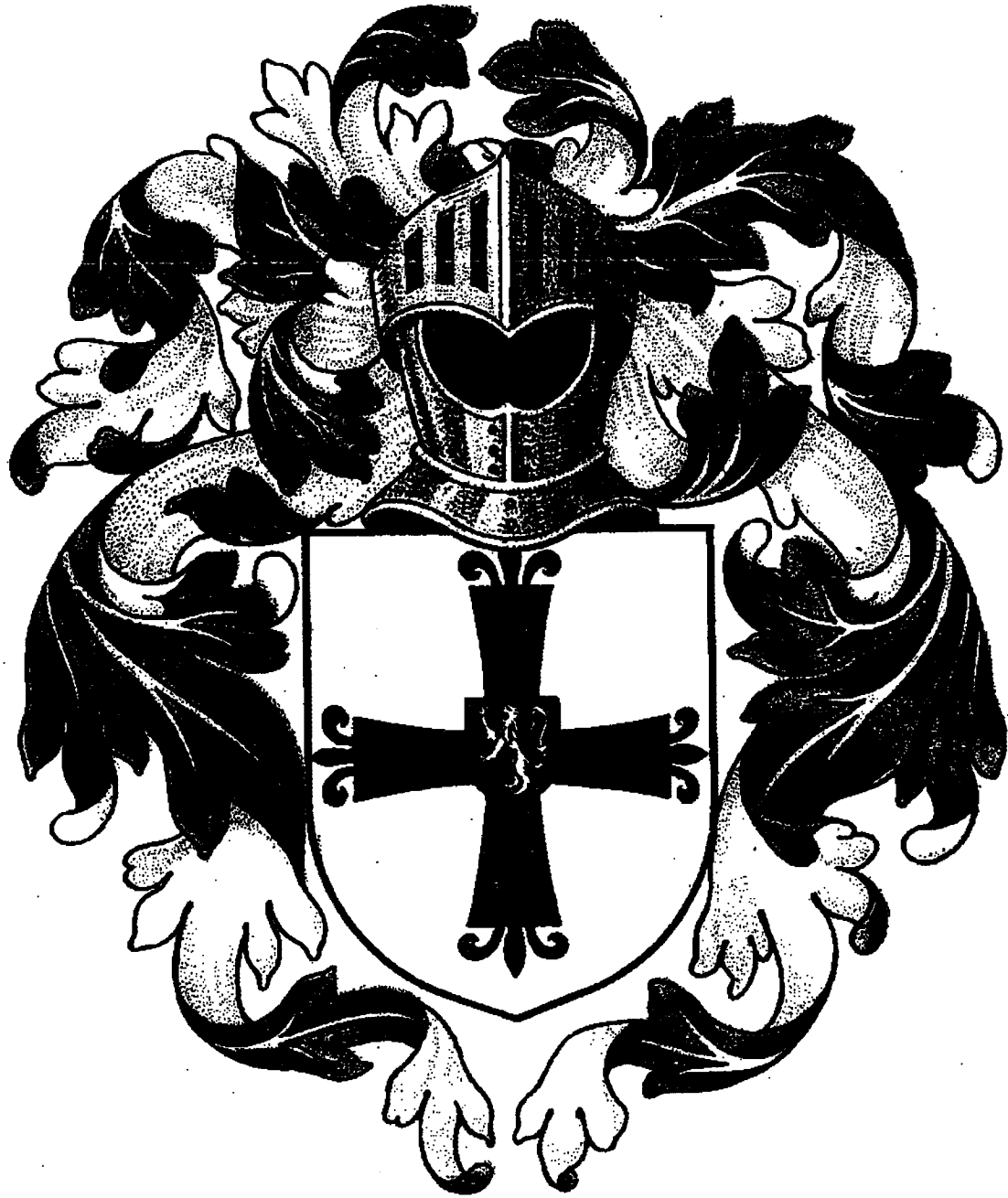
¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. iii. Old Series, p. 18.

² *Ibid.*, New Series, p. 91.

