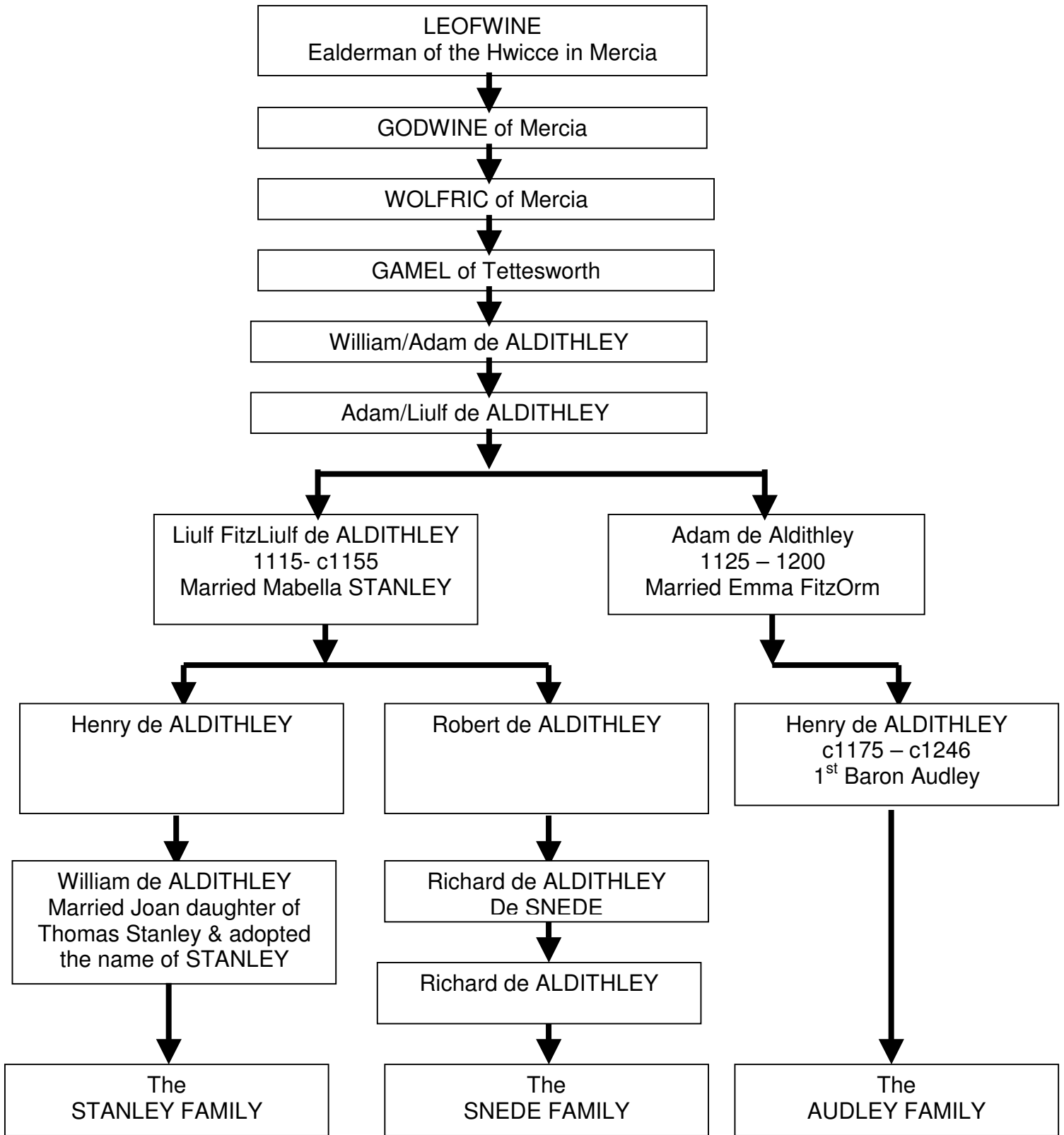


Notes on the
Origins of the Audley, Stanley & Sneyd Family,
Names, Places,
& the origin of the Sneyd Coat of Arms.
Compiled by Richard Sneyd. March 2012.

