

## CHAPTER VIII

### SIR JOHN PERSHALL, BART., AND HIS DESCENDANTS

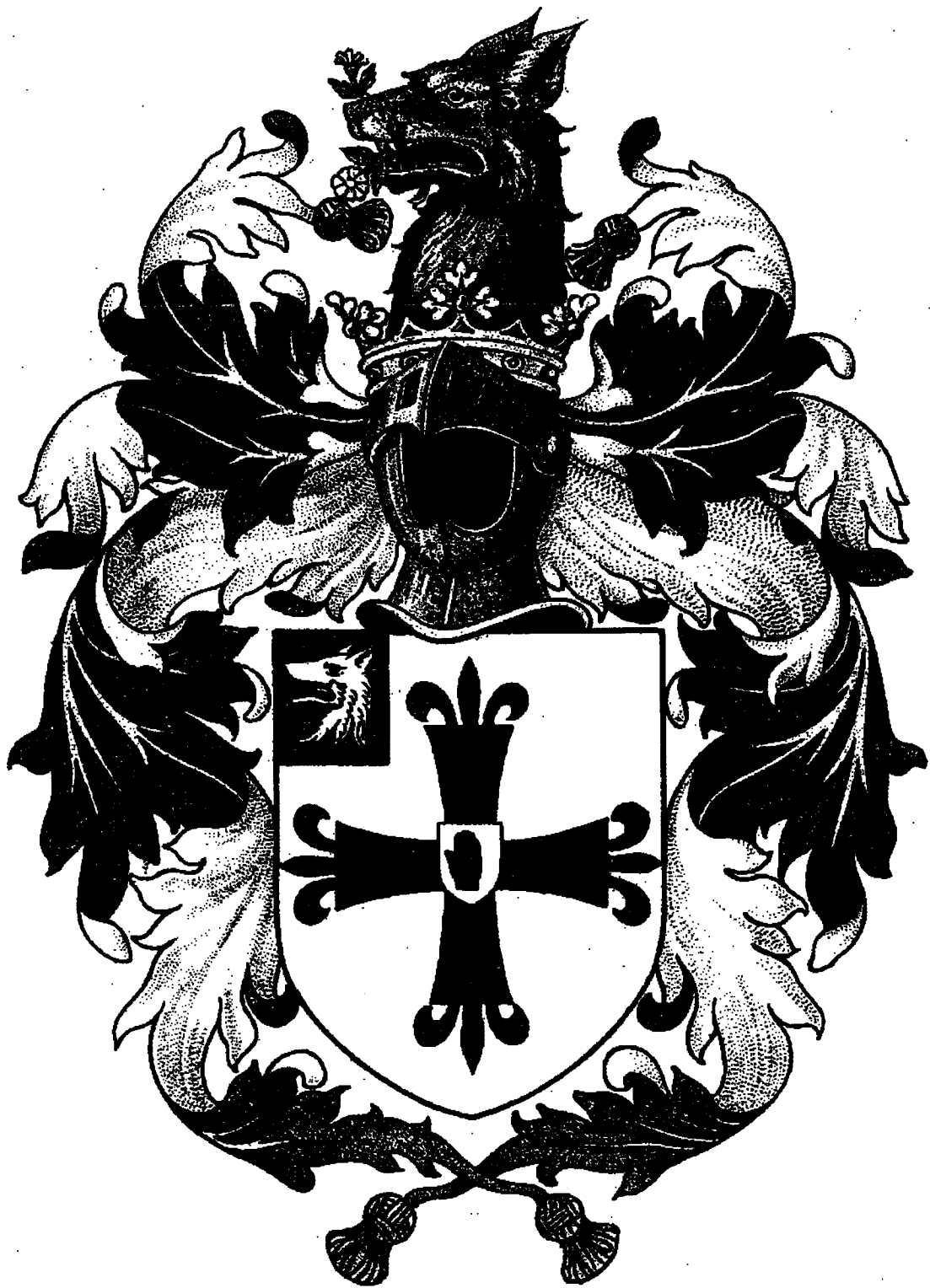
SIR JOHN PERSHALL was born at Horsley Hall, Feb. 22nd, 1562, and succeeded to the estates on Nov. 28th, 1608, at the death of his father Thomas Peshall. He married about 1590, Anne, daughter of Ralph Sheldon of Beoly in Worcester, by whom he had five sons and four daughters, all born at Horsley Hall.

