

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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

Vol 3

June 1994

No 6

EDITORIAL

I include in this issue the first of what could develop into an occasional series of articles about the houses in which the Pulvertoft family of Lincolnshire lived. Despite the fact that there were Pulvertofts in Lincolnshire for over six centuries, the physical evidence is sparse. Of course there are many written records most usually associated with their births, their marriages and their deaths, but - when it comes to nameplates - only "Pulvertoft Hall" near Gedney and "Pulvertoft Lane" in Boston spring to mind. For this first article on the family's houses I have selected Pulvertoft Hall.

If readers know of other houses or buildings with which members of the Pulvertoft family were associated, I would be pleased to hear from them with whatever details are available. I will add the details to my records and the house names I will add to my list which, I have to confess, is shorter than I would wish.

PULVERTOFT HALL - GEDNEY

The only reference to the Pulvertofts of Lincolnshire which appears in the modern series of Ordnance Survey maps is "PULVERTOFT HALL" of Gedney Fen. For the purist, it can be found on Sheet 131 at grid reference 401217; for the motorist, you simply turn south from the A17 at Gedney, fork right at Gedney Broadgate and drive for a mile into Gedney Fen.

The fens are now, of course, well drained and have become extremely fertile agricultural land and it is in this setting that the three storey brick-built farmhouse stands at the junction of Broadgate and Cade Drove. See pages 44 & 45.

The deeds which relate to the property are held in the offices of a firm of Spalding solicitors who were good enough to allow access to them. Some of the early ones show quite clearly for which branch of the Pulvertoft family the house was built, even though they do not give the exact date.

Amongst the papers is the notice of sale which is reproduced opposite - if for no other reason than to show the art of the printer in 1870 - with hardly two lines being of the same typeface. Its attached plan shows how the 130 acres were to be auctioned in ten lots - some freehold and some copyhold - while an 1871 covenant to surrender and release the legal rights and conveyance states that the freehold parts of the estate were formerly copyhold of the Manors of Gedney Welby, alias Scroope; and Gedney Burlion and the copyhold parts were held of the Manors of Gedney Abbott and Gedney Pawlett.

Many of the documents in the solicitor's bundles describe the transfer of interest in these manors in the first half of the 19th century.

GEDNEY & LUTTON, Lincolnshire.

Particulars, Plan, and Conditions of Sale

OF

THE PULVERTOFT HALL

E S T A T E,

SITUATE AS ABOVE

AND COMPRISING A

FIRST-CLASS RESIDENCE,

WITH

YARDS, GARDENS, and suitable Agricultural BUILDINGS.

ALSO

TWO LABOURER'S COTTAGES,

AND

130a. 1r. 28p.

(MORE OR LESS,) OF VERY RICH

GRAZING AND ARABLE LANDS,

With Two Common Rights in the Salt Marsh of Gedney,

Late the Property of Mr. JOHN SNUSHALL, deceased,

Which will be offered for **SALE** by **PUBLIC AUCTION,**

BY

Messrs. COLE and KINGSTON,

(Who are jointly concerned on this occasion.)