SAXON ORIGINS of the AUDLEY. STANLEY & SNEYD Families.



Names.

In 1333 King Edward III commanded that every man in the realm to take a separate surname to do either with his trade, a quality of body or mind, or a place where he dwelt.

As people became more mobile traveling away from their village or local area it became necessary for them to have more detailed identification than before.

In the Aldithley succession from Leofwln Ealderman of the Hwicce in Mercia his son Godwine & his son Wulfric were 'of Mercia' due to their close connection with Leofric Earl of Mercia (Godwine's elder brother) & Leofric's son Algar Earl of Mercia.

Wulfric's son, Gamel was 'of Tettesworth'

Gamel's third son was called William/Adam de Aldithley as he inherited Aldithley, Talke & Balterley from his father. William/Adam had a son Adam/Liulf de Aldithley

Adam/Liulf de Aldithley had two sons. (1) Liulf FitzLiulf de Aldithley & (2) Adam de Aldithley.

(1) Liulf FitzLiulf de Aldithley c1115 - 1155 married Mabella the daughter & heiress of Sir Henry Stanley. Liulf as the eldest son inherited Aldithley, Talke & half of Balterley. These properties had been in the Aldithley family since Godwine of Mercia.

Liulf & Mabella had two sons (a) Henry & (b) Robert.

(a) Henry de Aldithley, had a son William de Aldithley who married Joan daughter of Thomas Stoneley. William inherited Aldithley Talke & half of Balterley but exchanged in 1192 these properties with his great uncle Adam de Aldithley. In return William received the property of Stoneley. William dropped the identification of de Aldithley as he no longer owned that property & adopted the name of Stanley (de Stoneley). He founded the Stanley family who became Earls of Derby after the Battle of Bosworth.

(b) Robert de Aldithley married a lady called Joan. They had a son Richard de Aldithley who was granted the property of Snede by his cousin Henry de Aldithley. Richard became Richard de Aldithley de Snede.

(2) Adam de Aldithley c1125 - c1200. Married the great heiress Emma. FitzOrm. Adam de Aldithley played a prominent part in the retinue of his Norman overlord Bertram de Verdon. In 1189/1190 Bertram granted the manor of Stoneleigh to Adam. Stoneleigh at the time of the Great Survey in 1086 was part of the larger manor of Endon near Leek. Stoneleigh's name derived from the Saxon for a meadow or clearing which was stony or craggy.

In 1192 Adam de Aldithley exchanged his newly acquired manor of Stoneleigh with his great nephew William de Aldithley's manors of Aldithley, Talke & part

of Balterley. This exchange ensured that Adam's son Henry de Aldithley had the right to be called de Aldithley and William was identified de Stoneleigh,

Henry de Aldithley, c 1175 – c1246, 1st Baron Audley The founder of the Audley Family.

Henry de Aldithley, (the son of Adam de Aldithley), was born about 1175 and died before 1246. He inherited Tunstall, Chaddersley Chell & Snede from his maternal grandparents Alina & Ingenuphus de Gresley. These lordships were originally given to Richard the Forester by William the Conqueror. Henry was also the heir to his parents and his elder brother who died unmarried

In addition Henry was richly rewarded with land for his continuing loyalty to King John 1199-1215 and had the patronage & support of Ranulph de Meschines, Earl of Chester & Lincoln (the most powerful subject in England in his time and one of King John's witnesses to the signing of Magna Carta)

Henry married as his first wife Petronella de Derleston, they had a daughter, Alice.

He married secondly in 1217 Bertred de Mainwaring, the daughter of Sir Ralph Mainwaring and Amice of Chester who was descended from the Earls of Chester and consequently from Robert 1st Earl of Gloucester, the illegitimate son of King Henry I.

Henry de Aldithley and was created 1st Baron Audley He founded and very generously endowed the Abbey of Hulton in 1223 on land adjacent to Snede.

