

# PULVERTAFT PAPERS

A Newsletter on the Pulvertofts & Pulvertafts

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## EDITORIAL

Christmas was in danger of slipping this year. The practice of producing these papers in June and December is one which is followed by many of the publishers of family history newsletters as "family" copies in December can be sent with the Christmas cards.

The sequence of publishing information, however, should be that the raw data is first recorded; it is then analysed to see what new evidence it provides and assessed to see how it integrates with or modifies existing material. Finally, when it has been totally understood, it can be published.

Various events in the last few months have prevented the sequence described above being followed and not all the information used in this issue has been fully integrated into the family records. I only hope that when I eventually get round to doing this, I won't find that I have made incorrect assumptions. Despite all this I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

D.M.P.

## THE PULVERTOFTS OF WIGTOFT

Amongst the listings of Lincolnshire wills in the British Record Society's "Index Library" Vols 28 and 41 are four which were made by Pulvertofts of Wigtoft. Each was proved in the Consistory Court of Lincoln, the references being:

Richard Pulvertoft	1584		109
Thomas Pulvertoft	1591	ii	179
Thomas Pulvertoft	1624-5		159
Elizabeth Pulvertoft	1624-5		415

While copies of the wills have been held for many years, they were not able to be related to each other until the Bishop's Transcripts (BTs) for Wigtoft were searched, after which a probable connection emerged. More recently the Inventories associated with the wills have been found in the Lincoln Archives and these add flesh to the Wigtoft bones. The inventory references are Richard 71/370, Thomas 80/68, Thomas 129/51 and Elizabeth 129/406. The three sources (wills, BTs and inventories) allow a family group to be drawn which links three of the individuals and extends the pedigree of the "Pulvertofts of Swineshead" printed in Volume I on pages 44 & 45.

In his will of 1584; Richard Pulvertoft, husbandman, names his five children; William, Henry, Thomas, John and Margaret and bequeathes to each of them £4 when they reach the age of 18. He names his wife, Joane, as sole executrix and, fortunately for us, leaves a calf to Richard Elward of Swineshead "or to his wife my sister". This last reference clearly identifies him as the same Richard who is shown on page 44 of Vol I and thus extends the Swineshead group shown on that page. The related inventory does not provide any additional family evidence but it does tell us the range and value of his products; amongst which are wool (10/-), flax (5/-), hemp (6/-), barley (46/-) and hay (16/-) - and his stock; six cows (£8), two calves (10/-), three mares two fillies one foal

and a gelding (£7), 26 sheep (£4) and three old swine and four pigs (20/-).

As the Wigtoft Parish Registers are not available in Lincoln, the Bishop's Transcripts have been used to try to understand the family relationships. Although these start in 1561 and there are several Pulvertofts included in the 1570s, the record prior to 1585 is pretty sparse. There are eight Pulvertoft baptisms, six marriages and ten burials which suggest amongst other things that the Thomas Pulvertoft who died in 1624 was the third son of Richard Pulvertoft, described opposite, having married twice at Wigtoft firstly to Elizabeth Montfield in 1600 and secondly to Elizabeth Chambers in 1610.

Thomas, like his father, is described as a husbandman in his will of 1624 and leaves his household effects to his daughters Susan and Martha and to his son-in-law (step son) Umfrey Chambers. He makes his wife Elizabeth his executrix. The BTs suggest that Thomas also had a son William, baptised at Wigtoft in 1606 but buried there in 1607. He may also have had a daughter Katherine baptised at Wigtoft in 1609 but, as there is no record of her burial, it seems strange that he does not mention her in his will. Thomas also leaves 3s.4d. each to John Pulvertoft and Elizabeth Pulvertoft when they are 21 but does not state their relationship to him.

