

AUDLEY PEDIGREES
CHAPTER XIII JOHN "AWDELEY," THE LONDON PRINTER

Compiled for George Audley of Liverpool by Aleyn Lyell Reade
Privately printed by Percy Lund, Humphries & Co London & Bradford

P E D I G R E E
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JOHN "AWDELEY," THE LONDON PRINTER

This well-known printer, who also won some reputation as a miscellaneous writer, particularly by his *Fraternity of Vagabonds*, has up to now remained a rather nebulous figure, and the *Dictionary of National Biography* can only vaguely date him as "fl. 1559-1577." The evidences here define him much more closely, and it will be seen that he died in 1575, so that the man mentioned by Sir Sidney Lee, in the article just cited, as signing a printers' petition in 1577, may have been his son, Sampson Audley. Why there should have been such instability of nomenclature in the family, with a constant ringing of the changes on the names of John, Sampson and Audley, the evidence does nothing to shew. It will be noticed that though the printer decided to die as simple John Awdley, his widow, when she was married two years later to a second husband, called herself Lettice "Sampson."

Except for the fact that his occupation caused him to *print* his name, in the spelling of his day, as "Awdelay" or "Awdeley," on literary productions, there is no reason for differentiating him from all the other members of the clan whose various spellings of the name we now ignore in favour of the standardised form of "Audley." I have made some concession to bibliographers in the title to this section, but he cannot, without genealogical confusion, be favoured otherwise with special treatment.

WILLS

SAMPSON AWDLEY, of Westminster, verger of Westminster Cathedral. Will dated 1 Feb. 1558/9. To be burd. in the parish churchyard of St. Margaret's Westminster. Legacies to church, etc. To my wife *Lettice*, the lease of the house where I now dwell, to her and my son *Richard*, and to said son the lease of three houses in Grene's Alley, at his age of 21, and if he die without heirs, to my son *John*. Resid. legatees and exors., my wife and son *Richard*. Overseers, *Sir John Allen*, monk of Westminster, and *Thomas Smith*, of Westminster, draper. Wits., *Sir John Allen*, monk, *Thomas Smith*, *Humphrey Jemmis*, "my geste," and *Thomas Smythes*, surgeon. Proved 12 Jan. 1559/60 by the relict, power reserved to *Richard Awdley*, the son (Commissary Court of London, Huick 2 — at Somerset House).

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JOHN AWDELIE, citizen and stationer of London. Will dated 22 June 1575. To my wife *Elizabeth*, my leases in Greene's Alley, Westminster, she to bring up my son, *Sampson Awdley*. To my daus. *Joan, Rachel, Agnes* and *Elizabeth*, £5 each, and *Mary Simson*, 40s/-. To my said son, and *John Simson*, my son-in-law, my workhouse of printing. Resid. legatee and extrix., my wife. Overseers, *Anthony Kilson*, draper, and *Brian Dodmor*, gent. Signed 4 Aug. 1575, by *John Awdley*. Wits., *Thomas Uvy* (sic), *Robert Right* and *Robert Ivie*. Proved 16 Sept. 1575, in P.C.C. [Pyckering 35], by the extrix.

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTERS

ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER

(selected entries extracted from Arthur M. Burke's *Memorials of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster*).

- 1548. June 17. mard. Sampson Awdley to Letys Muckley.
- 1549. Mch. 26. bapt. Mary Awdly.
- 1550. Apl. 10. bapt. Charles Awdley.
- 1550. May 16. burd. Humfrye Awdley.
- 1551. Apl. 30. burd. Charles Awdley.
- 1551. May 4. bapt. Rychard Awdley.
- 1552. June 7. bapt. Sarah Awdley.
- 1554. July 18. burd. Mary Awdley.
- 1554. July 21. burd. Richard Awdley.
- 1557. Apl. 25. burd. Sara Audleye.
- 1559. Dec. 12. burd. Sampson Awdley.
- 1561. Oct. 16. mard. John Page to Lettes Sampson, by licence.

