

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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EDITORIAL

It is with pleasure that I forward with this issue the index to Volume 1, printed from the Database of "Ability" as predicted in the last issue. I have printed the index in two parts; Place Names and Surnames, with the Pulvertaft and Pulvertoft(e) entries further indexed by christian name.

Looking back through the thirteen issues to date I find that 52 pages have been devoted to articles on the Pulvertoft family, 32 to the Pulvertafts and eight to general subjects. This has not been entirely a matter of chance as I have tried to keep a reasonable balance, knowing that some of you are interested in the historical aspects of the study, some in the "living" family and that I am trying to give visibility to both parts through these papers. I am of course also influenced by the availability of material and it is particularly nice for me to be able to report new finds and events as they happen - please keep telling me of them. In this issue I have tried to assess the distribution of the two families to see what clues emerge. I think that there are a few.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PULVERTOFT & PULVERTAFT FAMILIES

Many of the earlier articles in these papers have been devoted to a particular family group which lived in a specific town or village over a discrete period of history. On two occasions some rather more general work has been included; in Volume 1, page 16 the number of people bearing the Pulvertoft and Pulvertaft names were plotted over the centuries, the implication being that a connection between the two families could exist, while in Volume 1, page 47 the number of baptisms and marriages listed in two prints of the International Genealogical Index were tabulated, even though the index appeared to include only about one third of Lincolnshire's parish registers.

The intention of this analysis is to review the distribution of the families by place and period to see whether this indicates any general trends or points us to new areas for further research.

Several different ways of counting were considered for the analysis. Events such as baptisms, marriages and burials are suitable as they can almost always be related to a place but, as they would exclude the many other references to members of the family - and particularly the early references before parish registers were started - they were rejected. Counting every reference to the name and analysing the distribution was also considered but this was eliminated as it would be distorted by those periods or parts of the family which are particularly well documented, sometimes in many publications. The unit eventually chosen for the analysis was "named individuals", providing they could be related to a place and a date, so that each could then count against that place in the century concerned.

Even with such a simple model there were some compromises which had to be made. A person who was

simply described as "of Boston" or whose only reference was that he had been baptised in a parish church were each clearly worthy of inclusion; but when a man owned land in three different parishes or was baptised in one parish, married in another and buried in a third, a simple set of rules was needed.

With this established, the number of references to Pulvertofts and Pulvertafts by place and by century were tabulated and are shown on pages 30 & 31. As Algarkirk is the village which has had the longest consistent Pulvertoft occupation from the earliest times, it was placed at the head of the list and the table was so arranged that the places listed below it are progressively further and further away. Their disposition can be seen on pages 28 & 29, the numbers being those allocated to each village or town in the table. In the case of the Pulvertafts, only those who lived before Thomas Pulvertaft (the founder of the "modern" Pulvertaft family) are included in the analysis as the distribution of the 20th century Pulvertafts is well known.

Several generalisations emerge (always providing that because of its particular lure, London is excluded.):

All the 14th century Pulvertofts came from villages within seven miles of Algarkirk,

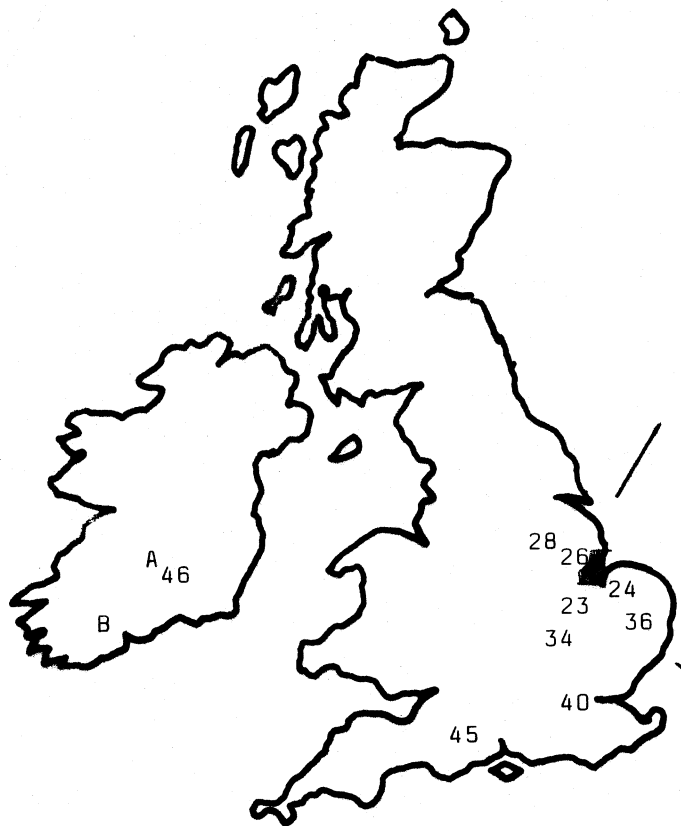
With five isolated exceptions, the same applies to the 15th century Pulvertofts,