Heighley Castle in the parish of Madeley adjoining Audley was finished by Henry de Aldithley in 1233 & became the main seat for the Audley family.

Upon Henry de Aldithley's retirement from being Sheriff of Shropshire & Stafford in his own right Henry had confirmation for all the lands he already possessed plus the lands he had been given by Ranulph Earl of Chester, Nicholas de Verdon & lands in Ireland from Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster.

The Reign of King Henry III reigned 1216 - 1272.

Information taken from '*The Lives of the Kings & Queens of England*' edited by Antonia Fraser.

When King Henry III (reigned 1216 to 1272) succeeded to the throne as a nine year old boy there was a period of anarchy owing to the rivalry between the Barons who had supported King John and the many Barons who were in opposition. London & most of the south -east was in the hands of the Louis the French Dauphin, while much of the north of the country was occupied by rebellious Barons. Only in the south - west and a broad belt of the Midlands, probably including Staffordshire & Shropshire & Henry de Aldithley, 1st Baron Audley, were there supporters prepared to recognise the nine year old child as King.. Yet within a year he was undisputed King of England and at his death fifty six years later he was to leave to his son (King Edward I (reigned 1272- 1307) a kingdom more united, more prosperous and more prepared to

accept the rule of an autocratic king than anyone in 1215 could have imagined possible.

William de Aldithley, The Founder of the Stanley Family.

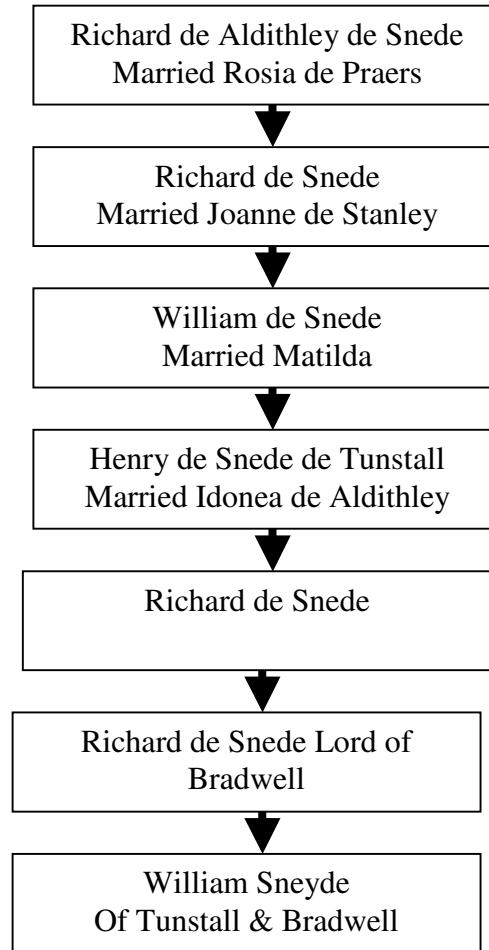
William de Aldithley born 1170, adopted the identification of de Stoneley in 1203 and became William de Stoneley & the founder of the Stanley Family

William de Aldithley born 1170 was the son of Henry de Aldithley the son of Liulf FitzLiulf de Aldithley. William inherited the properties of Aldithley, Talke & Balterley, these properties had been in the ownership of the de Aldithley family since Godwine of Mercia. In 1192 William exchanged Aldithley, Talke & Balterley with his great uncle Adam de Aldithley who gave him Stoneley in return

