

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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Editorial

I would first like to thank those members of the family who responded to my plea for photographs by either sending me duplicates from the bottoms of their trunks or lending me their only copies so that I could have them reproduced. As a result of your generosity I now have the basis of a very respectable collection which really does begin to make the modern family 'live'. The ones which I have found most attractive have been the studio portraits and family groups which were so popular with the Victorians and the Edwardians - but there are still lots of spaces to fill so, if you have photographs which might add to the collection, I would love to have a look at them.

I had intended to include in this issue a scrap pedigree of another Pulvertoft family group but, in view of the considerable interest shown in the fact that there were Pulvertafts in Cork before those shown in Issue 4, and as I recently came across some 'American' Pulvertafts of the same period, I will concentrate on them in this number and return to the Pulvertofts next summer.

The Pulvertafts of 18th & 19th Century Cork

My knowledge of the early Cork Pulvertafts comes partly from reference books but more extensively from copies of parish registers owned by the well known Cork family historian, Michael Leader. Having met him by chance at the Irish Club over ten years ago, he has not only allowed me to browse at will through his unique collection of typed parish register copies but has proved to be a splendid mentor, suggesting where he would expect my search for Pulvertafts to be the most fruitful.

As a result, I have examined various sections of some 15 registers with differing degrees of success. Some have yielded no Pulvertafts - at least in those periods which I have searched - but others have been more fruitful as the table of Pulvertaft entries shows:-

Parish	Baptisms	Marriages	Burials
St Finbarr's Cathedral	-	-	1
St Mary, Shandon	2	-	-
St Ann, Shandon	14	2	10
St Nicholas	-	2	-
Holy Trinity	2	1	-
St Paul	3	-	-
Holy Trinity (Presbyterian)	1	-	-

While the process of gathering information about this period is by no means complete and many of the register entries are as yet unrelated to any other information, a tentative family group has been drawn up and is printed on pages 36 and 37, even though a number of assumptions have been made to create it. For example, the registers show John (C01M) marrying Ann (C02M) and that the parents of Thomas (C03N) and Margaret (C06N) were also John and Ann. For this issue, I have assumed them to be the same.

Similarly, we know from baptismal entries that the parents of all the children from Thomas (C07O) to John (C14O) were Thomas and Hester and have assumed not only that it was the same couple who had all the children, but that it was Thomas, the father, who was baptised at St Ann Shandon in 1774. Whether these - and other - assumptions are eventually proved to be correct will be seen as more facts are gathered: meanwhile, they allow something to be put on paper and the numbering system will allow them to be unravelled should they be found to be wrong. Incidentally, the 'Son or Daughter' shown as (C05N) is from an entry in the register immediately after the baptism of Margaret (C06N) saying "a child received of John and Ann" which, I am told, is almost certainly the formal recognition of an earlier private baptism at home.

The two scraps on page 36 result from baptismal entries and will be given reference numbers when they can be linked to the major group. Contemporary marriages which have not yet been connected include:

- 1753 Robert Pulvertaft m Rebecca Middleton
- 1784 Richard Pulvertaft m Mary Anne Forbes
- 1796 William Rice m Mary Pulvertaft - St Ann
- 1797 John Skimpson m Jane Pulvertaft - St Nich.
- 1839 Isaac Goldstein m Mary Pulvertaft - Christch.

The conclusion which might be drawn is that, although the 18th and 19th century family may not be exactly as shown overleaf, it was established in Cork by the mid - 18th century; that is two or more generations before Thomas (M01O) and Mary Ann Mahony (M02O) of the last issue.

Some Early Cork Pulvertafts

A tentative family grouping and two contemporary scraps based on various Cork parish register entries.

[The numbering system is a continuation of that used in the last issue with 'C' identifying the Cork family and 'M', 'N' and 'O' indicating the generation.]

John Pulvertaft m Ann Peacock
(Co1M) 1765 (Co2M)
mar. St Nicholas bur. St Ann
Cork Shandon 1817

Thomas Pulvertaft m Hester a son or Margaret m Joseph
(Co3N) daughter Pulvertaft 1815 Bass
bapt. St Ann bur. St Ann (Co5N) (Co6N) Bass
Shandon 1774 Shandon 1844 bapt. St Ann
æt 60 mar. there 1815

Thomas Pulvertaft (Co7O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1804 bur. there 1821	Robert Pulvertaft (Co9O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1808	Elizabeth Pulvertaft (C11O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1814	Thomas Pulvertaft (C13O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1822
Hester Pulvertaft (Co8O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1806	Mary Anne Pulvertaft (C10O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1811	Jane Pulvertaft (C12O) bapt. St. Ann Shandon 1819 bur. there 1821	John Pulvertaft (C14O) bapt. St Ann Shandon 1826

