

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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EDITORIAL

This edition of Pulvertaft Papers reports the findings of census returns from both sides of the Atlantic. Each represents a "snapshot" on one particular day of all the men, women and children living in the area being recorded and thus provides a perspective of the family not available elsewhere.

While certain conclusions can be drawn about the movement and distribution of a family such as ours, the results leave lots of questions unanswered. How is it, for instance, that the US Federal Census for 1870 includes six Pulvertafts and that of 1880 includes seven while that of 1890 has none? Incomplete indexing of the last is partly to blame; helped by the fact that, when the young women of the family get married during the ten year interval, their maiden name disappears from the Census. More research and more indexes in the public domain will certainly clarify the situation.

Wishing all my readers a Happy Christmas.

D.M.P.

CENSUS RESULTS FROM THE UNITED STATES

Computers and the Internet are opening up the frontiers of family history information in a way that would not have seemed possible when Pulvertaft Papers were first printed in 1981. The Federal Censuses of the United States are good examples; published by "*Ancestry.com*" and accessed via the Internet. There are indexed censuses at ten-year intervals from 1790 to 1890 and, even though these must have errors and omissions, they provide an overall view of the distribution of families for the period.

There are no Pulvertafts recorded in the censuses from 1790 to 1860 but in the "1870 United States Federal Census" six Pulvertafts are listed: John [36][Plumber], Anna [23][Keeps House], Anna [4/12], Mary A [17], John [15][Clerk in Telegraph Office] and Emma [12]. All were living in the same house in the City of Plainfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey. John and Anna are said to have been born in Ireland while the children were born in New Jersey

The 1880 Census lists seven Pulvertafts – all still in New Jersey but now in the City of Newark, County of Essex. In this census they are described as: John [53][Plumber], Annie [Wife – 30][Keeping House], Annae [Dau – 10][Attending School], John [Son – 24][Shoemaker], Emma [Dau – 22][Box Maker] and Isabella [Dau – 6]. Mary Pulvertaft [24][Servant] is listed in the household of Edward and Ann Dixon, another Irish family of Newark.

There are discrepancies between the two censuses; for example, John was stated as being aged 36 in 1870 and 53 in 1880 and his wife is named as Anna in 1870 and Annie in 1880. These are simply errors by the person providing the information or the enumerator in recording it but the two families are, undoubtedly, one and the same and, as John and Annie were each born in Ireland, it can be assumed that they emigrated from there to the United States.

When this information is combined with that published in Dec 1983 under "*Some Early American Pulvertafts*", the scrap pedigree on

pages 60 results, each individual having been allocated a unique number in the "U" for United States series. These were not the first Pulvertafts to have lived in New Jersey as we know that one Robert Pulvertaft married a Mary Gray in Westfield in 1774 (PPs Vol 1, p 39), even though they do not appear in subsequent census returns.

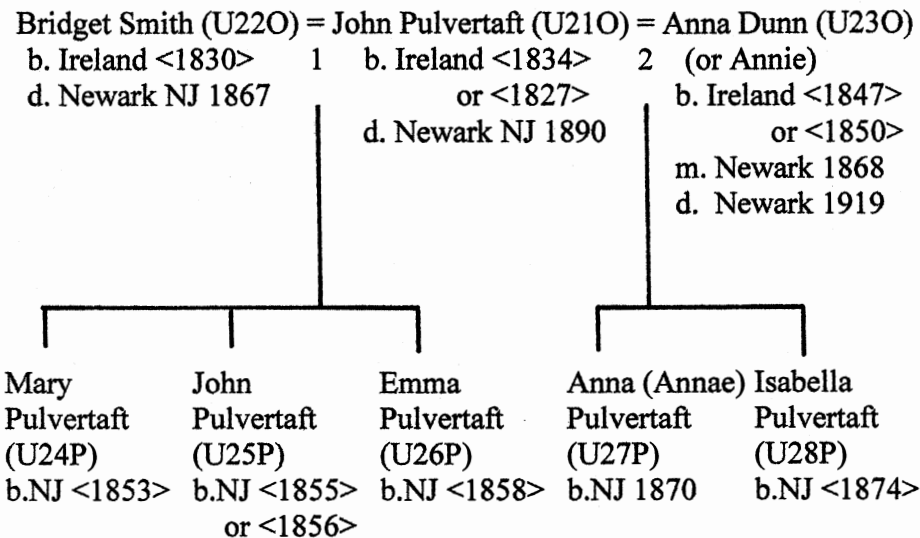
The fact that, in the 1880 Census, Mary (U24P) is shown as a servant in the Newark house of Edward and Ann Dixon provides a clue to where John (U21O) may have come from. The records of the Cork parish of St Anne's Shandon show that one John Dixon was the supervisor at the baptism of John Pulvertaft on 11 June 1826. A John Dixon [aged 78] was living with his son, Edward, at the time of the 1880 Census and it would seem probable that he was John Pulvertaft's supervisor and the two families emigrated together at some date between 1860 and 1867 – John's first wife, Bridget, having died in 1867 after reaching New Jersey. John Pulvertaft is shown as (C14O) in the Early Cork pedigree (PPs Vol 1, p 37) and, as his brother Thomas (C13O) is also at the head of the "Modern" family (M01O), the link is fairly firmly made between the Irish family and that of New Jersey.

