

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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EDITORIAL

Another year comes to an end and I have had to dig deep into my archives to find suitable interesting or informative material for these pages. I hope that the article on the "Pulvertaft Sisters" may encourage those of you, my readers, who have in your possession obscure family facts or pertinent memorabilia to dig them out and tell me about them. How about some Pulvertaft wedding photographs; there must be many which I do not hold which haven't seen the light of day for years. Why not give them an airing?

For my part, the fact that I am now back in London working somewhere between three Government departments and the media, should allow me to gather more data from the many London sources to keep these papers alive, but contributions from readers are, of course, that much more interesting and therefore most welcome.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and an informative
1994. D.M.P.

THE 1992 INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) was introduced in the June 1984 issue of these papers including a summary of the distribution of the Pulvertoft and Pulvertaft families contained in it. It was recorded that, while the 1978 edition included 36 Pulvertoft/Pulvertaft baptisms and three marriages, by the 1981 edition 64 baptisms and 19 marriages were listed.

It was therefore with considerable interest that the 1992 edition was examined, particularly as it was reported that there was a significant increase in its size since the last printout. The interest was twofold; firstly whether previously unknown baptisms and marriages would be included which might add to or help to connect the known family groups, and secondly whether the inclusion of more parishes in the index would reveal new pockets of the family.

Unfortunately the latter was not the case. The 1992 printout included, of course, the family entries which had appeared in the 1981 listings but the excitement caused by the addition of two new entries in the Northamptonshire lists was short lived as the two baptisms which they recorded added detail to a known group rather than revealing a new one.

The new entries [with an explanation in square brackets of how they relate to material previously published in these pages], are as follows:

NORTHAMPTON - Page 5,334

John Pulvertoft, son of John & Ann Pulvertoft bapt.
at Peterborough, St John, 24 Mar 1730

Judith Pulvertoft, dau. of John & Ann Pulvertoft
bapt. at Peterborough, St John, 13 Feb 1729

[Baptismal details of John and Judith Pulvertoft.
Vide Vol 1, p 33 under the title "The Pulvertofts
of Horncastle, Spalding & Gedney".]

LINCOLN - Page 29,004

Annes Pullvertoft mar. Henry Dawson at Spalding,
16 August 1591.

Elizabeth Pullvertoft mar. Nicholas Darley at
Spalding, 18 July 1611.

[Both marriages recorded in Phillimore's Parish
Registers but not reported in these papers. The
latter recorded as "Isabell" Pulvertoft.]

LINCOLN - Page 29,006

Anne Pulverstoft. Relative John William Crofts
named - marriage - Spalding - 16 Aug 1591.

Mr Pulvertoft. Relative James Gibbon named -
at a birth - of Algerkirke - about 1557.

Amy Pulvertoft. Relative Thomas Biggs named -
marriage - Holbeach - 19 July 1752.

[A connection with the Gibbon family in 1556 has
been recorded before but the families of Crofts
and Biggs appear new. All require more research.]

Although there are a few worthwhile leaders to be
followed, the 1992 printout did not significantly
increase our knowledge of the families. Perhaps the next
edition in a few years time will do so.



THE PULVERTAFT SISTERS

The Pulvertaft Sisters

The photograph which is reproduced in the centrefold of this edition was provided by Arthur Stanley Pulvertaft (M94R) in 1985 from his home in Florida in the Transvaal. He gave it the simple caption "The Pulvertaft Sisters" as the six young women shown were his aunts, the daughters of James Pulvertaft (M08P) and Agnes Adams (M09P). Stan's father - Herbert Adams Pulvertaft (M84Q) - was the eldest brother of the six and, as was described in Vol 1 No 8 of these papers, went to South Africa with the Irish Fusiliers where he was married and where Stan was born.

As Stan never knew his aunts, he was unable to identify more than two with any confidence, but Peggy Leonard - whose mother was nee Pulvertaft and who acts as the unpaid "Cork Correspondent" to these papers - was able to name them all.

The photograph was taken by Guy & Co Ltd and, 'though it is not dated, it must have been taken in, or about, 1910. Peggy understands that two of the sisters came home specially to have it taken.

From left to right, the sisters are:

Mabel Constance (M92Q) [Mabel]

Born: Cork, 25 November 1891.

Married: Cork, 1916 to Robert James B Morris.

Edith Alexandra (M88Q) [Edie]

Born: Cork, 5 March 1885.

Married: Cork, 1919 to Charles Hugh Park.

(Edie had a twin sister - Mary Caroline (M89Q) - but she died in 1891 at the age of six.)

Kathleen Rose (M87Q) [Kathleen]

Born: Cork, 23 October 1883.

Married: London, 1911 to Harry M Bird.

Vera Gertrude (M93Q) [Vera]

Born: Cork, 8 April 1899.

Married: (place and date unknown) Gordon Gosnell.

Agnes Maud (M85Q) [Agnes]

Born: Cork, 1881.

Died: Wallasey, 1974.

(It is understood that Agnes was brought up by her mother's sister - Edith Cross - and that when Edith died, she went to Liverpool to look after Edith's sister.)

Sarah Victoria (M90Q) [Sarah]

Born: Cork, 2 Jan 1887.

Married: (place and date unknown) John Evans.

Comparison of the above with the Pulvertaft family tree which was printed in Vol 1 No 4 of these papers will show that James and Agnes Pulvertaft had two other daughters. Sadly, both died as infants. Their details are given here for completeness.

Emily Louisa (M27Q)

Born: Cork, 30 June 1879.

Baptised: Christchurch, Cork, 27 Aug 1879.

Died: Cork, 1881 aged one.

Florence Emily (M91Q)

Born: Cork, 16 Feb 1888.

Died: Cork, 1889 aged one.

In addition to Herbert Adams, mentioned above, the Pulvertaft sisters had four other brothers: James Mahony (M86Q) [born 1883 the twin brother of Kathleen Rose], Arthur Stanley (M81Q) [born 1889], William Gordon (M28Q) [born 1892] and Thomas Norman (M80Q) [born 1894]. William Gordon Pulvertaft was killed in action at Flanders in September 1917; but that, as they say, is another story.

NOTES & QUERIES

My thanks to Josephine Harris - cousin on my mother's side of the family - for telling me that a caricature of Robert James Valentine Pulvertaft is now hanging in the new Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, Fulham Road, London.

The sketch is one of a series which was first mentioned to me in the early 80s by a graduate of the Westminster Medical School. He told me that during his time as a student there he belonged to the "Shrove Tuesday Dining Club" which, each year, invited a guest speaker to join them - the occasion being marked by the commissioning of a caricature which was subsequently hung in the refectory. He remembered that sometime between 1959 and 1961, Professor Robin Pulvertaft had entertained them in fine style and suggested that I should be able to find the evidence at 17 Horseferry Road. I tracked it down in 1986 and had wondered what had happened to the collection when the Westminster Hospital closed earlier this year.

It is good to hear that this little piece of medical and family history has been preserved.

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I have heard from the College of Arms - or more precisely from the York Herald of Arms - that the process of registering a small Pulvertaft pedigree in their archives is now "scriven" and will be bound into their records in January.

I took the opportunity of providing details of my immediate family when they wrote to me last year; not that they allow the family pedigree as we know it to be registered as it would all have to be "proved" under their strict rules. Mine will run from great-grandfather Robert, to daughter, Lucy; and very pretty it looks too.