

CHAPTER V

SIR RICHARD DE PESHALE AND THE PESHALLS OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

SIR RICHARD, the eldest son of Adam de Peshale, became Lord of Chetwynd, Co. Salop, before 1343, by marriage with Joan, granddaughter of Sir John de Chetwynd. He was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1374 and 1375, and was knighted in 1376, in which year and the following also he was again Sheriff. This Sir Richard is mentioned in the Plea Rolls of 48 Ed. III. (1375) when 'William de Kynardesle (Kynnersley) sued Richard de Peshale, Chivaler, for the Manor of Hanley.'¹ This Sir Richard died in 1387, leaving two sons, Sir Thomas Peshall of Peshall, Horseley and Chetwynd; and Sir Humphrey Peshall of Hopton and Teyne. The latter and his descendants are dealt with in Chapter VII.

At an Inquisition taken at Stafford 'Wednesday before the Feast of Corpus Christi, 12 Richard II. (1388-9), the Jurors say that Sir Richard de Peshale, Kt., who is dead, was seized 11 March, 9 Rich. II. of a messuage and lands in Horseley, Rule, Byshop's Offeley, Adbaston and Draycote, etc.'

There is a possibility that Sir Richard had, besides Thomas and Humphrey, other sons, Nicholas, Adam and Robert. Thus in 1384 is recorded 'the exchange between Master Nicholas de Peshale, Rector of Kyngesclyve, Lincoln,

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xii. New Series, p. 33.

and R. Thurban, Rector of Egemunden,¹ and in the Plea Rolls of 19 Rich. II. (1396) we read that 'Nicholas de Peshale, Rector of Egemundon, and Robert de Peshale of Knyghton are indicted for aiding the escape from the King's prison, the Castle of Shrewsbury, of Thomas Peshale, Kt., and Adam Peshale, son of Richard de Peshale, Chivaler.'

A document bearing the seal of this Nicholas de Peshale is preserved among the Campbell Charters at the British Museum. The document (Ref. Campb. XXVIII. 10) reads as follows:—

'Letters of attorney of Master Nicholas de Peshal, Rector of Egemondon Church, John le Bret, Rector of Aderley Church, and Richard de Adekyne, Chaplain appointing Hugh Knottesford, Ralph Stoke and John Stoke, their attorneys, to deliver to Sir John Gryffyn, Knt., and Anne his wife, seisin of the Manors of Bertherton and Greysty in Shanyngton, Saltheryssethe in Wylaston and in Wyterston and one "wychehous" in Marlboro Street beyond the bridge with all appurtenances, to the said John and Anne and their lawful issue.

'Given at Bertherton, Thursday next after Pentecost, 1 Henry IV.' (1399).

