

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

*Published by Rear Admiral D. M. Pulvertaft,
Tucketts, Trusham, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0NR.*

Vol 3

June 1993

No 4

EDITORIAL

As readers will see from the main article of this issue, the last few weeks at Trusham have been somewhat preoccupied with preparations for a Pulvertaft marriage here. At one stage I thought that it would be advisable to send out this issue before the event so that it would not be delayed but, as it seemed to me that the two Pulvertaft weddings which have taken place since Christmas were well worth recording, I decided to include the event and accept the delay.

The second article looks at the wide range of ancient Pulvertoft wills which I have owned for years and which have formed the basis of many of the articles on family groups but which I have not previously assessed as a subject in its own right. Had space allowed, I might have added the Pulvertoft Administrations as these were proved in the same courts and were mentioned when the family inventories were discussed in Vol 2, No 6. I will consider these, and the wills which emerge on pp 30 & 31 as not having been previously analysed, in future issues.

TWO PULVERTAFT MARRIAGES

As predicted in the last issue if these papers, there were two Pulvertaft marriages in the first half of 1993, one in the heart of Westminster in early January, the other in the depths of Devon in late June.

It was at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Saturday 2nd January that Rosalind (Roz), second daughter of Michael and Ann Pulvertaft, married James Longfield, son of Brigadier and Mrs Desmond Longfield of Downton, Wiltshire. The church had been chosen because both the bride and groom live and work in London and Michael and Ann had been married there almost exactly 34 years earlier (vide Pulvertaft Papers Vol 1, p 15).

The day was a masterpiece of long range planning as Michael and Ann did not fly in from Australia until the early hours of Christmas Day, preceded by their youngest daughter, Belinda (Bin), and followed in the nick of time by their eldest daughter Caroline Giardini (Caz). That did not complete the Australian contingent as Michael's cousin Alison Evans (née Pulvertaft) had also arrived from her home in Toowoomba, Queensland.

As the only Pulvertaft aunt and uncle of the bride, Mary Rose and I led the English contingent with our three children, Rupert, Sarah and Lucy - Sarah being a bridesmaid with her cousin, Bin, and Lucy watching form with her fiancé, Stanislas Boureau.

And there were more. Alison Evans's elder sister, Clare Lim (née Pulvertaft) had come from Putney, and her younger brother Dr Roger Pulvertaft, and his wife Lesley, had come from Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire. Michael's other first cousin, Diane Stephenson (née Pulvertaft), had travelled with her husband Richard from Oxfordshire.

The grand total of fifteen people who have, or still

do, enjoy living under the name of Pulvertaft gathered at St Martin in the Fields and then at 108 Old Brompton Road; creating the largest gathering of the family in living memory.

By contrast, the marriage on Saturday 26th June at St Michael's, Trusham, of my younger daughter, Lucy, to Stanislas, elder son of Victor and Françoise Boureau of Goven, Brittany, was a country wedding. The village church is tiny, being of Norman origin, and - 'though some of its bells date from the 17th century - they were only restored to working order a month before the wedding, having been silent for the previous seventeen years. The marriage ceremony was conducted in English but the bride and groom made their vows in both English and French and there were readings and prayers in both languages. Sarah Pulvertaft - sister of the bride - was the bridesmaid and Captain Rupert Pulvertaft, Royal Marines - brother of the bride - was the principal usher.

After the service, all breathed a sigh of relief that it was a beautifully sunny afternoon as the bride and groom then led a procession of wedding guests down the hill and through the balloon-decorated village to Tucketts where this Anglo-French union was celebrated under colourful clusters of flags comprising the Union Flag, the Tricolour and the "Gwen a du" of Brittany.

While there was not the record number of the family that had attended Roz Pulvertaft's wedding in January, there were messages from various Pulvertafts scattered round the world and it was good that Dr David Brunson, who now spends part of his year in Canada and part of it in Devon - and whose mother was born Grace Elizabeth Pulvertaft - was amongst the guests.

In true Breton style, the celebrations continued well into Sunday.



James and Roz with their two bridesmaids,
Belinda and Sarah Pulvertaft.



Stanislas and Lucy with best man, Hugh, bridesmaid, Sarah
and parents of the bride, Mary Rose and David Pulvertaft.

A LIST OF PULVERTOFT WILLS

Frequent reference has been made in these papers to the wills of members of the Pulvertoft family as they provide a contemporary source of information about the family in terms of both its lineage and its status.

Photocopies of the wills themselves, or genealogical abstracts from them, provide a great deal of information for a study such as this, but clues also emerge from the chronological list. The columns below contain:- the year and the court in which the will was proved: the Christian name of the Pulvertoft making the will: their status: where they lived (village/town and county): and finally - where appropriate - the volume and page of these papers in which the will has previously been mentioned.