The Pulvertofts became most numerous in the 16th century and migrated from the area around the Wash,

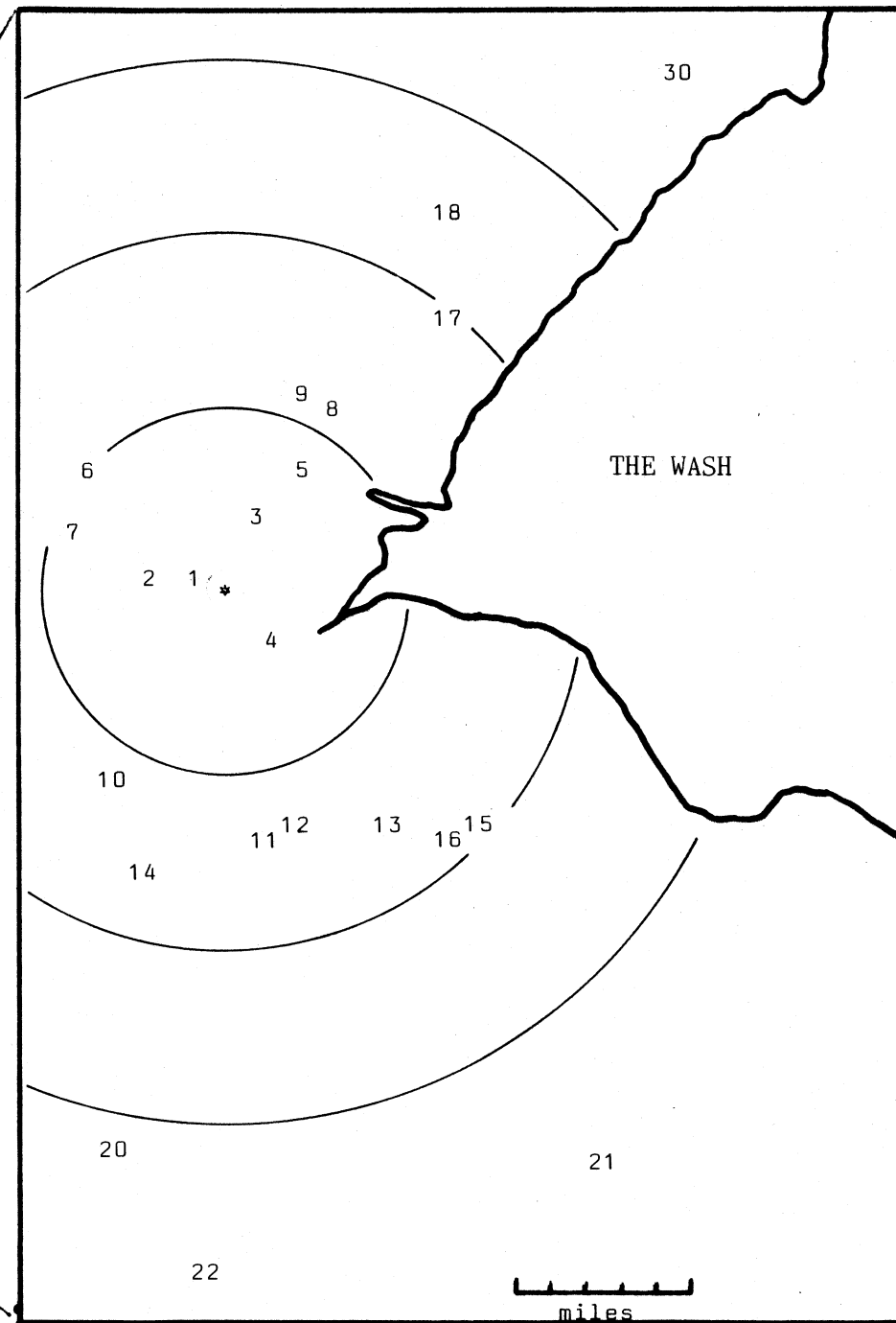
The Pulvertofts were fewer and less widespread in the 17th century than they had been in the 16th,

The Pulvertoft numbers dwindled throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PULVERTOFT AND PULVERTAFT FAMILIES



28.