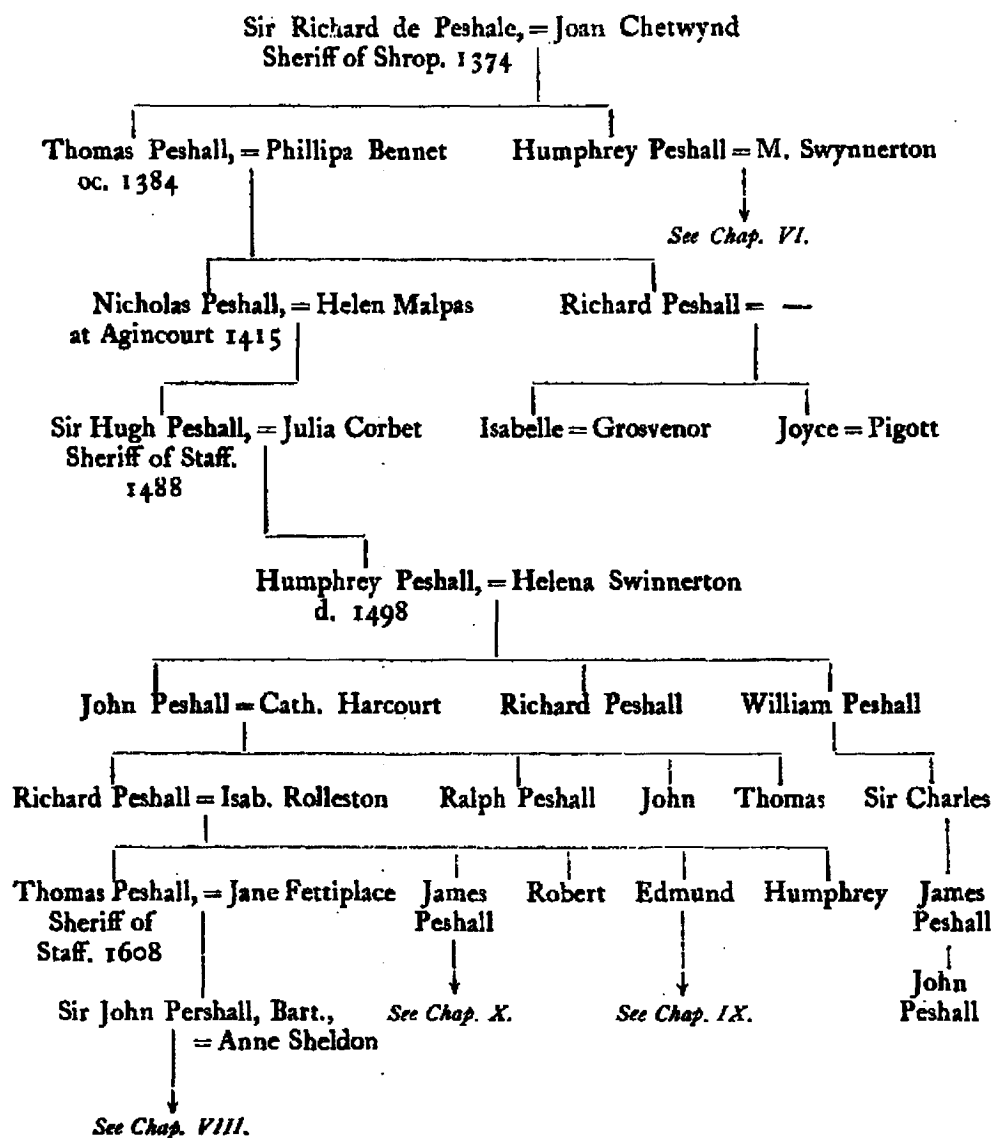


SEAL OF NICHOLAS DE PESHALE.

A reproduction of the seal of Nicholas de Peshale, which is attached, is given in the accompanying figure.

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. x. pt. ii. p. 215.

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Later it is recorded that 'Thomas Peshale, Chivaler, son of Richard de Peshale, Chivaler, produced Letters Patent pardoning him.' In 1386 again, we find that 'Humphrey de Peshale is indicted for having received Richard de Peshale and Adam de Peshale at his house at Allbryghton when they were escaping after having committed a felony.' In the Plea Rolls of the same year, a John de Whethale is mentioned, and in the same pleadings he is also called John de Peshale. His relation to the other Peshales is not mentioned.

Sir Thomas de Peshall, Lord of the Manors of Peshall, Horseley, Bishops Offley, and Chetwynd, married Phillipa, daughter of Richard Bennet de Botesle, by whom he had two sons. The elder, Nicholas de Peshall, married Helen Malpas of Checkley, and left two sons, Sir Hugh Peshal, who inherited the family Manors; and William, of whom nothing is known. Sir Thomas's second son, Richard, received the Manors of Chetwynd and Bellaport, and married Margaret, a sister of Helen Malpas, but died without male issue. Richard's daughters, Isabelle and Joyce, married Thomas Grosvenor and William Pigott respectively, the Bellaport and Chetwynd property passing with them out of the Peshall family. Thomas Grosvenor was the third son of Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Lord of Hulme, and the Manor of Bellaport long remained in the possession of his descendants.

This Richard Peshall is mentioned several times in the Plea Rolls of his time. At Michaelmas, 17 Rich. II. (1393), 'John Delves sued Roger Swynerton of Chebbesey and Richard de Peshall of Eccleshall for a debt of £20.' The Plea Rolls of 1416 (Coram Rege 3 H.V.)¹ give a long list of offences of this same 'Richard, son of Thomas Peshale, Kt.' He is accused of committing a felony in the house of John Wallesley at Wemme, and 'Nicholas Peshale, the brother of Richard,' and others are indicted with him. Later he is accused of 'assembling with others, armed in the

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xvii. Old Series, p. 31.

manner of war, and pulling down the house of John Wydeford.' He is also indicted with others for killing an unknown man in Swynnerton, and for arresting without authority one John Bokard, and detaining him at his house until he had made a certain agreement with him. Again in 1414, it was presented that 'Richard de Peshale, son of Thomas Peshale of Chetwynd, Esq., had in 1411 collected 400 Welshmen and others arrayed in manner of war on the fields of Wenlok, and had announced to the Prior of Wenlok that they intended to enter the Vill of Wenlok by force, and that the said Prior had been forced to send a messenger to the Sheriff who had raised the "Posse" of the county in order to relieve him.'

