

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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Editorial

I'm pleased to be able to report on this first anniversary of Pulvertaft Papers that the list of readers has again grown a little and I now send copies to Pulvertafts, past and present, not only in this country but also in Australia, Denmark, Ireland, South Africa and the United States of America. That probably sounds more impressive than it actually is as there are only a few of you in each country but it is from slow early growth that strong trees grow!

My intention in this issue is to complete the series of articles on the indexes of the General Register Office with its Register of Deaths and its Miscellaneous Records. As the former includes the deaths of what appear to be the very last of the Pulvertofts, I have selected this branch of the family for discussion in the section of the newsletter devoted to the Pulvertofts - that is pages 18 to 21.

With the General Register Office indexes thus completed, the next issue - that of June 1983 - will be dedicated to printing the family tree of the modern Pulvertafts as I understand it. It's a daunting prospect!

The Pulvertoft Family

The branch of the family reviewed in this issue is rather more widespread than those included in the last two numbers but, as the period is later and mobility was consequently easier, this is perhaps not surprising.

The scrap pedigree on pages 20 & 21 is really in two parts as the Pulvertoft line on the left ran out with the three daughters of Robert. However, it will be seen that Mary's daughter Amy Keightley married Robert Pulvertoft of Spalding, bringing the two halves together again. As in the last issue, the main source of information for this branch of the family has been wills, with those of two Robert Pulvertofts [1] & [2] and Ann, wife of John Pulvertoft [3], being particularly informative.

The Robert Pulvertoft to the left of the pedigree was an apothecary who practiced in Horncastle where he was married, where his three daughters were baptised and where he was eventually buried. Why he lived so far from Holland is not known but, as he says in his will that the property which he bequeathed to his wife and daughters was bought from "my brother Edward Foe", perhaps his wife's family had its roots there.

Ann Pulvertoft, widow of John, bequeathed land and property in Huntingdonshire and Lincolnshire in her will of 1787 to Mary (widow of her son John), Judith Richards (her daughter with whom she was living before her death), Robert and Thomas Pulvertoft (her grandsons) and Ann Wainman (her granddaughter).

Her grandson Robert also made his will in 1787 but, unlike her, he died while his family was still young. In his will he named his wife Amy, three children; Marianne, James Richards and George Tunnard, and his brother

Thomas whom he made guardian to the children. He bequeathed land and property in Gedney. Robert's brother Thomas also made a will [4] in which he bequeathed his personal estate to his sister Ann Wainman with whom he appears to have spent his last years in Wisbeach, Cambridge. He describes himself as a gentleman, formerly of Spalding, and it was probably he who graduated from Christ Church Oxford and the Middle Temple.

The family wills are supplemented with information from various other sources, the most important being the Mormon "International Genealogical Index", otherwise known as the "Computer File Index". This gigantic computer file of events extracted from Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts suggests that John and Mary may have had a second daughter, Sarah, and that Robert and Amy had two other sons, Robert and Thomas Keightley. The fact that they were not included in the wills of Ann or Robert is probably because they had died before 1787, known to be true for the infant Robert and of course quite possible for the others. All three are shown on pages 20-21.

Two traits emerge from the pedigree; firstly the use of family surnames as christian names - "Keightley", "Richards" and "Tunnard" can all be seen and Pulvertoft was used by Francis Thirkill and Mary Ann for both of their sons; secondly a thread of longevity, with octogenarians appearing in every generation - Ann, Judith, Thomas and James Richards being but examples. However, neither trait helped the name to survive. Of the four Pulvertofts named in the G.R.O. Index of Deaths, three will be found overleaf, making them surely "the last of the Pulvertofts".

