

CHAPTER VI

SIR ADAM DE PESHALE OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD

SIR ADAM DE PESHALE, second son of the second Adam de Peshale of Peshale, married in 1362, one, Elizabeth de Weston, who, with her four sisters, became coheiress of the lands and Manor of Weston-under-Lizard¹ on the death of Robert, her brother, the infant son of Thomas de Weston, in 1349.² All the several shares of the Manor came ultimately to the descendants of Sir Adam, either by marriage or by purchase. Sir Adam was knighted in 1377. Elizabeth died in 1366, and her monument must still have existed in Weston Church as late as 1663 since it was noted by Dugdale in his *Visitation of Staffordshire*.

By November, 1369, Sir Adam married again, his wife, also called Elizabeth, being the daughter and coheiress of Sir Philip ap Rees, and widow of Sir Henry Mortimer of Chelmarsh, co. Salop. By her he received the Manor of Ideshale or Shifnal, and in 1373 we find Sir Adam suing William Russell 'for forcibly entering his free warren at Ideshale and taking his hares, rabbits, and partridges.'³ Another record from the Plea Rolls states that in 1405, 'Adam de Peshale, Chivaler, sued Thomas Batte, smyth, for breaking into his close and houses at Weston under Leseyerde and cutting down and carrying away his trees to the value of 100s.'

¹ Weston under Lizard : Domesday Westone ; fourteenth century, Weston under Lusyerd ; fifteenth century, Weston subtus Luceyord. The village lies two miles N.E. of Lizard Hill [from *Notes on Staffordshire Place Names*, by W. H. Duigan, 1902].

² *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. ii. New Series, p. 50.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xiii. p. 100.

At an Inquisition taken at Weston, co. Stafford, 'Tuesday next before All Saints, 7 Richard II. (1 Nov. 1383). The jurors say it will not be to the damage or prejudice of the King nor others, if the King grant Adam de Peshale the right to hold a view of frank pledge in his villis of Weston-under-Loseyerd, Glemhull and Bruynton, etc.'¹

On the death of Sir Philip ap Rees in 1369, the Manor of Talgarth Engleys became divisible between his daughters, Elizabeth and Mabel. The latter had married Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, but died, together with her infant son, in 1370. As Mabel had had a son, Sir Hugh was entitled to hold her share of the inheritance for his life, by the courtesy of England, but a dispute at once arose between him and Sir Adam, respecting the partition of these lands.

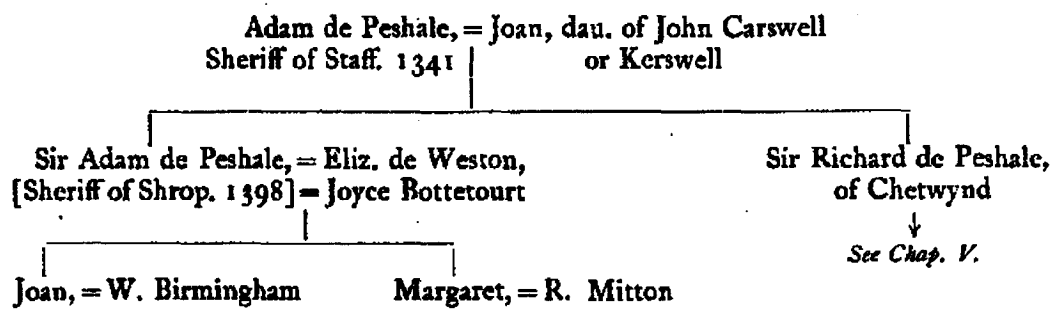
By the mediation of friends, an accord was drawn up in the form of an indented deed, half of which is still preserved at Wrottesley. It is dated the 18th October, 1370, from Westminster; but, although the testing clause has these words, 'en tesmoniance de quelles choses, a cestes endentures les partiis susditz entrechaungeblement ount mys lour seales,' the seal attached to the deed is that of Thomas Gech, the brother-in-law of Sir Adam, and it would not therefore bind the latter party at all. The deed, which is in French, states that Sir Hugh shall allow Sir Adam and Elizabeth to obtain livery of the third part of the Manor of Talgarth, and after they have obtained livery of the same, they shall levy a fine in conjunction with the said Sir Hugh, by which the said third part, as well as the third part which they held before, should be vested in Sir Hugh for his life, and for which he should render to them £40 per annum.²

It would appear from what follows, that Sir Adam and Elizabeth never carried out the engagement they had entered into in the above deed, and that, failing to obtain redress in a consequent suit, Sir Hugh took the law into his own

¹ Chancery Inquisition Ad Quod Damnum, File 402, No. 3.

² *History of the Parish of Fethenhall*, by Major Gen. Wrottesley.