The christenings of these are given in the Eccleshall Parish Church Register as follows: April 19th, 1596, Thomas Pershall; August 14th, 1597, Jane Pershall; Sept. 10th, 1598, Margreate Pershall; Oct. 20th, 1601, William, son of John Pearshall of Horsleye, gent.; Aug. 15th, 1603, Edmund, son of John Pershall of E.; Aug. 5th, 1606, John, son of John Pershall, of the Hale of Horselye, gent.; Sept. 15th, 1607, Phillip(a) daughter of John Peshall, of the Hall of Horsley; Aug. 15th, 1609, Fraunc(es), daughter of John Pershall of the Hall of Horseley. The birth of the fifth son Robert Pershall in 1608 is not recorded in the Register. The above-mentioned 'Edmund Pershall' died in the year of his birth and was buried Oct. 21st 1603. The register records on June 9th, 1599, the marriage of 'Francis Sheale, Mr. Thomas Pershall, his man of the Hall of Horselye, yeoman and Anne Swynton of E. gentlewoman.'

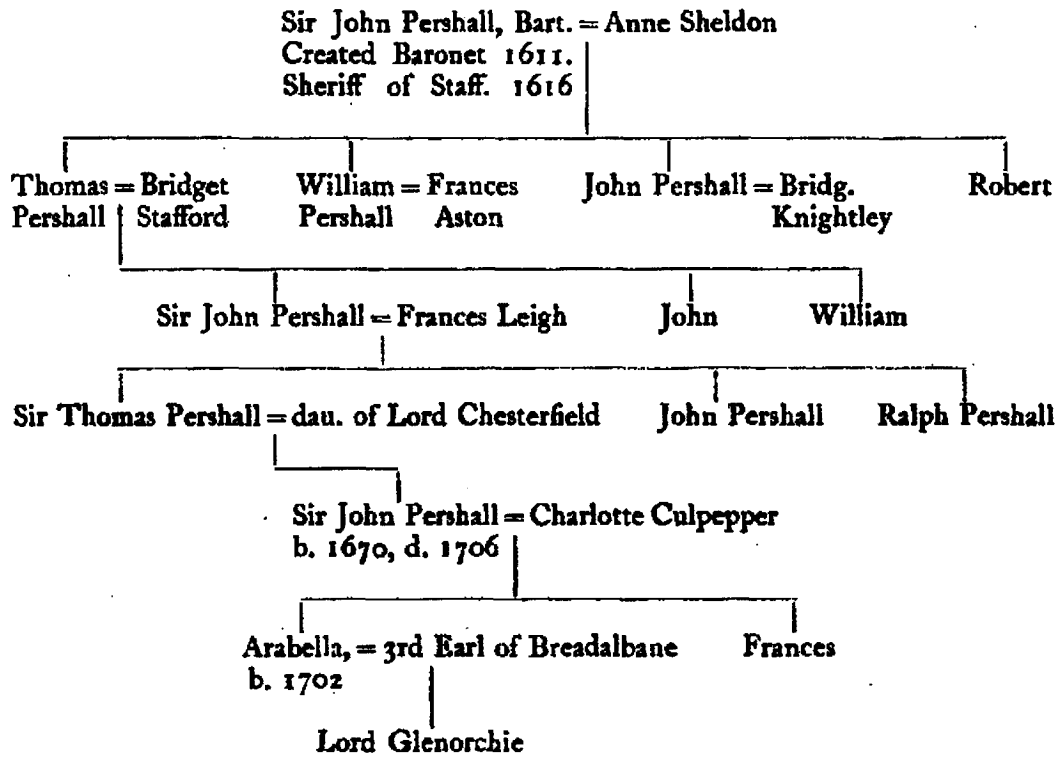
In 1611, the reigning King, James I., instituted the order of Baronet, and Sir John was one of the first on whom the honour was conferred, he being given the order on Nov.