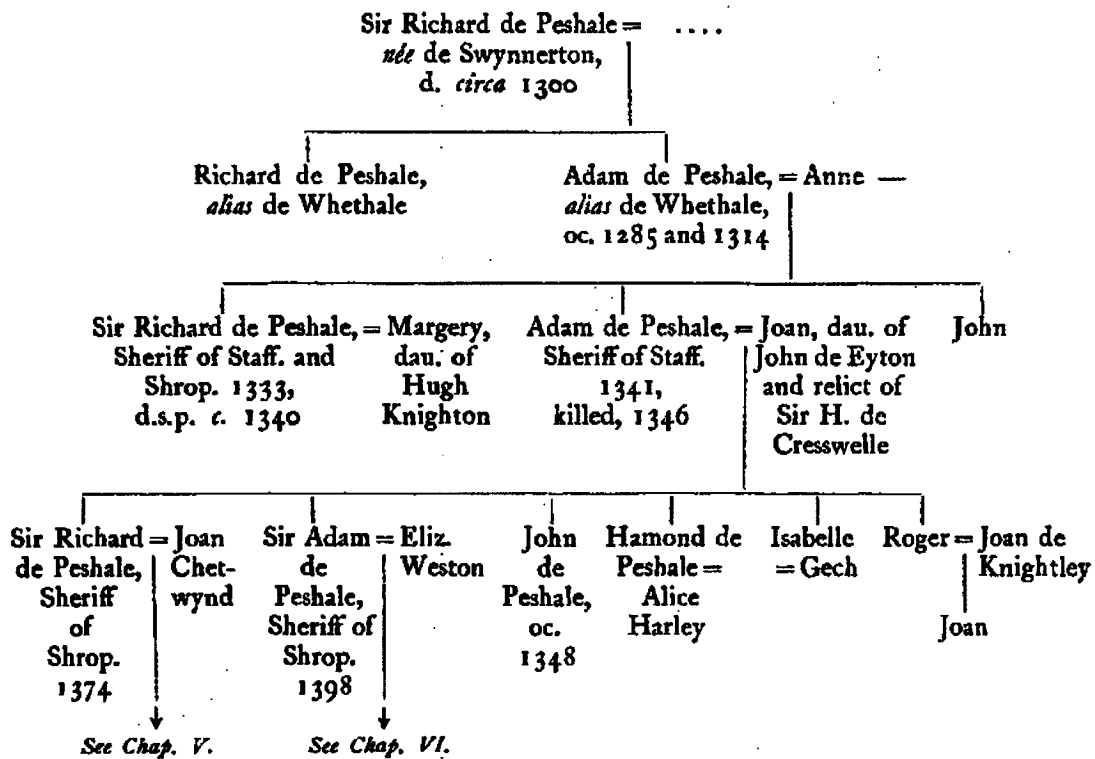
³ *Ibid.*, vol. ix. pt. i. p. 56.



ARMS AND CREST OF SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE I.



SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE AND THE PESHALES OF THE
FOURTEENTH CENTURY



The eldest son, Sir Richard de Peshale, married, first, Aline de Moubray, daughter and coheir of William de Breouse, and relict of de Moubray. With this first wife, Richard acquired the Manor of Weston Corbet. Aline died before 1332, as is shown by the following Inquisition of that date: 'Aline de Moubray, deceased, late wife of Richard de Peshale. Writ of certiorari on the complaint of the said Richard that the escheator had taken into the King's hands a moiety of the Manor of Weston Corbet of the inheritance of the said Aline, which he ought to hold for life by the courtesy of England. The said Richard had by the said Aline after their marriage, a daughter called Maud, still surviving.'¹

Among the Ancient Petitions preserved at the Record Office, London, are the following, by this Richard de Peshale:—

Ancient Petitions, File 67, No. 3316. 'Petition by Richard de Peshale, formerly Sheriff of Salop, that whereas the King by his charter granted to Sir John de Nevile, of Horneley, the Manor of Claverleye to him and his male issue and all profits which the Sheriff had during the time the said Manor was in the King's hands, raised and collected and paid into the Treasury the said profits and small farms to the amount of £8 1s. 8d. Now as the said John is to enjoy the same, Richard begs the Treasury may give him a discharge of the same.'

