

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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Editorial

I had thought that I would devote the major part of this issue to the Pulvertofts of Fosdyke as I was able to spend some time on the Fosdyke Parish Register during a visit to Lincoln in the summer, prompted to that register by the incidence of Pulvertoft baptisms recorded there in the International Genealogical Index. (see Issue 6, page 47)

As I only expected the search to confirm the baptisms and add a few marriages and burials to the list, imagine my delight on opening the first battered little parchment document when I found on page one the baptism in 1560 of 'Leonarde Puluertoft the sonne of John', a baptism not included in the I.G.I. Perhaps they used the Bishops Transcripts as their source document. However, I wasn't able to finish reading the register and my analysis of that branch will have to wait until another issue.

I have therefore included on pages 50-53 & 56 what I call the Pulvertofts of Dorset. Perhaps more reading there will support or disprove my assessment that they were temporary migrants from Lincolnshire.

The Pulvertofts of Dorset

Pulvertofts are mentioned in a number of Dorset records of the 16th century but the will of Robert Pulvertoft the elder, dated 7 May 1557 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in October 1558, shows that they came from Lincolnshire while that of William Pulvertoft, dated 24 June 1572 and proved P. C. C. Feb. 1577, implies that they returned there after two or three generations.

Robert Pulvertoft (I07D) lived in Iwerne Minster, he described himself as a gentleman and made a will which is what every family historian dreams of! He asked for prayers to be said for "Robert Pulvertoft and Maudelyn (also Mawde) his wife, granndefather and granndemother to my father, and for Philipp and Mawde his wife, my granndefather and granndemother and for Robert Pulvertoft and Julian (also Juliam) my father and mother". He made bequests to his sons Robert and William and his daughters Joanne (also Joane), Edith the elder, Edith the younger, Agnes and Margery. Later in the will he named the husbands and children of two of the daughters, allowing the family group on pages 52 & 53 to be drawn. He said that both his parents were buried in Iwerne Minster but that his ancestors came from Holbeach in Lincolnshire.

In making his bequests, he named the places where he owned land or property, including: Bagber, Blandford Forum, Fontmell Magna, Iwerne Minster, Lydlinch, Piddlehinton, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton, North Cadbury (Somerset) and Holbeach and Whaplode (Lincs). He also had an income from the parsonage of Hinton and Margaret Marsh. In describing his properties he quoted a number of house and field names and those of the previous owners - a potential local history study one day?

While there is no proof that the William Pulvertoft who made his will in 1572 was the son of Robert (I07D), there are facts which suggest he was; he bequeathed land in Dorset, Somerset & Lincolnshire, named a sister Margery and one of the witnesses to his will was a Robert Kinge. He left most of his property to 'my brother Walter Whitte'. Could he have married Agnes Pulvertoft (I14E)?

Other references to Pulvertofts in Dorset include:

'John Seymer of Hanford, living in the 22nd Edw. IV [1483-4] m. a daughter of William Pulvertopp and was succeeded by a son' (History of the Commoners of Great Britain & Ireland - J. Burke.)

'35 Hen. VIII [1544-5] a messuage and tenement called Rome-house, four closes of land, twenty acres . . . and licence to alienate Robert Pulvertoft of Iwerne Minster who held the premises 6 Edw. IV 17 Edw. IV [1467-8 to 1478-9] . . . ' (History & Antiquities of the County of Dorset - J. Hutchins. (1873))

Dorset Recoveries, 4 Hen. VIII [1513-14] Robert Frampton, gen. v William Pulvertoste - lands in Blandford Forum, Sturminster Newton Castell & Bagler. (Notes & Queries for Somerset & Dorset, Vol. VI (1899))

