

PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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Editorial

I said in the last issue of these papers that I hoped to illustrate this one with a photograph of Thomas Pulvertaft - "father" of the modern family. (Actually I made an error and printed his name as Thomas Pulvertoft but you were all good enough to ignore that!) You will find him in this issue in all his Victorian glory, a figure of suitable stature to be the great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather or great-great-great-grandfather of all the Pulvertafts alive today. I am indebted to Phyllis Louise Colton for lending the photograph to me.

This tenth issue marks both the end of the first five years of Pulvertaft Papers and completes the first volume. With the next number at Christmas I will forward a title page and contents list to Volume 1 - and perhaps even an index - for those who wish to keep the papers in some form of binder.

Lincolnshire Notes and Queries

The first issue of *Pulvertaft Papers* included on its final page a list of the major reference book series which had been consulted over the years, the intention being to tell readers what had already been searched and thus avoid duplication of effort. The list included *Notes & Queries of East Anglia, Fenland and Somerset & Dorset* but not *Lincolnshire N & Q*, even though reference had been made to the series in some early correspondence.

The gap has now been filled and the 23 volumes published between 1889 and 1936 have provided some useful information. There are in all 42 documents, deeds and muniments in which members of the Pulvertaft family are named. Some do little more than prove that the individual was living at the time (witness to a document etc.), others duplicate information already recorded, but two provide new pieces of information for the collection.

Vol. IX, page 44 : Abstracts of Lincolnshire Deeds, No 394, Indenture made at Gosberkirk, 27 March, 17 Edw. IV. (AD 1477), Bond of William Crabdam to demise to Thomas Gryme, of Algarkirk, 5 acres of pasture, lying between land of Phillip Pulvertoft, of Holbeche, on the east, and that of the manor of Beausolase on the west and north, and the south on "Commen Sydyk", of Algarkirk, under a penalty of ten pounds.

While the indenture might at first appear to do little more than state that in 1477 Philip Pulvertoft of Holbeach owned some land in Algarkirk, it actually does quite a bit more. Firstly it supports the will of Robert Pulvertoft of Iwerne Minster dated 1577 in which he named his grandfather as Philipp Pulvertoft of Holbeach (see "The Pulvertofts of Dorset" in Issue 7, pp 50-53); secondly

it provides a reference date for the Pulvertofts in Holbeach and finally it suggests a connection between the Holbeach-Dorset family and the Pulvertofts of Algarkirk. Three pieces of supporting information from one simple entry.

Vol. IX, page 46, No 383

Grant by Thomas, son of Richard de Polvertoft, of Algarkirke, to John, son of John Raynaldsone, of Fosedik, of a plot of meadow and a garden. The plot lying between the land of Roger de Polvertoft and that of John Musterd with the common sewer of Algarkirk on the east, and abutting on grantor's land. The garden lies in Fosedik between the messuage of Robert Michel, and that of Roger, son of Alan Raynoldson

Witnesses : Roger Polvertoft, Thomas Welby, John Hunnyngge ...
At Algarkirk, St Margaret V, 19 Rich II (AD 1395)

This grant shows not only that Pulvertofts owned land in Algarkirk in 1395 but that Richard and Thomas de Polvertoft were father and son and that one Roger de Polvertoft also owned land there. The Close Rolls in the Public Record Office contain a similar document dated 1391 [1] which relates to land of Richard, son of Thomas Polvertofte in Algarkirk called 'Horsholme' and lying between land of Roger Polvertoft and the heirs of John Polvertoft on the east etc., It also names Richard's brothers, John and Richard, and says that Roger Polvertoft had a brother, John. It was witnessed by Thomas, father of Richard Polvertoft.

From the above, a three-generation scrap can easily be drawn showing the Thomas - Richard - Thomas line and the brothers of Richard, but as yet it cannot show how Roger and his brother John are related to them. Nevertheless an early Algarkirk family group is established.

[1] Calendar of Close Rolls, Richard II, Vol IV, p 506.

Thomas Pulvertaft

Born:

Son of:

(family tradition has it that he went from Holland to Ireland where he fell in love with a farmer's daughter whom he married.)

Married: Mary Ann Mahony.

(understood that they were married at St Mary's Cathedral, Cork as Mary Ann was a catholic.)

Occupation: Brassfounder.

Address: Blarney Lane, Cork - 1848, 1852 & 1853.

