

SUFFOLK.

It is not till the fifteenth century that we find any record of Punchards in Suffolk. The Subsidy Roll of 1327, consisting of thirty large membranes, written clearly on both sides, includes every parish; and indeed, according to Mr. Arthur Folkard, "the name of every adult male in Suffolk at that date." But, he adds positively, "there is not a single Punchard in it; the nearest to the name is 'Ponyett.'"⁹⁴

Nor is there a Punchard in the Hundred Rolls for Suffolk of 1302. The commission for these was issued in 1274 (2^d Edward I.), October 11th, and the rolls were returned twenty-eight years after. Only part however of the Suffolk skins are preserved; but amongst them the hundred of Hoxne is fully recorded.

In all probability the Suffolk Punchards came over the border from Norfolk; where, as we have seen, they had been settled since the days of William "miles de Tuddenham," who flourished about 1100. The earliest note is concerning William Punchard, free tenant, of Bedingfield, who was an inquisitor at Stonham Court leet in 1464, 1466, 1489, and 1492.⁹⁵ He died in 1506, and his will⁹⁶ is preserved at Ipswich (Curia Arch. Suff.). His descendants fall into three main lines,⁹⁷ two of which continue to the present day.

John Punchard of Bedingfield, third in descent from William, married Margaret ffyske of Tyvetshall, sister of John ffyske, who, dying in 1609,⁹⁸ left considerable estates to her children. The elder son, named Jeremy (after several of his mother's relatives), succeeded in 1621, and had further legacies from his cousin, Anne Borret. But he by no means prospered, and had lawsuits with the Bedingfields,⁹⁹ which lasted for years, and encumbered his property. The dispute was one of manorial rights, with pleas and replications in direct contradiction. The Bedingfields had adhered to the Roman Church, and were staunch Royalists, while almost all the township signed the solemn League and Covenant. The Revolution probably stayed the suit; and the Statute of Charles II. on Socage (II. Car. 12^o) prevented its renewal. A fine signature, *Jeremy Punchard*, is on the document of May 11th, 1633.¹⁰⁰

Jeremy died in 1637. His wife, Susan, predeceased him in 1630, and their children were left to the care of John, his brother; who well fulfilled his executorship. John died in 1659, unmarried, leaving all his possessions to the family. A curious inventory of his personal effects¹⁰⁰ is preserved.

The three sons of Jeremy and Susan were heads of three several branches: John, who married Dorcas Paton, Jeremy (=Mary), and William (=Elizabeth).

John, the eldest son of the above John and Dorcas, was sent to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1671; M.A. in 1675. He was ordained Deacon at Norwich, December 19th, 1674; Priest December 23rd, 1677; and was licensed to the Curacy of

⁹⁴ See note on the Variants.

⁹⁵ Davy's "MSS." test. cart. 3, 4.

⁹⁶ See Part III. Wills.

⁹⁷ Pedigrees.

⁹⁸ Will, Curia Episcop., Norw., Oct. 1st, 1609.

⁹⁹ and ¹⁰⁰ Chancery proceedings before 1714, Mitford, 42, and B.B., No. 70 (27) Replication.

¹⁰⁰ See Wills.