

CHAPTER IX

EDMUND PERSHALL AND HIS DESCENDANTS

EDMUND PERSHALL, the fourth son of Richard Peshall of Checkley and Horseley (see Chapter IV.), was born at Horsely in 1570. He became a member of the Grocers' Company at an early age and went into business in London, residing at Bromley, Kent. The exact date of his admission to the freedom of the Company cannot be ascertained, as some folios of the Wardens' accounts giving the admission of Freemen are missing. The first reference to him in the Company's records is in 1589, when he paid Brotherhood money to the Company. He is entered as Edmond Piersall. In 1596, 'Mr. Edmond Piersall' was elected to the Livery of the Company, and at a Court Meeting held on July 28th, 1606, he was elected a member of the Court. He was elected Third Warden on July 12th, 1608, his name being recorded as Mr. Edmond Peshall.

Edmund married Mary, daughter of Lancelot Bathurst of London, and had three sons and a daughter. These are recorded in the *Visitations of Kent* made in 1619-21 as follows: 'Edmundus Pershall iam sup'tstes apud Bromley in co. Cautij. m. Maria filia Lanceloti 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. 18 Annos.'¹

¹ *Visitations of Kent, 1619-21.* See copy on p. 292, Chapter IV.

In 1609 Edmund had to pay the default of his brother Warden, Timothy Bathurst, to the amount of £368. He is also twice mentioned in the Grocers' Records of the same year as having been present at meetings in connection with business in Virginia¹ his name being given as Peshall in one case and Pashall in the other.

In 1615, a grant dated Westminster, March 29th, was made 'to Edmond Peshall and Edward 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.'²

The Second Charter of the Virginia Company of London, 1620, gives the names of a number of members of the Grocers' Company who were also members of the Virginia Company and includes those of Edmond Pashall and Timothy Bathurst.³ Again *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles*, by Captaine John Smith, published in 1624, contains a list of 'The Names of the Adventurers for Virginia Alphabetically set downe, according to a printed Booke, set out by the Treasurer and Councell in this present yeare, 1620,' and amongst these names are those of Edmund Peashall and Timothie Bathurst.⁴

The following entry occurs in the records of the Grocers' Company, dated June 13th, 1616 :—

'This day the letter of Mr. Edmond Peshall one of the Assistents of this Corte, directed to this Corte bearing date

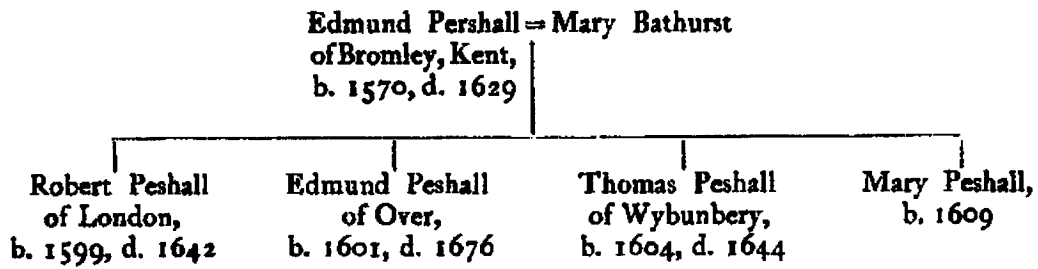
¹ *Gen. of the U.S.*, pp. 225, 257, 387, 826, 907 and 950.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 962 and 965 (by Alex. Brown).

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 225, 257, 387, 826.

⁴ *The Travels of Captaine John Smith*, 1907 edition of James MacLehose & Sons, vol. i. p. 255.

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the 13th day of this instant June was read. The tenor whereof ensueth vitz :—

‘To the Right Worshipful the Knights Aldermen Mr. Wardens and Assistants of the Right Worshipfull Company of Grocers of the City of London. geve these Right Worshipful my humble duty remembred fforasmuch as by the auncient ordennces of Or Company warranted by his Maties Chre I am by Ordenary course subiett to yor eleccon to be one of yor Wardeins of the sayd Company for the yere ensueing and for that yt is well knowen unto you all that I have geven over my dwelling trading and livyng in the City and settled my self wholly wth my wife and family in the Countrey, by reason whereof I cannott geve such attendaince as the place requyreth my humble suyte and desire therefore is that yor Worshippes would be pleased to discharge me wholly from the supplying of that place of Wardenshipp hereafter the rather for that my losses and charges hitherto borne and susteyned by reason of the Companyes services have been over great and burdensome to mee wch yf they be not to Yor Worshippes well knowen shalbe by me plainly manyfested yf you please, besydes other manyfold and great losses and other reasons best knowen to my self wch I can alledge yf need be I suppose welbe sufficient motives to perswade yor Worshippes to yeld to this my most reasonable request, the promisses considered I doubt not but that yor Worshippes will make that due consideracon of me as in equity and confidence is fittyng, and afford mee the like favor and curtesie as others have found in like case wherein you shall bind mee in all duty soe referring myself to yor good consideracon not doubting of yor favor herein I take my leave and rest over and will

Yor Worshippes to be comaunded

EDMOND PESHALL

From my Lodging in London
this 13 June 1616.’



