

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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EDITORIAL

The June 1996 edition of these papers will complete Volume 3 and mark 15 years of writing on the Pulvertoft and Pulvertaft families. While I have much enjoyed the experience and believe that their cumulative effect has been to place the two families firmly on the record, I have to report that I am running out of material.

More information will undoubtedly become available in the years ahead and I do not therefore plan to stop writing the papers when Volume 3 is complete. Indeed, with the link between the Lincolnshire Pulvertofts and the Irish Pulvertafts not yet established, I still have to achieve this major objective. I have considered how I might bolster the material by, perhaps, writing articles about living rather than past members of the family, but this I fear would introduce all sorts of difficulties.

Unless family members have persuasive arguments to the contrary, I plan for Volume 4 to issue them only once each year in December. A Happy Christmas. D.M.P.

MORE INFORMATION FROM THE CHURCH OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Pulvertoft records in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) have been analysed in Vol 1, No 6 and Vol 3, No 5 of these papers, having been extracted over the years from the microfiche printouts at the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Centre in Exhibition Road, London.

The LDS Centre was recently refurbished and, since its re-opening in June this year, includes eight computer terminals on which a variety of programs can be interrogated, each stored on a batch of compact discs (CDs). The main programmes are the IGI, the Personal Ancestral File (PAF) and the Family History Library Catalogue (FHLIC) with supplementary CDs on a Military Index and a Social Security Death Index.

As the IGI was known to contain a large number of Pulvertoft baptisms and a few marriages, it was interrogated first. Hopes were high when it was discovered that the CD included a 1994 Addendum with some 30 million items over and above those on the the IGI microfiche. As is so often the case, however, with this small family of ours, there were not many new items, two baptismal entries being the score:

Elizabeth PULVERTOFTE, dau of Robert and Amy (Fox)
christened 13 July 1720 at Horncastle.

Amey PULVERTOFTE, dau of Robert and Amy (Fox)
christned 26 April 1722 at Horncastle.

To make matters worse - and as may be seen from the pedigree of the Pulvertofts of Horncastle printed in Vol 1, No 3 - these two baptisms are already known and recorded. The 1994 Addendum for Ireland did not improve the situation as there were no additional entries recorded.

The PAF is the LDS genealogical collection, created from submissions by members of the Church, to which historians from the world over have added their contributions. Only three Pulvertoft/taft entries were found:

Thomas PULVERTOFT 1645 Sp Elizabeth Oldfield

PULVERTOFTE [1442] Sp Richard BANKE

PULVERTOFTE 1475 Sp Richard BANKE

The Oldfield entry would seem to be associated with the marriage already recorded (vide Vol 2, No 7), even though the dates are not immediately understood. The Banke connection would appear to be a new one - and interesting at such an early period.

The Military Index CDs turned out to list personnel who had served in the US forces during the Korean and Vietnam wars. As might have been expected, no Pulvertaft entries were found.

The most unexpected finds came when the US Social Security Death Index was interrogated; two entries being found - both from New York:

John PULVERTAFT born 1908 died 1974

John PULVERTAFT born 1920 died 1966

The first of these two Johns is John Allen Pulvertaft [M110R] shown on the updated Pulvertaft family tree in Vol 3, No 7, p 51 and known to have lived in the USA. The second entry is a mystery. Apart from John's two children - Thomas Allen and Pamela - no other Pulvertafts are known to have lived in the USA in this period. Is it possible that there is a new branch of the family to be found? Which of my readers is going to find it first?

A PULVERTAFT WEDDING

Trusham church bells rang out again on 14th October to celebrate another Pulvertaft wedding when Captain Rupert Pulvertaft, Royal Marines married Sally Stewart.

Sally comes originally from Mytholmroyd in Yorkshire, she has an MBA and has worked in Edinburgh for the last few years in the business of corporate entertaining. Rupert has served in the Royal Marines since 1986 and is now the Adjutant of 3 Commando Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Royal Marines at Plymouth. They chose Devonshire as the setting for their marriage with a civil ceremony first in Exeter, a blessing service in the church at Trusham and the reception at Tucketts.

As can be seen from the photograph opposite, it was a uniform affair and seven fellow officers mounted a sword-bearing guard of honour. Perhaps more importantly from a family historian's view, Rupert is the first of his generation to bring a bride into the Pulvertaft family.

Trusham church is ancient but tiny and can only seat a congregation of about a hundred. Despite this limitation, quite a few of the Pulvertaft family were able to join us; the groom's sisters Sarah and Lucy (with, of course her husband Stanislas Boureau) and cousins Josephine Harris, Roz Pulvertaft (with her husband James Longfield) and Belinda (Bin) Pulvertaft.

