

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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Editorial

Your response to the first issue of Pulvertaft Papers was splendid. It included letters of support, information about parts of the family of which I knew little and introductions to descendants of various Pulvertafts now spread across the world. I can't say that the number of living Pulvertafts that I know of has grown dramatically as the thirty eight which I quoted on page 6 has only increased by three! However, your letters have added to my knowledge of the 19th century Pulvertafts and my list of contacts and those of you expressing an interest has grown month by month. My thanks to all who have contributed so far.

The article on the Pulvertafts on pages 14 and 15 is the second on the indexes of the General Record Office. The series will be completed in the next issue when I include the Register of Deaths and the Miscellaneous Records. As for the Pulvertofts, I visited the Lincolnshire Archives Office in April and searched that part of the Bishop's Transcripts for Algarkirk which I expected to be fruitful. Pages 10 to 13 show the success which I had.

The Pulvertoft Family

The branch of the family chosen for review in this issue of the Newsletter is that from Algarkirk; partly because it is a village in which Pulvertofts lived from the late 13th century to the early part of the 18th century and partly because the information on them comes from original records, such as wills and parish registers, and therefore provides an example which is somewhat different from the better documented Pulvertofts of Boston and Whaplode, described in the first issue.

The pedigree shown on pages 12 and 13 is based on the will of John Pulvertoft, son of Thomas, made in 1624 [1]; in which he names his father, his wife, two of his sisters - Elizabeth and Alice - and two of his children - Thomas and John. He describes himself as a yeoman, asks to be buried beside his father in the South Choir at Fosdyke, and bequeaths his house and land to his wife in trust for his children when they come of age. It is a fine will for a family historian, linking three generations of Pulvertofts and providing the framework on which the scrap pedigree can be drawn.

The source which has supplemented John's will to provide most of the dates shown in the pedigree is the Bishop's Transcripts for Algarkirk [2], searched for Pulvertoft entries from their start in 1561 up to 1640. Baptisms, marriages and burials found in the transcripts are shown in parentheses on pages 12 and 13 to identify their origin. It will be seen that they give details of all the family named in John's will and introduce a number of other Pulvertofts, namely his brother and sisters - Margaret, Leonard, Ann and Jane - and his third son, Nicholas. The fact that none of these was included in John's will is simply

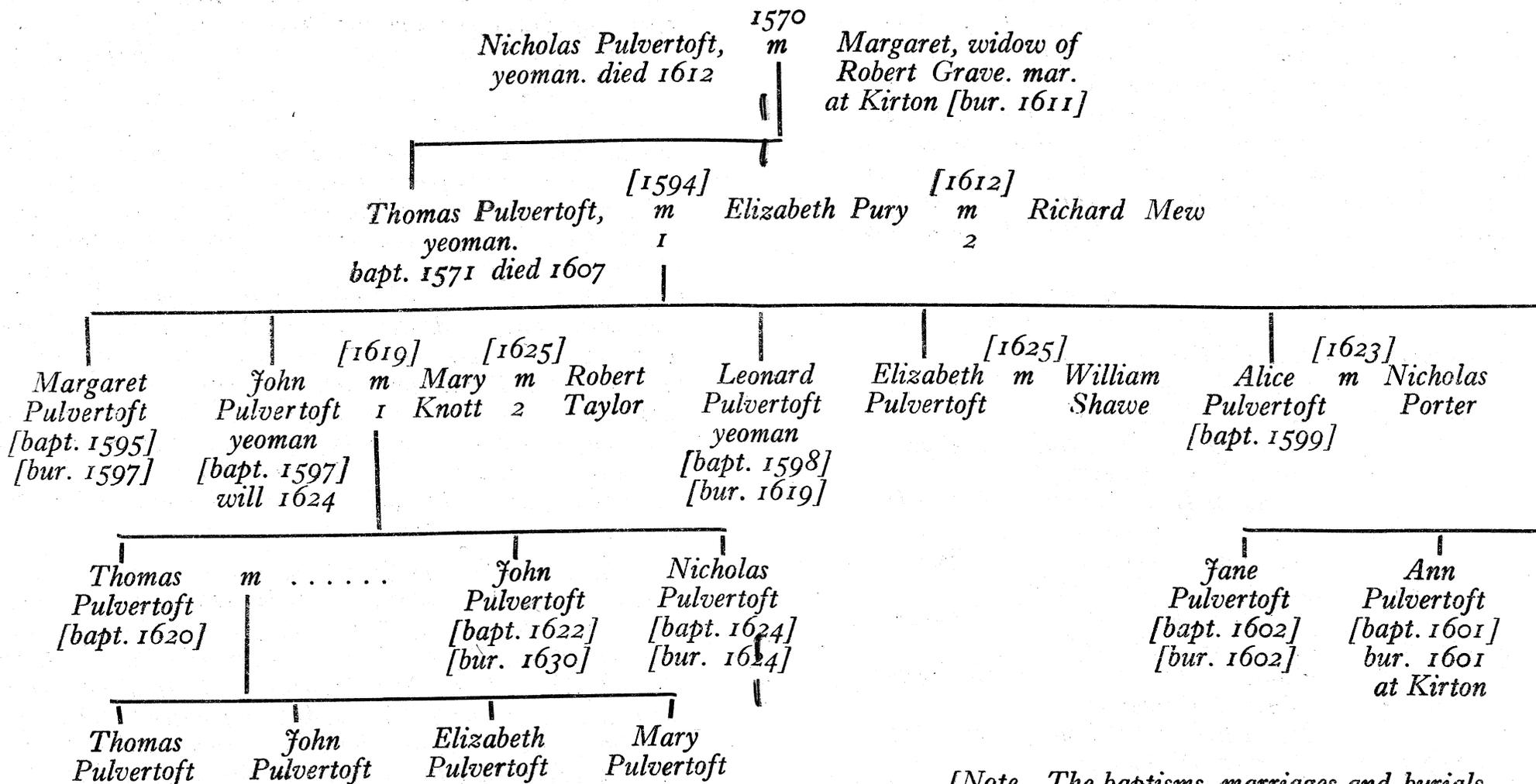
that they had all died before he wrote it in 1624. What is remarkable about these records is that every one of the 21 Pulvertoft entries in the transcripts between 1561 and 1640 is able to be included on the pedigree with some degree of certainty, indicating that, at least for this period of history, only one Pulvertoft family lived in the village.

