

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

*Published by Rear Admiral D. M. Pulvertaft,
Tucketts, Trusham, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0NR.*

Vol 2

December 1989

No 7

EDITORIAL

As this issue of Pulvertaft Papers carries us into a new decade, it has prompted me to look back to see what was occurring at this time in earlier centuries. I find:

- 1890. A child of John McLean & Ella Pulvertaft bapt. at Holy Trinity Presbyterion Church, Cork.
 - . Annie Pulvertaft filed a widow's application for her husband's service with New Jersey Inf.
- 1690. Robert, son of Thomas & Mary Puluertoft, bapt, William, son of Thomas Puluertofte, gent., bur both at Fosdyke.
- 1590. Agnes, dau of Thos Pulvertoft, bapt at Wigtoft
 - . Joyne, wife of Thos Pulvertoft bur at Wyberton
 - . Thomas Puluertoft gent buried at Whaplode.
- 1490 John Pulvertoft granted land in Algarkirk.
- 1390. Iohannes de Poluertoft, a juror in the wapen-take of Kirketon.

SOME PULVERTOFT ARTEFACTS

Probably every family historian, when he reads the wills of his ancient forebears, wonders what became of the articles which were so carefully listed and bequeathed. Certainly the wills of the Pulvertofts of Lincolnshire include many items of this sort, such as:-

"..... my silver tothe and erepycke" (William Pulvertoft, 1546 - see Vol 2, p 8) and

"..... one silver tankard one silver cup and three silver spoones all marked T:P." (John Pulvertoft, of Kings Lynn 1695).

It was particularly exciting therefore to receive quite recently a letter from a Commander Anthony Bateman saying that, not only is his family descended from the Pulvertofts of south Lincolnshire, but they still have a couple of Pulvertoft artefacts in the family. It appears that Commander Bateman is a great-great-great grandson of Francis Thirkill and Mary Ann Pulvertoft who are shown in the final generation of the pedigree of "The Pulvertofts of Horncastle, Spalding & Gedney" (Vol 1, pp 20 & 21). Mary Ann and her four brothers are described there as "the last of the Pulvertofts". The descendants of Francis and Mary Ann are also mentioned on page 24 of the same issue.

It is Anthony Bateman's brother, Philip, who owns the family pieces - a Georgian silver candlestick incorporating the Pulvertoft arms (a mullet between eight fleurs-de-lis) and a print of a young boy who was always known in the family as "Thomas Pulvertoft". Philip Bateman lives in Cape Town but has kindly had the portrait photographed and it is reproduced overleaf, reduced in size. As these are the first actual belongings of the Pulvertofts which have been identified, they add a new flavour to the Lincolnshire part of the study which to date has been limited to written records, monuments, etc.

Three members of Mary Ann's family group made wills; Robert [1787], Thomas [1841] and Ann [1787] (her father, uncle and great-grandmother respectively). Although neither the candlestick nor the portrait is mentioned as a specific bequest in any of the wills, the family is shown to be of sufficient standing to have had such belongings.

Robert is described as a Gentleman of Gedney and instructs that his executor should take a full and perfect inventory of his plate, linen and furniture so that, on the death of his wife Amy, it could be equally divided between his daughter and son (Marianne and George Tunnard Pulvertoft). Marianne was about six when he wrote the will and he appointed his brother, Thomas, to be his executor and guardian and trustee for Marianne, George Tunnard and another son James Richards Pulvertoft during their minorities. Thomas survived his brother by more than 50 years and, when he made his will in 1841, left all his personal belongings to his sister, Ann Wainman or, if she pre-deceased him, to Mary Ann Thirkill, his niece. Thus Mary Ann could be expected to be the recipient of the candlestick and portrait by one route or another.

Ann Pulvertoft (great-grandmother of Mary Ann) was 81 when she died in April 1788 and, although she bequeathed much of her estate to her grandson, Robert, he died two months before her, making the outcome of the wills a little difficult to determine. As far as the candlestick is concerned, her husband, John, had used the mullet and fleurs-de-lis arms (see Vol 1, p 55), so it may have been engraved for him, his son John or one of his grandsons Robert or Thomas. If the hallmark is in tact, it may help us to decide which.

The portrait is even more fascinating. Copies were sent to the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of



Costume, Bath, asking each to identify the period. The Portrait Gallery has not yet replied but the Keeper of Costume at Bath says that it appears to fall between 1650 and 1670 and is most likely to be around the late 1650s or 1660. Assuming that the Portrait Gallery confirms this, young Thomas Pulvertoft lived several generations before the family group of Vol 1, pp 20 & 21.

Even though Thomas is one of the most commonly used Christian names of the Pulvertoft family, only one is known to have been born around 1650-55, namely Thomas Pulvertoft of Fosdyke who married Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Oldfield on 23 November 1681 at Weston St Mary. He is noted [1] as being a coroner of Lincolnshire and it is assumed that he is the Thomas who, with his wife Elizabeth, baptised their daughter, also Elizabeth, at Fosdyke in 1682 (Vol 1, p 70). From the same source his wife Elizabeth appears to have died in 1684 and it would look as though they only had the one child, Elizabeth. With only a daughter, the connection with the later Pulvertofts a bit obscure; however, there must be a male line which runs between the 16th century Pulvertofts of Boston and Whaplode (Vol 1, p 4) as they certainly bore arms of a mullet and fleurs-de-lis as did Mary Ann's family. Could it be that the combination of the Georgian candlestick and the 17th century portrait may eventually help to establish the connection? Another source which might have shed some light on the subject was the will of Anthony Oldfield, father of Elizabeth. Unfortunately, although he does leave effects to her, his will is dated 1669 and was thus written long before her marriage to Thomas. Perhaps some other Oldfield wills will prove useful as indeed the Pulvertoft artefacts already have.

