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This is a transcript of ' Memorials of the Order of the Garter From its Foundation to the Present Time with Biographical Notices of the Knights in the Reigns of Edward III and Richard II' by George Frederick Beltz K.H., Lancaster Herald. And published in 1841. The transcript covers pages 75 to 84 inclusive plus Appendix IX on page 395. This transcript is as close as possible to the original document with the following additions:

- The tag number system as used by the website have been added to all individuals where possible
- Comment by the websites authors have been added in blue text where current understanding differs from what is in the original text.

Revisions

Date	Details
17 th November 2019	Tag numbers updated to match current tag numbers

, XXII.

SIR JAMES AUDELEY,

One of the Founders.

The evidence which has been collected concerning this individual will, it is presumed, justify the conclusion that both Ashmole and Dugdale have erroneously attributed the hard earned fame of his brilliant exploits to his kinsman {ZA13} James lord Audeley, of Helegh, whom they suppose to have been the hero of Poitiers celebrated by Froissart, and the person who was honoured with the Garter at the foundation of the Order.

To prove that the lord Audeley who lived until 1385 could not have been the Founder, it might perhaps have sufficed to state, upon the indubitable authority cited below ¹, that the eleventh stall on the prince's side, appropriated to sir James Audeley, was, in 1375, long before the baron's death, already filled by its second occupant, sir Thomas Granson and that, upon the death of the latter in the year following, sir Thomas Percy was installed therein. But the vindication of the memory of sir James Audeley rests upon other grounds: and, ere we proceed to assert what we consider to be his true filiation and descent, it may be necessary to review briefly the history of this knight, who was the loyal companion in arms of the Black Prince from the dawn of his illustrious career.

It appears by a public record ² that {ZA27} James, THE SON OF {ZA26} JAMES DE AUDELEY OF STRETTON AUDELEY, in Oxfordshire, obtained letters of protection, dated Portsmouth, 14th June 1346, to proceed beyond sea in the retinue of Edward prince of Wales, who, being then about sixteen years of age, attended his royal father into France; and Froissart mentions {ZA28} sir Peter and {ZA27} sir James de Audeley amongst the chief personages of that expedition.³ The king embarked on the 2nd of the following month;⁴ and, after considerable detention at sea by contrary winds, landed on the 12th at La Hogue.⁵

1 The wardrobe account of 1375 I (referred to at p. 9), enumerating the knights to whom robes of the Garter were issued in that year mentions, among such knights, sir Thomas Granson, who, in the Windsor tables, is stated to have been successor to the stall of sir James Audeley. Granson died before the 4th April 1376, when robes were issued to sir Thomas Percy, who could have occupied no other than the same stall. See under No. LX.

2 Rot. Franc. 20 Ed. 3, p. 1, m.8.

3 Tom. ii. P, 295.

4 Rymer's Foed.

5 R. Avesbury, p. 123.

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'On the 17th April 1347, licence was granted to {ZA27} sir James de Audeley by the guardians of the realm, dated at Reading, to issue procuratory letters, he being at that time beyond sea with the king.⁶

The next mention which we find of him is by Froissart in 1350, when the king, accompanied by the prince of Wales and the young John of Gant earl of Richmond, put to sea in order to intercept the Spanish corsairs on their passage from Sluys ⁷ In the same year, upon receiving intelligence that John king of France had laid siege to Saint Jean d'Angely, king Edward commanded {ZA27} sir James Audeley and others to proceed to Bordeaux, for the purpose of relieving that town; but, after repeated efforts, the French king entered it on the 7th August 1351. ⁸

At the expiration of the truce, in 1354, the prince of Wales, having been invested with the duchy of Guienne, was ordered to resume hostilities, and he marched upon Bordeaux with a great force, {ZA27} sir James Audeley and {ZA28} sir Peter " his brother" being amongst the captains of the host. ⁹ And, in a fragment of the book of household expenses of the prince during his sojourn at Bordeaux, remaining in the office of the duchy of Cornwall, and which commences 20th Sept. 1355, and ends in June of the following year, frequent mention is made of sir {ZA27} James de Audeley; so as to attest his constant attendance near the person of Edward. ¹⁰

Robert of Avesbury published three letters ¹¹ which corroborate the narrative given by Froissart of the subsequent transactions in the southern provinces of France; the first from the prince of Wales to the bishop of Winchester, dated Bordeaux, on Christmas -day 1356, detailing the proceedings in the vicinity of Thoulouse, and, in particular, several memorable exploits of sir Bartholomew Burghershe, John Chandos, and {ZA27} sir James Audeley. Audeley's name does not occur in the second letter, which is from sir John Wingfield; but, in the third, from Wingfield to sir Richard Stafford, dated Leybourn, 22nd January 1356-7, allusion is made to several events which had taken place after Stafford's departure from the army, particularly that {ZA27} sir James Audeley and others had taken the town of Sacra ¹² when the bastard de Lisle, who had command of the place, was slain; and it appears that, at the date of the letter, {ZA27} sir James de Audeley and his companions in arms were still absent on a skirmishing party.

