

Longo intervallo, Alexander Punchard, of Apelton, is the next name of note; he was manucaptor⁹⁰ of Richard de Walsingham, Knight of the Shire, in 1305; and again for Richard de la Rochelle six years after. In the subsidy roll for 1327, William Punchard, with several sons, was living at Hickling; while in 1332, 1333, and 1340, their names were in the same hundred; other families were polled at Yaxham and Hale in 1378. The later rolls of 1522-5, 1543-9, and 1596 give only variants or abbreviations of the name. The Black Death, which came in 1348, desolated East Anglia; whole districts went out of cultivation, and wide estates were tenantless. It was only at the close of this unhappy century that fortune seemed to revive, and records can again be found.

Richard Punchard⁹¹ died at East Dereham in 1476, and left a daughter, Alice. Robert, of the same place, had several heirs in 1507; but mentions only one of them (Joan) by name. Thomas Punchard, who died in 1563, made a curious Will,⁹² with his own hand writing. He seems to have been illegitimate, and was unmarried. From 1500 to 1800 there are many documents in the Norwich Courts, but pedigrees can only at best be approximately compiled from them. Some of the testators had fair estates, and were for the most part prosperous yeomen. They were usually careful, in the disposition of their goods, to remember the Church and the Poor. Descendants are registered in several parishes, notably Haddiscoe and North Walsham; and at Norwich in one or two cases. A family at Billington seems to have been exceptionally well-to-do; and in the second and third generation was rising towards the level of former years; its daughters made gentle alliances, and one of its great friends was Zachariah Fincham of Diss. But Charles Punchard died at Roydon in 1785, leaving Mary, an only child.

About 1660, William Punchard, presumably from one of these Norfolk farms, emigrated to America, where he married Abigail Waters at Salem in 1669, and their numerous progeny flourishes still. Genealogical notes of the family are given in an appendix to a sermon⁹³ preached by a relative, the Rev. S. M. Worcester, at the funeral of John Punchard, February 16th, 1857. This veteran was born in 1763, and fought at Bunker's Hill when a boy of twelve; he was Town Clerk and Magistrate at Salem for many years. His son, George Punchard, fifth in descent from the first emigrant, was a learned and distinguished Minister of the Congregationalists; author of a voluminous "History" of that connexion. The book was subsequently issued, in an enlarged edition, by his nephew, the Rev. Geo. B. Jewett, and is a standard work.

⁹⁰ "Fide-jussor," Migne.
⁹¹ Wills.

⁹² Wills and Pedigrees.
⁹³ Brit. Museum.