

# PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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## Editorial

*For the last eighteen years I have been gathering together any reference which I can find to the Pulvertoft family of Lincolnshire and the Pulvertaft family of County Cork; my object being to understand the two families and see whether there is a connection between them.*

*This first issue of 'Pulvertaft Papers' marks the start of a new phase of my researches from what has been a personal study, communicated only to two or three close members of the family, to a period of publication of the information, not only to the whole family, but also to other interested people, either directly or through specialist societies and libraries.*

*The intention of this change of emphasis is twofold; firstly I hope that the information which I have acquired will be more useful in print than it would be locked up in my files, and secondly I hope that those who read the newsletters will be able to add to the information, some with facts already known to them, others by joining in the*

research. In either case the study will be extended from that which I have achieved on my own and it will be more readily available than it has been to date.

The last few years have seen a great upsurge of interest in family history and with it has come the formation of many family history societies with officials, journals, subscriptions; in fact the whole paraphernalia of committee work. As the Pulvertofts are extremely thin on the ground and the Pulvertofts appear to be extinct, I believe that such arrangements would be quite inappropriate to our needs and my intention is to make this newsletter a simple means of communication between those of us with common interests.

I hope to publish it twice a year, in December and June, and intend to include sections on the Pulvertofts and the Pulvertofts and articles on subjects such as family heraldry and local records and, I hope, information from your letters.

## The Pulvertoft Family

The records of the Pulvertofts show that the family lived in Lincolnshire from the end of the 13th century to the middle of the 19th century in a small number of towns and villages around The Wash in the administrative county known as Holland. The largest number of references to the name occur in the 16th and 17th centuries but whether this is because the family reached its peak over this period or simply that the records are more accessible, only time and further research will tell. The villages from which the greatest number came were Algarkirk, Kirton, Swineshead, Whaplode and Wigtoft.

Of the Pulvertoft family groups, perhaps the best documented is that from Boston and Whaplode who were recorded in the 16th century *Heralds' Visitations of Lincolnshire* [1] and are therefore included in a number of genealogical reference books. [2] The pedigree of this part of the family is shown on pages 4 and 5. It is based on the *Harleian Manuscripts* supplemented with information from wills, administrations, parish registers etc.

William, son of Gilbert, was rector of Easton on the Hill, Northants, in 1526 having been granted his B.A. in 1513-14 and his M.A. in 1517. [3] Robert of Whaplode is shown in one reference [4] as Sir Robert Pulvertoft, kt. but more generally is described as 'gentleman' as are his father Thomas of Boston and his son Thomas of Whaplode. They were all involved in various legal proceedings relating to land in Lincolnshire, the records of which are held at The Public Record Office.

Copies of the wills and administrations of several members of this part of the family are held, namely:-

Elizabeth, wife of Gilbert	circa 1524	Northampton
William, her son	1539	Northampton
Robert of Whaplode	1586	C.C.Lincs.
Thomas of Whaplode	1590 & 1604	C.C.Lincs.
Mussenden	1604	C.C.Lincs.

The baptisms and burials of the children and grandchildren of Robert Pulvertoft of Whaplode all took place there.

Notes.

