

# PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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## EDITORIAL

Another volume started and with it a commitment to five more years of Pulvertaft Papers. Will my supply of information dry up in this period? I think not as there seem to be more sources to be tapped each year, the support from my readers remains solid, and I still have a small reservoir of facts and figures on which I can draw. Will I discover any more Pulvertafts dotted round the world or descendants of the Pulvertofts who have records of the family in their possession? Who knows, but it's always nice to think so. Will the Lincolnshire-Ireland connection be found? I am ever hopeful as the gap seems to get smaller as we learn more about the two families and a lucky break or two now could so easily prove the connection. It may be just round the corner.

As anticipated, I forward with this issue the Title Page, Contents List and Index for Volume 2 and of course my wish that you have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1992.

D.M.P.

## THE PULVERTOFTS OF KINGS LYNN

The first reference to Pulvertofts living in Kings Lynn was found in the will of John Pulvertoft [1]. He describes himself as being "of Kings Lynn, apothecary" and then writes a most informative will. He names his family: John my second son; Samuel my third son; my four daughters Barbara, Patience, Sarah and Elizabeth and "my deare and loving wife Patience their mother". It is only then that he names his eldest son, Thomas, the implication being that Thomas was his son by an earlier marriage. His wife Patience is made sole executrix and it was presumably she who proved the will at the PCC, even though she is recorded as "Patricia Pulvertoft".

More details of the family, which confirm and expand on those given in the will, have been found in the Parish Register of St Margaret's Kings Lynn; but, as it has only been searched for specific periods, it may yet reveal more Pulvertoft events. To date there are:

### Baptisms:

1675	Nov	John the son of Mr John Pulvertoft	25
1682	Apr	Barbara da of Mr John Pulvertoft	17
1683	Oct	Patience da of Mr John Pulvertoft	21
1684	Mar	Simond son of John Pulvertoft	20
1686	Feb	John son of Mr John Pulvertoft	17
1688	Aug	Samuel son of Mr John Pulvertop	9
1689	Oct	Sam son of Mr John Pulvertoft	30
1690	Feb	Nathaniel son of Mr John Pulvertoft	19
1692	Nov	Sarah dau of Mr John Pulvertoft	7
1694	Nov	Elizabeth dau of Mr John Pulvertoft	17
1698	Apr	Thomas son of Mr Thomas Pulvertoft	28
1727	Nov	John son of Mr John Pulvertoft	26

### Marriages:

1697	Feb	Mr Tho Pulvertoft Sm & Mrs Judeth Selfe Swo	23
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[1] Dated 1695, proved PCC 107/1696/100.