ARMS AND CREST OF EDMUND PERSHALL OF BROMLEY, KENT



‘WHEREUPON this Corte after delibate consideracon had It is ordred and agreed that the sayd Mr. Edmound Peshall shalbe clierly discharged from the Service and excucon of the place of Wardenshipp of this Company for ever hereafter yf he will pay to Mr. Wardens of this Company nowe being to the use of this Company before the next day of Eleccion of Wardens of the same Company the some of Fifty poyndes sterling for a fyne ymposed on him by this Corte for not serving and executing the sayd place of Wardenshipp’

At a Court held July 14th, 1616, however, ‘Mr. Edmond Peshall was elected First Warden,’ and apparently served his term of office.

A few years later Edmund Peshall appears to have appealed to the Company for financial assistance, as shown by the following:—

At a Court held July 19th, 1626:—

‘It is Ordered that Mr. Wardens shall make payment unto Mr. Edmund Peshall decayed uppon his humble suite made to this Corte all such comes of money as he hath lent to this Company either for provision of Corne or Plantation in Ireland.’

At a Court held May 22nd, 1627:—

‘THIS day uppon the humble suite & peticon of Mr. Edmund Peshall sometymes one of the Worshippfull Assistants of this Company and nowe a poore & miserable prisoner in the Ffleete as by his peticon is sett forth and testified to be true by Mr. Warden Smith is graunted unto hime a yearely pencon of Twenty pounds per annum of the goods of this howse to be payd hime by Mr. Rentor of this Company whereof he is to receive nowe at Midsomer next to releive his present necessities £10:—and the nexte payment to be at Or Ladday next ensuinge and soe to be payd unto hime afterwards quarterlie duringe the pleasure of the Corte.’

At a Court held June 22nd, 1627:—

‘THIS day uppon the humble suite of Mr. Edmund Peshall a benevolence of £10:—of the goods of this house is

granted by this Corte to be payd him by Mr. Rentor of this Company to supply him in his great extremities and want wch were made mainfest to this Corte And also yt is agreed by this Corte that the £20 :—per Annum graunted him the last Corte and the payment of £10 :—thereof aforehand as is menconed in the order of the said Cort shall stande and be paid him accordingly.'

At a Court held July 18th, 1628 :—

'WHEREAS Mr. Edmund Peshall hath an yearly allowance of £20 :—of the goods of the house during the pleasure of this Corte beinge informed that he receiveth the benefitt and proffitts of lands to his owne use of the valewe of £500 :—per annum And att least itt is therefore ordered that his sayd yearly allowance shall cease untill this Corte shall give further order therein.'

At a Court held March 13th, 1628 :—

'This day Mr. Edmund Peshall preferred his humble suite and peticon to this Corte for the continuance of a yearly pencon heretofore graunted hime by this Company for the supplie of his extreame necessities beinge mainfested to be true by Mr. Bostocke Scrivener who beinge presente in Corte was requested to give true informacon whether the sayd Mr. Peshall hath any estate or means coming to hime by the yere (the Corte havinge beinge informed of an estate he hath) he made answeare that to his knowledge this estate (beinge knowne to noe man better) that he hath not any means in the world but what he receiveth from this Company whereuppon the Cort agreed and ordered that he shall have his former yerely pencon continued unto hime to be payd to hym quarterly and that he shall have payd hime the arrerages being £15 :—the sayd pencon to continue unto hime dureing the pleasure of the Corte.'

Edmond Peshall died in London in April 1629, and his will, dated March 26th, 1629, still preserved in Somerset House, shows that he possessed nothing except certain lands and money for the possession of which law suits were

pending. He leaves it to his executors to prosecute these suits, and bequeaths the property and money so recovered to his sons Robert, Edmund, and Thomas, and his daughter Mary. The will is of considerable interest, and is therefore given in full :—

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 sixe and twentieth daye of March in the fourth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland Fraunce and Ireland defender of the faith &c And in the yeare of our lord God One thousand sixe hundred twenty nine

