

## SOMERSET.

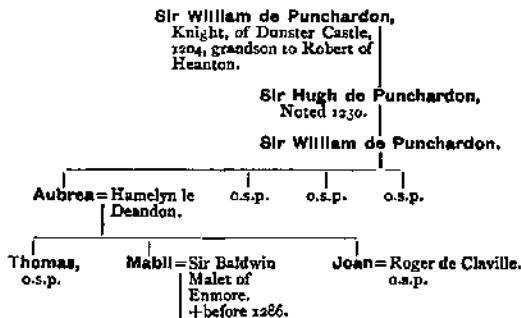
In the rough draft of the Exchequer Domesday,<sup>32</sup> Robert de Punchardon (of Heanton) is on the lands of Count Hugo of Somerset. Probably one of his sons succeeded to that feoff; but the Mohuns were the great lords in this county, from whom the Punchards derived their estates. During the time of the fourth Sir William de Mohun, surnamed "Meschyn" (1160—1202), William de Punchardon held two fees of the old barony, and Hugh de Punchardon, his son, half a fee of the new enfeoffment. The next Baron, Reginald de Mohun, married Alice, sister and co-heiress of William de Briwere, of Torre, Devon; and Sir William de Punchardon, with Hugh, his son, and their men-at-arms, joined the retinue of that young noble in 1204. The two fees with which they were confirmed for their services were St. Audries, or West Quantockshead, and Bishop's Lydeard (or Lydeard—"Punchardon").<sup>33</sup> The former was held by William "of the Castle of Dunster"<sup>34</sup> during the reigns of John and Henry III., when it descended to Hugh de Punchardon. From him both St. Audries and Lydeard fell to William, his son, the last male heir.

He bore the same arms that Pole<sup>35</sup> ascribes to one of the Heanton family, showing the identity of the Somerset and Devon lines; a cross cercelée voided: which device was noted by Collinson on a seal affixed to a deed "still extant." This William at his death left several daughters heiresses to his possessions; of whom Aubrea was married to Hamelyn le Deandon, of Deandon, by whom she had a son named Thomas, who died without issue: and two daughters—Mabil, wife of Sir Baldwin Malet of Enmore, and Joan, wife of Roger de Claville. In the partition of the estates the Manors of St. Audries and Lydeard fell to Mabil, and became the property of her children, the Malets; continuing with the heirs of that family in direct succession.

In 27<sup>o</sup> Henry VII., Lydeard was vested by William Malet in Lord Fitzwarren, Sir Amyas Paulet, Sir Nicholas Wadham, and others. And in the time of Hen: VIII. the same Sir William Malet of Enmore sold St. Audries to Baldwin, his younger brother, who was afterwards Solicitor-General.<sup>36</sup>

His great grandson, Arthur Malet, in the reign of Charles I., conveyed the manor to Thomas Malet of Wolley, his kinsman; and by this alienation the last direct interest of a descendant of the Punchards of Somerset came to an end.

Burke<sup>37</sup> says Sir John Malet of Poyntington, who was son to the above Thomas Malet, inherited under the will of his cousin Arthur, who died in 1644.



<sup>32</sup> Fol. 278.

<sup>33</sup> See Collinson's "Somerset," ii. 8, 494; iii. 496.

<sup>34</sup> "Lib. Feod."

<sup>35</sup> "Collections," 434.

<sup>36</sup> See Collinson's "Somerset," ii. 8, 494; iii. 496.

<sup>37</sup> "Peerage and Baronetage," (see Malet).