In reciting the preparations for the battle of Poitiers, which took place on the 19th September 1356, the names of sir {ZA27} James de Audeley, and of sir {ZA28} Peter his brother, occur among those of the most distinguished knights of England and Gascony, then under the orders of the prince of Wales. ¹³ The French chronicler mentions sir John Chandos and sir {ZA27} James Audeley as the chief counsellors of the prince on that memorable occasion; and relates ¹⁴ that sir James had long before made a vow that, if he should ever chance to be in action where the king of England or any of his sons should be present, he would be the first assailant, and combat valiantly on their side even unto death. He therefore is stated to have rejoiced greatly at the prospect of fulfilling at that opportunity his ardent desire, and to have thus addressed the prince: "*Sir, I have ever loyally served my lord your father and yourself; and shall continue so to do as*

6 Rot. Franc. 21 Ed. 3, p. 1, m. 13.

7 Tom. iii. p.9.

8 Ibid. pp. 26-33.

9 Ibid. p. 69.

10 "die Sabb'i t'cio die Octobr. ibid. [apud Burdens] die Jacobo d'Audelegh p°. cons. denar. sibi debit. p°. manus Laur.Pecche scutiferi sui vij li. xviijs. iiij d"— " die Ven°. xii die Feb. eidem (cli'co , coq.) pro xii lampr. empt. et. miss. dnis Joh'i Chaundos et Jacobo d'Audele xxiiis. et eidem pro panneis canabo et cordis empt. p°. D'c'is lampr. mittendis xs. Vid"— " die Jovis xvii die Mart. Joh'i Welles scutifero dni Jacobi d'Audelegh p. div°. op'ib's p. ip°. F'ctis. — " Jacobo valletto dni Jacobi Daudele eunt. cu l'ris dni de Burdeuc usque Castel Secret de done dni xiiis. Vid"— *et passim*.

11 Hist. de gest. Ed. 3, ed. Hearne, Oxon. 1720.

12 Now Castel-Saerat.

13 Froissart, tom. iii. p. 197.

14 Ibid. p. 199.

long as I live. I would, dear lord, inform you that I formerly made a vow, that, in the first emergency in which I should happen to be with the king or either of his sons, I would be the first assailant and combatant. I therefore beseech you earnestly that, in reward of my past services, you will allow me, for my honour, to go and place myself in a situation to accomplish my vow." The prince, considering the valour of the knight, and the great desire which animated him to encounter, his enemies, cheerfully acquiesced, saying, " *Sir James, God give you grace and strength to prove yourself the best!"* Then he gave him his hand; and the knight, parting from the prince, took his station in front of the battle, attended only by his four esquires as his bodyguard.¹⁵ The enemy pressed hard upon the prince's division; and thereupon, {ZA27} sir James Audeley, with his esquires,¹⁶ passed sword in hand considerably in advance of the rest, and sustained a desperate conflict with the division of the French marshals, and personally with Arnoul d'Audeneham, a brave and hardy knight, whom he severely wounded, and whose troop was finally routed.¹⁷

Audeley, being severely wounded in the battle, was, towards the conclusion, carried in a feeble and exhausted condition out of the ranks. Froissart proceeds to state that the prince, being afterwards in his tent, enquired of the knights around him, "*whether any of them were acquainted with the fate of sir James Audeley?"* — "*Yes, sir,*" answered several who had seen him; "*he lies deeply wounded in a litter not far from hence."* "*By my faith,*" replied the prince, "*I am grieved to hear it, and desire much to see him. Enquire whether he can be brought hither? if not, I will go to him."* And he sent two knights with that message. "*Many thanks,*" said sir James, "*to my lord the prince for that it pleases him to think of so humble a bachelor as I am."* He then called eight of his attendants, and directed them to bear him in his litter to Edward. When the prince saw him, he bent himself to the wounded knight, and with kind speech comforted him, saying, "*Sir James, I ought well to honour you; for your prowess has acquired renown from all, and, of a certainty, you are the most valiant."* To this answered sir James, "*You may say, sir, what pleaseth you. I would it were so: and if I did put myself forward to serve you, it was to fulfil the vow which I had made. It must, therefore, not be accounted prowess, but rather outrance."* The prince rejoined,—"*We all hold you, sir James, to be the bravest on our side; and, to add to your glory, and afford you better means of furnishing yourself hereafter for the field, I shall retain you constantly as my knight at five hundred marks' revenue, to be assured to you upon my inheritance in England."* — "*Sir,*" answered sir James, "*God grant me to deserve the favour which you confer on me!"* At these words he took leave of the prince, for he was very weak; and his attendants bore him to his lodging. He was not far from the tent, when the earl of Warwick and sir Reginald Cobham entered it with royal prisoner, king John of France.¹⁸

