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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.

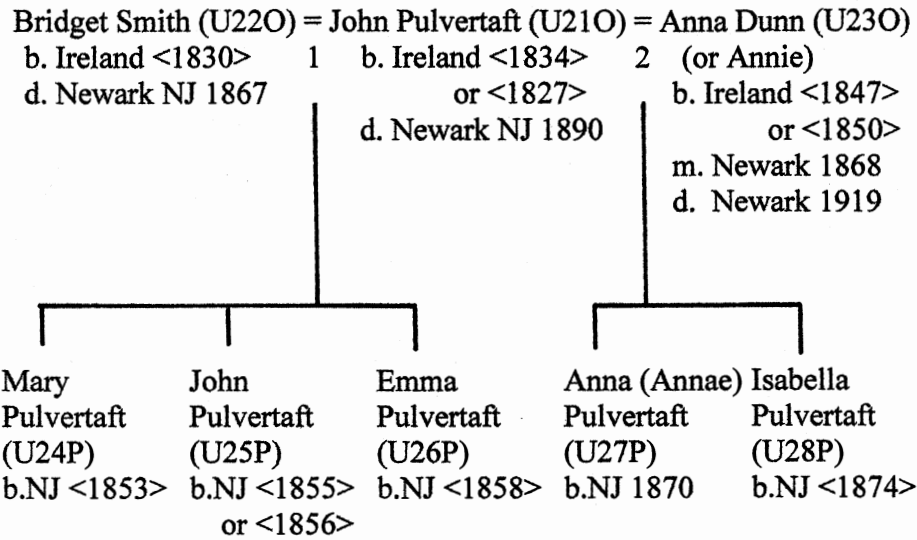
The fact that, in the 1880 Census, Mary (U24P) is shown as a servant in the Newark house of Edward and Ann Dixon provides a clue to where John (U21O) may have come from. The records of the Cork parish of St Anne's Shandon show that one John Dixon was the supervisor at the baptism of John Pulvertaft on 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].

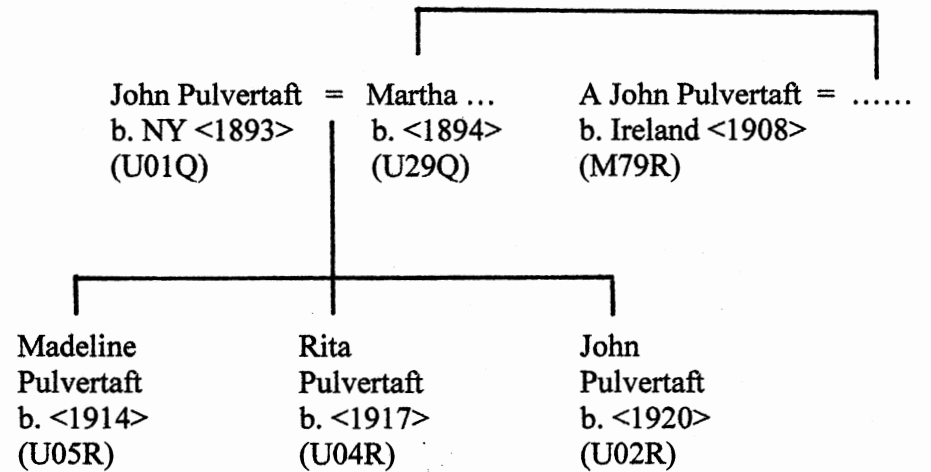
This group is shown on page 61 and will be seen to be the first two generations of "The Pulvertafts of the United States" published in 1996 (PPs Vol 3, p 76). Are these two scraps linked? Is John Pulvertaft (U25P) the father of John Pulvertaft (U01Q)? Quite possibly, but this needs confirmation before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



1930



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