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hands. Sir Hugh was an able soldier who had served with honour and distinction in the King's wars in France and Spain, and Adam de Peshale was also a man of valour and determination. The story of what followed is best told in Sir Adam's own words¹ in a petition which he preferred to the King, Richard II. in 1377, in which he complains that 'as he was returning home to his own country after attending the King's coronation, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, designing his death, had placed a company of armed men in ambush on the King's highway between London and his own country, and brought them to a place called Foxhunte Ledeyate (Fox Lydiate near Redditch) in the county of Worcester, for the purpose of killing and murdering him and his men, as is known to the whole country; that he had also so threatened with maiming and beating the said Adam and his servants, and likewise his tenants the merchants of Shuffenhale (Shifnal), which is a market town, that they dared not come to the fair to traffick or make their profit, also one William Barker has taken on the King's way at Wrottesley, 24 oxen belonging to Adam and retaining them to 24s. damage to Adam; and Sir Hugh has made his retinue of outlaws and malefactors of cos. Chester and Lancaster, etc., and he prayed for remedy to be ordained.'²

In consequence of this complaint, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley was summoned to appear before the King and his Council. His counter-petition³ stated that Sir Adam and Elizabeth his wife had failed to keep an agreement concerning Talgarth Manor, and that 'in consequence of the enmity between the said Adam and himself, the said Adam's men had beaten the men and servants of the said Hugh on St. Thomas's day last past at the fair of Albryghton, and then sent off immediately to the said Adam at Ideshall (Shifnal) complaining of the men of the said Hugh whom they had beaten, in consequence of which, Hamenet, the

¹ *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, vol. xvii. New Series, p. 141.

² Ancient Petitions, No. 7271 (Record Office). ³ *Ibid.*, No. 7282 (Record Office).

Handwritten text in a medieval script, likely Latin or French, appearing as a petition or document. The text is heavily obscured by dark, irregular ink blotches and noise, making it largely illegible. Only faint traces of words and lines of text are visible through the noise.

ADAM DE PESHALE'S PETITION TO RICHARD II., 1377.

son brief fait selon le traict de nous brief
de Viongle qd son denant le conseil tendant
de faire un certain denant sur come de 100
lignes par respondre a ceste lettre

727

100

ENDORSEMENT OF PETITION BY KING'S CHAMBERLAIN.

PEDIGREE OF PESHALE OF WESTON. GIVEN IN 'STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS,' New Series, Vol. ii. p. 98

Arms.—Argent a cross formée fleury sa., on a canton gu., a wolf's [or lion's] head erased arg. crowned or.

Crest.—A bull's head charged with Roundels.

Sir Richard de Swynnerton, =
Kt., had lands in Pershall, Co. Staff., living 1271

Richard de Peshale or de Whethale,
oc. 1308, 1313, 1315, and 1317

Adam de Peshale = Anne, relict of Adam de Whethale
[qu. same as Adam de Whethale, def. 1315]

Sir Richard de Peshale = Margery, dau. of—(1st) Hugh Knighton
Kt. 1331, Sheriff of Staff. and Salop., 1333, 1334, and 1339, living 1343

Adam de Peshale = (2nd) Joan, dau. of John de Eyton and relict of Henry, de Cresswelle of Bishops Offley
juri uxor of Bishops Offley, Bailiff of Liberty of Coventry and Lichfield, 1340. Sheriff of Staff., 1341, decollatur 1346. [Qu. same as Adam, son of Adam de Peshale, 1323, and Adam son of Adam de Whethale, 1320]

Sir Richard de Peshale of Horseley and Bishops Offley, m. *ant* 1343, Joan, granddau. of Sir John Cherwynd, Sheriff of Salop., 1374-1376, d. 1387.

See Chap. V.

John de Peshale, Petit to King after 1346, for father's lease of fruits of Sandon Church

Sir Hamond de Peshale m. (1) Alice, dau. of Robert Harley. (2) Thomasine of Wastenev

Sir Adam de Peshale, Kt. of Weston under Liziard. Kt., 1379. Sheriff of Salop., 1398. Sheriff of Staff., 1418. d. Oct. 1419

Isabelle = Gech

m. (1) Eliz. dau. of John de Weston, 1362.
m. (2) Eliz. dau. of Philip ap Rees, 1369.
m. (3) Joyce, dau. of Sir John Bart, 1388, leaving two daughters only, Margaret & Joan

brother of Adam, armed and arrayed for war, and others of his household and tenants to the number of sixty men, arrayed in arms went to Albrighton, and they pursued the men of the said Hugh, whom they had thus beaten out of the County of Salop, as far as Wrottesleye in the County of Stafford, and had beaten, wounded, and ill-treated them so that they were in fear of their lives, and they had robbed them, and calling out "tues les larons de Wrottesleye" (kill the Wrottesleye robbers), and exclaiming loudly and praying to God that the said Hugh had been there so that they might have killed him, to the terror of all the country, and against the peace of our lord the King, and to the great hurt and damage of the said Hugh. And, nevertheless, the said Adam, Hamenet, and Sir Richard, his brothers, had gone to the Court of the King and lodged a slanderous complaint against the said Hugh, and had obtained writs for his arrest without cause, since which time the said Sir Richard, Adam, Hamenet, and others of their affinity, had assembled as many as three hundred men arrayed in manner of war, so that the said Hugh could not venture to remain at home, nor go out of his house without a large retinue on account of their malice. And Thomas Gech, the brother-in-law of the said Adam, had sent to one William de Godyngton to go with them against the said Hugh, and because he would not do so, the sons of the said Richard had gone to his house meaning to kill him, and not finding him, had, in spite, taken the daughter of the said William, and "la raviserent felonousment," against the peace of the Crown and the dignity of the lord the King.' The immediate result of the proceedings has not been recorded.