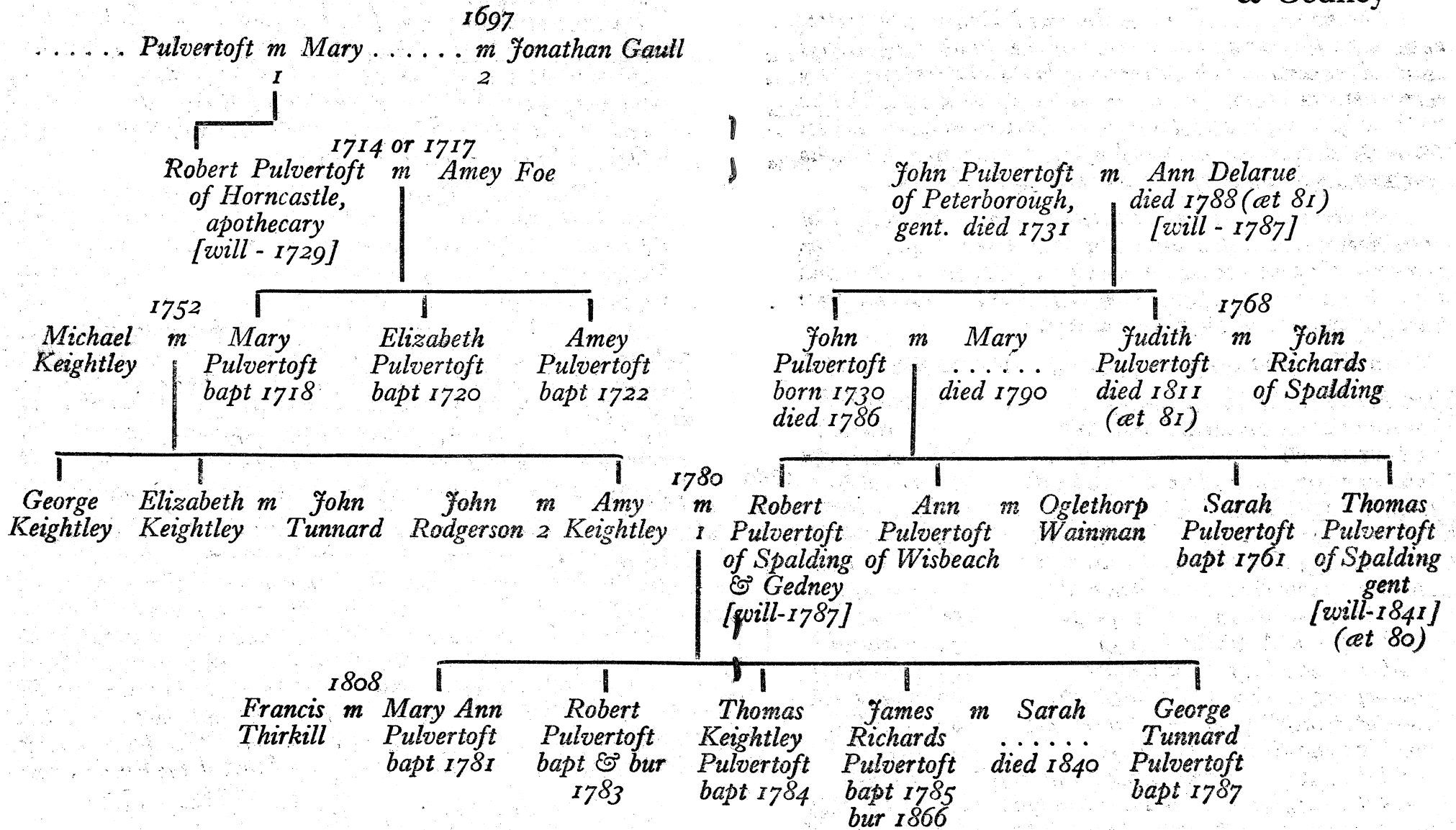
[1] C.C.Lincs. 1730.

[2] C.C.Lincs. 1788

[3] P.C.C. 1788 - 266

[4] P.C.C. 1844 - 323

The Pulvertofts of Horncastle, Spalding & Gedney



The Pulvertaft Family

The General Register Office Index of Deaths

The entries found in the Index of Deaths are particularly interesting as, unlike those of the Indexes of Births and Marriages which referred only to Pulvertafts, they record the deaths of what have already been described as "the last of the Pulvertafts". What is more, the first Pulvertaft deaths are not until after 1900 and all those found are descendants of the Pulvertafts of Cork.

As will be seen in the extract below, the method of recording age at death has varied over the years. From 1837 to 1865 no indication was given; between 1866 and 1969 the age at death was quoted in the index and since then the date of birth has been shown.