The family group is reinforced by the will of Elizabeth Pulvertoft made in 1624-5 in which she leaves livestock and household goods to her daughter Martha, her daughter-in-law (step daughter) Susan and her son Umfrey Chambers. The inventory is useful in that it lists under the heading "Oweing by the Testator" :

Item to Daniell Bydall for Rent	xli	xs
Item to Will'm Allinson for sheepe		xxvs
Item to John Clifton uppon bond	xli	iiijs
Item to John Wright of Kime		xxs

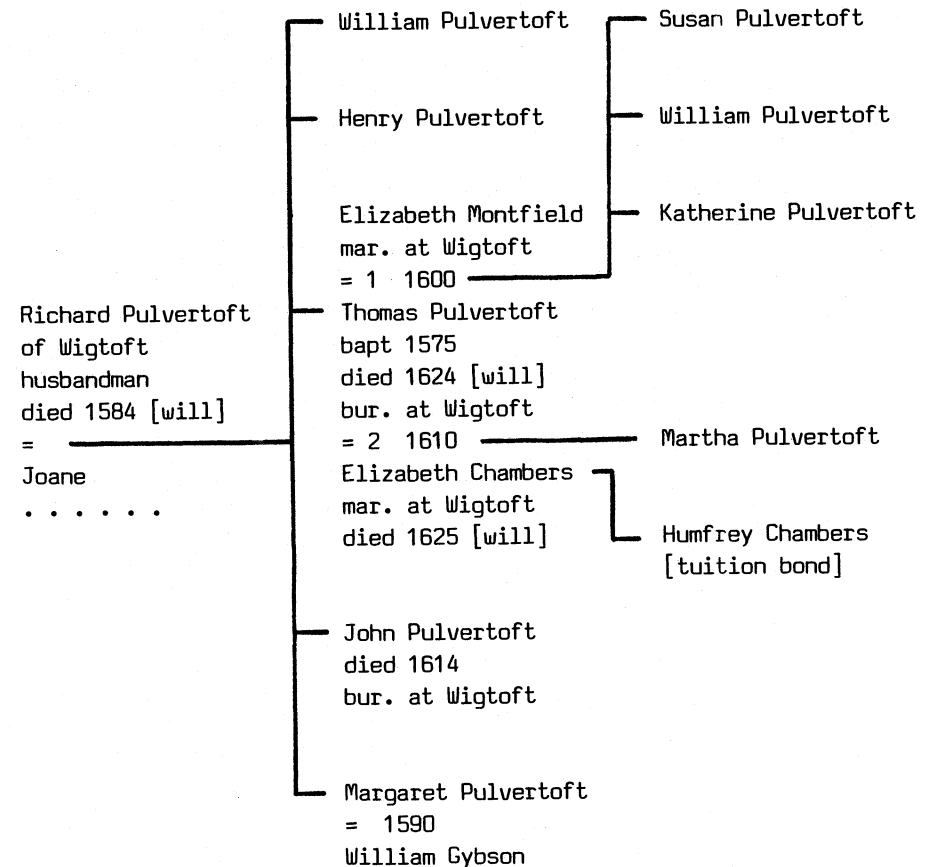
Item to Susan Pulvertofte for a legacie  
 given by her father iiijli  
 Item to Martha Pulvertofte for a legacie  
 given by her father iiijli  
 Item to John Pulu'tofte given by the deceased  
 husband iijs iiijd  
 Item to Elizabeth Pulu'toft given by the  
 deceased husband iijs iiijd

Another document which relates Thomas, Elizabeth and Humfrey is a "Tuition Bond" granted in the Consistory Court of Lincoln in June 1623 which makes Thomas Pulvertoft and Richard Watson tutors and guardians to Humfrey. It describes his mother Elizabeth as "alias Chambers and late kinsman of Frances Fonntance alias Wilson alias Chambers late wife of Robert Wilson late of Swineshead, deceased" - a complex relationship which needs to be unravelled one day. From all the information assembled above, the Pulvertofts of Swineshead (Vol I, pp 44 & 45) are extended by the group shown opposite.

The final will, that of Thomas Pulvertoft proved in 1591, has already been taken into account in the pedigree of the Pulvertofts of Kirton shown in Vol.II, pp 20 & 21. However, no work has yet been done on the several brothers-in-law that he mentions; Richard Shepherd, ..... Dickenson, William Foule nor his brother George to whom he leaves his best coat, doublet and breeches.

Clearly, if the Wigtoft Parish Register exists for the period before the BTs become reliable in 1585, it would be a most useful document. It might show the burial of Richard in 1584 (the sheet for that year is missing in the BTs), it might show the burial of Thomas in 1591 as he asks to be buried there in his will but is not included in the BTs, and of course it might shed light on the in laws Shepherd, Dickenson and Foule. A document well worth trying to track down and consult one day.