### Burials:

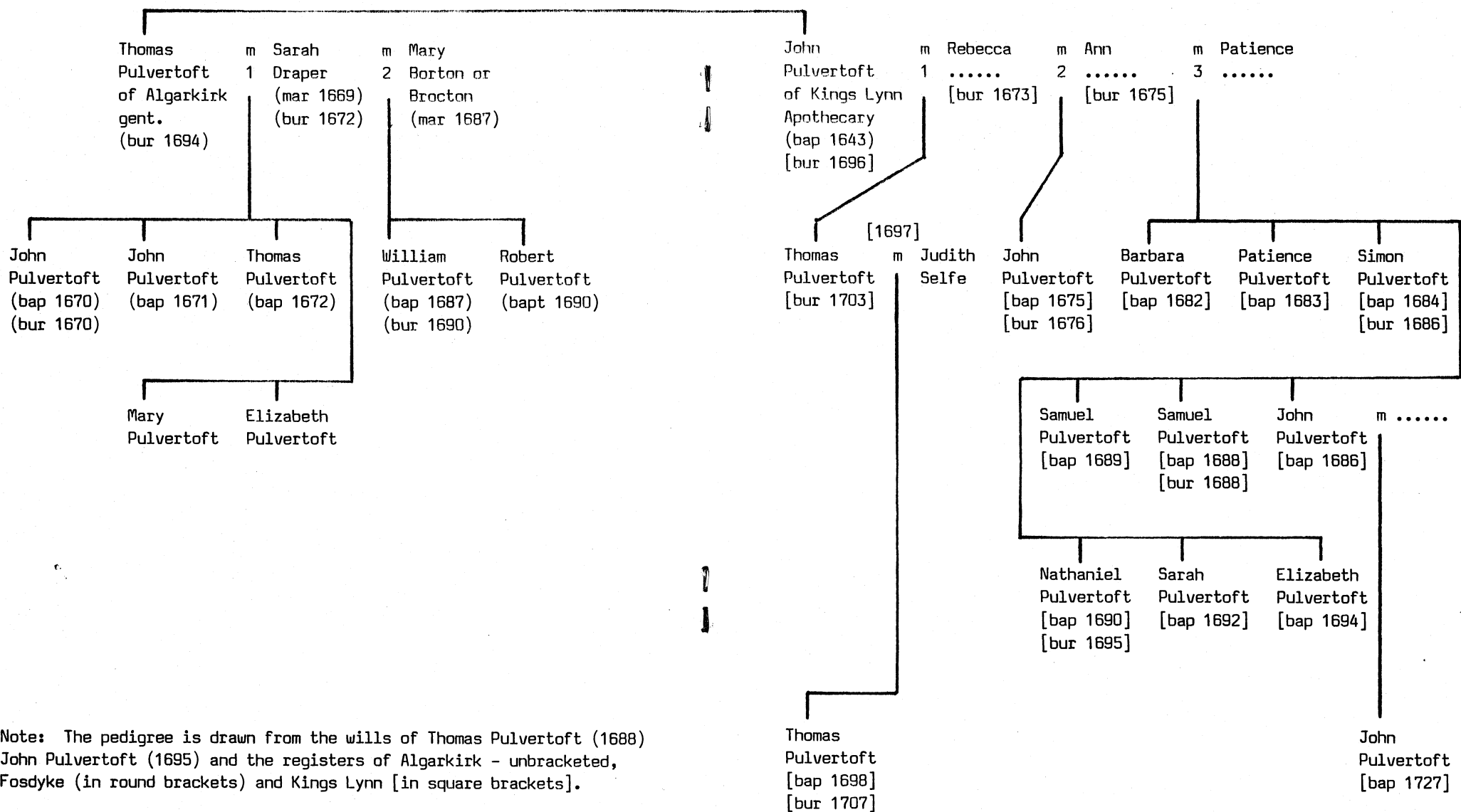
1673	Aug	Rebekah the wife of Mr John Pulvertoft	12
1675	Dec	Ann the wife of Mr John Pulvertoft	1
1676	Sep	John son of Mr John Pulvertoft	7
1686	Jun	Simon son of Mr John Pulvertaft (sic)	13
1688	Sep	Samuel son of Mr John Pulvertoft	7
1695	Nov	Nathan' son of Mr John Pulvertoft	10
1696	Jun	Mr John Pulvertoft	4
1703	Apr	Mr Thomas Pulvertoft	27
1707	Sep	Thomas son of Tho Pulvertoft decd.	25

The burial entries show that John had two previous marriages and not just the one assumed above. Rebecca was presumably the mother of John's eldest son, Thomas, while his second wife, Ann, only survived the birth of their son John by a few days. (Note the baby also died an infant). Although John's third wife, Patience, is not named in the register, they were more successful with their family - having nine children - the youngest being only 18 months old when John himself died in 1696.

The deaths of four of John's children answer the questions which result from comparing the register with his will: Why did he baptise two of his sons John and two Samuel? The first John died in 1676 and the first Samuel in 1688. Why did he not mention Simon or Nathaniel in his will? They had both died when he wrote it in 1695. Why in his will did he name his first, second and third sons as Thomas, John and Samuel? When he wrote it in 1695, they were his three surviving sons.

John was clearly a man of some substance as he left property in Kings Lynn to John and Samuel and two hundred pounds to each of his daughters. In contrast he only left ten pounds to his eldest son, Thomas, although he was bequeathed a silver tankard, a silver cup and three silver spoons all marked "T.P.". John's family is shown in the right hand half of the pedigree overleaf.

THE PULVERTOFTS OF KINGS LYNN



Note: The pedigree is drawn from the wills of Thomas Pulvertoft (1688) John Pulvertoft (1695) and the registers of Algarkirk - unbracketed, Fosdyke (in round brackets) and Kings Lynn [in square brackets].

The suggestion that John Pulvertoft did not come from a Kings Lynn family is made in the will of Thomas Pulvertoft of Algarkirk [2] in which he writes: "I do make guardian for my daughter Elizabeth Pulvertoft and my daughter Mary Pulvertoft my loving brother John Pulvertoft of Kings Lyn in the County of Norfolk, gent.", the implication being that John may have had his origins in Lincolnshire.

