

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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EDITORIAL

I write this edition of Pulvertaft Papers from the familiar surroundings of my study at Tucketts, from which all 21 newsletters have been written, even though the first 10 were printed on letter-press machines in my barn and not via the word-processor which I have used since the start of Volume 2. I mention this fact, not because I plan to move from Trusham, but rather because I leave the Royal Navy next month and the continuity which the Service has provided can no longer be guaranteed.

If Mary Rose and I are able influence our future, we will continue to have our base here - irrespective of my next source of income - indeed one of my options is to work from home and then the only hazard which I would foresee to these papers would be my ability to find new material to fill their pages.

Thus, despite the uncertain future of the researcher, editor, typist and dispatch clerk, we look forward to a continuity of family business through Volume 3.

SOME PULVERTOFTS OF WITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK

Gilbert Pulvertoft, of Witchingham, gent, was introduced in Volume 2 of these papers because, in his will of 1559, he bequeathed to his son "... my swannes mark" and, in so doing, opened the door to the fascinating subject of swan ownership in the 15th to 19th centuries - q.v. Vol 2, p 2.

Gilbert bequeathes what he describes as "...my landes tenement houses and messuage with theire appurtennure as well of the freehold as copieholde landes houses and tenemente lienge within the paryshes of Wysbyche and Lemyngton within the counties of Norff and Cambridgeshyre or elsewhere" to his sons William and Gilbert, both of whom were minors when he wrote the will. He also leaves significant amounts of money for this early Elizabethan period: £60 to Danyell Sutton, £40 to Elizabeth Sutton (sister of Daniel), £90 to his son Gilbert etc. It is, however, noteworthy that he makes no mention of his wife.

In the hope of discovering more, the registers of Witchingham were examined at the Norfolk Record Office, Norwich - to be precise the registers of Great and Little Witchingham. Little Witchingham was clearly a very small parish as its early register (itself only measuring about 4ins x 11ins & bound in a thin vellum sleeve) managed to contain all the burials from 1588 to 1669 on three pages. There were no Pulvertoft baptisms, marriages or burials.

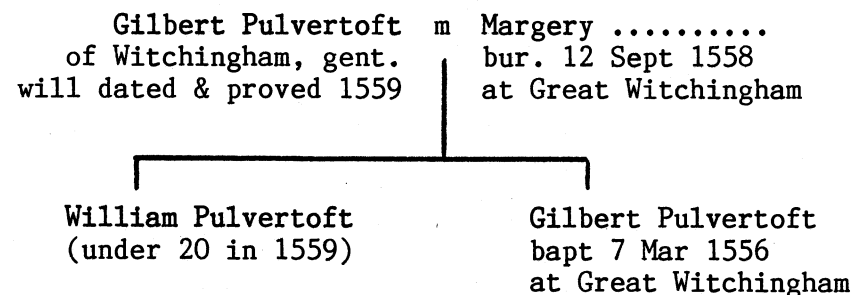
Great Witchingham was more productive, even though the burial of Gilbert Pulvertoft between 20 Sept 1559 (when he made his will) and 26 Nov 1559 (when it was proved) was not to be found. There was, however in the baptisms:

1556 Gilberd Pulvertofte the sonne of Mr Pulu'tofte was baptised 7 March

Note the use of the style "Mr" in the baptismal entry as all the other references to fathers that year used their Christian name - but we know from the property that he owned that Gilbert was a man of some standing. While there were no Pulvertoft marriages from the start of the register in 1539 to the end of the search in 1585, a search of the burials from 1539 to 1610 revealed:

1558 Margerye Pulvertofte was buried 12 Sept

As there is no corresponding baptism, this burial is unlikely to have been that of a daughter of Gilbert and is most probably that of his wife, which would explain why she was not named in his will dated 1559. If this is correct, the Witchingham family may be drawn:



How was it that, despite Gilbert describing himself in his will as being "of Witchingham, gent.", he was not buried there? Did he move away shortly before he died so that his two young sons could be looked after by others of the family? Did he go to "Wysbyche" or "Lemyngton" where he said he owned land, or does Swanmark ownership provide the clue? The latter (Vol 2, page 3) relates to the family tree of Vol 1, pp 4 & 5 but if this is changed to that shown in Vol 2, page 69, the similarity to the scrap above is obvious. Wonderful, but where did he die?

