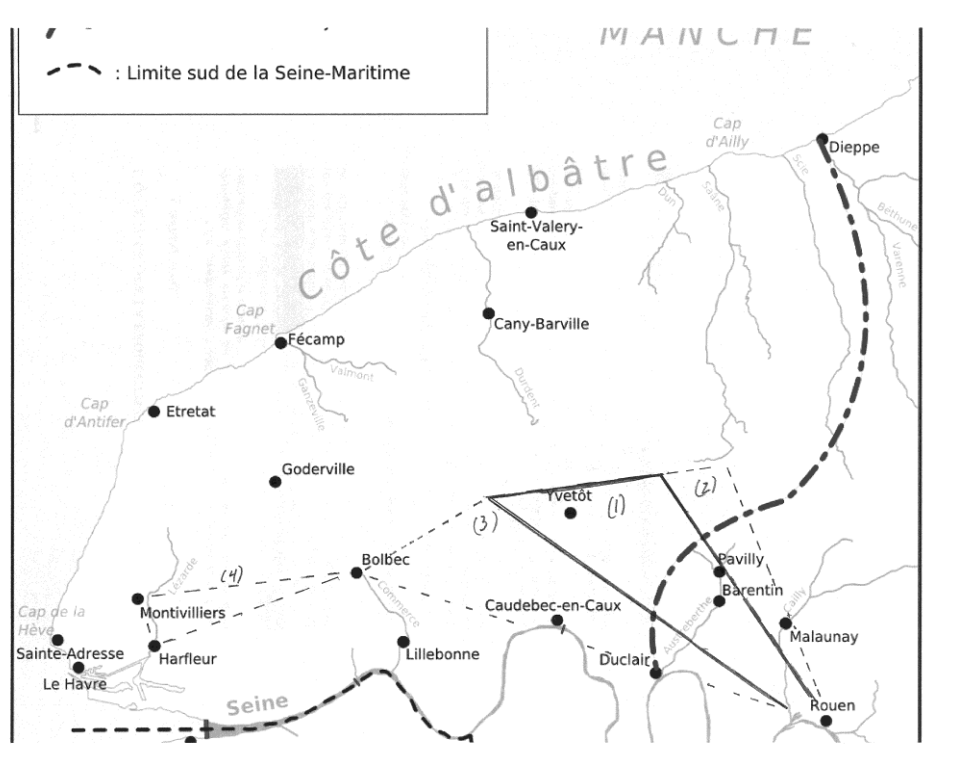


## The Berube Triangle in Upper Normandy

In the 2011 summer edition of *Le monde Berrubey*, an article explained how the people named Berubé, Bérubé, Berrubé and Barubé have been practically confined, over the last 500 years, to a small area of Upper Normandy, essentially to the north of Rouen, inside what was called in the past the *Pays de Caux* (today the region of Seine-Maritime). Because of this mystery, we have been asking ourselves from 1987 to almost 2007 if our origins were not from France but from somewhere abroad.

The *Berube triangle* is smaller than the *Pays de Caux* as shown on the following map by **triangle 1**: Rouen represents its most southern corner while the most northern is represented on the map by Yvetot, close to Rocquefort, where Damian was born, and also by Clipponville and, to the east by St-Martin-aux-Arbres and Yerville (not on the map). There is only 7 kms between Rocquefort and Yvetot, 30 from Yvetot to Rouen.



Genealogists can trace almost every person named Berubé, Bérubé, Berrubé or Barubé in France inside this **triangle 1**<sup>1</sup>. Even today, most of the bearers of these names appear in the phone books of this region, except a few Barubés living around Bolbec (19 kms west of Rocquefort) and at *Le Havre*, and on the east side of the triangle, outside it, at Vimy. Considering that Bolbec (**triangle 3**) was in the past a

<sup>1</sup> This was already underlined by Robert Prévost in *La Presse*, on February 12, 1994 (page I.8) in an article titled « Bérubé, un patronyme exclusif à la région de Rouen ».

center of the wool industry, it is not a surprise because some Berube ancestors were associated with trades of that industry in the XVIIIth century.

On the map, there is a triangle (#2) where there were people named Barabé, for instance at Malaunay, but we now know, thanks to Y-DNA testing, that we are not related to them, even though there were some who pretended in the past, even in a surname dictionary, that the surname Berubé had derived from Barabé. There is also a risk of confusion when some also pretend that the names Derubé and Berubé are related. There are many Derubés in the territory represented by **triangle 4**, from Bolbec to Harfleur (21.7 kms) and even on the side of Fécamp. But we have no reasons to believe that the people named Derubé have Berubé ancestors, except for one line where the name was changed through the XIXth century. Nevertheless, French genealogists didn't stop yet to assimilate those names, Derubé or Derubey, to ours.

When this article was written, there was only nineteen Berrubés in the Seine-Maritime White Pages; this spelling of the name is more frequent in Rouen and its suburbs: Maromme, N-D. de Bondeville, Mont Saint-Aignan, Canteleu, two persons of the name living at Malaunay and Pavilly, and three others in Paris. There were thirty-seven persons named Berubé or Bérubé in the department (+ 4 in Paris). We see them mostly around Yvetot, at Yerville and Limésy, not forgetting Rocquefort, Autretot, Belleville-en Caux, located at the top of our triangle.

Robert Berrubey and Adénette Petit, who are presumed to be Damian's grandparents, were married at Limésy in 1592, 23 kms from Rouen. Damian's father, also named Robert, was born there in 1601, as was Catherine Ferrecoq, Damian's mother, in 1602. This couple moved later to Rocquefort, 17.7 kms further away, where other family members were probably already dwelling. Two women named Berrubé appear in registers at the time, Jacqueline in 1618 and Marguerite in 1622<sup>2</sup>. A copy of a register page says for 1618 : « *Le sixième jour de janvier a été bapt. Jacqueline fille de Fleury Belamy nommée par Jacqueline Berrubé et Jacques LeRoy* ». This Jacqueline would be too young to be godmother if she was Damian's aunt. She was more probably a sister of his grandfather, so a grand aunt of Damian. That is the reason why we think that some members of the Berrubey family were already living around there before the arrival of Damian's parents.