As with Lucy's wedding, we were blessed with fine weather - which was fortunate as there is no practical alternative for a hundred people to get from the church to Tucketts other than by foot - and our celebrations continued well into the night.

Having gathered their belongings together from houses and attics on both sides of the border, the bride and groom have set up home in Plymouth.



GRIFFITH VALUATION AND TITHE APPLLOTMENT BOOKS

Two invaluable sources which give an insight into the extent and distribution of families in Ireland in the middle of the 19th century are "The Primary Valuation of Tenements 1848-1864" undertaken by Sir Richard Griffith and the Tithe Applotment Books.

The Griffith Valuation was intended to establish the amount of tax each tenant should pay towards the support of the poor and destitute within the Poor Law Union. It was printed as a Government project in over two hundred volumes and, as it includes the name of the occupier or tenant of each property, goes some way to filling the gap left by the destruction of the census records at the Public Record Office in 1922.

The Tithe Applotment Books stem from an act of 1823 which provided tithes to the clergy of each parish in money rather than in kind. As with the Valuation, the books list those tenants who were liable to pay the tithes to the Established Protestant Church, regardless of their religion.

In 1970 the National Library of Ireland published an index of all the surnames included in both sources which therefore span the period of about 1824-1860. The index is divided into county sections, each of which has two parts. Part 1 lists for each surname its frequency of occurrence in each barony in the Griffith Valuation while also showing if the surname occurs in the barony in the Tythe Applotment Books. It thus provides an analysis of the statistical distribution of surnames for the whole country. Part 2 shows the number of times the name occurs in a given parish in the Griffith Valuation and whether the name occurs in the same parish in the Tithe Applotment Books. The index has been reproduced on microfiche so that it is more readily available to researchers.

Every county index was searched for Pulvertaft and Pulvertoft entries but none was found except two in Cork (East) - Cork also having (SW) and (NW) sectors.

The entries there were both in the Griffith Valuation in the parish of St Mary Shandon; and both in Blarney Lane. The Valuation has columns for: map ref. no., occupier, immediate lessor, description, area and net annual value of the land and the buildings.

Thomas Pulvertoff is the subject of both entries. For the first - No 219 - he is listed as both the occupier and the lessor, the description being a "house, yard and garden" with a net annual value of 7/- for the land and £1:8:0 for the buildings. For the second entry - No 221 - the occupier is "vacant" while Thomas is named as the lessor; it also being a "house, yard and garden" with the equivalent values shown as 8/- and £1:2:0.

The Thomas referred to is undoubtedly the father figure of the modern Pulvertaft family - shown as M010 on page 51 of Vol 3, No 7 - confirmed by the fact that he and his wife, Mary Anne, were living in Blarney Lane when their sons were baptised - John in 1848 and Thomas Mahony in 1853.

From the broader perspective one can certainly say that in the mid 19th century the Pulvertafts were simply not widespread in Cork or Tipperary; let alone Ireland more generally. The absence of individuals in these indexes reinforces the suggestion that one or two members of the family arrived from England in an earlier century, after which the family slowly drifted south into county Cork and grew to its maximum size at the end of the last century - Thomas Pulvertaft of Blarney Lane being in some way responsible.

NOTES & QUERIES

Several members of the family have been in touch to say that they have heard from the Publishing Director of Burke's Peerage to say that he has been working on a project relating to the Pulvertaft family name and that he is now ready to publish "The Burke's Peerage World Book of Pulvertafts". The letter continues that, after searching over 170 million households, the company has compiled the most extensive worldwide registry of families bearing the Pulvertaft surname today and that the resulting - Pulvertaft 1995 International Directory - will feature in the book.

Reading between the lines, I predict this will be a beginners' guide to family history; with chapters on the meaning of names, heraldry, emigration, etc., with a computer based listing of members of our family. As I will be fascinated to find exactly who they will include in the International Directory, I have ordered a copy and will report what they have discovered. As the closing date for orders was 27th October, it may well be that I can include this in the June 1996 issue.

Birth

Congratulations to Lucy and Stanislas Boureau on the birth of their son, Robin Pulvertaft Boureau, on 8th December 1995 at Rennes, France.

Marriage

For details of the marriage of Rupert Pulvertaft see pages 68 and 69 of this issue.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death is recorded on 2nd August of William John Hoskin OBE, husband of Marjorie Roberta (nee Pulvertaft).