MISCELLANEOUS EVIDENCE

The following account of John Awdeley was contributed to the *Dict. Nat. Biog.* by "S.L.L." (Sir Sidney Lee) :

AWDELEY, or AWDELEY, JOHN, otherwise called John Sampson and Sampson Awdeley (*fl.* 1559-1577), was a London printer and miscellaneous writer. Dibdin assumed that he was an original member of the Stationers' Company, which was incorporated by charter in 1556; but from a reference to him in the Company's register of that date, he would appear to have been merely a printer's apprentice at the time (*Arber's Transcript of the Stationers' Register*, i. 47). Before 1559, however, he had become a freeman of the Company; on 24 Aug. of that year he "presented" an apprentice of his own, and on 6 Nov. obtained licences for printing his first publication, a "morning and evenyng prayer." From 1561 to 1571 his name occurs repeatedly in the Stationers' Registers as obtaining licenses for printing books and pamphlets, and as "presenting" apprentices, and throughout those years he apparently drove a thriving trade. On several occasions he was fined for illegally printing "other men's copy," and on 22 July 1561 a penalty of "xiid." was imposed on him "for that he ded revile Rychard Lante with unseemely words." The last mention of him in the Stationers' Registers is under the year 1577, when with other printers he signed a petition to the queen against certain monopolies in printing recently granted by her, and nothing is known of him after that date. He dwelt in Little Britain Street, described on his title-pages as "without Aldersgate" or "by Great S. Bartholomew's."

Awdeley's publications were of an essentially popular kind, and consisted mainly of ballads, news sheets, and religious tracts. One of the most important books reprinted and published by him was Fitzherbert's "Boke of Husbandry." Many of his publications were of his own composition. One of the earliest of them, "The Wonders of England," 1559, a folio sheet of eleven ten-line stanzas, relating to English historical events from the death of Edward VI. to the accession of Elizabeth, was from his pen. But the most important of his literary efforts was a little volume entitled "The Fraternity of Vacabondes," licensed

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about July 1561, and published by himself in 1565. It is an elaborate description of the habits and organisation of the beggars of the day, and is of great value to the student of social history. On the back of the title-page are some doggerel verses by the author. It was reprinted in 1565 and 1575, and Harman's "Caveat," a book on the same subject published in 1575, was obviously largely indebted to it. Awdelay was strongly opposed to catholicism, and wrote some verses to warn "the symple sorte" against its delusions, as a preface to "A briefe Treatise agaynst certayn Errors of the Romish Church, by Gregory Scot," published by him in 1574. Awdelay's other works were: 1. "Eccles. XX., Remember death and thou shalt never sinne," 30 April 1569 (sheet). 2. "Cruel Assault of God's Fort," in verse (sheet). 3. "Epitaphe upon Death of Mayster John Veron, preacher. Quod John Awdelay" (fol. sheet). 4. "A Godly Ditty or Prayer to be song unto God for the preservation of his Church, our Queene, and Realme, against all Traytours, Rebels, and Papistical Enemies, by John Awdelay," 1570 (broadside). 5, 6. It is probable that the epitaphs of "Doctour Hodden" and "Masterr Fraunces Benyson," published by Awdelay in 1570-1, were also written by him.

(Arber's *Transcript of the Stationers' Registers*, i. 47-442 passim; Hazlitt's *Bibliographical Handbook*, p. 18; Hazlitt's *Collections* (1867-1876), p. 18; Ames's *Typographical Antiq.*, ed. Herbert and Dibdin, iv. 563; Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica*; Collier's *Stationers' Registers*, i. 23, 42; Awdelay's *Fraternity of Vacabondes*, ed. Viles and Furnivall, reprinted for the Early English Text Society in 1869, and for the New Shakspeare Society in 1880).

Professor Edward Arber's *Registers of the Stationers Company of London 1554-1640* has several references to John Audley. Among entries of stationers who took up their freedom in 1556 is the following, the previous entry being dated 1 Oct. and the next 26 Nov. (vol. i, p. 2b.) :—

Item Recevyd of John sampson for his benevolence and his brakefaste by the handes of Rycharde tottle viiis iiiid

[John Sampson is far better known by his *alias*, John Awdelay. He was therefore made free between 1st October and 26th November 1556].

There was a collection in 1556 (vol. i, pp. 7b and 8b) when "J. Awdelay, who was then a simple apprentice and had not yet taken up his freedom, paid Fourpence" :—

John sampson (*alias* Awdelay) iiiid.

Among the fines inflicted in 1559 we find the following (vol. i, p. 35) :—

John Awdeley for pryntinge of ii *ballettes* with out lycense was fyned at iis.

There was a "John Audley" who took up his freedom on 6 Oct. 1628 (vol. iii., p. 320b), but I cannot say whether he was akin.