Notes:

[1] The Genealogist Vol 1. G.W.Marshall - Pedigree of Oldfield.

THOMAS PULVERTOFT - YEOMAN

It was in the 38th year of the reign of Elizabeth I (1595) that Thomas Pulvertoft made his will and described himself as a yeoman of Kirton. (L.C.C. 1595/i/150).

It is an interesting document, not for the quantity of genealogical information which it provides, but more for the social commentary it contains. It fills four and a half pages, much of which is taken up listing his debts and describing what his debtors owed him. It is not clear what his connection was with Wyberton but he asked to be buried there, perhaps because his cousins William and Margaret Field lived there [as it says in the will], or could it be that Joyne, the wife of Thomas Pulvertoft who was buried there in 1590, was in fact his first wife? [parish register].

He left the residue of his goods and chattles to his wife, Cassandra, whom he made his sole executrix, and appointed his cousin, Thomas Bowtell, supervisor. He left land to his brother, Nicholas Pulvertoft, and 10/- to his sister, Margaret, but he does not appear to have had any children. He names several other cousins; Leonard Roper (a dagger and a rapier with all the furniture), Thomas Pulvertoft of Algarkirk (who owed him £22 which he forgave him, subject to a few conditions) and Edward Howton (he forgave him a debt of 10s). There are gifts such as 22s to Thomas Bullin of Boston, a doublet, jerkin and a pair of britches to Thomas Wilson and then a long list of debtors such as William Rogerson of Fosdyke (7 stone of hemp and 3 stone of fumble) and Anthony Bolton of Kirton (8 stone of hemp to be paid ready wound).

Perhaps it was because of all this detail that an Administration Bond was granted to Nicholas Pulvertoft (L.C.C. Admon 1595/152) in 1595. Thomas is described here as being "late of Skirbeck" but there is little

doubt that it is the same Thomas as the list of debtors bears a great similarity to that in the will even though there are differences in detail.

The inventory includes some fascinating detail; old money and gold (£10.6.8), his best suit of apparel (£12), his second suit (£10.6.8), his third suit and a violet cloak (25s.10d), a rapier a dagger and a girdle (25s.10d), two swords and a little dagger (8s), two bows and 30 shafts (6s.8d), a silver salt and six silver spoons (£3.16.8), an old bible (5s), four quarters of hempseed (£10.6.8) and even a gray nag (20s). Altogether his belongings totalled £95.19.0 to which was added a further £8.16.0 in debts owing to him.

On the other side of the balance sheet, Thomas owed a total of £28.7.6, two of the items being of interest; to Mr Pope for phisick (30s) and to Nicholas Pulvertoft for a year and a quarters board and washing and wringing etc. (£7) It is also significant that, although Thomas is described as being "of Kirton" in his will and "late of Skirbeck" in the administration bond, his inventory is in two parts, articles in Algarkirk (perhaps because his brother Nicholas lived there) and Fosdyke and others in Skirbeck and Kirton. Thus we find that a man with the status of yeoman need not be restricted to a single parish, although in this case a glance at the map in Issue 4, page 29 will show how close the four parishes are to each other as is Wyberton where he asked to be buried.

NOTES & QUERIES

I am indebted to David Brunson, son of Arthur Frederick Ernest Brunson and Grace Elizabeth Pulvertaft (See Vol 1, page 28) for allowing me access to the papers of his late mother. While nothing emerged about the family which was totally new, there were some most attractive photographic portraits - particularly of her brothers Robin and Bryan Pulvertaft, two being in army uniform, taken no doubt while serving in the Great War. It was in fact Grace Brunson who, some years ago, lent me a book of press cuttings about her father, Reverend Thomas Pulvertaft, prompting me to write the profile on him in Issue 2 of this volume. There was, however, more.

An obituary to Thomas's widow, Barbara Pulvertaft, in the Hampstead & St John's Wood Advertiser dated 26 October 1933 had lots of detail including some of note to the historian:- "... She lived with her sisters at 22 St Stephen's Rd., Bayswater The funeral took place at Hampstead Cemetery The chief mourners were Dr Pulvertaft (son), Mrs Brunson (daughter), Miss Denroche and Miss Bessie Denroche (sisters), Mr Brunson (son-in-law), and Dr. Guy Pulvertaft (nephew)."

The obituary in the January 1934 edition of "Light and Truth" - the newsletter of the Spanish and Portuguese Church Aid Society - described how, after the death of her husband, she had acted as the Secretary of the Society and, even when compelled to resign because of ill-health, had continued as a member of the Committee. It also told how Thomas and Barbara met as fellow students at Queen's College, Cork, where they both had distinguished careers, and obtained their degrees with high honours at the Royal University of Ireland. Amongst Grace Brunson's papers was a fine graduation photograph of her mother dressed in mortar-board and gown.

Happy Christmas and Good Wishes for 1990.

D.M.P.