Richard appeared before the Sheriff, and was committed to the custody of the Marshall. 'On being brought afterwards before the Court and questioned, he produced Letters Patent of the King, dated Feb. 8th, 1415, pardoning him for all felonies, etc., perpetrated before the previous Dec. 8th. He was therefore allowed to depart in peace.'

Of Richard's elder brother, Nicholas, little more is known, except that he accompanied Henry V. to France in the second year of his reign, and took part in the battle of Agincourt. The following note occurs in *Collections for a History of Stafford*: 'At Agincourt (1415) the country was represented by many valiant soldiers. In the retinue of Hugh de Stafford, lord of Bouchier in right of his wife, were Richard Hampton, Roger Snede, Nicholas Pershale, John Acton, and John Bromley, men at arms.' This is the first instance of the introduction of the 'r' into the spelling of the name.

This Nicholas and his brother are also mentioned in the Calendar of Patent Rolls for Henry V., where the following is found under date of 1413, July 18: 'Commission to Hugh Erdeswyck and Thomas Giffard on complaint by William Yong of Charnes, Co. Stafford, that he is threatened with loss of life and mutilation by Richard de Peschale and

Nicholas, his brother, to cause these to appear before them and find sufficient mainpernors under penalty of £100, that they will not do bodily harm to William or any other of the King's people, and to imprison them if they refuse, and to certify therein to the King in Chancery.'

Sir Hugh Peshall of Horseley, eldest son of Nicholas, was knighted in 1485. He was Justice of the Peace for 1485-7,¹ and was appointed as Sheriff of Stafford in 1488, his name being recorded in some contemporary manuscripts² as Sir Hugh Persall.

Sir Hugh married Julia, daughter of Corbet of Moreton, by whom he had a son and heir, Humphrey. Sir Hugh took part in the battle of Bosworth Field (1485), where he was knighted on the field of battle.³ He was later appointed Sheriff of Stafford.

He was a knight of the King's Body-guard, and in the Patent Roll of 1 Henry VII. pt. 4, m. 205, we find the following letter: 'For Sir Hugh Peshale, Knt. :—

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

'Witness the King at Westminster, 7 August [1486].'

Sir Hugh Peshall was succeeded by his son, Humphrey

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xviii. p. 249.

² Composition Papers (Record Office), 'Sir Hugh Persall, Knighted 1485.'

³ A reference to the knighting of Sir Hugh is contained in W. Hutton's *Battle of Bosworth Field*, second edition, page 138, where he writes, 'Henry (Henry VII. Duke of Richmond) was not the only person who received honours in the field, for he knighted several gentlemen, as Gilbert Talbot, John Mortimer, Richard-ap-Thomas, Robert Points, Humphrey Stanley, John Tewberville, Robert Willoughby, Hugh Pershull, Richard Edgcombe, John Bickenyle, De Baron de Carew, etc.'

Peshall, who married Helen, daughter of Humphrey Swynnerton of Swynnerton Castle, a widow of Henry Delves. They had three sons and a daughter, Isabelle, who married one Henry Vane. The eldest son was John, to whom reference will be made later. Richard, the second son, had a son Henry, who died without issue. The third son, William Peshall, had four sons—John, Robert, Edmund, and Charles. The last-named was knighted, and had a son, James, and a grandson, John Peshall, who became a merchant in Naples; but nothing further is known of this branch of the family.

In the Commission of the Peace issued by Richard III., 1483-5, the names of landowners of the county are John Sutton, Lord Dudley, John Blount of Mountjoy, John Gresley, Richard Wrottesley, Humphry Persall, Nicholas Montgomery, Ralph Wolsey and John Cawardyne.