File 67, No. 3317. 'Petition by same Richard that whereas William le Fitz Wareyn, constable of Montgomery, during the time Richard was sheriff, had the Hundred of Chirbern, and took the profits of the same, the Treasury had charged Richard £11 4s. od. for the profits of the same, and now begs to be discharged of the same.'

File 67, No. 3318. 'Petition by Richard de Peshale that the error made by the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer in the suit between Roger de Bavent, William

¹ *Calendar of Inquisitions*, Record Office, vol. vii. (5 Ed. III.).

de Weston and Walter de la Lethe, executors of the will of Mary de Breouse, and the said Richard and Aline his wife and Thomas de Breouse may be rectified.'

The Parliamentary Writs preserved at the Record Office, show that this 'Richard de Pessale' was a prisoner in the Tower from 1323 to 1324, because he had taken part with the Barons in their war against Edward II. in 1322. A writ of 1324 states that 'Richard de Pessale having adhered to the Earl of Lancaster and the Barons in rebellion, and imprisoned therefor, is pardoned.' In 1325, a further writ summons Richard de Pessale to perform military service in Guyenne, he having obtained pardon upon condition of serving the King in his wars.

In 1333 this same Richard joined Edward III. on his expedition into Scotland in support of the claim of Baliol to the throne of Scotland; he also probably took part in the battle of Halidon Hill on July 19th, as the State Records show that a General Pardon was issued in 1333 to Richard de Peshale, Kt., for good service in this war. This also shows that he was knighted at this time.

Sir Richard was appointed Sheriff of Staffordshire and Shropshire, a highly important post in those days, in 1333, and held the same post in 1334 and 1339. The Sheriff's chief business was to collect the knights and men-at-arms of the county, in the event of war, and in 1334 a writ¹ was presented 'to Richard de Peshale and Ralph Basset of Drayton,' dated Nov. 8th, 1334, and stating that 'the King being given to understand that the Scots had collected in great numbers on the Marches and proposed to enter England in a hostile manner, he commands them to array in North Wales 40 men-at-arms and 400 men on foot with all celerity for service in Scotland.'

A later writ,² dated Dec. 24th, 1334, summoned Richard de Peshale and Adam de Peshale, his brother, to be at Roxborough, Scotland.

¹ Scotch Roll, 8 Ed. III., transcribed in *Staff. Hist. Coll.*

² *Ibid.*

Sir Richard is again referred to in the Almain Roll (14 Ed. III.), which states, under date of June 22nd, 1340, that Thomas de Swynnerton, in the King's service abroad, had letters of general attorney, under the names of Richard de Peshale, Chivaler, and William de Surton.

Sir Richard's second wife was Margery, daughter of Hugh de Knighton, and thus he added the Manor of Knighton to his estates. This second marriage is confirmed by the Plea Rolls of 17 Ed. III. (1343),¹ which record the levying of a fine by 'Richard de Peshale, Chivaler, and Margery his wife, daughter of Hugh de Knighton, of land in Eccleshall, Peshale and elsewhere.'² Sir Richard died or was killed in battle about 1344, leaving no heir, and the estates and title of Lord of Peshale passed, therefore, to his brother, Adam de Peshale.

Of the third brother, John, little is known. He appears, however, in the Plea Rolls under the name of John de Whethale. Thus, in 1324, John de Swynnerton (younger son of Sir Roger de Swynnerton), John de Whethale, Richard de Whethale (*alias* the Richard de Peshale who married Aline de Moubray), etc., are indicted at the Stafford Assizes 'for having in 1312 feloniously taken and abducted Joan de

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xi. p. 153.