ARMS AND CREST OF SIR JOHN PERSHALL, BART.



SIR JOHN PERSHALL, BART., AND HIS DESCENDANTS



25th, 1611. When first instituted, all Baronets were styled 'of Ulster' or 'of Nova Scotia,' Sir John being a 'Baronet of Ulster.' As such he was entitled to carry on his shield the 'Red Hand of Ulster' in the form of a small inescutcheon—Arg., a sinister hand, coupé at the wrist and appaumée, gu.—and to surmount his crest on a coronet. His arms and crest therefore took the form given at the head of this chapter, which is copied from a manuscript in the Salt Library.<sup>1</sup>

The records of the Staffordshire visitations of St. George in 1614 give the arms of Pershall of Horseley as follows: Arms, Quarterly of Six. (1) Pershall, (2) Cresswell (should be Careswell), (3) Chetwynd, (4) Malpas, (5) Delves, (6) Rolleston.

Sir John's eldest son, Thomas, died before him, in 1640, but left an heir to the estates, John, to whom reference is made later. His second son, Sir William Pershall, married Frances, daughter of Walter Aston of Liscal, Staff., and settled at Canwell. He was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1622 and knighted in 1627, his name being recorded as William Peshall. He had two sons and four daughters. His eldest son, William, was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1654 as William Pershall, eldest son of Sir William Pershall of Canwell, but nothing further is known of him. Of the second, John, nothing is known, except that he joined his father and brother when they took up arms in 1646 with other Roman Catholic landowners on behalf of the King. One of his daughters, Margaret, was the second wife of Richard Hereford of Sufton. In 1653, we find that Sir William went abroad, as is shown by a Warrant of the Council of State<sup>2</sup> dated April 14th, 1653, for a pass for 'Sir William Persall and three servants to foreign parts.' In Sept. 1660 we find that 'Sir William Persall dis-

<sup>1</sup> *Staffordshire Arms*, W. Salt, vol. ii.

<sup>2</sup> Warrants of Council of State (C.O.S.) *Generals of Fleet*, etc. (Ref. I, 41, 85).

covered and assisted to arrest Thomas Scott, a traitor, in Brussels.'<sup>1</sup>

Sir John Pershall's third son John married Bridget, the daughter of Robert Knightley. Amongst the State Records preserved at the Record Office is the following :—

' 1638 June 19. Petition of John Persall, son of Sir John Persall, to the King. Petitioner about 15 years since married the daughter of Robert Knightley, who in that space has not, until within three years last past, given unto her £10 towards her maintenance in apparel, since which time he has given unto her £24 per annum, a means very insufficient in discharging her very diet. For which cause petitioner is enforced to supply that particular out of his own means, being but £50 per annum, an amount also very insufficient, as also to defray charges of nurses, maintenance of children and service wages, which charge for surmounting petitioner's present estate, the said Robert suffers, having before and since petitioner's marriage boasted that he would give £3,000 with his daughter, so that petitioner might have estated upon £300 per annum, which petitioner's father cannot do, but offers in present and reversion £200 per annum. Further, this unnatural conduct of petitioner's father-in-law towards his daughter has drawn on her such inconveniences that without speedy relief her life cannot avoid imminent danger. Prays reference to the Council to order this difference.'

Of the fourth and last son, Robert, or of the eight daughters, nothing is known.

Sir John Pershall, the father of the above, was appointed Sheriff for Staffordshire in 1615 and 1616. In the year 1626, he was absent some time from his country seat, and omitted to attend the church at Eccleshall. He was reported at headquarters and was summoned, and in July, 1626, we find him making the following petition :—

<sup>1</sup> *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, Charles I.*

'To the King's most Excellent Matie

The humble petition of Sr. John Peshall Barronett.

