

From the middle of the fifteenth century there is silence concerning the Punchards of Devon, for nearly a hundred years. Probably, all of this surname were scions of the ancient stock, sprung from younger branches, whose goings forth were unrecorded: but after 1540 the chief sources of information are parish registers and wills; and these alike bear witness to changed estate.

At Heanton-Punchardon itself there is no entry of the baptism or burial of a Punchard; and there are only three marriages, apparently of non-residents, the first of which was of Alexander Punchard and Christian frenshe, 1590, Jan: 17.

Several records are preserved at Atherington, Braunton, Chittlehampton, Fremington, Marwood, and Parkham; and a few elsewhere. Some of the persons registered are further identified by wills in the Court of the Barnstaple Archdeaconry, at Exeter; but no lengthy pedigree can be traced.

Three or four distinct families are found at Pilton and Barnstaple, from 1500 to 1800, only one of which retained its position among gentlefolk, and that barely down to 1700. Connections were made for awhile with various names of good repute; such as Aishe, Chichester, Harford, Lippingcote, Luttrell, and Stukeley. One of these occasioned the following lawsuit, which lasted for many years. On the marriage of Andrew Luttrell with Mary Punchard, at Hartland, Oct: 2, 1609, his father—Andrew the elder—agreed with Joan Lippingcote (mother of Mary, who, on the death of John Punchard, of Pilton, 1585, had married again) to receive £50 as a marriage portion, and to give, for his part, an estate in Cornwall, worth £40 a year. Sir Marmaduke Hele, of Wembury, disputed the ownership of this land, at St. Nyott's, Cornwall; but in the end was ordered by the Court not to molest the defendants, Mary Luttrell and her children, who were in possession.<sup>27</sup>

From 1630 to 1659 William Punchard, of Pilton, was notorious in litigation concerning Dorothy frontleroy, whom he had married in defiance of her guardian, Thomas Kingston, of Bishop's Lydeard. The damsel was thought "too young"; and her lover's estate was "mean," being burdened with a mortgage.<sup>28</sup>

Richard Punchardon, of Barnstaple, the last of this line to retain its full name, died in 1726, a weaver by trade, and very poor, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Rowe.<sup>29</sup>

About 1580 Lewis Punchard is found at Totnes, the head of a new family, whose descendants still survive in that part of Devon. Whether he came from the northern or southern branch is uncertain: he died in 1620.

Thomas, the eldest son, was a goldsmith, who amassed considerable wealth, and finally settled at Dartmouth. He had lands in that district, also at Totnes and Staverton, and died in 1675. His second wife, Anastasia Staplehill, came of gentle blood, and left an interesting will.<sup>30</sup> Richard, the second son of Lewis Punchard, was a vyntner at Totnes, who died in 1675, leaving his son—Richard also, who became a goldsmith—well provided for.

Another Lewis, grandson of the former, was a bookseller, and published several local works. One of his sons, Samuel Punchard, matriculated at Exeter College, Oxford, in 1669; but left the university without taking his degree.

<sup>27</sup> Hele, *c.* Punchard; Hele, *c.* Lippingcote, 1629, Sept: 29; *Jes:* 1, B. and A.; H. 33, 30, 31, 45.

<sup>28</sup> Kingston, *c.* Punchard; *Car:* 1, B. and A., 1630, Nov: 3; K.K. 5, 24, 26, &c.

<sup>29</sup> Will, *Curia Arch:* Barum, 24 June, 1726.

<sup>30</sup> *Curia Arch:* Totnes: 8 Jan: 1677.