Sir Humphrey died in 1489, and among the Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem we find the following: 'Inquisition taken at Stafford, Monday next after the Assumption, 4 Henry VII., to enquire after the death of Humfrey Peersall, late of Chekeley. The Jurors say Humfrey held 2 messuages and lands in Offeley Episcopi and other lands. He died 3 June last past (1489) and John Peersall is his son and next heir aged 4 years and more.'¹

John Peshall² came into the estates of Horsely, Peshall, etc., and married Helena, daughter of John Harcourt of Ranton. He had four sons. Richard, the eldest, succeeded to the estates. Of the others—Ralph, John, and Thomas—nothing is known, with the exception that about 1530, 'John Pershall of Horsely, Staff. and Ralph and Richard his sons are charged with attacking Richard Alkyn without occasion in Eccleshall.'³ Richard married Isabel, daughter and heir

¹ Chancery Inquisition Post Mortem, Series 2, File 5, No. 26.

² According to the *De Walden Library* (vol. ii.) 'Crests,' 'John Peresall de Chekeley in Cheshyre' had as motto, 'Bien venu ce que ad viendra.' His crest is also given—a wolf's head erased.

³ Court of Star Chamber, *Henry VIII.*, vol. i. fol. 57-66, and *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. x. pt. i. New Series, pp. 84, 85 and 86.

of Thomas Rolleston, and had five sons. [In *Staff. Hist. Coll.* vol. viii., New Series, p. 74, it is stated that 'Mabel, daughter of Thomas Rolleston of the Lea m. Richard Persall of Horsely.']

The eldest, Thomas Peshall of Horsely and Checkley, married Jane, daughter of Sir Edmund Fettiplace of Berkshire. The records of Gray's Inn show that he was admitted to that body in 1555, his name being recorded as 'Thomas Persall.'

The second son, James, was the progenitor of the present Parshalls, and will be dealt with more fully in Chapter X. The third son, Robert Peshall¹ of Blorepipe, had an only daughter, Elizabeth, married to R. Bosvile, as shown by Robert's Will.

Robert's death is the subject of an Inquisition as follows : 'Inquisition taken at Leicester 24 September 21 James I. to enquire after the death of Robert Peshall. The jurors say he held a capital messuage called Priory House and the site of the late dissolved Priory of Olvescrofte als Wolvescrofte in co. Leics. and a water mill there and lands there and in Rathy, Newtowne and Markfielde, co. Leics. and Manors of Newton als Cold Newton, Burditt Newton, Marmyon als Marmyons Manor, als. Newton by Lowsley and lands there, co. Leics. and a capital messuage in Eccleshall, co. Stafford, called Beonny Hall and lands there and in Croxton and Little Sugennell, co. Stafford (particulars given of all these lands). By Indenture dated 2 April 12 James I. he enfeoffed John Peshall, Bart., Edmund Peshall, and others, with the same to the use of himself for life, with contingent remainders after his death to Elizabeth Bosseville his daughter, then wife of Sir Robert Bosseville, and now widow, and her issue, to Sir John Peshall, Bart. Said Robert died 12 December,