Froissart narrates, in continuation, that, upon his return to his lodging, our knight sent for his brother {ZA28} sir Peter de Audeley, sir Bartholomew Burghershe, sir Stephen Cosington, the lord Willoughby, and sir Ralph do Ferrers, who, he says, were of his blood and lineage;¹⁹ and, after commending highly his four esquires, and attributing his success mainly to their enterprising spirit, made over to them the donation of five hundred marks. This act of generosity coming to the ear of the prince, he again sent for him; and, approving what he had done, confirmed the grant to the esquires, assigning to sir James an annual rent of six hundred marks.²⁰

In October 1359, the king, having resolved to renew his warlike operations, passed with his illustrious son the Black Prince, the duke of Lancaster, and a powerful army, over to Calais ; and we find {ZA27} sir James Audeley amongst his principal commanders.²¹ Soon afterwards, our brave knight took by assault the fortress of Chaven, in the vale of Saxsoun, in Brittany ;²² and, about April 1360, with the garrisons of Ferte and Nogent in Brie, scaled the castle of

15 Ibid. p. 200.

16 Dutton of Dutton, Delves of Doddington, Foulehurst of Crew, and Hawkestone of Wainehill.

17 Froissart, tom. iii. p. 203.

18 Froissart, tom. iii. p. 218.

19 His relationship to the four last-named knights does not appear.

20 Froissart, tom. iii. p.248.

21 Ibid. tom. iv. p. 9.

22 Leland, Collect. ed. 1770, vol. ii.p. 575.

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Huchie, near Soissons, in Valois ;²³ and, on 24th October following, he was amongst those noble persons who, with the king, swore to observe the treaty of peace concluded at Calais.²⁴

On the 29th September 1362, {ZA27} sir James de Audeley, being about to depart with the Black Prince into Gascony, had licence to grant letters of general attorney.²⁵

From this period there is no trace of his return to England. During the expedition of the prince into Spain, he appointed {ZA27} Audeley governor of Aquitaine. In 1369 he filled the high post of great seneschal of Poitou; and, in that year, with a force of twelve hundred lances, entered Berri, and, having laid waste that country, returned by the Touraine. Passing from thence into the territory of the lord of Chauvigny, (who had then recently revolted to the French,) they ravaged it; took the town of Breuse by assault, and, having burnt it, returned to Poitiers.²⁶

In the same year he was with the party under the earl of Cambridge which took the town of La Roche sur Yon, in Poitou. After the capture of that place, the several commanders returned into Angouleme ; and there the prince gave them leave to depart to their respective homes. {ZA27} Sir James still holding his appointment of seneschal, went from thence to reside at Fontenay-le-Comte, where he was taken ill of a painful disease, of which he died, "to the great sorrow of the prince and princess of Wales, as well as of all the barons and knights of Poitou." His obsequies were performed in the most reverent manner in the city of Poitiers, the Black the prince attending personally the mournful ceremony. Froissart pays the following tribute to his memory: "He was a prudent knight and gallant warrior, and the first assailant at the battle of Poitiers (where king John was defeated and made in prisoner), and accounted on that day the most brave of the whole English army."²⁷

In order to ascertain the lineage of {ZA27} sir James Audeley, it will be necessary to ascend to the common ancestor of the baronial branch and of that in which the earldom of Gloucester was revived. {ZA6} "James de Audithle," or Audeley, a powerful baron by tenure and justiciary of Ireland, married Ela, the daughter of William Longspee, and died 56 Henry III, 1272; leaving five sons, {ZA7} James, {ZA8} Henry, {ZA9} William, {ZA10} Nicholas, and {ZA23} Hugh, who have hitherto been supposed to have all been by Ela. But it is clearly deducible from the following facts, that four of these sons were by a yet unknown former marriage of the baron.