As with his brother's will, Thomas's is also filled with family detail. He describes himself as a gentleman and appears to have owned land near Algarkirk, the lease of the parsonage of Bicker and a house in Spalding. He names his wife, Mary, and his four children, John, Elizabeth, Thomas and Mary. He implies that he was married before as he leaves to Elizabeth a pearl necklace "which was her mother's" and "linen that I had before I married my now wife". He also refers to his son Thomas's "grandfather Draper".

Evidence from the will is consistent with that from the Bishop's Transcripts for Algarkirk which show that there were two Thomas marriages firstly to Sarah Draper in 1669 and secondly to Mary Borton in 1687. Thomas and Sarah baptised their first three children at Algarkirk (John 1670 [bur also 1670], John 1671, and Thomas 1672) but the baptisms of their daughters have not been found. Thomas's will was made the year after his second marriage, presumably to ensure the future of the young family by his first wife. As it transpired, Thomas lived for a further six years by which time he and Mary had had two more children, William - who was baptised in 1689 and buried in 1690 - and Robert - who was baptised in 1690 - vide the Fosdyke Parish Register on pp 70 & 71 of Vol I. Thomas's family is shown in the left hand half of the pedigree.

[2] Dated 1688, proved PCC 231/1694/254.

To call this article "The Pulvertofts of Kings Lynn" is probably an infringement of all known headline conventions as it has not only described the Kings Lynn group but has shown quite a lot of detail of the Algarkirk/Fosdyke family with which it was connected. More particularly, the Thomas and John Pulvertoft whose families are discussed in these pages are quite clearly those who were shown at the foot of the pedigree on Vol 1, p 12 so that the two pedigrees may now be joined together.

The Kings Lynn register takes John's family one generation further than Thomas's and other references to even later Pulvertofts of Kings Lynn suggest that there is more to be found there. A book on the Freemen of Lynn [3] contains six references to John Pulvertoft although, as they span a period of 100 years, they clearly refer to more than one man. The first three are consistent with the career of John, the father of this group, and are assumed to refer to him: he purchased the franchise as an Apothecary in 1666-7 and took on apprentices in 1678-9 and 1689-90.

The last three references appear to refer to other Johns. In 1708-9 John Pulvertoft purchased a franchise as a grocer, thirteen years later in 1721-2 a John Pulvertoft was apprenticed to Thomas Scarlet as a grocer and Chandler and in 1767 there is a reference to John Pulvertoft, a tanner. It is tempting to speculate which of these Johns refers to which of the baptisms of page 2, but without a little more evidence, there is not a great deal to be gained from such thoughts. Clearly the family continued to live and work in Kings Lynn and more research into the local records there may provide the detail and, who knows, even an Irish link?

[3] A Calendar of the Freemen of Lynn, 1292-1836. Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society, 1913.

## NOTES & QUERIES

Some years ago Eunice Wilson - a fellow Member of the Guild of One-Name Studies who was researching the name of Thirkill - told me that a Mary A Pulvertoft was included in the 1871 Census for Acton in London. The entry also shows that she was a servant, was unmarried, was 54 years old and had been born in Cork.

I already had in my records the Death Certificate for a Mary Ann Pulvertoft having found her death in the index at St Catherine's House and having thought that she was the last of the Pulvertofts (see Vol 1, page 22). The death certificate told me that she died at 52 Shakespeare Road, Acton on 22 January 1900 aged 89 and that she had been a Lady's Maid.

Two Mary Ann Pulvertofts living in Acton is too much of a coincidence even though the census implies her birth would have been in 1817 whereas her death certificate suggests 1811. The plot thickened when the reference to Cork was followed as a Mary Anne Pulvertaft was baptised at St Ann Shandon on 12 May 1811, (see Vol 1, page 37).

So what is the answer? In all probability the three references are to the same Mary Ann(e), baptised in 1811 in Cork, unwilling to say that she was 60 in 1871, died in 1900 and not after all "the last of the Pulvertofts".

Anthony Bateman has written to say that the silver candlestick which his brother owns, and which is engraved with the Pulvertoft arms, has a hallmark of 1772 (see Vol 2, page 50). As this came down from their ancestor, Mary Ann Thirkill (nee Pulvertoft), we can refer to the pedigree on page 20 of Vol 1 to see who might have had it made. We know from other sources that her great-grandfather, John, used the family arms but, as he died in 1731, it seems likely that his son, John, had it made.