THE PULVERTOFTS OF WIGTOFT



## THE ANGLO-IRISH CONNECTION

It has long been suggested by some members of the family that the Pulvertafts first arrived in Ireland when so many English families were being granted land there in the seventeenth century. The suggestion was perhaps prompted by the inclusion of Thomas Pulvertaffe and Thomas Purlvortaas in "The Irish & Anglo-Irish Landed Gentry when Cromwell Came to Ireland", a genealogical reference book by John O'Hart, published in Dublin in 1884. The two Thomases are named in one of the 37 Appendices to the book, the particular one having the title "The "Forty-nine" Officers in Ireland", it being a list of the Commissioned Officers who served Charles I or Charles II in the Wars of Ireland before the 5th day of June 1649.

The last two issues of these papers have alluded to the Anglo-Irish connection between the Pulvertoft and the Pulvertaft families - vide the two early Irish references on page 24 (Thomas Pulvertaft of Cashel who died in 1676 and John Pulvertoft, freeman of Fethard in 1713) and the table on pages 30 and 31 (which shows amongst other things how the family in Ireland existed before the English one had expired).

The connection was given additional support recently with the discovery of Thomas Pulvertop in a book with the title "Tipperary Families - being the Hearth Money Records for 1665-6-7", written by Thomas Laffan and published in Dublin in 1911. In his preface the author explains that the tax levied was two shillings per fire, stove, etc. and reminds his readers that it was levied five years after the restoration of Charles II and 13 years after the surrender of the last organised Irish force. He also observes that the number of English names on the muster is small and considers this - "a wonderful proof of the marvellous indestructibility of the Celtic race".

It appears that Tipperary is exceptional in that its Hearth Roll is virtually complete and it thus provides a snapshot of the families which owned property in the county in the mid-1660s; a most useful local census as far as the Pulvertaft search is concerned.

The names are listed by parish, there being 190 pages each with about 100 entries. Thomas Pulvertop is included in the parish of St Johns, Cashel, having paid tax on two hearths. St Johns has some 230 entries of whom about 80% paid tax on one hearth, the remainder being listed as having one and a forge, two, three, five, six and even more hearths. It can be deduced that in the mid-1660s there was only one Pulvertoft/Pulvertaft house owner in Tipperary and that his house was a little above the average, being in the 20% with more than one hearth. It is perhaps reasonable to assume that he was one of the Pulvertofts who settled in Ireland before 1649 and also the Thomas Pulvertaft of Cashel whose will was proved there in 1676. John, who later became a freeman of Fethard, may have been a son or grandson.

For this speculation to be proved or disproved, two further pieces of work are needed - one in Lincolnshire, the other in Ireland. The Lincolnshire search must try to pinpoint the Thomas Pulvertoft who joined the army to fight in the wars in Ireland. There are in the History of Lincolnshire series a couple of books covering this period which may lead to the original sources and thus to Thomas's identity. At the other end of the connection there is now a gap of only forty years between the reference to John Pulvertoft of Fethard and the first Pulvertaft wedding in Cork - that between Robert Pulvertaft and Rebecca Middleton in 1753 (see Vol I, page 35)

The connection is beginning to get closer.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

There are many who find the name Pulvertaft difficult to get their tongue round, others find humour in it. In an article in the magazine "She" as long ago as 1963, Nancy Spain wrote about the team behind the radio panel game "My Word".

"And then of course, there are The Boys, F.Muir and D.Norden, 6' 6'' and 6' 3'' respectively, both tall, exquisitely tailored, graceful, handsome. They are both Aquarians, they met in the RAF, where they both had their uniforms tailored for them, and became Leading Aircraftmen. ....

Frank is a country gentleman, given to taking up hobbies with passion and acquiring the esoteric vocabulary that goes with them ..... He and Denis are the only truly funny, funny men I have ever met. I once told Frank I had met a novelist called Lalagie Pulvertaft, and he went into a neat little song-and-dance, beginning:

"Lalagie Pulvertaft and I  
Went down to bathe in the sea,  
Should it be Pulvertaft and I  
or possibly Taft and me ?" "

[What a shame Nancy Spain can't spell Lalage - Ed.]

## Obituary

It is with deep regret that the death is recorded of Annie Joan, widow of William Godfrey Pulvertaft on 18 November 1988 at Wimborne, Dorset.