Humbly sheweth

That yor. Mate petitioner att the last assizes in the county of Staff. was indicted of Receisancie, howe forasmuch as yor. petitioner was at the Church wthin the tyme of Offence supposed in the said Indictment, and was ever all his lifetyme and now is a person that duly goeth to church and is every waye Conforme to yor. Mate lawes in that behalfe established, as may appeare by the Certificate and affidavit heereunto annexed; and forasmuch alsoe as the said proceedings were unduly had against him by some who p'ferr their owne ende therein rather than yor Mate service. And forasmuche alsoe as yor petitioner is now heere nere London in a Course of phisick for reparacon of his health and cannot possibly attend the Assizes nowe at hand to make his cleere defence there, And otherwise Conviction will ensue to his great dishonor and prejudice.

Humbly prayeth yor Matie out of yor wonted princely sence of such abuses to yor obedient subjects to give direction unto ye Justices of that Circuit that the same Indictment may be discharged and no further pceedings had thereon. And yor. petitioner will pray, etc.'<sup>1</sup>

The certificate referred to is the following:—

'William Iremonger gent. maketh oath that Sr. John Peshall Barronett (whoe as he hard was indited att the last Assizes held for the Countye of Stafford for nott goinge to Church) did usually goe to the Church before the framinge

<sup>1</sup> *State Papers, Domestic*, Charles I., vol. xxxi. No. 68.



CHANCEL OF ECCLESHALL CHURCH BEFORE THE RESTORATION OF 1867

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of the said Inditment and there hath hard divine service. And further that he hath hard and verily beleeveth that the said S' John was att his pishe Church att Eccleshall within the time of absence in the said Inditement supposed.

Jur. xiiij<sup>o</sup> Julie 1626

Ro: Richs.'

A further certificate transcribed in *Domestic State Papers*, vol. xxv. 1626 (Charles I.), reads as follows: 'Certificate of Francis Rowley, Vicar of Eccleshall for 17 years, that Sir John Peshall, indicted for not going to Church, had come to church for the time aforesaid as an obedient subject ought to.'

An interesting transcript from an old MS. in the Huntebach collection<sup>1</sup> at the Salt Library gives the 'Insignia Johan Peshall of Horseley in Hundert Pirehill, qui creatus erat Baronettus, Nov. 25th, 1611.' A coloured reproduction of the Peshall arms and crest is given, together with the following transcript from the MS., which was evidently much worn or mutilated: 'Firmly adhering to the late King Charles in his greatest distresses, was... A lamentable thing it is to see an ancient family so rent to pieces and the last to be so wronged without desert... hereby disabled to maintaine the hospitality and reputation of his ancestors. That families have their times and perish is we know most certaine, yet wretched and vile are they by whom such disastrous accidents are wrought.'

Sir John died Jan. 13th, 1646, and was buried in the chancel, Eccleshall Church. His will is still preserved at Somerset House, and reads as follows:—

[*Extracted*

<sup>1</sup> *Staff. Hist. Coll.*, John Huntebach, vol. i. Salt; Coll. MS.