² *Fees of Fines, Case 210, File 15, No. 19.*

Final Concord made at Westminster, on Easter day in 15 days, 17 Edward III., before John de Stonore, William de Shareshull, Roger Hillary, John de Shardelowe and Richard de Kelleshull, justices, Between Richard de Peshale, chivaler, and Margery his wife, daughter of Hugh de Knyght and Richard son of said Margery, plaintiffs, and Thomas de Knyghton and Adam de Chesewardyn, chaplain, deforciant, of one messuage, one virgate and 10 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow, an acre of wood and 20s. rent, with appurtenances, in Eccleshale, Wotton, Hakedon, Peshale, Gnous-hale, and Great Chelle, whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them, that is to say Richard de Peshale acknowledged the said premises to be the right of said Adam, Adam and Thomas having the same by his gift. For this acknowledgment, fine, &c., Thomas and Adam grant all the above to said Richard de Peshale and Margery and Richard her son, to them and the issue of said Richard holding the same of the chief lords of the fee by the usual services for ever. And if the said Richard, son of Margery, die without issue, the said premises after the deaths of Richard de Peshale and Margery and Richard shall remain entirely to the right heirs of Richard de Peshale for ever.—*Stafford. Abstract.*

Greseleye from Drakelowe, and for detaining her at Swynnerton.' John de Swynnerton appeared at the Assizes, and, 'on being asked how he wished to be acquitted of the said abduction and rape of the said Joan, stated that the King had pardoned him, and produced the King's pardon, which stated that he had pardoned John de Swynnerton, John, son of Adam de Whethale, and others for the rape of Joan, formerly the wife of Peter de Greseleye. The said John is therefore acquitted.'¹

This same John de Swynnerton, together with John de Whethale and others, were later indicted 'with having entered Stafford, arrayed and armed in manner of war, to the great terror of the people, and having forcibly disturbed the Sheriff sitting in full county.' For this offence they were fined £40.²

It appears that the elder brother, Adam, to whom the estates passed on the death of Sir Richard, had led rather a lawless life in his early days, for in the Plea Rolls of 1324² we find that 'Adam de Peshale, son of Adam de Peshale (*alias* de Whethale) and Geoffry, formerly the Beadle of Eccleshall, had broken into the house of Thomas de Walkere at Offley and stolen goods and chattels to the value of £20.' This kind of raid was not infrequent in those days, and was done, of course, out of personal animosity, and was not of the nature of burglary.

In 1337, John de Swynnerton, grandson of Stephen de Isewall, and a cousin of Adam de Peshale, was killed, probably during one of these raids, and Adam de Peshale (*alias* de Whethale), Roger Marion and others were arrested for the deed, but were acquitted. Adam served in Scotland in the suite of Roger de Swynnerton, and we find that in 1335 Adam de Peshale is granted a general pardon on the testimony of Roger de Swynnerton.

Previous to the death of his brother Richard, Adam had married Joan, daughter of John de Eyton, and relict of Sir

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. x. Old Series, p. 45, etc.

² *Coram Regi Roll*, 17 Ed. II., *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. x. pt. i. p. 45.

Henry de Cresswalle or Kerswell, with whom he had acquired the Manor of Bishops Offley. In a Chancery Inquisition of 20 Ed. III. (1346) we read that 'on the death of Sir Henry de Cresswalle, John de Eyton took the Manor of Bishops Offley into his own hands, and held it until Adam de Peshale married Joan, the relict of Sir Henry and daughter of the said John de Eyton, at which time John permitted Adam to enter upon the same Manor, and Adam held the Manor all his life, and after his death the Sheriff took it into the King's hands with all the other lands of the said Adam.' The reason for this will be explained later.

It was about this time that the land and manor of Horsley came into the family, and, from the following Inquisition, it would appear that land in Horsley was purchased by this Adam de Peshale: 'Inquis. 22 Ed. III. (1349) 40. Rob'tus de Horsle pater Joh'is de Horsle Dimisit Ade de Peshale quadraginta acras t're in Horsle tenend' ad totam vitam ipsius Robti, etc.'¹ Chetwynd in 1679 writes that 'Horsley did anciently belong to ye Prebendary of Eccleshall (one of ye five Prebendaries of Lichfield), of whom it was held by Adam de Peshall in ye time of Ed. III., and continued the chief seat of ye family till ye building of Suggenhill. It is now in ye possession of Sir John Peshall.'²

Adam de Peshale had several children by this marriage: Richard, the eldest, who made a good marriage and rose to an important position in the County; Adam who settled at Weston, and whose history is dealt with in a separate chapter; Sir Hammond who acquired the Manor of Willey by his marriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Robert Harley; Roger who married Joan de Knightley; fifth son John; and a daughter Isabelle.