Comment: Josiah Wedgewood in 'The Parentage of James de Audley KG' only has {Z6} marrying one person namely Ela Longspee and has of all the 5 sons of {Z6} James Audley as having the same mother namely Ela Longspee. Additionally GEC in the complete Peerage also has the mother of all the 5 sons of {Z6} James Audley as having the same mother namely Ela Longspee. (i.e. GEC and Josiah Wedgewood agree that {Z6} James Audley had one wife whereas Beltz in this document suggests he had two wives.

By the inquisition taken after his death,²⁸ after reciting that the manors of Stretton and Wrethewiek, in Oxfordshire, held in fee of Henry de Lacy, had been granted to {ZA6} James de Audithle in frank marriage with Ela, the daughter of William "Lungespei," the jurors found that {ZA7} James was the son and heir of {ZA6} James de Audithle, and of the age of twenty-two years and upwards.

The effect of a grant in frank marriage being to give the land to the married couple, and to entail it upon the joint heirs of their bodies, with an exemption from all services, save those of fealty, until the fourth degree, the very terms of the finding in this case, viz. that James was the son and heir of the baron, without the usual additional words "by the said Ela," raised of itself a presumption that {ZA7} James, although the lawful heir of his father, had no interest in the

23 Ibid. p. 577.

24 Froissart, tom. iv. p. 90.

25 Rot. Vasc. 36 Ed. 3, m. 3.

26 Froissart, tom. iv. p. 74.

27 Ibid. tom. v. p. 106.

28 Esc. 56 Hen. 3, No. 8.

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special tail created by the gift of Longspee: that inference is fully confirmed by subsequent acts.

That the first four sons were all of the same mother, is evident from their entry in succession upon the hereditaments of the father. {ZA7} James, the eldest, died without issue, 1 Edw. 1,²⁹ and was succeeded by his brother {ZA8} Henry, who, soon after, 4 Edw. I³⁰ also died without issue, being succeeded by {ZA9} William, his next brother and heir, who was slain in 11 Edw. 1,³¹ without issue; and the inheritance thereupon devolved to {ZA10} Nicholas, who was summoned to parliament as lord Audeley de Helegh, and continued the baronial line.

But, in respect to the manor of Stretton, it appears that Ela de Audeley being seised of it, under the grant above - mentioned, for the term of her life, conveyed it, 1 Edw. I, *shortly after her husband's death*, to their son {ZA23} Hugh de Audeley and the heirs of his body (a power which she could not have legally exercised to the prejudice of the other elder sons of her husband, had they been the issue of her body); and, by the Inquisitions upon writs of certiorari taken upon the death of Ela, 19 Edw. II, 1325, the jurors found that the manor was then in the king's hands by reason of the rebellion of {ZA23} Hugh, and that {ZA26} James de Audeley was son and heir of the said {ZA23} Hugh.³²

{ZA23} Hugh de Audeley (who was described "senior" to distinguish him from his {ZA24} second son) had, in 1318, obtained a grant of free warren in his manor of Stretton Audley,³³ and possessed also, in right of his wife, the manor of Estington and Thornbury castle, in Gloucestershire. Having, in 1321, taken part in the insurrection of Thomas earl of Lancaster, he was imprisoned at Wallingford, from whence he escaped; and it is said that, on account of the marriage of his son {ZA24} Hugh to the king's niece,³⁴ his life was spared, and his estates restored to his family.³⁵ He {ZA23} had issue, by Isolda Mortimer, relict of sir Walter de Balun,³⁶ two sons, sir {ZA26} James de Audeley, of Stretton Audley, his heir as abovementioned, and {ZA24} Hugh, who was created earl of Gloucester; and a daughter {ZA31} Alice, who married Ralph lord Nevil.

The said {ZA26} sir James Audeley, father of our illustrious {ZA27} knight, was in the expedition to Gascony in 1324,³⁷ and in that to Scotland in 1327.³⁸ In a roll of arms between 2 and 7 Edw. II, 1308-1314, "{ZA26} sir James de Audeley of Gloucestershire" is stated to have borne on his banner the arms of Audeley, differenced by "a label Azure charged with three lioncels rampant Or," evidently in commemoration of his descent from Longspee.³⁹ He married Eva, daughter and heir of sir John Clavering, widow first of {ZA11} Thomas de Audeley, (the eldest son of {ZA10} Nicholas lord Audeley,) who died before his father, without issue, in 1307; and secondly of sir Thomas Ufford, who was slain at Stirling in 1314, leaving several children. {ZA26} Sir James was her third husband, and she married, fourthly, sir Robert Benhall. She died in 1369, and was buried with her ancestors at Langley abbey, in Norfolk, where also all her husbands were interred. By {ZA26} sir James she had two sons, {ZA27} sir James Audeley and {ZA28} sir Peter Audeley, and three daughters, {ZA57} Katherine, {ZA29} Anne, and {ZA30} Hawise.⁴⁰ {ZA28} Sir Peter Audeley was also a gallant commander, and died at the castle of Beaufort, in Champagne, in 1359.⁴¹