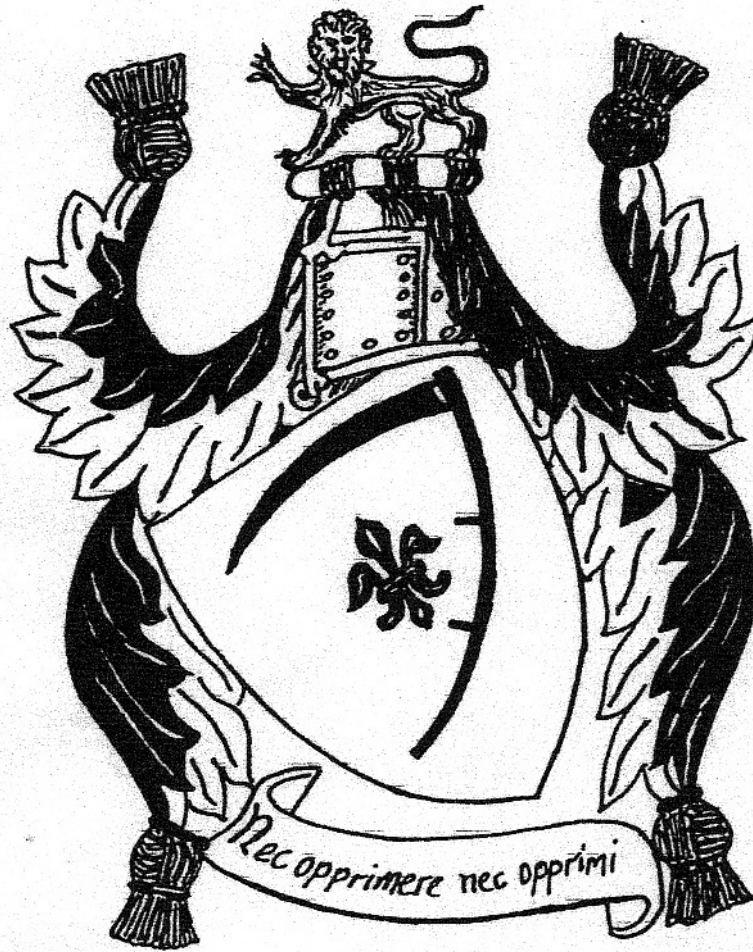
William married Joan daughter of Thomas de Stanleigh and from 1203 used the identification of de Stoneley as he was no longer 'de Aldithley'. Adam's nephew Robert de Aldithley (father of Richard de Aldithley de Snede) and Henry Praers of Barthomley, Cheshire (father-in-law of Richard de Aldithley de Snede) were two of the witnesses to the 1192 Deed of Exchange.

William de Stoneley's son was called William Stanley de Stoneley. His descendants married a series of heiresses particularly Isabel daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Latham of Latham & Knowsley in Lancashire who married Sir John Stanley.. The Stanleys were made Earls of Derby by Henry Tudor, King Henry VII, after the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. Stoneleigh was sold by William Stanley of Hooton in 1660.