Elizabeth, Sir Adam's second wife, died about 1384, and in 1388 Sir Adam arranged to marry Joyce, daughter and coheirress of Sir John de Bottetourt, Lord of Weolly, and widow of Sir Baldwyn Frevill, with whom he acquired the Manor of Bobyngton. [Charters Nos. 384 and 721 in Madox' 'Formulare' show Adam de Peshale and Joice his

wife, who were among the true heirs of the Botetourt inheritance, selling a moiety of the manors of Lynford and Newport Pagnell.] This arrangement was the subject of a deed dated 11 Rich. II.¹ In the same reign, Sir Adam added to his estates in Staffordshire by the purchase of the reversion of the manors of Thomenhorn and Rugeley.

Sir Adam de Peshale was knight of the shire for the County of Salop in 47 Ed. III. in the parliament summoned to meet at Westminster Nov. 21st, 1373; he was member with Sir Nicholas de Stafford, for the County of Stafford in 1376 and 1377 and from 1380 to 1383,² and for the county of Salop in 1393-4, 1401-2 and 1411-12. In 1383-4 he was in Normandy with William Wyndsores, Captain of the Castle and town of Cherbourg, and had letters of protection for a year dated Feb. 15th, 1384.³ He was also a Justice of the Peace, a highly responsible office in these days,⁴ and served in the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1398 and 1418. In the following year his long and active life was brought to a close. The record of the inquisition on his death, which is still preserved at the Record Office in London, shows that he left no heir, his property passing therefore to his daughters, Joan, wife of William Byrmingham; and Margaret, wife of Sir Richard Mytton or de Mutton. The latter acquired the estates of Weston and Bobyngton. Joyce his wife died in the following year 1420.⁵

The following refers to Adam's death: 'Inquisition taken

¹ Add MS. 18667, fol. 83, which gives the deed in full.

² Parliaments of England, Parliamentary Papers, 1878. ³ French Roll, 7 Rich. II.

⁴ The office of J.P. dates back to 1327, when a statute provided that in every county good men and lawful should be 'assigned to keep the peace.' In 1345 judicial powers were conferred on these dignitaries, and 16 years later separate commissions were appointed for each county. From time to time the powers of the justices were extended until eventually they took cognizance of all crimes except treason, and sentences of death were pronounced by them. In practice these extreme powers were gradually dropped, and in 1842 murder and a number of other specified offences were removed by statute from their jurisdiction.

⁵ Inq. 8 Hen. V., No. 79.

at Penkerych, co. Staff. 20 December, 7 Henry V. (1419). The jurors say that Sir Adam Peshale, Chivaler deceased held conjointly with his wife Joyce (now surviving) the Manor of Bobynton for the term of their lives with reversion after their deaths to Richard son of Reginald Mutton of Salop and Margaret his wife daughter of said Adam and Joyce, and their issue. He held a manor in Shropshire in right of Elizabeth late his wife, formerly the wife of Sir Henry Mortymer, chivaler. He held other lands in co. Staff. He died Thursday next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude last past (Simon & Jude is Oct. 28) and Joan wife of Sir William Birmingham Knt. and Margaret wife of Sir Richard Mutton, Knt. are his daughters and next heirs, Joan aged 28 and Margaret 26.¹

His wife's death is the subject of the following: 'Inquisition taken at Stafford, 6th September, 8 Henry V. (1420), to enquire after the death of Joyce who was the wife of Adam Peshale, Knight. The jurors say she held the Manor of Bobyngton granted to her and her husband Adam, now deceased, with remainder etc.² Richard and Margaret Mutton had issue William and died before Joyce and said William is now aged 8 years. Joyce died Monday next before the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin last past. And Elizabeth wife of Sir Thomas Ferrars, Margaret wife of Hugh Whyloughby and Robert son of Joyce late the wife of Sir Roger Aston Knt., sister of Elizabeth and Margaret are next heirs of Joyce, that is, Elizabeth and Margaret daughters of Baldwin Frevill son of Joyce wife of Adam and Robert son of Joyce wife of Roger, daughter of Baldwin son of Joyce wife of Adam. Elizabeth is aged 26, Margaret 20 and Robert 6 years.'³

In Dugdale's *Visitations of Staffordshire*, which is preserved in the College at Arms, are some notes on the monuments

¹ Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry V. File 41, No. 64.

² See Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry V. File 41, No. 4.

³ Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry V. File 49, No. 79.