AT THE BULL INN, LONG SUTTON,

ON FRIDAY, THE 4TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1870,

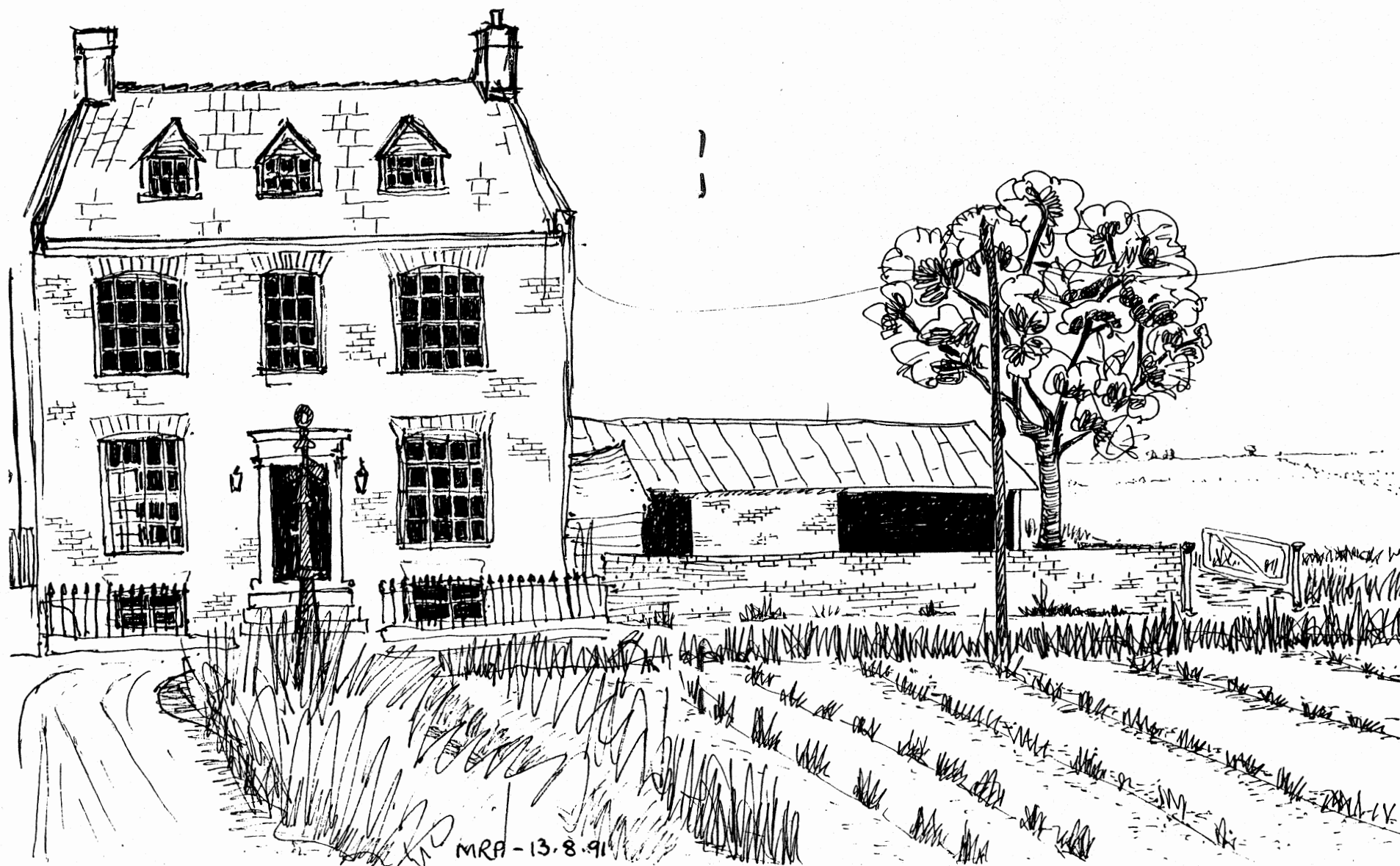
At 3 for 4 o'clock in the Afternoon,

In 10 Lots, or such others as may be then determined upon.

To view the Estate apply to Mr. Thomas William Snushall, Gedney; and for further Particulars to Mr. Wright Copping, Whaplode, or Mr. Henry Cole Bailey, Tydd St. Mary, (the Trustees for Sale); the Auctioneers, Long Sutton and Spalding, or at our Office in Wisbech.

FRASER & WATSON,
SOLICITORS.

PULVERTOFT HALL



The document of greatest family history interest is an Abstract of the Title made in January 1871 after the death of the then owner, Mr John Snushall.

The abstract starts with reference to the will, dated 29th February 1808, of Judith Richards of Spalding, widow, who left the property to Mary Ann Pulvertoft of Gedney (daughter of her late nephew, Robert Pulvertoft of Gedney, gent.); unless Mary Ann should die without issue, in which case the property should go to her other nephew, Thomas Pulvertoft of Spalding, Esq. [These relationships can be seen at a glance in the pedigree titled "The Pulvertofts of Horncastle, Spalding & Gedney" printed in Vol I, No 3 of these papers in December 1982.]. The will of Judith Richards was proved in the PCC by Thomas Pulvertoft on 20th March 1812.