At the time, there was still a lot of variations in the spelling of our name. In the Charles Berubé (1703-1794) and Anne Vallée family, two children were baptized with the name Berubé, four under Berrubé and the youngest as Barubé and Barrubé. This happened in other families too; so we have to consider the sound produced by the name and not the spelling uniquely. We have to make some other observations from there:

- Our French cousins' genealogy brings us to locations that are only a few kilometers apart. Except for people named Berrubé around the city of Rouen, there are, starting on the west side of Pavilly, places named Barentin, St-Paër, then Bouville going north and Blacqueville just beside, as well as Betteville and

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<sup>2</sup> Those two forenames don't correspond to known children of Robert Berrubey and Adénette Petit like Johanna (born in 1594), Alix (1597), Robert (1601), Marie (1604), Charlotte (1605), Françoise (?), Guilleme and Catherine, twins (1611), Jean (1615).

Fréville. Near Limésy, a village which has its importance to us, you could find the name Bérubé or Berubé at Croixmare, Cideville, Motteville and Saussay. Around Rocquefort, at the north-west of Yvetot, there was another small concentration in the area of Autretot, Clipponville, Hautot St-Sulpice and Envronville.

- We know a little about their trades. The Berrubé family of Maromme was different because they were industrialists involved in the paper production. For others, we speak mainly of textile, except for Damian's family where we find masons; for example, Abraham Nicolas Berubey, born at Rocquefort in 1751 and Adrien Berrubé's son (1714-1751), also grandson of Pierre (1685-1722), himself Damian's nephew, was a draper and farmer (*toilier cultivateur*) and lived at Valliquerville. His daughter Marie Anne Colette Berubey was a winder. Later, the name was spelled Berrubé again in this family. Pierre Berubé (1736-1816) is identified as weaver at Autretot while his son Charles Irénée (1772-1831) is a merchant-weaver in the same place. Nicolas Jean-Baptiste Bérubé, born in 1779 and son of Jean-Adrien (1736-1817), is also weaver at Veauville lès Baons nearby.
- When I added the 37 Berubés and the 19 Berrubés found in the White Pages for Seine Maritime (+ 9 Barubés from the Bolbec area), I got the very small number of 65 phone numbers while there was 6 211 Bérubés in the Québec Province phone books. According to the *Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ), there was in fact 14 100 persons named Bérubé in the Province (compare to probably less than 200 in France).

Consequently, it's easy to advance that people named Berubé, Bérubé, Berrubé, Barubé are rare in France, concentrated since the XVIth century in a small area that anyone with a minimal shape could visit the whole area on a bicycle. Paradoxically, there were some large families in the past, like Charles's family already mentioned, where there were eight children. Nicolas-Tranquille, Maromme's mayor from 1843 to 1848 was the father of twelve children. Only one son lived long enough to become an adult, Jules-Émile (1829-1905). He only had one son himself (Jules), and there was only one in the next generation also (Jean), although he was surrounded by eight sisters.

When you compare those numbers to the second generation born in America, Damian's grandsons (30 for Pierre, the eldest son and 10 for Mathurin), it's easy to understand how the family name multiplied so quickly here in a short period of time, while it was apparently decreasing in Normandy and almost disappearing elsewhere (notably in England); there still was in the 1850 to 1900 period traces of the name Beruby<sup>3</sup> in Scotland and some of Berube, in Wales, around London and in the south-west of England, also some traces of the name Baruby on the east coast. Family names can easily get extinct when you face a major disruption like the First World War (1914-1918), during which there was 1.3 million deaths among French people alone. This war put an end to many family names by killing the remaining male

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<sup>3</sup> In Perth, there was for instance **Emma and John Beruby**, 3 and 1 year old in the 1851 census as well as a family from Kensington (London) mentioned in the 1871 census, with **Charlotte** (born in 1819), **Francis** (1841) and **George Beruby** (1843). There were two other bearing the name **Baruby**, **Michael** deceased in 1859 (Leicestershire) and **Leonard** in 1959 (Middlesex).

bearers of that name. Nine Berrubés or Bérubés from France died then. Except for Lieutenant Pierre Bérubé, from Brest, they were all from Upper Normandy<sup>4</sup>.

In another article published in the spring of 2010 (vol. 22 – no 2), I gave an overview of the births registered for the Seine Maritime, as reported on the WEB and covering from 1891 to 1965, almost 75 years. I noticed that the name Barubé was frequent during the first period showed on this table.

<b>1891-1915</b> = 19 Barubé, 24 Bérubé, 21 Berrubé
<b>1916-1940</b> = 23 Barubé, 31 Bérubé, 30 Berrubé
<b>1941-1965</b> = 19 Barubé, 45 Bérubé, 52 Berrubé

The name Barubé is less frequent after 1940 in comparison with the two other spellings of our name, probably because it was concentrated in the Le Havre area, which was seriously bombarded during the Second World War, 500 years after the English occupation of Harfleur, which was the port that existed there before the foundation of Le Havre.

In summary, even when you take into account the different spellings of our family name, it's clear that we were never numerous in France over the 500 years covered by the genealogical research and very few left our « Berube triangle », unless to go abroad, which was the case for Damian when he migrated to New France.

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<sup>4</sup> We could mention also, **Georges Berrubé** from Cantaleu, prisoner of war, in 1915, and **Léon Barubé** from Le Havre, in 1917.