1451	ERL	Katherine	.....	Boston	Lin	....
1505	CCN	Ralph	clerk	Norwich	Nfk	1.79
1511	PCC	Alice	widow	Yaxley	Sfk	....
1523	ACS	Robert	.....	Ipswich	Sfk	....
1524-7	ACN	Elizabeth	widow	Ecton	Nth	1.03
1539	ACN	William	priest	Northampton	Nth	....
1541	CCL	Nicholas	.....	Algarkirk	Lin	1.66
1546	ACN	William	clerk	Easton	Nth	1.03
1547	CCL	John	taylor	Swineshead	Lin	1.42
1558	CCL	Isabel	widow	Swineshead	Lin	1.42
1558	CCL	Richard	husb.	Uppr Toynton	Lin	....
1558	PCC	Robert	gent.	Iwerne Minst	Dor	1.50
1559	PCC	Gilbert	gent.	Wichingham	Nfk	2.02
						/3.10
1561	CCL	John	.....	Leverton	Lin	....
1565	CCL	Simon	taylor	Swineshead	Lin	1.42
1577	PCC	William	gent.	Boston	Lin	1.50
1577	CCL	William	husb.	Swineshead	Lin	1.42
1580	CCL	John	yeo.	Algarkirk	Lin	1.66
1584	CCL	Richard	.....	Wigtoft	Lin	2.34
1591	CCL	Thomas	husb.	Wigtoft	Lin	2.23
						/2.34

1595	CCL	Thomas	yeo.	Kirton	Lin	2.54
1600	CCL	George	husb.	Swineshead	Lin	1.43
1620	CCL	Henry	husb.	Swineshead	Lin	1.43
1620	CCL	Rachel	widow	Swineshead	Lin	1.43
1624	CCL	John	yeo.	Algarkirk	Lin	1.10
1624	CCL	Thomas	husb.	Wigtoft	Lin	2.34
1625	CCL	Elizabeth	widow	Wigtoft	Lin	2.34
1638	CCL	William	.....	Sutterton	Lin	2.22
1694	PCC	Thomas	gent.	Algarkirk	Lin	3.06
1696	PCC	John	apoth.	Kings Kynn	Nfk	3.02
1730	CCL	Robert	apoth.	Horncastle	Lin	1.18
1788	PCC	Ann	widow	Peterbor'h	Nth	
				/Spalding	Lin	1.18
1788	CCL	Robert	gent.	Gedney	Lin	1.18
1844	PCC	Thomas	esq.	Spalding	Lin	
				/Wisbeach	Cam	1.19

Of the 34 wills, the majority were proved in the Consistory Court of Lincoln (CCL), 'though a dozen were proved in the higher Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). The first in the list is recorded in the Episcopal Register of the ancient diocese of Lincoln (ERL) while others reflect migrations into other jurisdictions: the Consistory Court of Norwich (CCN), and the Archdeaconry Courts of Suffolk (ACS) and Northampton (ACN).

Almost three quarters of the Pulvertofts who made these wills came from Lincolnshire and, except for the Dorset excursion, none had mover further afield than East Anglia. Perhaps more importantly, the list shows that twice as many Pulvertoft wills were made and proved in the 16th century as were in the 17th, and the same is true for the next two centuries; a statistic which supports other evidence of the steady reduction in the family's size over the years.

If readers are aware of other Pulvertoft wills, their details would be most welcome.

NOTES & QUERIES

My thanks to Ruth Bridgeman for sending a cutting from the Independent of 27th March in which Keith Botsford writes about his culinary prejudices. The part which caught her eye was:

"I have very few things I do not like; and to my knowledge, there are none I will not eat. I may have recounted the story of Lalage Pulvertaft but it bears repeating, because it shows that hospitality may go wrong despite the best intentions. On this occasion we were being offered dinner in Miss Pulvertaft's father's apartment in the Inns of Court (I seem to recall her father was a judge) and her appetisers were sticks of fresh celery, her opening course, perfectly conventionally, grapefruit slices, and her pudding, baked bananas. In one meal she had contrived to offer me three things I do not much like, for I am fussy about my grapefruit, which must be pink, very fresh and sweet, I like celery only cooked and bananas only raw."

Two things spring to mind. Firstly, I hope Keith Botsford's memory is better about food than it is of occupations as Lalage Pulvertaft's father was certainly not a judge, but Professor of Pathology at Westminster Hospital; and secondly, I hope it was not the headline which made the Pulvertaft name leap out of the paper, as the article was written under the title "A Bad Oyster from the Barrell"!

Marriages

For details of the marriages of Rosalind Pulvertaft and Lucy Pulvertaft see pages 26 to 29 of this issue.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death is recorded of Phyllis Louise Colton, née Pulvertaft, on 22nd May 1993 at Plymouth, Devon.