29 Rot. Fin. 1 Ed. 1, in. 2. 668.

30 Esc. 4 Ed. 1, No. 50.

31 Esc. 11 Ed. 1, No. 34. Walsyngh. p. 11, No. 30.

32 Esc. 19 Ed. 2, Nos. 30 & 48.

33 Rot. Cart. 12 Ed. 2.

34 Margaret, relict of Piers de Gaveston, and daughter of Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester by Joan of Acres.

35 Leland Coll. vol. i. pp. 331, 668.

36 See Esc. 10 Ed. 3, 2nd No. 35

37 Rot. Vasc. 18 Ed. 2, m. 1.

38 Rot. Scoc 1 Ed. 3, m. 5.

39 Cotton. MS. Calig. A. xviii. p. 15b.

40 Monast. Angl. tom. 1. (1st edn.) p. 415, sub Horsham Priory, in Norfolk, and p. 867, sub Sibeton Abbey, in Suffolk; and Rot. Fin. in Oct. S. Trin. Ao 4 Ed. 3.

41 Froissart, tom. iii. p. 407.

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The subject of the foregoing notices does not appear to have been married. An inquisition was taken after his death, in the 45th of Edw. III; but the record has been unfortunately long missing.⁴² His uncle, {ZA24} Hugh de Audeley, having married Margaret de Clare, one of the sisters and heirs of Gilbert earl of Gloucester (slain at the battle of Bannockburne, without issue), was created earl of Gloucester in parliament in 1337. He died in 1347, leaving an only daughter, {ZA25} Margaret, his heir, who married Ralph the first earl of Stafford, one of the Founders of the Garter. As the manors of Stretton Audley, Thornbury, and Estington passed to the Staffords, all issue from {ZA26} sir James de Audeley and Eva Clavering had doubtless become extinct⁴³

{ZA27} Sir James Audeley filled the eleventh stall on the prince's side in St. George's chapel; but his plate, which, according to a note of Ashmole,⁴⁴ was extant in that stall in 1569, was probably removed with many others by the soldiers during the Commonwealth.

ARMS.

⁴⁵Gules, fretty Or, a label for difference.

Appendix IX

(this appendix is the one referred to in footnote 45 of this document.)

Transcript of an original instrument on parchment in the Royal Library of MSS. At Paris, in vol xxxix. De s sceaux de Clairambault, fol 2905

Sachent tuit que nous James Daudele chrvalier confees avoir heu et recou de nobles homes Meas le Beague de Vilaines, Johan de Bray, Philippe Daunoy, Louys de Mittri, Pierre Daunoy, Renaut Dacy, et Pierre les Champs, chevaliers, la somme de deux mile moutons d'or du coing du roy de France, En quoy les diz chevaliers et chascun deulx pour le tout estoient tenus et obligés soubz leurs seaulx a Thomas Bagourd esculer anglois nre serviteur et familier pour la deliverance de la Ferté soubz Jeurre, de laquelle some de deux mile moutons dessus dis nous nous tenons a bien paieez et en quictons a toujours les dessus dis chevaliers ey yceulx promectons liaument a garantir envers le dit Thomas. En teamoing de ce nous avons seele ces lres de ñre seel qui furent faites a Calais le Ixe jour de Septembre lan de Grace mil CCCLX.

42 Amongst references in a MS. marked B 9, in the library of the College of Arms, to escheats in that year, is the following: "An. xlvo. Ed. treij. " Jacobus fil' Jacobi de Audeleye obiit A0 43 in Vascon.} no constat de herede.— Glouc."

43 The manor of Stretton, now called Stratton Audley, is at present the property of Lord Vernon; but the ancient title - deeds have not been preserved.

44 In a volume, in the Ashmolean library at Oxford, containing sketches of the plates which were remaining in the stalls on 26th May 1659.

45 Seal to an original instrument remaining in the royal library at Paris, and of which see copy in Appendix, No. IX.

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