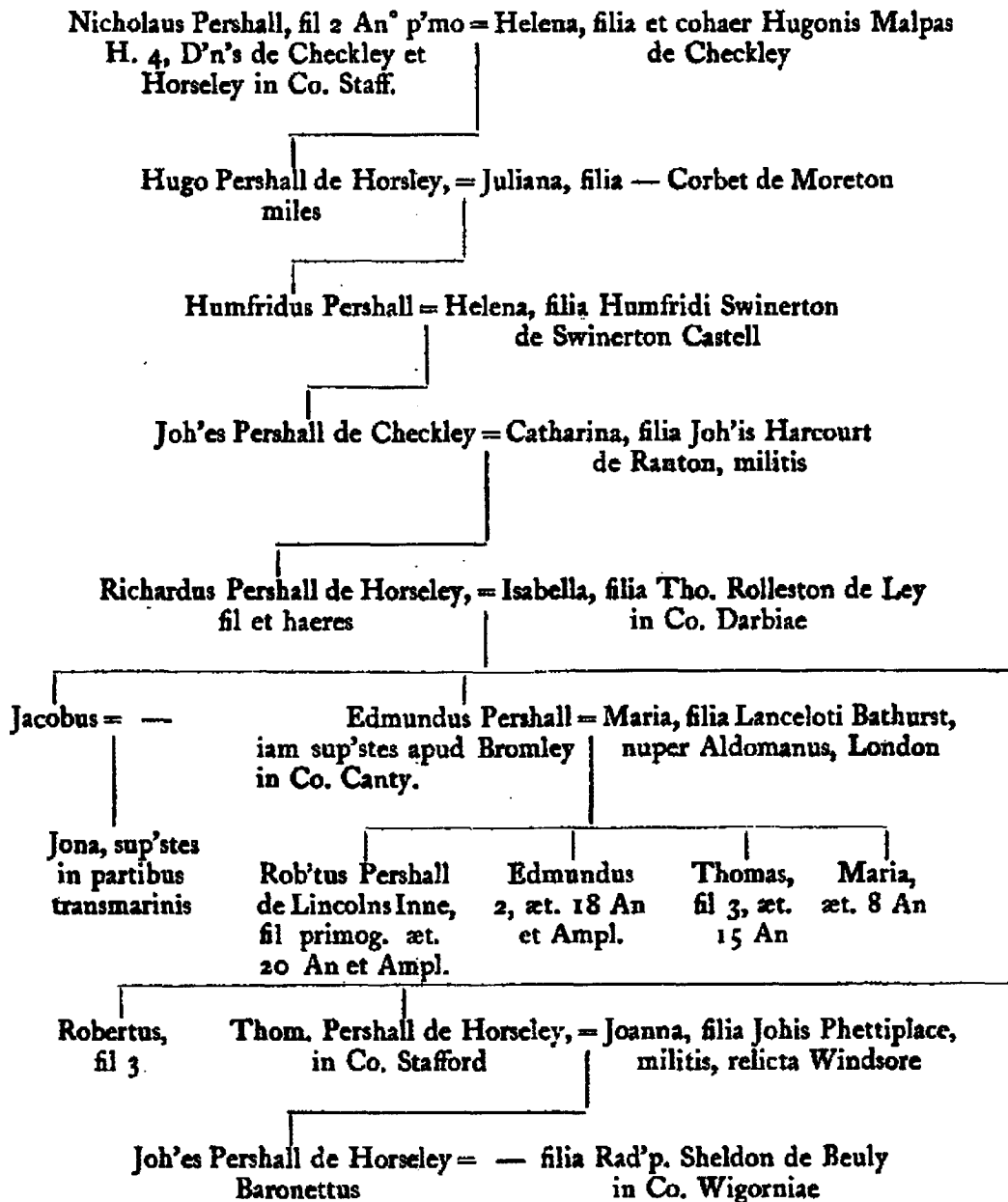
¹ The Eccleshall Parish Register records the burial on Nov. 25th, 1608, of 'Thomas Penyfater, Mr. Robt. Pershal's man, of Bloore pipe,' and the burial recorded on Dec. 12th, 1622, of 'Robert Peashall, of Bloorepipe, esq.,' would be that of Robert himself.

**PEDIGREE OF FAMILY OF PERSHALL, FROM THE 'VISITATION
OF KENT,' 1619-1621**

Official Copy preserved in College of Arms. Original in Harleian
MSS. at British Museum.

PERSHALL.

Arms.—Argent, a cross flory sable, on a canton of the last a wolf's
head erased of the field.



Signed by EDMUND PERSHALL
(of Bromley, Kent)

20 Jas. I. at Cold Newton, co. Leicester, without male issue, and Elizabeth Bosseville widow, his daughter and heir, is aged 30 years and more.¹

Robert's will reads as follows:—

[Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice. In the prerogative Court of Canterbury.]

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN the seaventh day of October in the yeare of our Lord God 1622 and in the yeares of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord James by the grace of God of England France and Ireland the twentieth and of Scotland the sixe and fiftith.

I, ROBERT PESHALL of Blorepipe in the Countie of Stafford Esqr (albeit somewhat diseased) yet of perfect mynd and remembrance (thankes be to God) doe constitute ordaine and make this my last will and testament in maner and forme followinge first I bequeathe my soule to Almightye God and my body to be buried as it shall seeme good to my executrix Item my will and mind is that thirty pounds shall be imployed and bestowed by my executrix for the good of the poore inhabitantes of the towne of Eccleshall in the said countie of Stafford in forme followinge That is to say to be put out yerely to sixe poore artificiers or tradesmen in the said towne at the rate of twelue pence for ewie pound (vpon good securitie taken for repayment at ewie yeares end) And I will that all such mony as shalbe received by twelue pence for the pound as afore said shall be yearely vpon the first Sonday in Lent dealte amongst the poore inhabitantes of the said towne vizt To such as keepe noe inmakes in their houses nor be comon beggers nor hedge tearers by the discrecon or appointment of the Lord Bushop of this Dioces for the tyme beeing and of my nephewe Sr John Peshall Baronett and his heyres or by such as they shall apoynte therevnto vntill such time as the said thirty powndes may