And so to the more modern Census returns. The 1920 Census has no Pulvertaft entries, but that for 1930 has seven: Anna [59] is the only one still living in Newark and is clearly Anna (U27P) of the New Jersey family. The others are living in one household in Brooklyn, New York: John [36][born in New York], Martha [Wife – 35], Madeline [Dau – 15], Rita [Dau – 12], John [Son – 9] and A John [Brother-in-law – 21][Born in Ireland].

This group is shown on page 61 and will be seen to be the first two generations of "The Pulvertafts of the United States" published in 1996 (PPs Vol 3, p 76). Are these two scraps linked? Is John Pulvertaft (U25P) the father of John Pulvertaft (U01Q)? Quite possibly, but this needs confirmation before we can formally state the relationship between the small family living today in the United States and those of the larger "Modern" Pulvertaft family.

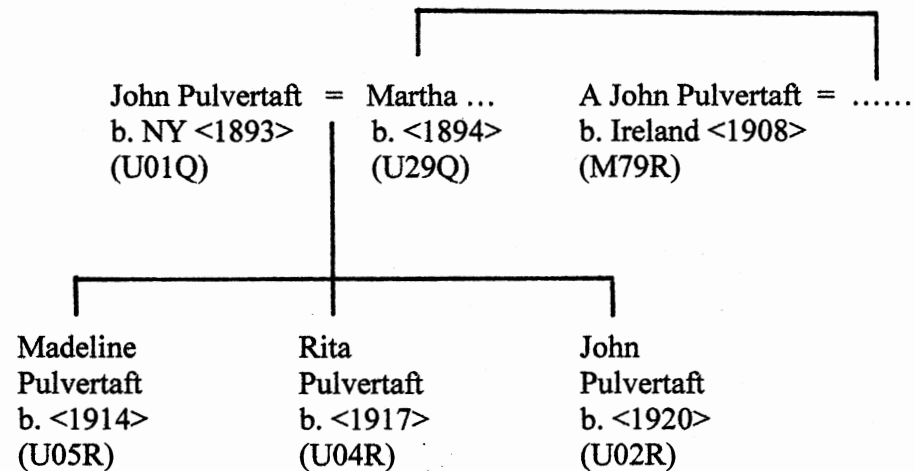
UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUSES

1870 and 1880



Dates of birth derived from quoted ages shown <****>

1930



THE 1901 CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

There was great excitement in 2001 when it was announced that the 1901 Census for England and Wales was to be accessible on the Internet for the first time, allowing family historians and others to have access to the data from the comfort of their homes – all 32,000,000 entries. There was even more coverage in the media when the demand was such that the computer systems crashed and had to be withdrawn for many months while they were re-designed!

When the 1901 Census was searched for the PULVERTOFT surname, no entries were found. This was, of course, expected as the search at the General Register Office of the Index of Deaths made in the early 80s revealed three Pulvertoft deaths in the mid-19th century and one in 1900 that was probably a Pulvertaft (See PPs Vol 1, page 22). The 1901 Census therefore confirms that the PULVERTOFTS had died out in England and Wales by that date.