29.

	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
<u>PULVERTOFT</u>							
* ALGARKIRK	9	3	18	25	3	-	-
1 Sutterton	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
2 Wigtoft	1	2	15	19	-	-	-
3 Kirton	1	-	11	15	-	-	-
4 Fosdyke	3	2	5	16	-	-	-
5 Wyberton	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
6 Swineshead	-	2	29	11	-	-	-
7 Bicker	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
8 Skirbeck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
9 Boston	-	3	9	-	-	-	-
10 Pinchbeck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
11 Moulton	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
12 Whaplode	4	1	12	4	-	-	-
13 Holbeach	2	5	1	-	3	-	-
14 Spalding	2	-	1	2	5	1	-
15 Gedney	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
16 Fleet	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
17 Leverton	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
18 Leake	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
19 Aslackby	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
20 Crowland	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
21 Wisbech (Cam)	-	-	3	4	-	1	-
22 Thorney (Cam)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
23 Peterborough (Nth)	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
24 King's Lynn (Nfk)	-	-	-	10	4	-	-
25 East Winch (Nfk)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
26 Horncastle	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
27 Upper Toynton	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
28 Lincoln	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
29 Easton on Hill (Nth)	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
30 Wainfleet	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
31 Legbourne	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
32 Gainsborough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
33 Laceby	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
34 Northampton (Nth)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
35 Withingham (Nfk)	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
36 Norwich (Nfk)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
37 Yaxley (Sfk)	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
38 Ipswich (Sfk)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
39 Cheshunt (Hrt)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
40 London	1	1	3	-	1	2	1
41 Colnbrook (Bkm)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
42 Westerham (Ken)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
43 Faversham (Ken)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
44 Ockley (Sry)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 Iwerne Minster (Dor)	-	-	11	-	-	-	-
46 Fethard (Tip/Irl)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

PULVERTAFT

A Cashel (Tip/Irl)	-	-	1	-	-	-
B Cork (Cor/Irl)	-	-	-	11	19	-
C Westfield (NJ/USA)	-	-	-	2	-	-
D Newark (NJ/USA)	-	-	-	-	5	-

By comparison with the Pulvertofts, the Pulvertafts flourished in Cork in the 18th and 19th centuries - and later as the "modern" family - 'though not shown here.

The analysis does not provide any immediate answer to the outstanding question - "Is there a link between the Pulvertofts and the Pulvertafts?" - but it does show quite clearly that there could be one in the 17th or 18th centuries. Nor does it point to any particular parish as a place which is bound to yield more Pulvertofts in its parish register. However, a ten mile circle around Algarkirk not only includes the first fifteen villages in the table but also several parishes whose registers have not been searched - Quadring and Gosberton to the west and Frieston, Butterwick and Benington to the east are examples and will be included in future searches.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The Tipperary Connection

In the last issue of Notes and Queries I included a couple of references to Tipperary, saying that it was tempting to think that they might be the stepping stone between Lincolnshire and Co. Cork. While I am still hopeful, my first enquiries have drawn a blank. "Mid-West Archives" of Limerick tell me that they have no Pulvertafts in their indexes to Cork, Tipperary or Limerick newspapers for the second half of the 18th century or in any Church of Ireland records in Limerick City or County. They also say that in the course of answering some 2,000 queries about families in the area, they have never come across the name. The frustrations of researching a small family.....

The Talking Horse and Other Tales

Many years ago I was told by the late Grace Brunson (nee Pulvertaft) that there was a Pulvertaft in a book called "The Talking Horse" by Fred Anstey. I located a copy recently in the British Library and find that it is the first of a collection of short stories published in 1892 and short enough to be photocopied. Unfortunately the book was not in good enough condition to allow this and I am trying to get a copy from another source. The story starts:

"It was on the way to Sandown Park that I met him first, on that horribly wet July afternoon when Bandigo won the Eclipse Stakes.

"My name" said he, "is Gustavus Pulvertaft. I have no occupation, and six hundred a year. I lived a quiet and contented bachelor life until I was twenty-eight and then I met Diane Chetwynd for the first time" " "

Another Pulvertaft red herring ?