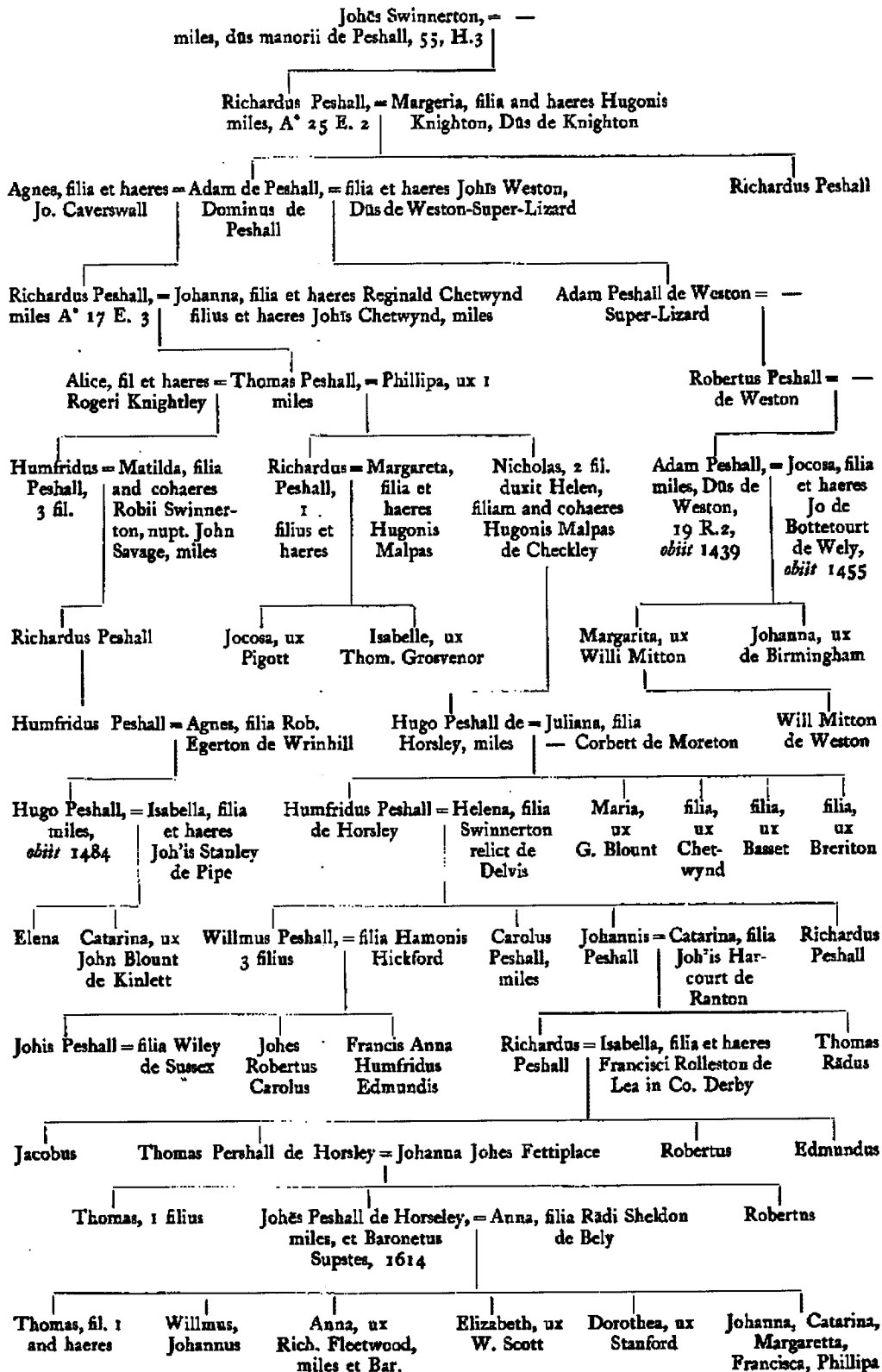
According to Burke's *History of the Commoners*, Sir Hammond had a daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, who was

¹ Robert de Horsley, father of John de Horsley, has made over to Adam de Peshale forty acres of land in Horsley to be held, for his whole life, of the same Robert.

