

Crane, presumably of Coggeshall. He appears as an early instance, in this line, of failure; for in 1580 he sold some of his inheritance to Harry Borret, his brother-in-law, and the remainder in 1584 to his brother, Thomas Punchard.

In 1480 reference is found to one Simon at Stonham; and in 1496 Richard Punchard died at Eye.¹¹⁴ Two brothers, John and George, were living at this time; one of whom died at Bramford, the other at Stonham, both in the same year (1522); the former without male issue, the latter with successors for seven generations.¹¹⁵

The chief of these Punchards¹¹⁶ lived at Winesham; the last of whom, named George, died without issue in 1701. They were not equal to their Bedingfield kinsmen in wealth or position, though some of them are noted as "gentlemen" in the parish books.

Collateral with these were the descendants of Edmund Punchard, who died at Coddendam in 1570.¹¹⁷ Entries concerning these are found in the registers there, and several parishes adjoining, during the seventeenth century; after which is the silence of removal or extinction.

None of the Suffolk Punchards claimed at the Visitations the right to bear **arms**; indeed it may be doubted whether the Heralds would have allowed a prescription, assumed through the Norfolk line. For the constant drift of the family, in spite of exceptions in the Bedingfield branches, was downward. To a large extent, no doubt, this was due to the agricultural changes which have passed over East Anglia; but no less it must be traced to the marked aversion which the members of this race have shown to trade or profession, and to the tenacity with which they—whether gentle or simple—clung to the land. But the last of their fields was sold in 1812: between which and 1460 lies a tenure of fair length. If their origin be traced, through William of Tuddenham to Robert of Heanton-Punchardon, county Devon., they had their share of peaceful possession; and, perhaps because of it, other families of later date outstripped them in the race of life.

¹¹⁴ Wills.

¹¹⁵ Pedigrees.

¹¹⁶ Wills and Pedigrees.

¹¹⁷ Wills.