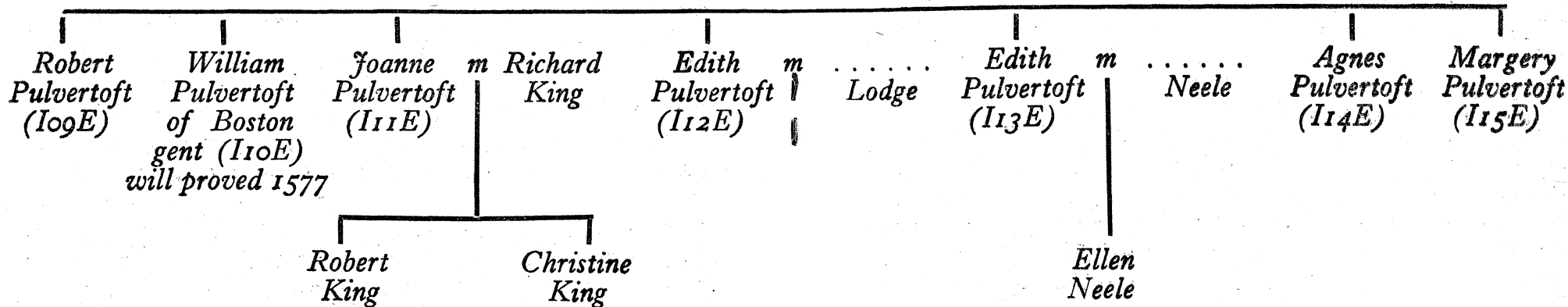
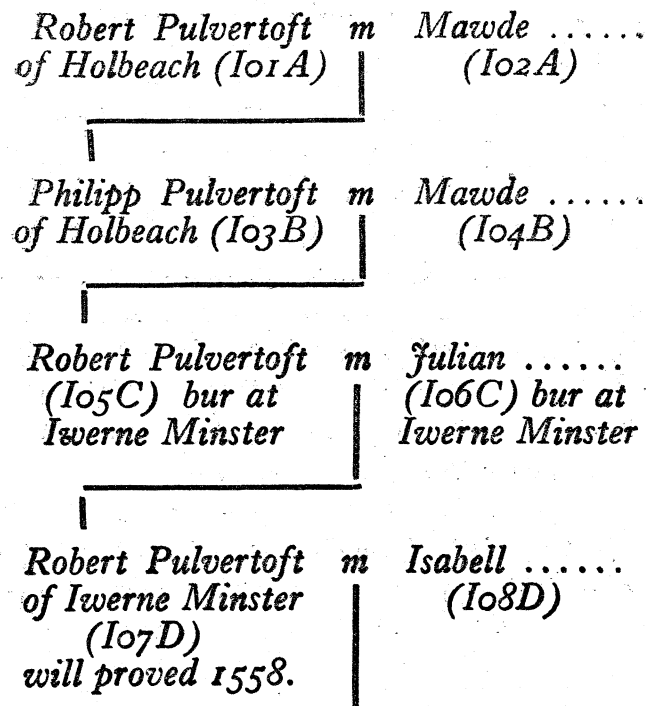
The Henry VIII Muster for 1539 - Sixpenny Handley Hundred - Ewerne Mynster Tything. 31 men are listed as 'archers' or 'billmen', one of the eleven billmen being 'Rob Pulvertopp, a billman and hathe a pair almen rivetts'. (Dorset Tudor Muster Rolls - T.L. Stoaate. (1978))

Shaftesbury Division, Sixpenny Handley Hundred has:- in the 1523 Anticipation Return, Robert Pulvertoft sen. - in the 1525 Subsidy, Robert Pulvertoft sen. and jun. and in the 1543 & 45 Subsidies simply Robert Pulvertoft.

The Pulvertofts of Dorset

A family group constructed from the will of Robert Pulvertoft of Iwerne Minster, proved October 1558 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

[The numbering system is a continuation of that used in earlier issues with 'I' identifying the Iwerne Minster family and 'A' to 'E' indicating the generation.]



In Search of Pulvertoft monuments

Last summer's beautiful weather prompted Mary Rose and me to spend a few days touring the towns and villages near the Wash in search of the monuments to members of the Pulvertoft family. Some we found, others have disappeared over the years while some churches were locked when we passed through. This is what we found.

Kings Lynn: Fenland Notes & Queries (1890) tells us that there is a memorial stone dated 1673 to Rebecca, wife of John Pulvertoft in the floor of the north chapel. We found that the chapel is now used as a vestry and was locked so, despite our peering in from the choir stalls, we were unable to find the stone!