In the period 1837 to 1975, the following were found:

Jan-Mar 1841 Sarah Pulvertaft	- Lambeth
Jan-Mar 1844 Thomas Pulvertaft	- Wisbeach
Oct-Dec 1866 James R Pulvertaft	80 Faversham
Jan-Mar 1900 Mary Ann Pulvertaft	89 Brentford
Jan-Mar 1918 Robert G Pulvertaft	43 Lambeth
Apr-Jun 1931 Thomas J Pulvertaft	64 Lambeth
Oct-Dec 1933 Barbara C Pulvertaft	68 W'minster
Apr-Jun 1936 Kerry B Pulvertaft	o Oswestry
Jan-Mar 1940 Robert J Pulvertaft	67 Plymouth
Oct-Dec 1946 Mary Pulvertaft	70 Brentford
Jan-Mar 1950 Mary Pulvertaft	43 Willesden
Jul-Sep 1958 Amos W Pulvertaft	76 Newton A.
Jul-Sep 1961 Thomas N Pulvertaft	67 Watford
Jan-Mar 1967 Clara Pulvertaft	90 Poole
Oct-Dec 1971 William Godfrey Pulvertaft	1905 Poole
Apr-Jun 1974 Agnes Maud Pulvertaft	1881 Wallasey
Jan-Mar 1975 Louisa Ellen Pulvertaft	1869 Plymouth

The General Register Office Miscellaneous Records

As the name implies, this series of indexes lists those people who were born, married or died outside England & Wales but within the jurisdiction of the Registrar General. The following Pulvertafts were found, but no Pulvertofts.

Index of War Deaths - Army Other Ranks 1914-21

Robert W Pulvertaft Rfn. 596766 London 1918.
William G Pulvertaft L.Cpl, C.668 KRRC 1917.

Service Department Returns, Births 1956-65

Rupert J Pulvertaft Singapore 1964
Sarah J Pulvertaft Singapore 1965

Index to Consular Births 1849-1965

Rosemary M Pulvertaft Yokohama 1926-30
Thomas C R Pulvertaft Kobe 1931-35

Overseas Index - Births Abroad 1966-1974

William Robert Pulvertaft Copenhagen 1967

Space will not allow all the indexes of the Miscellaneous Records to be listed here and, as the rest contain no Pulvertofts or Pulvertafts, a complete list isn't essential. Service indexes are predominant with Naval and Army War Deaths 1914-21 and War Deaths from all three services 1939-48. The Army Returns also include Indexes of Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths from Chaplains to the Forces at Stations Abroad 1797-1955 and the fascinating sounding Indexes of Marriages within the British Lines 1914-25 and Deaths in Casualty Lists, Natal and South African Forces 1899-1902.

Civil events abroad are recorded in the Indexes of Consular, Overseas, and High Commissioners' Returns and others relating to particular places such as Palestine, the Ionian Islands, Iraq and even Wei-Hai-Wei.

Notes and Queries

Although family trees and scrap pedigrees are very important in the understanding of relationships between people; they provide on their own only a dry skeleton of a family's history and it's not until personal details begin to emerge that the whole thing comes to life.

For the more recent generations of the family, a pedigree can be illustrated with press cuttings or photographs and these can be supplemented with biographical pen-pictures. I already have a collection of press cuttings and I have started framing a "rogue's gallery" of family photographs so, if you have either in your possession, I would be interested to see them. A newspaper cutting obviously means more as a record if its date and paper is known; photographs I'm restricting to portrait types; so look them out please and, if they are precious to you too, I'll photocopy them and return the originals. As for pen-pictures, I'm sure that many of you have memories of a Pulvertaft or two who are now long gone and who are little more than names and dates to me. Are there any of you who would like to write them down for me? You never know, you might enjoy the experience and I will be able to make Pulvertaft Papers that much more interesting!

One cutting which I was sent some years ago was an article from the Observer Magazine which described the cemeteries of the Crimean War near Istanbul. Of two tombstones quoted, one "To Robert Pulvertoft Master, second son of Alfred Master of Norwich. Died June 29 1878 of typhus fever taken at Constantinople while in discharge of his duties distributing relief among the refugees" had not only Pulvertoft as a christian name, but turned out to be the grandson of Mary Ann Pulvertoft and Fran Thirkill shown on page 20. Happy Christmas, D.M.P.