¹ Chancery Inquisition Post Mortem, Series 2, File 401, No. 117.

conveniently be bestowed in land or rent to haue continewance for ever wch I desire may so be And if the said thirtie poundes shalbe bestowed in land or rent then I will that the yearely profittes thereof shalbe dealt in forme afore said Item my will & minde is that tenn poundes shalbe imployed and bestowed by my executrix for the good of the poore of the parish of Adbaston in the said countie of Stafford in forme followinge that is to say to be put out yearly to twoe poore housholders in the said parishe of Adbaston at the like rate and securitie as aforesaid and the money to be received by twelue pence in the pound to be distributed amongst the poore of the said parishe of Adbaston in forme aforesaid vntill the said tenn poundes may be conveniently bestowed in land or rent to haue contynewance for ever wch I also desire may be and afterwardes the pffittes thereof to be dealte amongst the poore of the said parishe of Adbaston in forme aforesaid Item I will that my executrix wthin one moneth next after my decease deliur' to the Maior of the burroughe of Stafforde in the said countye for the tyme beinge fortie shillinges to be by him distributed to the poore prisoners wch shall remaine in the Como Gaole there on Ashwensday then next followinge Item I giue and bequeathe to my loving neece the Lady Anne Peshall wife of the said Sr John Peshall one hundred poundes in money to make her a juell and I giue to my brother Edmund Peshall one hvndred poundes to be allowed him vpon the paymt of the money wch he oweth mee Item I giue and bequeathe to Sr Robert Bosevile Knight fiftie poundes and to my sister Bidley tenn poundes to be paid to her owne handes and to my sister Constance Gaywood other tenn poundes And to Margarett wife of James Rowley somtymes daughter of Raphe Gragge tenn poundes Item I giue and bequeath to my loving freind William Iremonger five poundes And to my good freind Mr Shipton Parson of Ashley three poundes sixe shillinges eight pence Alsoe I giue to Dorothy halfe penny wife of Henry Halfepenny for her paines taken in nursing of

Charles Bosseville fower poundes and to my srvante Nicholas Hand five poundes And to my srvant Abraham Pennyfather tenne poundes And that the said Abraham Pennyfather after the death of Anne Pennyfather his aunte shall haue and enjoy the messuage or tent wherein she now dwelleth in Croxton and the land therevnto belonginge for and duringe his nrrall life yelding and payinge therefore yearely twentie shillinges at the two vsuall feasts videlt Our Lady day and St Michaell Tharkeangell Item I will that the rente of that house wherein Thoms Yardley of Croxton dwelleth beinge twelue shillinges yearely be from tyme to tyme as it shall growe due paid to Thomas Allott of Croxton aforesaid during his life towards his maintenance Item I giue and bequeath to James Harries three powndes six shillinges eight pence And to his daughter Alice Harries fortie shillinges And I giue vnto Dorothy Robertes my daughters chambermaide fortie shillinges if shee happen to be in srvice wth my said daughter at the time of my death Item whereas by my deede indented of graunte bearing date the tenth day of September in the fowerteenth yeare of the raigne of our said souaigne Lord the Kings Maiestie that nowe is of England I haue giuen graunted bargained sold assigned and confirmed to my trustie and welbeloved freinds and kinsmen Richard Daston of the midle Temple London Esqr and John Chetwine of Graise Inne in the Countie of Midd esq. all and singuler my goodes and chattells whatsoever as well reall as psonall of what nature kind or qualitie soeu' the same bee And alsoe all and singuler my juells plate ready money houshold stuffe counter pointes & hangings of Arras and tapistrie whatsoever and all implemts and houshold stuffe and husbandrie ware whatsoever lying and beinge at Bloorepipe aforesaid or elsewhere and all my estate right title interest claime and demaund whatsoever of in and to the same and euie or anie part or pcell thereof To haue and to hould vpon such trust and confidence and to such vses purposes intentes and behoofes as in and by the said recited deede are by