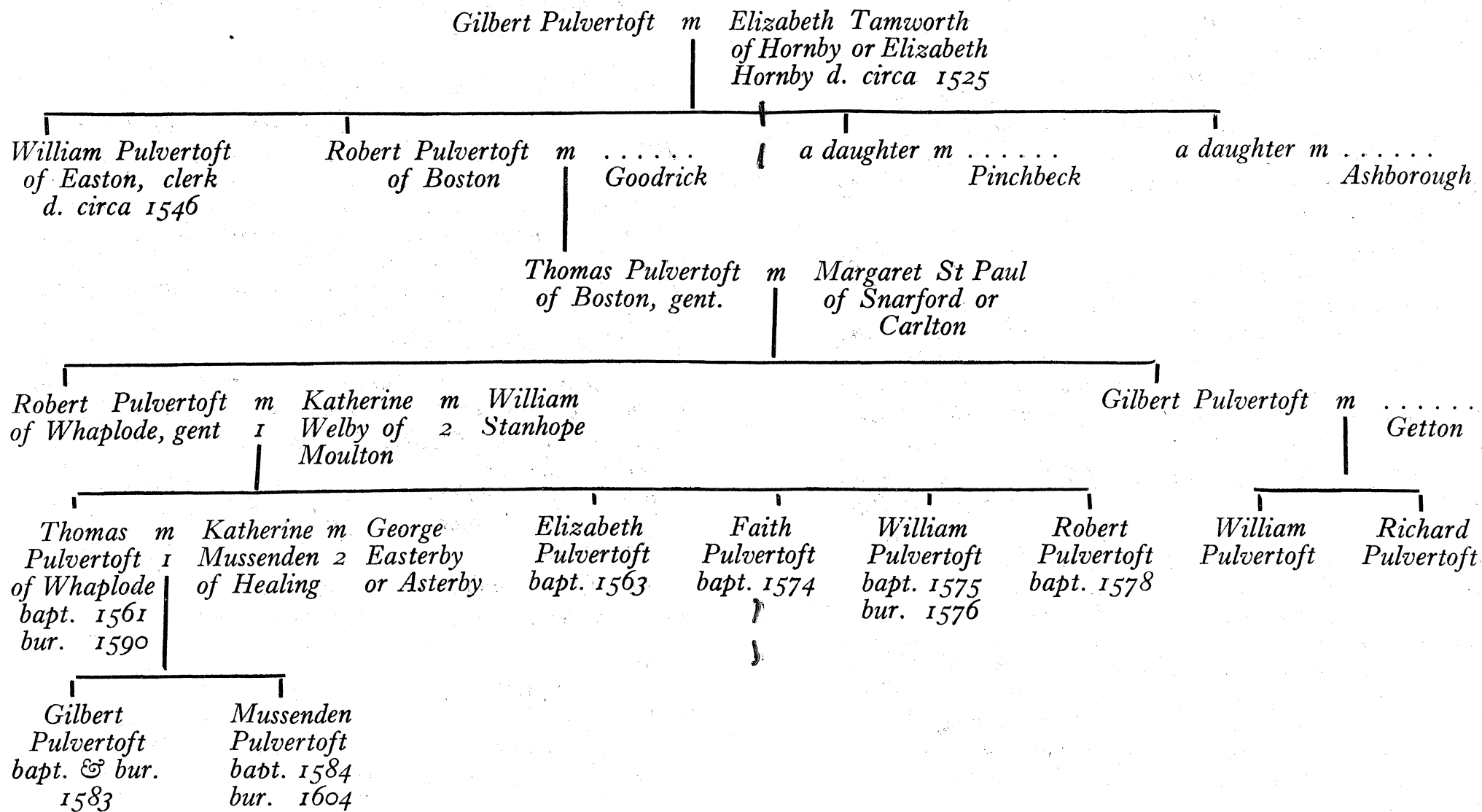
[1] *Harl. MSS* 1097, 1190, 1408, 1436, 1484 & 1550.

[2] *Harl. Soc. Pubs. Vol. 52, The Genealogist, Vol. 4, The Visitation of Co. Lincs. 1562-4 - Metcalf.*

[3] *Northampton & Rutland Clergy from 1500.*

[4] *Harl. Soc. Pubs. Vol. 55.*

# The Pulvertofts of Boston and Whaplode



## The Pulvertaft Family

All the members of the Pulvertaft family who are now living in England have their origins in the Cork family of the 19th century. The family is small, having to my knowledge only eleven men who bear the name, sixteen women born to it and eleven married into it. There are presumably other branches still resident in Eire, though I have no records of them, and I have heard that there are Pulvertafts resident in America. These branches will no doubt emerge if our study gathers momentum and widens its horizons.