² Chetwynd, 1679.

COPY OF A PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF PESHALL
FROM THE 'VISITATION OF ST. GEORGE,' 1614

Harleian MS., 1439, fol. 41.



married to Sir Richard Lakyn, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1415, 'by which marriage,' says Burke, 'Sir Richard greatly raised his family, as from this match a moiety of the barony of Corbet of Cause devolved upon his descendants, in addition to the large estates of the Harleys.'

Roger de Peshale, the fourth son of Adam, married Joan, daughter and heiress of John de Knightley, and had a daughter Joan Peshale, who married William Lee, a lawyer of Birmingham. On the death of this William Lee, Joan, his wife, left her property and arms to a Richard Peshall, her cousin, as related in Chapter VI. Roger de Peshale was killed in 1354, and in the Calendar of Patent Rolls of Edward III., 1354, we find that 'John Bougy is pardoned for helping Thomas de Crowebarwe to kill Roger de Peshale of Stafford.' In 1356, Robert le Roo of Tulford is pardoned for the same offence.¹

The fifth son, John, as is shewn later, appears in 1348 in a petition for the release of some of his father's property.

The daughter, Isabelle, married Thomas Gech de Newport of High Ercall, Shropshire, Esq., and had a son, Thomas de Newport, who succeeded to the Manor of Ercall.

The father, Adam de Peshale, of Peshale and Horseley, was Bailiff of Liberty of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; was member of Parliament for the County of Stafford; and was appointed a Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1341.

While his brother Richard was Sheriff in 1335, Adam had himself been brought before him, for in the Plea Rolls of 8 Ed. III. (1335) we read that 'Adam de Peshale, who had been indicted before Richard de Peshale, Sheriff of Staff., for feloniously abducting Alice, the Lady of Knyghtley, with goods to the value of 20 marks from Knyghtley, pleaded not guilty, and the jury acquitted him of the charge.'

By a writ² dated Dec. 24th, 1338, Adam de Peshale and two others were appointed to select 110 Archers in Staffordshire and take them to the King in France. These

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, 1911.

² *Almain Roll*, 12 Ed. III.

were to assist Edward III. in his fruitless campaign of 1339, the first year of what was afterwards known as the Hundred Years' War.

In 1340, John de Stafford, Robert Mauveisin, Adam de Pesschale, Richard de Venables, Roger Wyrde, and John Rotour of Stafford, were appointed Commissioners to take 400 sacks of wool for the King's use in Staffordshire, a part of 20,000 which had been granted to the King by Parliament. Dated by the Custos at Westminster, 28th July.¹

By writ dated 25th February, 1345, James de Stafford, John de Stafford, Adam de Peshale, and William Trumwyne were ordered to select 128 of the best and strongest archers of Co. Stafford, and to equip them with bows and arrows and other suitable arms, so that they might be ready by the Quindene of Easter to accompany Henry de Lancaster, Earl of Derby, on the King's service, and in his pay.²

Writs of military summons were sent by the Custos on the 4th July of the same year to a number of Bannerets, Knights and Esquires, and those summoned from the County of Stafford included Adam de Peshale, James de Stafford, Robert Mauveysyn, etc.³

These were lawless and troublesome times, and Adam, like many others of his family, was undoubtedly a man of violence. In the early part of the reign of Edward III. he fell under the King's displeasure for sundry breaches of the peace, and several Knights and others of the County of Stafford were commissioned to arrest him and bring him in alive or dead. After being followed from place to place, he was at length taken at Caynton in Shropshire and beheaded.⁴ Thereupon a writ, dated from Porchester on 27 May, 20 Ed. III. (1346) was issued, stating that 'whereas we lately assigned our trusty and well beloved Robert de Ferrars to arrest Adam de Peshale, a common malefactor, notoriously accused of various homicides and other felonies, and to bring

¹ *Almain Roll*, 14 Ed. III. A.D. 1340. ² *French Roll*, 19 Ed. III. A.D. 1345.

³ *Ibid.*, 19 Ed. III.

⁴ *Hist. Coll. Staff.*, vol. ii. New Series, p. 100.