Two other wills support the pedigree, that of Thomas Knott [3] - brother of Mary Knott - and that of Robert Taylor [4], Mary's second husband. The first is of interest as it says that after the death of John Pulvertoft; his widow, Mary, married Robert Taylor 'a base stinkinge drunken whoremonger adulterer'. Strong words indeed to be included in a will! The second, dated 1656 mentions the four children of his 'son-in-law' Thomas Pulvertoft and in so doing adds the final generation to the pedigree. It would have been nice to have found their baptisms in the Bishop's Transcripts but they aren't there. There is however a twenty year period missing in the transcripts between 1641 and 1662; perhaps a search of this period in the parish register itself will reveal them. Do I have a volunteer passing through Lincoln who will search the register and remove this doubt?

Although the pedigree comes to an end here, the family certainly continued to live in Algarkirk. Between 1669 and 1673 there is another group of entries in the transcripts relating to Thomas and Sarah Pulvertoft and their children. Is this the Thomas of the final generation or is it a cousin named in another reference? Once this question is answered, the link will be made with some Pulvertofts who moved to Kings Lynn; but that's another story.

[1] C.C.Lincs. 1624-248. [2] Lincs. Archives Office
[3] P.C.C Alchin 124 [4] P.C.C. Wooton 1658

The Pulvertofts of Algarkirk



[Note. The baptisms, marriages and burials shown in parentheses are those extracted from the Bishop's Transcripts for Algarkirk.]

The Pulvertaft Family

The General Register Office Index of Marriages

As a complementary list to that of the Pulvertaft births, printed in Vol. 1 No. 1, the list below shows all the Pulvertaft marriages found over the same period; 1837 to 1975. In addition to the names of the couple being married and the registration district shown below, the G.R.O. indexes also include columns for 'Volume' and 'Page' which are only needed if a copy of the marriage certificate is being ordered. No Pulvertafts were found in the marriage indexes.