John Pulvertaft m Mary	John Pulvertaft m Eliza
Mary Anne Pulvertaft bapt. Christchurch 1836	Hester Pulvertaft bapt. St Ann Shandon 1847
	Thomas Forster Pulvertaft bapt. St Ann Shandon 1849

Some Early American Pulvertafts

When I found in September that my duties with the Royal College of Defence Studies were going to allow me a weekend in Washington, I decided that my first attempt at some American research was a must! I had heard tell of Pulvertafts living in the United States and, as I know that the descendants of the 'Modern' family who now live there are all products of fairly recent emigrations, I suspected that there must be others - probably of an earlier period.

I had read articles on the 'Library of Congress' and the 'National Archives' and, knowing roughly what records I could expect to find, I headed first for the National Archives. The records there are all on microfilm and range from Census Returns and Service Records to Passenger Lists of Immigrants to New York and other ports. The speed with which one can make a 'blanket' search is of course dependant on how well the subject is indexed and how finely it is broken down by area, period, or other category. Knowing that both the Census Returns and Passenger Lists had difficulties in this respect, I started with the Service Records. Even within them I found significant differences; for instance in the Civil War Indexes the names of the Union Soldiers are recorded by state, requiring a search of 38 microfilms to cover them all, while those of the Confederate Soldiers are all included in one Consolidated Index. It was here in the Service Records that I had my first success as, included in the "Index of Volunteer Union Soldiers for New Jersey" was:-

"Pulvertaft, John, G Company 1st New Jersey Infantry
- 'Private'."

Flushed with this success, I moved on to the "General Index to Pension Files: 1861-1934" where I found that in

August 1890, Annie, widow of John Pulvertaft of the New Jersey Infantry, filed an application for a widow's pension. I placed an order requesting that any documents held by the Archives should be copied for me and walked over to the Library of Congress.

I started my search of the Local History & Genealogical Room with their three large card indexes but without success. Prompted, however, by John's service in the Civil War, I spent the rest of my time amongst the New Jersey shelves and again struck it rich! In volume IX of the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (1933-34) was an article: "Lost Records of Westfield Presbyterian Church" which included the marriage on 1 September 1774 between Robert Pulvertart and Mary Gray. No other details were given, but it was certainly tempting to speculate on a link between Robert's marriage in 1774 and John's military service in 1861.

Having now received the papers from the National Archives, I find that they consist of John's enrolment and discharge papers, his widow's application for a pension and various marriage and death certificates. Between them they show that John Pulvertaft was born in Ireland in 1826-7, served for 3 months in G company of 1st Regt. New Jersey Infantry in 1861 and died in Newark, N.J. in 1890 - being described as a 'teamster'. He was married twice; firstly to Bridget V. Smith (born Ireland, 1830-31, died Newark, 1867) and secondly to Annie Dunn (mar. Newark, 1868). John and Annie had two daughters, Annie E. (born 1870) and Bella (born 1873-4, mar. Manderschied). Annie, John's wife, died in 1919 and was buried at East Orage, New Jersey.

All in all an exciting new find for 1983!

Notes and Queries

Several correspondents have sent information which adds to that printed in earlier issues. This includes :-

Assistant Librarian (Local Studies) Peterborough Library

Mrs Ann Pulvertoft [PPs, No 3, p 21] inherited in 1782 some industrial property at Stanground, Hunts, by the will of her brother, James Delarue of Peterborough..... The Delarue family are an interesting one; they were allegedly of Huguenot origin and were leather merchants and tanners in a big way. The house that they are rumoured to have lived in, a beautiful early 18th century house, was sadly demolished several years ago.

John Bailey of Boston

Quoting from "The Mayor's Answer" to a "Byll of Complaynte" and the "Interrogatories" set up for a Royal Commission in 1547.

"there were dwelling within the said town of Boston two gentlemen, the one called Anthony Robertson, the other called Thomas Pulvertofte [PPs, No 1, p 4], which two gents, because they were not placed in the Charter as two principal Aldermen of the said Corporation, began by and by to practice all the enmity that they could devise against the said Town..... the said Pulvertoft..... being put in trust as one of the Church Wardens within the said towne, by very ungodly and privie means, spoiled the said Church of a great portion of plate whereof there is not yet full recompense made..... And further, the said Pulvertoft is many ways known to be a very seditious, a needy and a disquiet person, and..... as a justice of the peace within the said parts of Holland, doth break the peace and good order more often than any other barrator within the said County."