I, EDMOND PESHALL of London Gent (though sicke in body yet of a perfect and disposing memory thankes bee to God) consideringe the frailty of this transitory life and how necessary it is for every xtian to bee in continuall readines where soever the good pleasure of thalmightie God shalbe doe call vs from this transitory world doe make ordaine declare and publish this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge vizt. First I commend my soule into the hands of the Allmightie Holy Blessed and indevided Trinity And my body to the earth to bee interred in Christian buriall where it shall seeme good to my executors hereafter named And as touching my worldly estate and goods I leave them to the world to bee distributed as followeth And first whereas there are severall suites betweene mee and others in his Maties High Court of Chauncery and in severall other His Maties Courts of Justice wthin this his kingdome of England for divers lands in severall counties within this kingdome and for divers somes of money which are due and accrewinge vnto mee

vpon accompt my will and meaninge is my executors shall prosecute and defend the same suites to their vttermost and whatsoever shalbee recovered vpon or by reason of the same suites and every of them I wish that the same as well landes as moneys shalbe equallie devided betweene my three sonnes Robert, Edmund and Thomas and my daughter Mary the said landes to bee sold according to the discretion of my executors and the monies herevpon arising to bee devided as aforesaid as alsoe all other somes of money whatsoever due and payable to mee And alsoe all such household stuffe plate and other thinges whatsoever as I shall die posses of to bee received by my executors and to bee equallie devided amongst my said fower children as aforesaid Allwaies provided that my said executors shalbe first allowed & deducted all such costes and charges as they shalbe at sustaine or vndergoe for or by reason of the same suites or any of them or any other charge or trouble they shalbe pitt vnto by any act or thinge done by mee whatsoever And provided alsoe that before any such division shalbe made my said executors shall out of the profittes of such landes and out of such moneys as they shall recover and receive pay all such debtes as are iustly due and owinge either by mee or by my said sonne Robert to such pson and persons to whom the same are due and owinge and as such legacies as are herein hereafter bequeathed by mee Item I bequeath vnto Anne Grobham my servant for her paines and care taken with mee one blacke gowne cloth and twenty shillinges in money the gowne cloth to bee given her against my funerall and twentie shillinges to bee paid her by my executors out of the first monies they shall recover and receive Item I give vnto Ellen Johnston to buy him either a paire of gloves or a small ringe which shall best please him And my will & meaninge is that if any my said children dye before such tyme as they shall have received all or any pte of the porcons intended vnto them by this my will that then the same soe remaying vnsatisfied

shalbe equallie devided amongst my said children surviving
 And further I doe hereby make ordaine and constitute my
 welbeloved sonne Thomas Peshalland my loveinge friend
 Christopher Ayres of London gent executors of this my last
 will and testament in trust for the vse of him the said
 Thomas Peshall and my said other children giveinge and
 allowinge vnto the said Thomas Peshall my sonne fiftie
 poundes more over and above the portion herein by mee
 intended to him for the paines that he shall vndertake herein
 and to my said other executors Christopher Ayres the some
 of one hundred poundes for the paines and care that
 he shall take hererein the said severall somes of one
 hundred poundesand fiftie poundes to bee paid vnto
 my said executors respectively accordinge as the same is
 here by bequeathed vnto them and with convenience as
 moneys shall come vnto theire handes And finally I doe
 hereby revoke renounce frustrate annihilate and vtterly make
 voide all former and other wills and testamentes heretofore
 by mee made and doe hereby pronounce declare and establish
 this only to bee my last will and testament IN WITNES
 whereof I have herevnto putt my hand and seale the daie
 and yeare aforesaid The marke of EDMOND PESHALL—Sealed
 and published this sixe and twentieth of March One
 thousand sixe hundred twenty nine in the presence of vs
 herevnder named with two interlynings in the first sheete
 two interlynings in the second sheete and one is this third
 and last sheete—JOHN HILL—RICHARD WISEMAN—JOHN
 LINE, Junr.—EDMUND PESHALL—MARY PESHALL.

Proved 10th April 1629

Fos. 11 OB.

HBB.

35-Ridley.'

The eldest son, Robert Peshall, had been admitted to
 Lincoln's Inn in 1618, but nothing further is known of him

except that he died in 1642. His brothers, Thomas and Edmund Pershall of Over, Chester, are mentioned in a weekly paper published in 1649. Thomas died at Over, and his will dated 1676 is preserved in the Chester Probate Court.

An Edward Pershall is recorded to have been in the Garrison of Worcester when that town was taken in 1646, and a Capt. Edward Peshall, probably the same, was 'secured' in Chester by the Commonwealth Authorities in Sept. 1659.

The following is a transcript of the Inquisition after Edmund's death:—

'Inquisition taken at Borthwick, co. Chester, 6 April, 13 Charles I. (1637) after the death of Edmund Peshall gent. deceased. The jurors say the said Edmund held the Manor of Over, co. Chester, and lands and tenements there. Said Edmund died in London 26 March, 4 Charles I. (1629) and Edmund Peshall, gent., is his son and heir, and was aged 22 years at the time of his father's death.'¹

¹ Inquisition Post Mortem, Court of Wards, File 89, No. 325.