

The Berubes from around Leeds (West Yorkshire)

In the spring of 2013, I briefly reported that there were some traces of the name Berube in England, found on *UK Ancestry*, on a list of baptisms, marriages and burials dated "before 1812". I was then asking myself if these documents were not related to Huguenots (French Protestants) who had taken refuge in Yorkshire. I recently went back to the website to find out that those documents were more ancient than I had first thought, going back even as far as before the religious crisis that marked Rouen in 1562.

There is for instance the baptism of Sibella Berube, Richard's daughter, on August 2, **1540**, two years before the oldest known marriage of a Berrube, Olive, on June 29, 1542 in Limésy, Normandy. We have to remember that these registers, at the ending of the 1530s, were made compulsory in England as well as in France. I presume that this Olive was born in the 1520s before Sibella. But her father, Richard, was necessarily born before in the 1500-1520s. Sibella was baptized in the St. John the Baptist parish, in Halifax, a place located at the south-west of Leeds, a distance of 26 km (17 miles). She probably had a sister named Margaret who married Richard Hoyle in the same parish on February 10, **1560**. I am tempted to draw a parallel with other old marriages that we know about during this period involving people named Berubé/Berrubé/Berrube from Normandy in Limésy, Houppesville or Saint-Gervais parish from Rouen in the years 1550-1560 (See Vol. II of *Les Bérubé d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*, pages 29-30).

In my article in the spring of 2013, I was also mentioning the existence of William de Beruby, founder of a coal mine in 1262, married since 1240 to Alice de Walcote, a surname that seems to come from East Midlands, probably Norfolk (East-Anglia). This William who was then Lord of Laysincroft, a place-name that doesn't seem to exist anymore in England, had borrowed the money he needed from his sister-in-law Margaret. I recently found that there is a Lazencroft farm, belonging to the territory of Barwick-in-Elmet, apparently 7 km (4 and a half miles) east from Leeds. We have to remember that Normans were marrying among themselves in England at that time, almost never with Anglo-Saxons but, this changed later on.

The mine created in 1262 was apparently located in Shippen, also on the territory of Barwick-in-Elmet, at the north of Garforth, east of Leeds. In Shippen, a John de Beruby inherited a property from his aunt, in 1277. He is identified as the son of William de Beruby the elder, which let us to believe that he had a brother named William the younger. There is in 1375 the mention of a place named Beruby, near Lasingcroft, where two Beruby brothers lived. So, there are Berubys from that lineage who survived the black plague epidemic of 1349-1350ⁱ which killed a great number of people (from 20 to 30% at least, 40 % in London City and as much as 75% in some villages). In 1419, another William de Beruby is witness for a bill of sale in Schepyn, surely another way to write Shippen. If there is no village of this name in the area, I just found a Shippen House farm located to the east of Lazencroft Farm. There is no village named Beruby either on maps but, there is still near Garforth a Barrowby road, a Barrowby avenue and a lane bearing the same name. In 1402, the priest in charge in the Garforth parish was named William de Beroby.

Is there a possible link between the *De Beruby* family traced back to the 1240-1419 period and the Berubes from the same area located in a 40 km (25 miles) radius? I mentioned Sibella and Margaret, but there are others, for instance Isabell Berube, William's daughter, who got married on September 15, 1625. This occurred 19 km (12 miles) from Leeds. Another William Berube,

Richard's son, was baptized in Bardsey on July 14, 1682, 13 km north of Leeds. South of Leeds, Thomas Beruby was married in Royston in 1688. Elizabeth Berube, John's daughter, was baptized in Mirfield (16 km west from Leeds on the way to Dewsbury) in 1711. If there was a place named Beruby in the area in the XIVth Century, it is always possible that some of its inhabitants took it as a surname without descending from the 1262 William de Beruby. Surnames already existed in England in the XIIIth Century. There could have been a John Smith or a Bill Flemyng, coming from a place called Beruby whose names became John or Bill de Beruby after moving elsewhere. This being said, there are also good chances that these Berubys and Berubes from the same area are all related.

Should we make a difference between the ending "by" and "be"? Before the XVIIIth Century, the spelling of surnames varies a lot, in Normandy, New France as well as England. In the north of this country, the "by" ending was pronounced like "bey" , an ending that was kept by some Berrubes in Normandy. Since "bé" and "by" were written "be" in Latin, the language mostly in use for official documents, it is not surprising if those different ways of writing were interchangeable.

Is there a possible link between the Berubes from West-Yorkshire, those of Normandy or North America? Rouen was occupied by Englishmen from 1420 to 1450, many of them settling there while the English economy was in bad shape. If there were still some De Berubys in Shippen in 1419 and even Berubes' descendants in the area later on, it is not impossible at all that a youngest boy of a family, often the first to leave, maybe another named John or Robert, took this opportunity offered by the taking of Rouen. But it will not be easy to prove it. In this regard, there are still some questions when we consider that our Y-DNA puts us in a small sub-group of persons whose ancestors' names were at the time from Northern England or Southern Scotland.

What is most striking is nevertheless to notice that the Berube spelling left traces around Barwick-in-Elmet and Leeds for more than two centuries and even twice as many centuries when you take into account the spelling *De Beruby*. This makes me believe that other Berubes we find later on, in the XVIIIth and XIXth Century, in Southern England (Devon, Cornwall, London area) or in Wales, could descend from this same lineage. Regarding other traces found on UK Ancestry, we have to mention that a soldier named JFY Berubie was decorated with the *South Africa Medal* (Boer War from 1899 to 1902). There was also an Andrew Berrube in the British army two hundred years ago, around 1815, at the time of the Waterloo battle, when Napoleon was defeated.

i Remember Sister Isabella De Berughby who took charge of the Arthington Priory in 1349, while a lot of sisters were dying, a function she had already occupied in 1312, having then been elected by the other sisters. But she had left the priory at the time, refusing to be supervised by an older colleague designated by the bishop who considered Isabella too young for this responsibility. This priory was located just north of Leeds.