Apr - Jun 1877	Walter Thomas Rawlins Esther Pulvertaft	Pancras
Jul - Sep 1904	Amos William Pulvertaft Clara Savage	Warwick
Jul - Sep 1911	Harry M. Bird Kathleen R. Pulvertaft	Chelsea
Apr - Jun 1922	Robert J. V. Pulvertaft Elizabeth L. M. Costello	St Geo.H.Sq.
Apr - Jun 1923	Arthur F. E. Brunson Grace E. Pulvertaft	Willesden
Oct - Dec 1925	Thomas C. B. Pulvertaft Nancy M. Worrall	Willesden
Apr - Jun 1928	William G. Pulvertaft Annie J. Martin	Devonport
Apr - Jun 1934	Robert G. Pulvertaft Helen E. Boyd-Willock	Loughbro'
Jul - Sep 1938	Frederick W. Colton Phyllis L. Pulvertaft	Plymouth
Oct - Dec 1943	William J. Hoskin Marjorie R. Pulvertaft	Plymouth

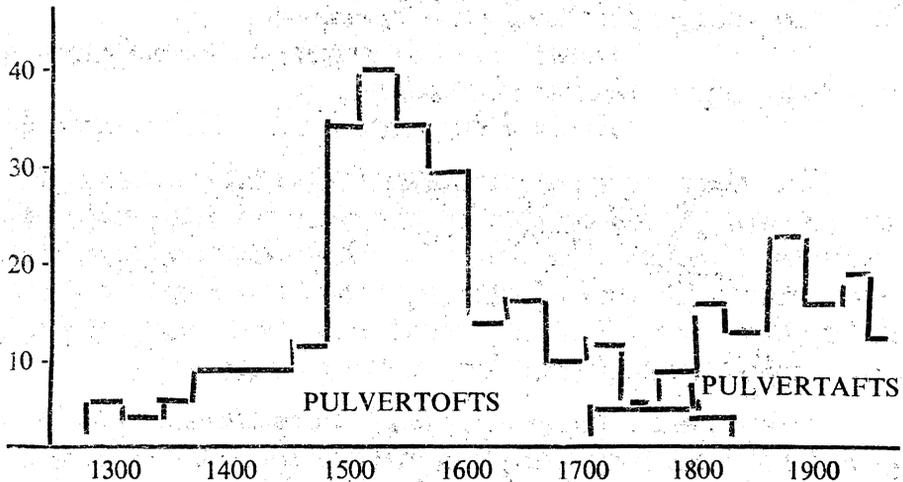
Jul - Sep 1949	William J. Crocker Eileen F. Pulvertaft	Plymouth
Jul - Sep 1951	Peter M. Green Lalage I. Pulvertaft	Cambridge
Oct - Dec 1955	Leonard Smith Damaris R.R. Pulvertaft William P. Patrick Rosemary M. Pulvertaft	Surrey N.W. Gloucester R
Oct - Dec 1958	Michael J. Pulvertaft Ann S.G. Crawford	Westminster
Apr - Jun 1960	Thomas B. Pulvertaft Rachel A. Smeall	Cambridge
Jul - Sep 1961	Cheng-Chuan Lim Elizabeth C. Pulvertaft	Belper
Apr - Jun 1963	Richard H. Stephenson Diane M. Pulvertaft	Cambridge
Jul - Sep 1967	Walter L. Sells Emily Pulvertaft	H Hempstead

Thus there were only nineteen Pulvertaft weddings in the 138 year period covered by the records - not exactly a flourishing family but, as the G.R.O. indexes include only births, marriages and deaths registered in England and Wales, they provide facts about only that part of the family which came from Cork to this country.

For my part I haven't yet made a similar search in the office of the Irish Registrar-General at the Custom House, Dublin which would create a complementary record for that part of the family which remained in Ireland. I do have a large number of the equivalent church entries - baptisms, marriages and burials - extracted from half a dozen Cork parish registers, and to confirm and add to these from the Registrar's records would be most useful.

Notes and Queries

The question which is probably asked most often about the Pulvertofts and Pulvertafts is "What is the connection between the two families?" There are some clues which point to a connection between them but they will be best understood when the Pulvertaft family tree is printed in next summer's issue. Meanwhile, the diagram below shows the distribution of Pulvertofts and Pulvertafts over the centuries. To draw this diagram, a 'Generation Grid' is used in which each 30 year period from 1380 to the present day is given an identifying letter. Each member of the two families is then annotated with the 'generation' in which they are known or assumed to have been born and some indication of the size of the family over the years emerges.



It would be a mistake to draw too many conclusions from the graphs as there are factors such as the extent of the records and the amount of research done which have an influence. However, it will be seen that a link between the two families is quite possible and that the period to be searched to find it is the early part of the 18th century.