The picture for the PULVERTAFT surname was not quite as bleak as eight entries were found.

Name	Age	Where Born	Administrative County	Civil Parish
Amos Pulvertaft	18	Ireland	London	Streatham
Barbara Pulvertaft	35	Ireland	London	Streatham
Eileen Pulvertaft	3	Devon Devonport	Devonport	Devonport
Grace Pulvertaft	5	Ireland	London	Streatham
Louisa Pulvertaft	30	Devon Exeter	Devonport	Devonport
Robert Pulvertaft	4	Ireland	London	Streatham
Thomas Pulvertaft	1	Ireland	London	Streatham
Thomas Pulvertaft	34	Ireland	London	Streatham

What is suggested from the summary table is that there were only two Pulvertaft families in England and Wales, one in Streatham, the other in Devonport. The detailed sheets confirm this; the following being the explanation.

Thomas J Pulvertaft is listed as the Head of Family, living at 13 Ramsden Road, Streatham; aged 34, having been born in Ireland and described as a “Clergyman of the Church of England”. His wife is identified as Barbara C Pulvertaft, aged 35, born in Ireland and his three children are Grace E (aged 5), Robert J V (aged 4) and Thomas CB (aged 1) – all three having been born in Ireland. Also living at the house at the time of the census was Amos W Pulvertaft, brother of Thomas J, and described as an “Electrical Engineer Student”. All can easily be identified in the “Modern” family tree, and the census simply tells us where Thomas was living while he was the General Secretary of the Spanish and Portuguese Church Aid Society and that his younger brother was living with him while studying to become an Electrical Engineer.

The two entries from Devonport are from 19 Admiralty Street and are also easy to identify, even though the Head of Family is not included. He will have been Robert John Pulvertaft (M21Q), seen with his wife and daughters in PPs Vol 3 page 21 and, no doubt, away from home with the Royal Navy at the time of the census. His wife, Louisa, is recorded as aged 30 and born in Exeter while his daughter, Eileen, was aged 3 and was born in Devonport.

While the 1901 Census has, therefore, not produced any surprises, it has confirmed that at the start of the 20th Century, the family was still generally living in Ireland. Thomas, the clergyman, and Robert the Naval man were first cousins and had ten or eleven other male Pulvertafts of that generation, some of whom would travel abroad in the years ahead. What the census also shows us is that there were no unexpected Pulvertafts who had broken away and were living in some forgotten corner of the Kingdom or had descended from some other branch of the family.

NOTES & QUERIES

Extracts from a booklet:

"HMS MAIDSTONE – Depot Ship of the First Submarine Flotilla"

"H.M.S. "Maidstone" is a Submarine Depot Ship of the 1935 Programme. She was ordered on 10 April, 1936, laid down on 17 August, 1936, launched on 21st October, 1937 and completed on 5th May, 1938."

"The ship was built by Messrs. John Brown & Co., of Clydebank, Glasgow literally in the shadow of the second monster Atlantic Liner, the R.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth", launched in September, 1938."

"The first Officer to be appointed was Engineer Commander H. Moy, who had served in Submarines for many years and had been the Senior Engineer of H.M.S. "Medway". He joined in May, 1937."

"In September they were joined by the Senior Engineer, Lieutenant-Commander (E) W.G.Pulvertaft, who had come direct from the First Submarine Flotilla, where he had been the Senior Engineer of H.M.S. "Cyclops"."

"On Whit Sunday, 5th June, the first christening was held in the ship's chapel, the infant being the son of Lieutenant-Commander (E) and Mrs Pulvertaft, who had been born in Glasgow on the final day of the ship's trials, 26th March. He was the first of quite a number of babies to be christened in the chapel during the commission."

[By DMP. Herbert Moy was my godfather and, in 1958, presented me his sword. I wore it with pride during my service career.]

Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death is recorded of Marjorie Roberta Hoskin (née Pulvertaft) on 23 April 2003 at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.