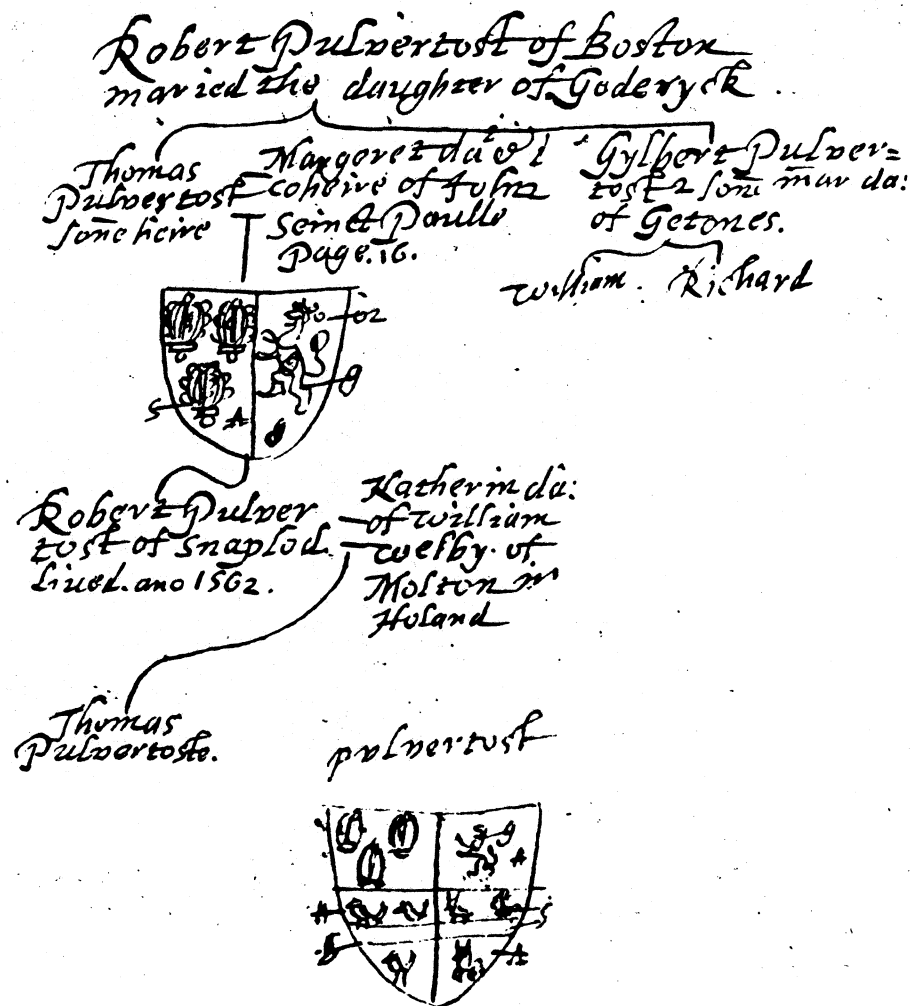
MORE PULVERTOFT HERALDRY

A short article on Pulvertoft heraldry was included in Vol 1 of these papers (pp 58-61) and was illustrated with sketches from Harl MS 1550. These appear to show that the Pulvertofts used in their coats of arms at one time or another either a mullet & fleurs-de-lis or three maces, even though neither is recorded in the manuscripts of the College of Arms - vide Vol 2, p 68. The first article also mentioned that Harl MS 1484 shows a different quarterly Pulvertoft arms to that of Harl MS 1550 as the mullet and fleurs-de-lis of the first quarter are replaced with three maces.