Gedney: Lincs. Record Society Vol 31 (Lincolnshire Church Notes made by W. J. Monson, 1828-1840) reports that there was a small stone in the nave near the entrance to the chancel to Robert, son of Robert and Amy Pulvertoft who died an infant in 1783. We found a beautiful airy church bedecked with flowers after a floral festival but, if the stone was still there, it must have been under one of the many carpet runners as we didn't find it. Slightly disappointed, we drove south to Gedney Broadgate and out into Gedney Fen to find Pulvertoft Hall Farm, a substantial red brick house - and what a surprise to see the surname painted on the gatepost.

Whaplode: Lincs. Record Society Vol 1 (Lincolnshire Church Notes made by Gervase Holles 1634-42) describes an armorial window including arms of Pulvertoft (Arg. 3 maces Sa.) and an inscription to Thomas and Catherine Pulvertoft and Gilbert and Elizabeth Pulvertoft - but the window is now clear glass and there are no inscriptions. Thank goodness for those who made records in early times.

Spalding: Lincs. Record Society Vol 31 (again) describes a monument to John Richards Esq. who died 10 Aug 1773 and to Judith Richards his widow, daughter of John & Ann Pulvertoft, formerly of Peterborough, who died 9 Nov. 1811, aged 81 years. We found the monument but the shield above it is now bare and not as described in the church notes; "Quarterly impaling - Or, a mullet (pierced gules), an orle of fleur de lis azure (Pulvertoft)"

Boston: Lincs. Record Society Vol 31 (again) had led us to expect a brass plate with arms quarterly of 16, including "3 maces Pulvertoft" in the second quarter. Unfortunately we were late, St Botolph's Church was closed for the night and we will have to return one day. However, we did find Pulvertoft Lane - and walked its length to the point where it reaches the deep cut of the River Witham where the lane ends abruptly!

Peterborough: Fenland Notes & Queries had told us that we should find in St Margaret's Church a monument in the west wall to Ann Pulvertoft, sister of James Delarue, widow, who died 1788 aged 81; to John Pulvertoft her son who died 1786 aged 56 and to Mary his widow who died 1790 aged 60. We found it, an impressive marble monument with fluted columns and a sculptured urn, and also heard that it was at St Margaret's that the body of Mary Queen of Scots rested before being buried in Peterborough Cathedral.

Easton-on-the-hill: So finally to Easton, nr. Stamford where tradition had it that there was a stained glass window in memory of the Reverend Pulvertoft. We knew from the will of William Pulvertoft, clerk (proved 1546 in the Archdeaconry Court of Northampton) that he was rector there and, though we found no monument, he is shown (1535-46) on a rectors' board (1219-1961).

(continued from page 51.)

(Dorset Tudor Subsidies - T.L.Stoate. (1982))

Borough Finance 1552 - 'Receipt under the hand of Ric. Durant, of the Exchequer, to Master Pulintoft, Under-sheriff of Dorset'

(*Descriptive Catalogue of the Charters etc. of Weymouth & Melcombe Regis 1252 - 1800. - H. J. Moule (1883)*)

Notes and Queries

Another evening in Michael Leader's library in October allowed me to look at copies of the marriage registers of several Cork parishes - more than 300 years in all from St Peters, St Pauls, St Nicholas and Holy Trinity. My 'finds' included two of the marriages shown in Issue No 4:

John Pulvertaft, a minor, bachelor, brassfounder of Tobin St & son of Thomas Pulvertaft, brassfounder, mar. Anna Waugh, a minor, spinster of College Rd on 15 May 1869 at St Peters, Cork. (M07 & 06P).

Margaret Eleanor Pulvertaft, 26, spinster of 41 Southern Rd & dau. of John Pulvertaft, Engineer, mar. John O'Driscoll, 31, bachelor, accountant of 1 Gratton Hill on 6 Oct. 1914 at St Nicholas, Cork. (M26Q).

but the most interesting was that which showed:

John Pulvertaft, 20, bachelor, tinsplate worker of Duncan St & son of Thomas Pulvertaft, brushmaker mar. Elizabeth Kemp, 17, spinster of Duncan St & dau. of Forster Kemp 28 Dec 1845 at St Peters, Cork.

The fact that Elizabeth was the daughter of Forster Kemp would suggest that she is the Elizabeth shown in Issue 5, page 36 whose son was baptised Thomas Forster. Similarly, John's description indicates that he may be the John (C140) on page 37 and the two scraps are linked.

Happy Christmas!

D.M.P.