The First of the Snede Family

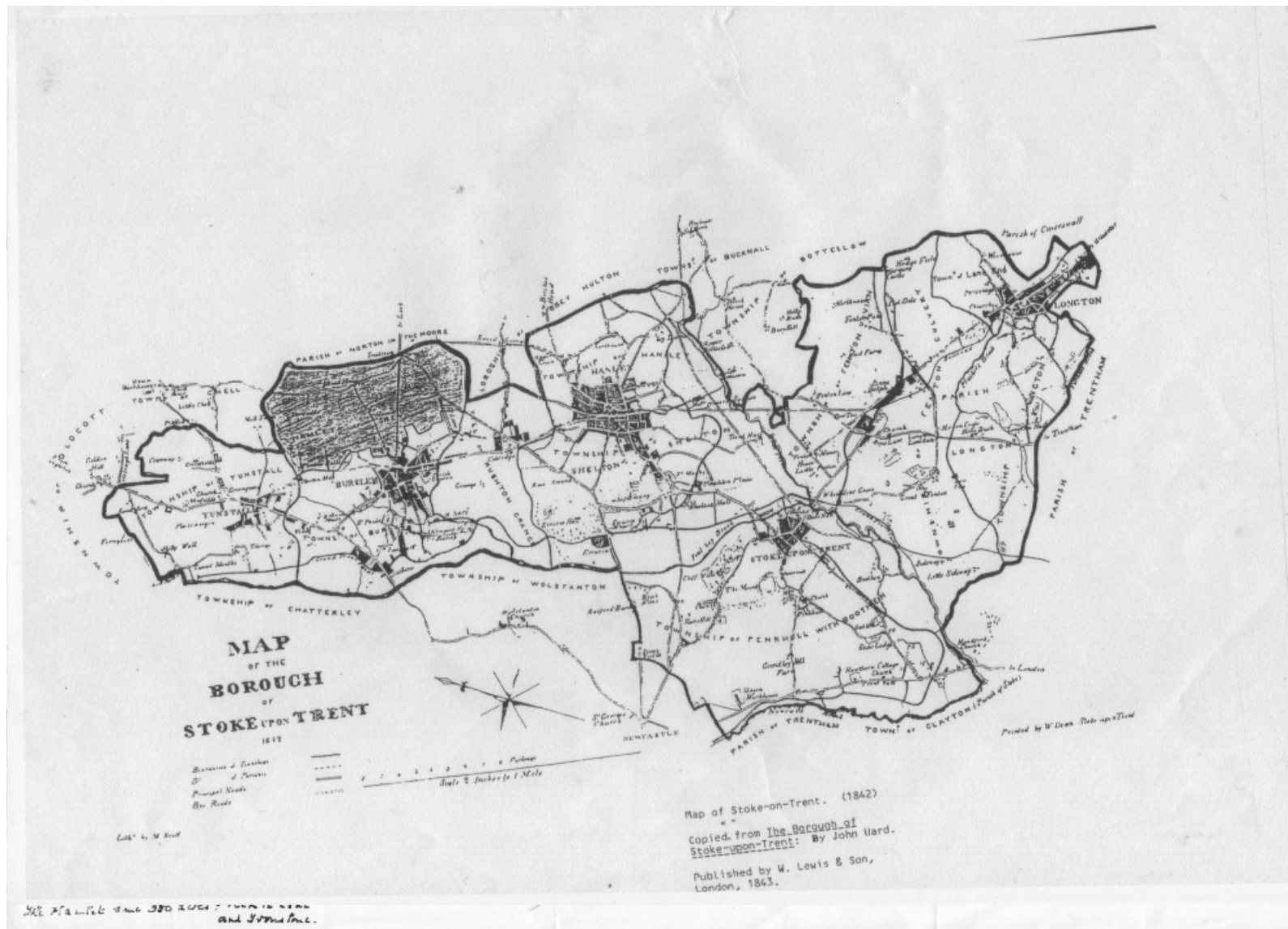


THE SNEYDS OF KEELE HALL

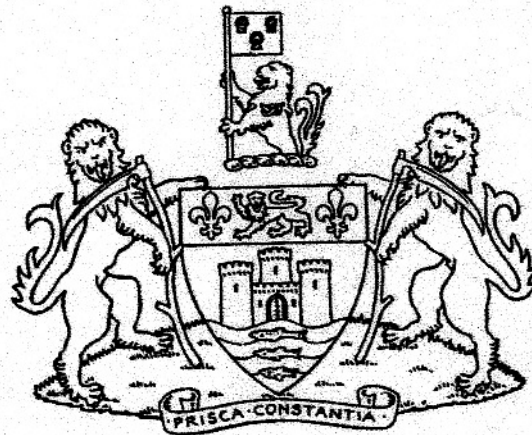


"Nec Opprimere Nec Opprimi"

Neither to Oppress Nor to be Oppressed



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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME



STOKE-ON-TRENT

**9. Local Government Symbols
Incorporating Sneyd Scythe**

Richard de Aldithley de Snede. the founder of the Sneyd family.

Richard de Aldithley de Snede was the son of Robert de Aldithley the younger son of Liulf FitzLiulf de Aldithley.