The relevant corner of Harl MS 1484, Folio 21 is now reproduced opposite on the principle that a picture paints a thousand words. The picture also shows how the herald believed that the arms were derived; with Thomas Pulvertoft of the second generation using the Pulvertoft maces and the St Paul lion rampant, while Robert - after his marriage to Katherine Welby - seems to have added the quarters which were attributed in the article in Vol 1 to the families of Snarford and Chambers.

This apparent alternative use of either a mullet & fleurs-de-lis or three maces may also account for a sketch in a manuscript at Queen's College, Oxford (MS 92) The manuscript includes a Pulvertoft pedigree with quarterly arms identical to those shown on page 60 of Vol 1 and, at the back of the volume, a page divided into panels, each holding a shield - one of which is named "Pulvertoft". The shield contains a pencil sketch of the quarterly arms shown on page 60 of Vol 1, on which has been superimposed in ink three maces, sable.

A better knowledge of the sequence of the visitations from which these manuscripts were written would help to understand their relevance but, as they all date from the second half of the 16th century, they are valuable.



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GUY PULVERTAFT REMEMBERED

Friday 22nd May was certainly a Red Letter Day for the City of Derby this year as Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to officially open the newly refurbished "Queen's Leisure Centre" and the "Guy Pulvertaft Hand Clinic" at the Derby Royal Infirmary - one of the hospitals of the Trent and South Derbyshire Health Authority.

The sun shone and, in the words of the Queen's representative in Derbyshire - Lord Lieutenant Colonel Peter Hilton, "...it was the best Royal visit we have ever had and the Queen enjoyed herself tremendously because of the warmth of Derbyshire people."

The ceremony at the Royal Infirmary took place in the "Guy Pulvertaft Library", established in his memory after his death and containing many of his books and medical papers. Mr Frank Burke - the present orthopaedic surgeon who specialises in hand surgery at the DRI - presented to Her Majesty Dr Shaw Wilgis (an American surgeon who had trained under Mr Guy Pulvertaft at Derby) and Dr and Mrs Roger Pulvertaft (son and daughter-in-law of the late Guy Pulvertaft).

To mark the occasion, Her Majesty unveiled a plaque which, for the record says:

THE GUY PULVERTAFT HAND CLINIC
OPENED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MAY 22ND 1992



Talking to the Queen are Dr Roger Pulvertaft and his wife Lesley Pulvertaft. In the background is Dr Shaw Wilgis and a photograph of Mr Guy Pulvertaft, CBE.

NOTES & QUERIES

An glimpse of the cost of living during the reign of George III is provided in Vol I of "Old Lincolnshire", a Pictorial Quarterly Magazine published from 1883 at the Old Lincolnshire Press, Stamford. The article is called: "A Ball Assembly at Spalding in 1792" and records the "Account" and the "Company Present" for a New Year's Eve party at the Town Hall.

59 people attended, each paying 2s.6d. for supper. They drank well, consuming 5 bottles of Madeira, 23 bottles of Sherry, 16 bottles of Port as well as a quantity of punch and ale. However, they got good value for money (at least by today's standards) as the Madeira was 5/- a bottle and the Sherry and Port 3/6 and 2/6 respectively. It isn't clear what sort of a ball it was but the musicians were only paid a total of 3/- .

"Mr Pulvertoft" is listed amongst the Company Present though there are no Pulvertoft ladies. One can safely assume that this was Thomas Pulvertoft of Spalding, gent, who can be seen in the pedigree of the Pulvertofts of Horncastle, Spalding and Gedney in Vol 1, pp 20 & 21. Also at the ball were members of the Wainman and Richards families who feature in the Spalding pedigree.

Thomas Pulvertoft was only 28 when he went to that ball and, though he lived to the age of 80, he appears never to have married.

Birth

Congratulations to Rosemary Caroline (Rose) and to Jeremy Pulvertaft Stephenson on the birth of their son, George Pulvertaft Stephenson, on 18th December 1991 at Oxford.