## THE PARSHALL FAMILY

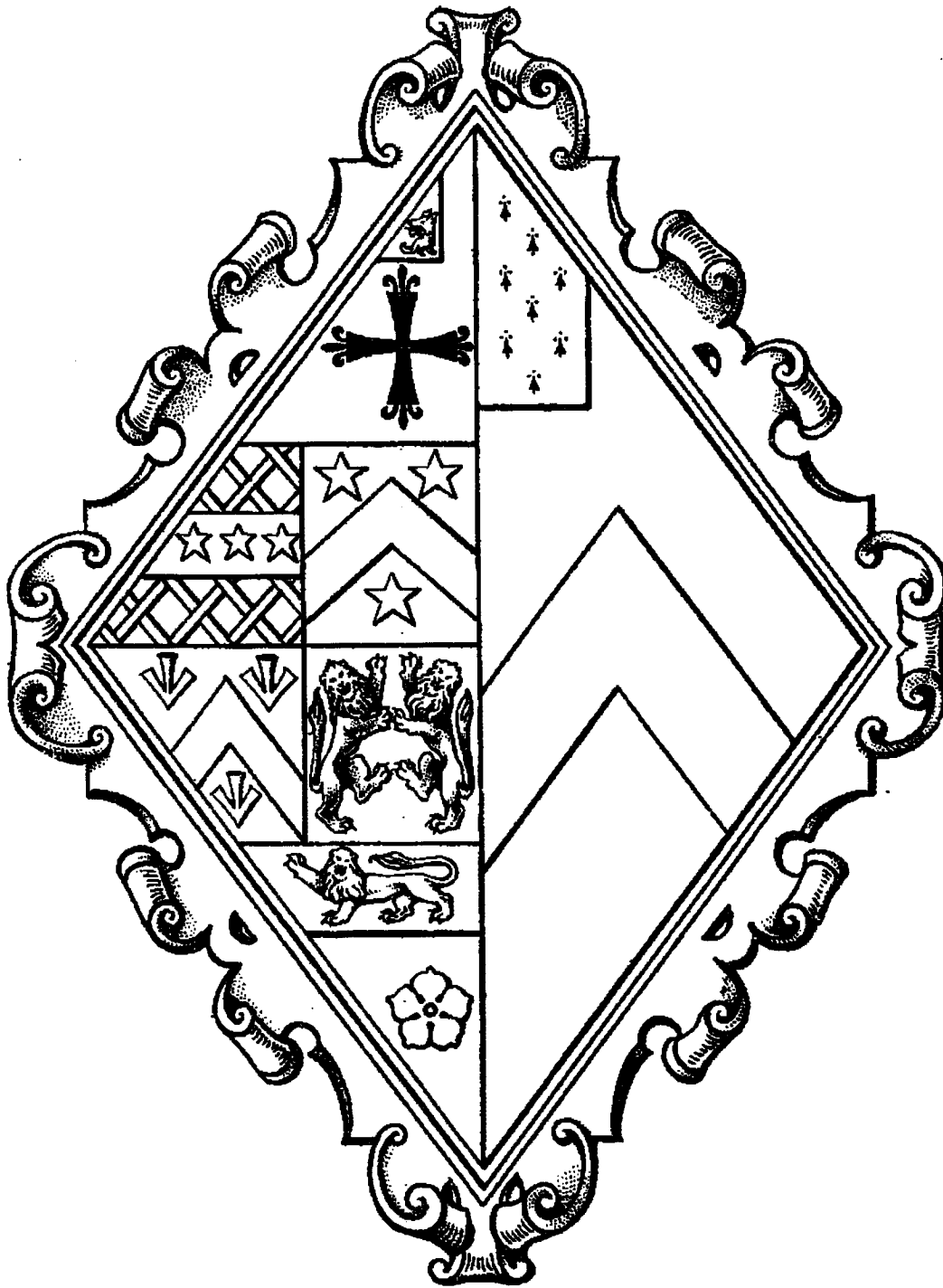
*Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate Divorce  
and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.*

*In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.*

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I, SIR JOHN PESHALL of Sugnall in the countie of Stafford Baronett beinge in good health of bodie and of perfect memorie (thankes be given to God) therefore consideringe the vncertaintie of this mortall life and that it is a certain & positive lawe that everie man must die I leave therefore this present sixteenth daie of Aprill in the seaventeenth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c And in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand six hundred fortie and one made and ordained this my last will and testament in manner and forme followeing givinge to Allmightie God all possible thankes that hee hath spared mee soe long and given mee soe large a time of repentance and soe greate a space of time to settle and dispose of my worldlie estate that I maie with more quietnes of minde prepare my selfe for that life which is to come I doe therefore first of all commend my soule to the handes of Allmightie God from whome I received the same and my bodie to the earth to be buried without anie greate solempnitie in the Chancell of the Parishe Church of Eccleshall in the said countie of Stafford as neere to the bodie of Thomas Peshall Esquier my deceased father as maie bee And concerninge the disposition of my lands hereafter menconed I doe give and devise to my noble friend and kinsman Sir Thomas Holt of Ashton in the Countie of Warwicke Knight and Baronet to my verie loveinge kinseman William Sheldon of Bewly in the countie of Worcester Esquier nephew to Dame Anne Peshall my deerelie beloved wife and Thomas Ashton of the Inner Temple London Esquier All my messuages landes tenements and hereditaments whatsoever with their and everie of their apourtennces