Richard de Aldithley married Rosia de Praers the daughter and heiress of Henry de Praers of Barthomley, Cheshire, who was living in the time of King Henry II (1154-1189). Barthomley is a settlement just over the Cheshire border but adjoining Audley & Balterley in Staffordshire. Rosia's mother was a lady called Galithia which indicates that like the de Aldithleys she came from Saxon stock.

The de Praers coat of arms was background gules (red) a scythe argent (silver) and had two sneds (handles)

In 1232 Henry de Aldithley, 1st Baron Audley granted Snede to his cousin Richard de Aldithley. Snede had come down to Henry through his mothers side of the family and had originally been granted to Richard the Forester from William the Conqueror.

Henry de Aldithley, 1st Baron Audley had many properties and possibly chose Snede as his grant to Richard de Aldithley because of the similarity between Snede & the sneds as part of Richard's wife Rosia de Praers' coat of arms. Family loyalty & Richard's lack of inherited land may have been other factors. The ties between the de Snede family & the Audley family were strengthened in future generations by marriage & marriage settlements. The de Snede's were loyal supporters to the Audleys who needed family support to help administer their affairs.

Richard de Aldithley dropped the identification of being de Aldithley, as that property now belonged to Henry, 1st Baron Audley who had held Aldithley since the property exchange of 1192.

Richard adopted the identification of de Snede from his newly acquired property of that name. In 1233 Richard de Snede gave a hide of land called Sithefield (near the wood of Snede) to the Abbey of Hulton, A hide was originally the amount of land necessary to sustain a peasant household and could have been as much as 120 acres. Much of the area was covered by the large elm forest of Lyme from the head waters of the Trent westward into Cheshire.

Snede appears to lie on the line of a route from Uttoxeter across North Staffordshire to Leek and Chester. After the Conquest the part of the route between Leek & Chester was known as the 'Via Regia', used by the Norman Earls of Chester en route to and from their hunting lodge at Swythamley.

The site of Snede is shaded on the 1842 map of Stoke on Trent as being north of Burslem & east of Hanley.

Snead & Sned have many meanings including a "piece of land within defined limits" a "clearing in a wood" "the handle of a scythe" & as a verb "to cut or lop off a branch"

Nowadays the word Sned or Snede has a certain usage across Northern Europe. Snedding is a forestry term currently in use for the operation of taking off the dead lower branches of conifers. In the Scrabble Dictionary Sned is a verb meaning to prune or trim.

The acquisition of the Snede coat of arms by Richard de Snede.

Richard de Snede who married his kinswoman Joanna de Stanley was the son of Richard , formerly De Aldithley & Rosia formerly de Praers.

Richard de Snede adopted the format of his mother Rosia de Praers' coat of arms. He altered (differenced) the colours from gules (red) background with a scythe argent (silver) to an argent (silver) background with a scythe sable (black). The Praers family still have the original coat of arms with the original colours. The scythe in both the Praers and Sneyd coat of arms has two handles or sneds (an e less than Snede !)

Richard de Snede is the first recorded Sneyd in William Hadfield's genealogy of 1/6/1839. Possibly because he was the first person to bear the name de Snede from his birth.

Richard & Joanna de Snede had a son:-

William de Snede, who married a lady called Matilda. A charter seen at Keele dated 1270, records "*A feofment of land called Delfriddings by Richrard del Hay to William son of Richard de Snede*" This is the earliest mention of the de Snede name on a recorded document.

William & Joanna de Snede had a son:-

Henry de Snede. Henry married probably in 1313 (Edward III 1307 - 1327) ,his kinswoman Margaret daughter & heiress of Nicholas de Tunstall formerly de Aldithley, Nicholas assumed the identity of de Tunstall on inheriting that manor. Nicholas was possibly the 6th Baron Audley who died in 1299. Henry de Snede's marriage to Margaret linked him directly back to Henry 1st Baron Audley. Henry de Snede added de Tunstall to his name becomimg Henry de Snede de Tunstall. It seems likely that the family home of the de Snedes at the end of the 1200s was the Chief House at Tunstall inherited by Margaret from her father Nicholas de Aldithley de Tunstall. Henry is recorded as the first Sneyd in the family tree in the Rev Morris's '*Seats of the Noblemen & Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*'.