Children:

Robert, born 25 July 1841

John, born 19 December 1845

James

Thomas Mahony, born 27 August 1853

Mary Ellen

Died: 21 December 1864

Buried: St Finbarrs Cathedral, Cork. (Headstone)



Ralph Pulvertoft of Norwich

Although he lived five hundred years ago, the member of the Pulvertoft family whose life is most evident today is probably Ralph Pulvertoft as there still exists a monumental brass to his memory on the wall of the Jesus Chapel in Norwich Cathedral.

The brass is a rectangle of some 18 inches by 9 inches and carries nine lines of Latin inscription, a translation of which was provided many years ago by the Senior Sub-Sacrist of the cathedral.

Lo, I am dying, what profits me what I had before,
All the present is ending, I go stripped as I came,
Only rest is my lot, here I have nought else
Once no resting, only for me with no gain
But I sorrow that I had been of little worth or that I did nothing well,
I shall carry with me many faults - all mine when I pass over,
I, Pulvertoft Radulphus was Master of the Carnary,
O Christ who is God and suffered for me take away my faults,
So I pray that you who may read my words may have recourse to the
Paternoster,

The brass was described by Sir Thomas Browne in his book "*Repertorium, or Some Account of the Tombs and Monuments in the Cathedral Church of Norwich in 1680*" which was printed in 1712. He tells us that "In the time of the late Civil Wars, there were about an hundred Brass Inscriptions stol'n and taken away from Grave-Stones, and Tombs, in the Cathedral Church of Norwich; as I was informed by John Wright, one of the Clerks, above Eighty Years old," He also says that "Above the Inscription (to Ralph Pulvertoft) was his Coat of Arms viz. Six Ears of Wheat with a Border of Cinque-foils; but now washed out, since the Wall was whiten'd."

Ralph's position - "*magistro carnarie infra septa*" is translated in Public Record Office documents as "master butcher within the close" and "master of the charnel house within the precinct". [1] He is described as Rector of Hevingham in or soon after 1471 [2] but had moved to Norwich by 1478 when he was named as Master in an "Inventory of goods of Carnary".

These bare historical facts are embellished by Ralph's will, written in March 1505 and proved in October that year in the Consistory Court of Norwich. From purely genealogical considerations it is a disappointing will as he does not mention any other Pulvertofts, but there are a number of interesting points for such an early will.

He makes a number of bequests to the church; 5 marks to Norwich Cathedral, 6s. 8d. to the priests' guild, 3s. 4d. to the bellringers, etc., etc.; he states what candles are to be bought and when they are to be burned in his memory, and how his successor in the charnel is to be supported. There is also an interesting insight into his views on education: ". . . . to the Scolemaister for lerning of my Godson Rauff Lawes till he have his gramer and that he shall labour him the Redier and stede him the Soner I will he shall have for his labour ev'y quarter xx d the which child his gramer hadde I will he be send forth to the univ'sitie and ther' to continue till he be able to be maister of Arte so that he promotid wt'in the space of vij yers"

One bequest in Ralph's will may be a clue to his roots: "to Boston Gilde for a dirige and a masse vj s & viij d" Does this link him with the Pulvertofts of Lincolnshire?

[1] Descriptive Cat. of Ancient Deeds Vols. 4 & 5.

[2] Topograph'l Hist. of Norfolk - Blomefield - 1806.

Notes and Queries

My thanks to Guy Pulvertaft for sending a copy of a new book of short stories "The News from Ireland" by William Trevor. Its title story is set in Ireland in the time of the potato famine and tells of Mr and Mrs Pulvertaft and their children Emily, Charlotte, Adelaide and George Arthur - "the Pulvertafts of Ipswich" - who moved from England when old Hugh Pulvertaft died.

The whole story has so many similarities with the real Pulvertoft & Pulvertaft families that surely there must be some factual basis to it. There are also some fascinating statements: "There have been Pulvertafts here, you know, since Queen Elizabeth first granted them the land." and "Walls are of an apricot shade, crowded with landscape scenes and portraits of the Pulvertafts who belong to the past." I will write to William Trevor and ask if he can help with facts as well as fiction!

Birth

Congratulations to Thomas Bourke Pulvertaft and Deidre (Dee) - nee Peacock - on the birth of their son, Richard on 10th January 1986.

Engagement

Congratulations to Caroline Pulvertaft, daughter of Michael and Ann Pulvertaft of Wagga Wagga, and John Jardini of Sydney who announced their engagement on 31st May 1986.

Marriage

Congratulations to Rosalind Pulvertaft, daughter of Professor R. J. V. Pulvertaft, and David A. Davies who were married at Chester 28th June 1985.