The abstract continues with a lengthy indenture made in October 1812 between Francis Thirkill the younger of Boston, gent, & Mary Ann his wife (of the 1st part), Thomas Pulvertoft of Spalding Esq (of the 2nd part) and John Thirkill of Brasen Nose College Oxford, gent (of the 3rd part). [Again see Vol I, No 3 for the marriage of Mary Ann Pulvertoft to Francis Thirkill].

Next listed is an indenture in January 1829 which records £1240 being paid by Francis Thirkill to Thomas Pulvertoft as a condition of the will of Judith Richards and another in 1840 which describes the next generation of the Thirkill family who are listed as: Francis Pulvertoft Thirkill, Mary Ann Maillard, Julia Thirkill, Ann Thirkill and Thomas Pulvertoft Thirkill. The use of the surname "Pulvertoft" as a second Christian name was obviously in vogue at that period as can again be seen in the 1982 family tree where "Keightley", "Richards" and "Tunnard" are also used. The 1840 indenture also records that Francis Thirkill (husband of Mary Ann) died on or about 23rd November 1839.

So what light does this bundle of legal documents shine on the Pulvertofts, and does it provide any clues as to why it was called Pulvertoft Hall?

We know that Judith Richards was born in 1729 or 1730 the daughter of John and Ann Pulvertoft of Peterborough, that she married John Richards on 12th July 1768 in Wykam Chapel and that she died on 9th November 1811. She had a brother, John, who was the father of the two nephews mentioned in the documents - Robert Pulvertoft and Thomas Pulvertoft. Her father, John died in 1731 and her mother, Ann, in 1788 and, while he did not appear to have left a will, she did.

When Judith's father, John, died in 1731; both she and her brother were infants and whatever property he owned would have been inherited by his wife, Ann - whether or not it included Pulvertoft Hall. Judith's mother, Ann, survived her husband by 57 years and, although she left property to her daughter in her will, it was in Peterborough and not Gedney.

There would appear to be two possible explanations. Perhaps the house was built for John Pulvertoft before his death in 1731 and passed to his daughter Judith, when she was mature or even when she married John Richards in 1768. This would explain why it was called Pulvertoft Hall and yet was not included in her mother's will in 1787. Alternatively, it may have been built for Judith after her marriage to John Richards and named Pulvertoft Hall in recognition of her family name. We know that John Richards was a man of sufficient standing to have a substantial house built for him in Spalding so he might have had a farm built too. Perhaps the building can be accurately dated by others who are expert in Lincolnshire architecture and this will eliminate one of the options - or even suggest another.

NOTES & QUERIES

My thanks to those of you who answered my call for copies of Pulvertaft wedding photographs to add to my collection and as potential illustrations for future issues of these papers. It's never too late for more.

Particularly poignant was that taken at the wedding of Arthur Stanley Pulvertaft (M94R) to Annie Roux (Nee Alexander) (M96R) at Fordsbury, Johannesburg on 10 July 1937. His daughter, Cynthia Wagner (M100S), had found it for me at Christmas to send with her son, Karl, when he was visiting the UK in the spring. Unfortunately he also brought with him the sad news of his grandfather's death which is recorded below.

* * * * *

My thanks also to David Brunsdon for allowing me access to the papers of his late mother, Grace Elizabeth Brunsdon (nee Pulvertaft) (M29R). One cutting from the "Lady's Pictorial" of August 1913 recorded the marriage of Miss Denroche to Mr Dudgeon and was interesting on two counts: firstly it included cameo photographs of the bride and groom - a great bonus to family historians - and secondly it misprinted Pulvertaft as Pulvertoft. It noted: "At St Phillip's Church, Milltown, Dublin, by the Rev. T.J.Pulvertoft (uncle of the bride)..... The bridesmaids were Miss Grace Pulvertoft (cousin)...."

If they could get it wrong in 1913, how much easier it must have been in 1650.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death is recorded of Arthur Stanley Pulvertaft on 29 January 1994 at Johannesburg, South Africa.