Bad Harvests & The Black Death.

The first half of the 14th century saw a marked change in farming from cereals to a pastoral ceremony. There were four disastrous harvests from 1313 to 1319. Followed by another bad harvest in 1330.

The onset of the Black Death in 1348 - 1350 reduced the population by at least a third & the lack of manpower increased the speed of agricultural change & helped the independence of agricultural workers in their efforts to throw off the rigours of the feudal system. .

After the Black Death landowners like the Audleys & the Sneyds were faced with low prices for land & expensive labour & were obliged to offer attractive leases to any tenants willing to occupy their land. It is thought that the Sneyds had mineral rights on the land they owned & were therefore able to generate a cash income.

Nicholas de Snede de Tunstall was the son of Henry & Margaret de Tunstall, Nicholas married in 1313, his kinswoman Idonea de Audley. In a marriage settlement dated 13/8/1312 by Nicholas Baron Audley jointly to Nicholas de Snede & Idonea, Nicholas gave them land in Tunstall & Chatterley, (Bradwell was in Chatterley). There was enough land for five households and the Sneyds held the land as freemen The land had been held by Nicholas' father Henry at will. The Settlement included a phrase whereby Nicholas promised to " acquit & defend the aforesaid landfor ever against all mortals" The witnesses included Giles de Audley & Richard de Delves. This settlement does not seem to have excluded mineral rights which would have provided additional income.

Nicholas de Snede de Tunstall died in 1333 The year that King Edward III issued his edict on individual identification.

The addition of the Fleur de Lys to the Snede coat of arms. Possibly the granting of the 'Royal' Black Lion crest of England from the Black Prince

Richard de Snede de Tunstall was the son of Nicholas and Idonea. He married but his wife's name is unknown He is believed to have served under his kinsman Sir James Audley K.G. of Stratton Audley. (one of the first 26 Knights of the Garter). Richard was awarded the Fleur de Lys as an addition to his coat of arms in commemoration of his services in the French Wars under the command of King Edward III's son Edward the Black Prince. Family tradition was that Richard fought as one of the six Staffordshire esquires with Sir James Audley at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. This is unsubstantiated by the incomplete records of the time but it is thought that the Prince granted the additional arms and may have granted the crest of the royal lion, a black lion passant guardant sa.

Arthur Bryant's graphic account of the Battle of Poitiers indicates that this was a hard fought battle against desperate odds. The fleur de lys was part of the

personal arms of King John the French King who was captured at Poitiers by Sir James Audley & others, and sent back to England to join King David of Scotland in captivity.

The Sneyd Motto.

The Sneyd motto of "*nec opprimere nec opprimi*" Neither oppress or be oppressed, was possibly adopted at this time. The Sneyd family interpreted this motto literally & generally kept to a constrained and middle course of action. They observed their kinsmen in the Audley & Stanley families who took part in national affairs, in at least one case fatally. The Sneyds in the Middle Ages kept their main base in Staffordshire but began the building of their considerable fortune in the City of Chester

Richard de Snede de Tunstall had a son:--

Richard de Snede, Lord of Bradwell who had a grant of the Manor of Bradwell from Sir John Touchet, Lord of Audley in 1400 who on 1/8/1402 made a quit claim to Richard of lands which had formerly belonged to Henry de Tunstall. Richard had a son :-

William Sneyde of Tunstall & Bradwell inherited from his father Richard de Snede, Lord of Bradwell after 1404 & died prior to 1421/1422. He dropped de Tunstall from his name & seems to have inserted the y into Snede. Sneyde seems to have remained the family name until William Sneyd of Keele born in 1612.

The evolution of the Sneyd name has resulted in a name which people, outside Staffordshire, find difficult to pronounce. Ney as in neigh and nay, or nigh are popular versions. Perhaps it is fortunate that nowadays surnames are seldom used in introductions .