scituate lieinge and being in the countie of Salop excepting all my lands tenements and hereditaments in Chazardine and Galston in the said countie of Salop whereof or wherein I doe stand seized of anie estate of inheritance in fee simple To have and to hould the said messuages lands tenements and hereditaments with all and everie their appurtennces whatsoever except before excepted to the said Sir Thomas Holt William Sheldon and Thomas Ashton there heires and assignes for ever to the vses intents and purposes hereafter menconed that is to say To the vse and behoofe of John Peshall my third sonne for and dureinge the term of his naturall life And after his decease then to the vse and behoofe of John Peshall my grand childe sonne and heire to Thomas Peshall Esquier deceased mine eldest sonne after the time hee shall accomplishe the full age of twentie and one yeares and not before and of the heire males of his bodie lawfullie begotten And for default of such issue then to the vse and behoofe of Sir William Peshall Knight my second sonne and of the heire males of his bodie lawfullie begotten and for default of such issue Then to the vse and behoofe of John Peshall my third sonne and of the heire males of his bodie lawfully begotten And for want of such issue Then to the vse and behoofe of Roberte Peshall my fourth sonne and of the heire males of his bodie lawfully begotten And for default of such issue then to the vse of mee the said Sir John Peshall and my heires for ever Item I doe give and devise to the said Sir Thomas Holt William Sheldon and Thomas Ashton their heires and assignes for ever All my mannors messuages landes tenementes and hereditaments whatsoever with their and everie of their appurtennces scituate lieinge and beinge in the countie Palatine of Chester whereof I am seised of anie estate of inheritance in fee simple and are not mentioned to bee intayled in or by the indenture of marriage of the said Thomas Peshall deceased my eldest sonne To the intent and purpose that they the said Sir Thomas Holt William Sheldon and Thomas Ashton and the survivor of them shall

and will out of the rents issues and profitts thereof yearelie paie allowe or cause to bee paid the yearelie rents or sumes of fortie poundes of lawfull money of England Att the feast of the Annunciacion of our Ladie Saint Marie the Virgin and of Saint Michael the Archangell which shall first happen next after my decease to the said Roberte Peshall my fourth sonne for and duringe the terme of his natural life And after his decease to the vse and behoofe of the said John Peshall my grand child after such time as he shall accomplishe the full age of twentie and one yeares and not before and of the heire males of his bodie lawfullie begotten And for default of such issue to the vse and behoofe of the said Sir William Peshall Knight and his heires for ever Item I doe giue & bequeath and devise to Sir William Peshall Knt all my messuages lands tenements & hereditamts whatsoever with their and everie of their appurtennces scituate lieinge and beinge in Butterton Grinne Grindon and Little Birchford or in anie of them within the Countie of Stafford to the said Sir William Peshall Knight and to the heires males of his body lawfullie begotten and for default of such issue then to the right heires of mee the said Sir John Peshall for ever Item I give and bequeath to the said Sir William Peshall Knight all my new hangings wich I latelie bought for the hanginge of the Gallery at Sugnall which is over the kitchin Item I devise to my deerelie beloved wife all my coppiehold land for and dureing the terme of her naturall life the remainder to the said John Peshall my grand child and his heires for ever Item I doe give devise and bequeath vnto the daughters of Thomas Peshall my eldest sonne deceased the sume of two thousand pound of lawfull money of England for their portion to bee equallie devided amongst them out of my lands conteyned in a deed made att the marriage of the said Thomas Peshall my eldest sonne deceased accordinge to the limitacon and power reserved and given mee by the said Indenture Prouided allwaies and itt is the true intent and meaninge of mee the said Sir John Peshall in and by this



‘A TABLET HANGING OVER YE VESTRY DOOR.’  
 ECCLESHALL PARISH CHURCH.

‘In Memory of ye virtuous, religious & charitable  
 Bridget Peshall relict of Thomas Peshall, Esq. &  
 dau. of Sir William Stafford of Bletherwick, in  
 Co. Northampton, Mother to this present  
 Sir John Peshall, Bart. of Horsley in Co. Stafford.  
 She died 1 Aug. 1679. aged 79.’