In a future issue of Pulvertaft Papers I hope to include a pedigree of the modern family but, as branches of the Pulvertafts will occupy the centrefolds for several issues to come, I intend to include first an extract of all the births, marriages and deaths listed in the Indexes of the General Register Office, late of Somerset House, and searched for both Pulvertafts and Pulvertafts in 1977 at St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London.

For those who are not familiar with these 'Vital Records'; civil registration was established on 1st July 1837, the Registrar General being made responsible for the retention of copies of all registered births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales. Alphabetical indexes of these events are made for each quarter of each year and are available for public scrutiny. The certificates themselves may not be examined at the G.R.O. but certified copies may be bought for the purpose. As the indexes have provided sufficient information to identify the people described in all but a few entries, I have not bought any certificates and have used the indexes as my references.

## The General Register Office Index of Births

The list below shows all the Pulvertafts who were found in the indexes of births from 1837 to 1975 which was the last year available when I made my search. The indexes include columns for 'Christian Name', 'Mother's Maiden Name', 'Registration District' and two not shown below: - 'Volume' and 'Page' which are needed only if copies of the birth certificates are being ordered. No Pulvertafts were found in the birth indexes.

Jan - Mar	1898	Ileen Florence	. . . . .	Stoke D
Oct - Dec	1909	Phyllis Louise	. . . . .	Devonport
Jul - Sep	1913	Marjorie R	Collings	Devonport
Oct - Dec	1925	Isobel L	Costello	Windsor
Jul - Sep	1934	Damaris R	Costello	Marylebone
Jan - Mar	1936	Kerry B	Willock	Oswestry
Oct - Dec	1937	Elizabeth C	Willock	Grimsby
Apr - Jun	1939	Thomas B	Costello	Paddington
Apr - Jun	1940	Alison N	Willock	Grimsby
Oct - Dec	1940	Diane M	Paterson	Grimsby
Jul - Sep	1942	Roger W	Willock	Grimsby
Oct - Dec	1960	Deborah K	Smeall	Hartismere
Oct - Dec	1961	Caroline J G	Crawford	Portsmouth
		Robert J C	Smeall	Lambeth
Jul - Sep	1966	Lucy Michelle	Jeacock	Woolwich
Jul - Sep	1972	Nicola Jane	Martin	Leicester
Oct - Dec	1973	Michael Guy	Martin	Lambeth

It should be noted that a birth, marriage or death is included in a G. R. O. index, not because the event took place during the period of the index, but that it was registered during the period.

## Notes and Queries

*My normal intention in this section is to include any scraps of information which don't fit comfortably into the earlier parts of the newsletter. However, as in this first issue there is no correspondence to include or new information gathered, I am taking the opportunity of including a list of the major reference works which I have already consulted in an attempt to avoid wasting time and effort in duplicated work. While a complete list would include hundreds of titles, those published in sets include:*

<i>Dorset Records</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 13</i>
<i>East Anglian N &amp; Q</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 7 &amp; 10</i>
<i>Fenland N &amp; Q</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 7</i>
<i>The Genealogist</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 7</i>
<i>- - New Series</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 38</i>
<i>Publications of the Harleian Society</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 117</i>
<i>Harleian Society Registers</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 60</i>
<i>Index Library</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 80</i>
<i>Lincoln Record Society</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 71</i>
<i>- - Parish Register Section</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 9</i>
<i>Lancashire &amp; Cheshire Record Soc.</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 114</i>
<i>Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica</i>	<i>Vols 1,1 - 5,10</i>
<i>Northants Record Society</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 27</i>
<i>Norfolk Record Society</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 45</i>
<i>Somerset &amp; Dorset N &amp; Q</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 30</i>
<i>Somerset Record Society</i>	<i>Vols 1 - 75</i>

*Finally for those of you who have not delved into Family History before, I should quote a Lincolnshire family historian when he introduced me to the subject in 1963 :- "I cannot recommend genealogy as a hobby. If it gets you badly - as it has me - it will alienate your friends and endanger your career!" Happy Christmas. D.M.P.*