In *Record of Old Westminster*, ed. G. F. Russell Barker and Alan H. Stenning, 1928, occur the two following entries to the school (ii., 817) :—

SAMPSON, HUMPHREY; *b.* ; *adm.* ; K.S. 1542-4 ; in the account for Michaelmas 1543 the surname is Audeley.

SAMPSON, JOHN ; *b.* ; *adm.* ; K.S. 1542-4 ; in the account for Michaelmas 1543 the surname is Audeley.

The names of these two King's Scholars were derived from the Chapter Muniments. It seems certain that the second one would be the printer, and the first his brother, though he is not mentioned in the will of Sampson Audley, the father, in 1559.

The Early English Text Society reprinted *The Fraternity of Vacabondes*, by John Awdeley, in 1869 (Extra Series, ix., pp. 1-16), from the edition of 1575 in the Bodleian Library, and we are told that it was licensed in 1560-1, and imprinted then and in 1565. The Preface, p. ii., speaks of him as "John Awdeley or John Sampson, or Sampson Awdeley— for by all these names, says Mr. Payne Collier, was our one man known."

"The Visitation of Worcester in 1569" (*Harleian Soc.*, xxvii., p. 98) shews "Richard Mucklow of Hodon in com. Worster" as married to "Catherin da. of John Arden," with two

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sons, and two daughters, of whom one was "Lettice 1 ux. Sampson Audley ; 2 to John Page." Nash's *Worcestershire* (vol. i., p. 37) gives the pedigree a little more fully, shewing four sons, and Lettice as the second of three daughters, but in neither case is "Hodon" identified. Mr. W. Fowler Carter, F.S.A., tells me, however, that this Richard Mucklow made his will in 1566 and described himself as "of Howdens in the parish of Kempsey Esquire," which he thinks can probably be identified with a farm at Kempsey now known as "Holdings."

NARRATIVE PEDIGREE

SAMPSON AUDLEY, of Westminster ; Verger of Westminster Cathedral ; burd. 12 Dec. 1559 in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, Westminster, as requested in his will, which was dated 1 Feb. 1558/9 and proved 12 Jan. 1559/60 in Commissary Court of London. By a first wife, whose name is unknown, he had issue,

JOHN SAMPSON *alias* **JOHN AWDELEY** *alias* **SAMPSON AWDELEY**,
of whom presently.

Humphrey Audley, Kings Scholar at Westminster School, as Humphrey Sampson, 1542-4, though in 1543 he appears as Humphrey Audeley ; burd. 16 May 1550 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Sampson Audley was marid. 2ndly 17 June 1548 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, to Lettice, second daughter of Richard Mucklow, of Howdens, in the par. of Kempsey, co. Worc., esq., by Catherine his wife, dau. of John Arden, of Warwickshire. By her, who was remard. at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on 16 Oct. 1561, to John Page, he seems to have had further issue,

Mary Audley, bapt. 26 Mch. 1549 and burd. 18 July 1554 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Charles Audley, bapt. 10 Apl. 1550 and burd. 30 Apl. 1551 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Richard Audley, bapt. 4 May 1551 and burd. 21 July 1554 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Sarah Audley, bapt. 7 June 1552 and burd. 25 Apl. 1557 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Richard Audley, under 21 on 1 Feb. 1558/9 and living 12 Jan. 1559/60.

JOHN "AWDELAY," *eldest surviving son of Sampson Audley preceding* ; citizen and stationer of London ; a well-known printer and miscellaneous writer, who sometimes called himself John Sampson and sometimes again Sampson "Awdeley." King's Scholar at Westminster School, 1542-4, as John Sampson, though in Michaelmas 1543 he appears as John Audeley. Made free of Stationers' Co. Oct.-Nov. 1556, as John Sampson ; in later of the Co.'s records he appears as John Awdelay. Lived in Little Britain Street. Will dated 22 June 1575, *signed* 4 Aug. 1575, and proved 16 Sept. 1575 in P.C.C. Marid. Elizabeth, dau. of, who was being his widow 16 Sept. 1575, and had issue,

Sampson Audley, living a minor 22 June 1575.

Joan Audley, living 22 June 1575.

Rachel Audley, living 22 June 1575.

Agnes Audley, living 22 June 1575.

Elizabeth Audley, living 22 June 1575.

Mary Audley, living 22 June 1575 as wife of John Simson, to whom her father left a half share with her brother Sampson Audley in his workhouse of printing.